

# Sore Winner, Sore Loser

by Brinda Gupta



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Anvi threw the big ball hard at the ground. It bounced into the bushes next to the schoolyard.

"I win!" Anvi called. "I am the Queen of Four Square!"

Sahana frowned. "Will you get the ball?" she asked Anvi.

"The Queen of Four Square does not have to," Anvi replied. "You losers should get it."

Sahana did not mind that she lost the game. She did not mind getting the ball. She did mind the way Anvi acted after every game, whether she won or lost.

Raj and Maddie, who had been playing with them, also looked unhappy.

There was still time at recess, so the friends started another game. They bounced the ball into each other's squares over and over. Finally, Maddie sent the ball into Anvi's square. This time, it bounced away.

"No fair!" cried Anvi. "I wasn't looking."

"That's not Maddie's fault," said Sahana. She was trying to be patient.

But now Anvi was angry. She grabbed the ball, dropped it, and kicked it... hard. It sailed over the schoolyard fence.

"Anvi!" Sahana cried. "Why did you do that?"

"I'm better at this game than Maddie! I don't want to play anymore!" With that, Anvi stormed off.

The other friends were upset. First, they couldn't play with just three players. But more importantly, they didn't like how Anvi reacted. She was a sore winner and a sore loser.

The next day at recess, Sahana, Maddie, and Raj found a different friend to play four square with. They could see Anvi sulking nearby. But as Anvi watched, her face did seem a little less angry when she saw the players high-five and smile at each other if they won.

"Hey, Anvi," Sahana called out, "do you want to swap in for a few games?"

"Yes, thanks," Anvi said. Then she added, "I'm ready to have fun."

# Vocabulary

## bounce

verb

definition: When something bounces, it springs back after hitting something.

*My ball bounced much higher after my brother put more air in it*

Spanish: botar, rebotar

forms: bounced, bounces, bouncing

## fault

noun

definition: When something is your fault, a bad thing has happened because of something you did or because you didn't do something that you needed to do.

*Allison said it was Noah's fault that the dog got out. She said Noah left the door open.*

*It wasn't my fault that I was late to school. The bus was late because of the snow.*

Spanish: falta, defecto, falla, culpa

## react

verb

definition: When something reacts, it responds to something outside it. If your fingers touch something hot, they react by pulling away. When a person reacts to something, they feel or act in a certain way because of something that happened. When people hear a joke that is funny, they usually react by laughing. When people hear something very sad, they might react by crying.

Spanish: reaccionar

forms: reacted, reacting, reacts

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What does Anvi call herself when she wins a game at recess?

- A. the Olympian of Four Square
- B. the Queen of Four Square
- C. the Queen of the Playground

2. What happens after Anvi wins a game at recess?

- A. She makes Sahana get the ball from the bushes.
- B. She gets the ball from the bushes herself.
- C. She quits because she's bored with the game.

3. Read the following sentences.

"No fair!" cried Anvi. 'I wasn't looking.'

'That's not Maddie's fault,' said Sahana. She was trying to be patient.

But now Anvi was angry. She grabbed the ball, dropped it, and kicked it... hard. It sailed over the schoolyard fence."

What do you know based on this information?

- A. The way that Anvi acts when she loses makes the game less fun for everyone.
- B. Anvi is always patient and kind, even when she loses a game at recess.
- C. Anvi and Sahana never disagree or get into fights with each other.

**4.** Read the following sentences.

"The next day at recess, Sahana, Maddie, and Raj found a different friend to play four square with. They could see Anvi sulking nearby. But as Anvi watched, her face did seem a little less angry when she saw the players high-five and smile at each other if they won."

What is Anvi probably thinking when she's watching Sahana, Maddie, and Raj play at recess?

- A. She sees that she's actually bad at the game and shouldn't play again.
- B. She thinks that her way of playing the game is the best way for everyone.
- C. She sees that the game can be fun for everyone if everyone is happy and friendly.

**5.** What is one theme of this story?

- A. Being brave means trying new things and talking to new people.
- B. Being fair and nice is important, whether you win or lose a game.
- C. It is important to always be curious about the world.