

## Go, Matteo!

Matteo was worried. He had barely eaten his tea. It was the night before football try-outs and now he couldn't sleep. His dad had been away on a business trip and was supposed to come home and help Matteo practise after school, but his train had been cancelled.

'What am I going to do?' he thought. 'I'm not as fast as Tommy, and Jing can do a hundred kick-ups in a row! How can I practise taking shots without a keeper? I'll never make the team,' Matteo sighed.

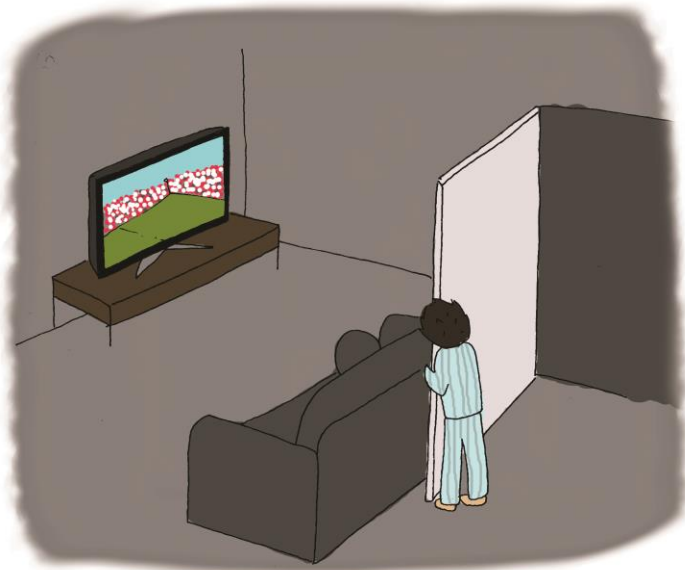
He tried counting sheep, but they all turned into footballs. He tried practising his spellings in his head but started spelling his favourite footballer's names instead:

'R-O-N-A-L-D...oh? What's that noise?' he thought.



Matteo got out of bed and opened the door. His mum was sound asleep in her room. Why was there a light on in the living room in the middle of the night? He snuck down the stairs, making sure to skip the creaky one. As he got closer, the faint sound became clearer – was the television on?

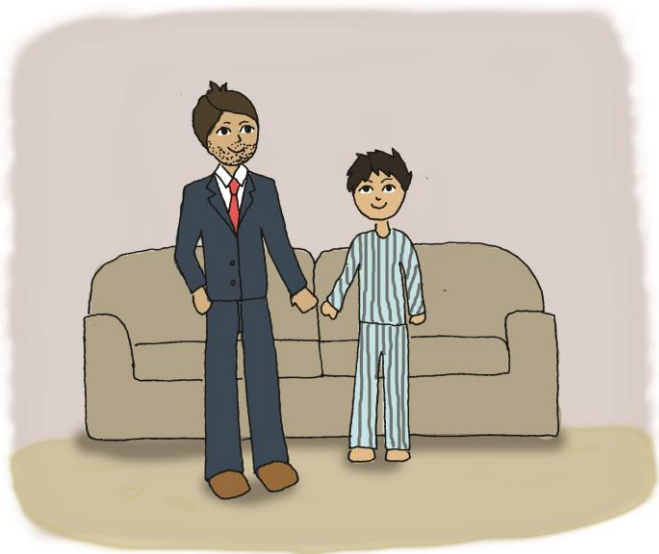
‘Who could be watching television this late?’ he wondered. It had been dark outside for hours. He peeked around the corner into the glowing living room. Yes, the television was on... ‘Real Madrid!’ he whispered, recognising their kit straight away.



Matteo and his dad loved Real

Madrid, and once they even went to see them play in a stadium.

Suddenly two big arms hoisted Matteo up into the air. ‘My Matty!’ his dad laughed as he spun Matteo around. ‘I missed you!’



‘Dad!’ Matteo was beaming.

‘You’re home!’

‘And it’s late!’ exclaimed Matteo’s dad. ‘Why on earth are you awake?’

‘I didn’t get to practise for try-outs tomorrow and now I can’t sleep,’ said Matteo, his eyes filling up with tears. ‘What if I don’t make the team at all?’

‘Now, now! Do you think Ronaldo or Ramos think negatively like that?’ Matteo’s dad sat down next to him. ‘If you don’t make it this time, we’ll try again! Real Madrid don’t win every game, right?’ Matteo shook his head. ‘But that just means we cheer even louder next time! As long as you do your best, we will always be proud of you.’

Matteo wiped his eyes, hugged his dad, and finally drifted off to sleep to the sound of his favourite team.

The next morning, Matteo woke up in his bed. He felt butterflies in his tummy straight away. He sat up and yawned. ‘What’s this?’



At the foot of his bed lay a brand new Real Madrid t-shirt. A note on top said, ‘Go, Matteo! You make us proud every day. Love Mum and Dad.’



Matteo beamed. He was ready! He was brave! He pulled his new shirt on over his pyjamas and ran downstairs, ready for breakfast.

Section A

1. Who is Matteo?

2. How has Matteo tried to fall asleep?

3. Who do you think is watching television?

4. Which team is Matteo's favourite? Why?

**Section B**

**5. Why is Matteo worried?**

**6. What made Matteo get out of bed and come downstairs?**

**7. What does grinned mean?**

**8. Have you ever been nervous about something? What made you feel this way?**

**Section C**

**9. What do you think Matteo has heard?**

**10. What does ‘hoisted him up into the air’ mean?**

**11. Who are Ronaldo and Ramos?**

**12. What does ‘beamed’ mean? Why is he beaming?**

**Section D**

13. Look at the title of the story. Do you think Matteo changes his mind?

14. What would you do if you heard a strange noise in the night?

15. What does Matteo’s dad mean by ‘think negatively’?

16. What does ‘Matteo felt butterflies in his tummy’ mean?

Section A

These words have been taken from the story. Match each word to the correct meaning.

Word	Meaning
1. keeper	a) very quiet
2. cancelled	b) on a football team, the person who is in goal
3. faint	c) a sports arena with seats for spectators
4. peeked	d) something that has been stopped from happening
5. stadium	e) to look or glance






Section B

Choose the word with the closest meaning.

The word *grinned* means...

Tick one

smiled

☐

frowned

☐

giggled

☐

The word *wondered* means...

Tick one

watched

☐

whispered

☐

pondered

☐

The word *creaky* means...

Tick one

quiet

☐

squeaky

☐

wobbly

☐

The word *worried* means...

Tick one

delighted

☐

nervous

☐

interested

☐



Fill in the blanks by ticking the best word.

excited		anxious		upset		hungry	
---------	--	---------	--	-------	--	--------	--

cancelled		rescheduled		late		early	
-----------	--	-------------	--	------	--	-------	--

helpful		funny		caring		competitive	
---------	--	-------	--	--------	--	-------------	--

upset		lonely		sleepy		brave	
-------	--	--------	--	--------	--	-------	--

Copy the words under the correct meaning.

happy	sad	worried	
delighted blue	concerned cheerful	troubled gloomy	pleased nervous