

Reading for Meaning

Welcome, story supporter!

**We hope that you and your child
have fun with this story.**

**Nurturing and supporting
your child is important for
their physical, emotional and
academic development.**

**ZERO
DROP/OUT**

**Part of the Zero Dropout campaign working towards
halving the rate of school dropout by 2030.**

THEN SUDDENLY...

Reading
for Meaning

BAM!

I don't like
cricket -
I love it!

Some people will tell you that girls can't play cricket. But they don't know about a girl like me!

The first time I picked up my brother's cricket bat and hit the ball, something clicked inside. I just knew this was the game for me.

From that day on, I played with my brother and his friends almost every day. I would go out onto the field near our house and join in the game. I worked on my cricket skills. Some of the boys liked bowling. But I especially liked batting.

When it was my turn to bat, I learned how to hit so that I could score runs. I would watch carefully as the bowler bowled the ball. Then I would swing the bat and hit that ball as hard as I could. But I didn't just hit it. I aimed it carefully so that it flew right between the fielders of the other team. So no-one would be able to catch it. Then I would run as fast as the

wind towards the other wicket. That was how I scored runs.

Soon I was scoring more runs than most of the boys. They actually started to admire my skill. I just loved playing cricket!

But I was still only playing with my brother's friends, after school. I knew there was a cricket team at school and I really wanted to play with that team. I was desperate and willing to give up anything to get onto the team. But the school team did not make me feel welcome.

Some people had an opinion that girls should not play cricket in the team. I was not going to be discouraged, so I kept pestering the coaches to include me.

One day they put my name on the list! I was proud and over the moon to be the "first female cricketer" at my school.

I wanted to prove that girls can do anything

they want to do. Also, that it is possible for girls to play cricket.

The day arrived when I had to train. I woke up at six o' clock and had to do this every day, including Saturdays! It was tough to sacrifice my sleep.

The training sessions were two hours of training and thirty minutes of jogging. I had to be careful what I ate: only meat, eggs, fruit and boiled vegetables. It was terrible because I missed out on all the yummy food like cakes and sweets.

Meanwhile the coach and the boys tried to prove that girls could not play cricket. For that reason they made me do twenty push-ups and ten press-ups every PE period.

But I was proving to them that we girls can! I worked hard at my exercises and got stronger and fitter.

At last the day came when we were playing against another team. My friends stayed to watch the match. They stayed to encourage me and remind me of my mission to be part of the team.

I knew I was the last batter, but I didn't care, as long as I got my innings.

By the time it was my turn, our team was losing. We had 74 runs and the other team had 102 runs in their 50 overs. We were 8 wickets down and the coach had to put me in as I was the only one left. It was the 47 over and I had to do my best.

Guess what happened? I hit two sixes, three fours and ran another five runs.

When the score was 99 runs I hit the ball high up into the air, hoping for a six. Unfortunately it didn't go far enough, and there was a fielder waiting to catch the ball. Luckily for me, he dropped it!

The look on the coach's face when I hit that winning run was one of joy.

I was so happy! I fell into the arms of my friends. My mission was accomplished. I proved to everyone that girls can play cricket.

The next day, my picture was in the local newspaper on the front page. The best part of the article was the headline: "Flamingo's first female cricketer hits winning score."

EXTEND THE STORY...

Let's design
a book



**ARTS &
CRAFTS**

WHAT TO USE

Two blank A4 papers (colour if you have), glue stick, crayons, glitter, paint, scissors

WHAT TO DO

- Ask your child to create/make their own storybook. They do this by folding the pieces of paper in half so that they have a front and a back cover to draw on, plus two inner pages.

- They can use the glue stick to stick the book together.
- Encourage them to be creative. How about they use the scissors to cut out a unique shape for their book?
- Ask them to write their own story on the inner two pages of the book.
- Encourage them to create a colourful cover for the story and come up with a new title.
- They can also design a bookmark for their storybook (a bookmark is something that is used to mark a page in a book).

This activity is about being creative. Make it more fun by creating your own book with your child.

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