

Gustavo's favorite sport is soccer. When he was only four years old, his older brother taught him how to kick the ball. At first Gustavo was never able to make the ball go where he wanted it to go. Now Gustavo is eight years old, and he has had a lot of practice. Gustavo's brother likes to kick the ball with his right foot. But Gustavo doesn't. Instead, he likes to kick it with his left foot so that it makes a loud sound - thwack! Gustavo calls it his lucky left foot. When Gustavo kicks the soccer ball hard with his left foot, he can make it fly into the goal.

Gustavo lives in Rio de Janeiro, one of the biggest cities in Brazil. Rio de Janeiro is on the beach and has very warm weather. All of Gustavo's friends love to play soccer when they get out of school. Today, there is a new boy at school. His name is Felipe, and he comes from Sao Paolo. Sao Paolo is another city in Brazil and has lots of tall buildings called skyscrapers. After school, the boys invite Felipe to play soccer with them. Felipe says okay but looks very nervous.

As they walk to the soccer field, Gustavo asks Felipe, "What's wrong?" Felipe sighs and says, "I don't know how to play soccer. I tried once and everybody laughed at me." Gustavo pats Felipe on the shoulder. "That's alright," says Gustavo. "I used to be really bad too. You have to keep trying."

The game starts, and Gustavo moves to the front of the field. He plays the forward position and is always trying to score a goal on the other team. Gustavo feels happy every time he plays soccer and tonight, he is playing even better than usual. He steals the ball from the other team and runs with it as fast as he can. Thwack! Gustavo kicks the ball with his lucky left foot, and it flies through the sky into the goal. Everybody cheers and Gustavo feels like he is the king of the soccer field.

After the game, Gustavo and Felipe stay on the field to practice. Gustavo shows Felipe how he kicks with his lucky left foot. When Felipe tries to kick the ball, it goes in the wrong direction. Gustavo doesn't laugh at Felipe. Instead, he looks and sees that Felipe is kicking the wrong part of the ball with his foot. Gustavo shows Felipe where to kick the ball, and already Felipe is a little bit better. The rest of the week Gustavo and Felipe practice on the soccer field after the other boys leave. Felipe also practices kicking the ball before school. The next week Felipe scores his first goal, and Gustavo gives him a big high-five. Now Felipe looks forward to playing soccer every day, and Gustavo has a new friend.

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Questions about the story to talk about with your family.

1. Look at the two characters in the story. Look for words or actions in the story to help you talk about these characters.
Talk about Gustavo, what is he like? How do you know? What did he say or do in the story?
Talk about Felipe, what is he like? How do you know? What did he say or do in the story?
2. What is the lesson each character learned in the story?
3. How can those lessons connect with your life?