

Grade

3

Anthology

Read Aloud Story 4

What we like to do

We are Jennilee and Zane. We are twins. We live on the Cape Flats. We are nine years old. There are lots of things we like to do.

We like to swim in the river near our house. We like to play cricket. We like to play soccer. We like to sing. We like to hear our oupa play in his jazz band. Sometimes our ma sings with the band.

Our oupa can play so many things. He can play the piano. He can play the drums. He can play the saxophone. He is trying to teach us how to play the saxophone. When we try and play it doesn't make the same kind of sounds as when oupa plays. It's easier to try and sing like our ma than to play like our oupa.

When it rains the stream near our house gets deep. Then we jump in in the water with the other children and swim and play games. My ma doesn't like it when we do that. She says maybe the stream has got poison in it from the factories. Sometimes the water there smells funny so she might be right. She worries that playing in that water will make us sick. So we go and play there when she is busy with other things and won't see us.

We play cricket at the Blue Bells Cricket club. We play mini cricket there. Mini cricket is a kind of cricket that children play. We use a soft ball. We use a part of the big cricket field to play. When we play there are lots of mini cricket games going on. All the games are on the big field at the same time. Sometimes the ball from one game gets hit into another game. Then everyone gets mixed up. Oupa comes to watch us play. He says Jennilee has a good bowling action. Bowling means the way you throw the ball to the one trying to bat in cricket. Jennilee tries to bowl spinners. That means she tries to bowl the ball so that it bounces funny. That makes it hard to hit. Oupa says maybe she will be able to bowl like Omar Henry. Omar Henry was a famous cricketer. Oupa likes to tell about how he played a cricket game once against Omar Henry.

We play soccer a lot at home with the other children in our street. We also play mini soccer at Lavender Hill Sports Club. We go to that club all the time. We play in the term and in school holidays. We have a good soccer coach. He says he likes to help children play soccer. He says playing soccer helps to keep us safe. He says it makes us grow up strong. It teaches us how to run and dodge and kick the ball. We take turns and we share, and we are learning to pass the ball to other people in the team. That helps us work together as a team. Ma says she can't see what is happening on the field when we play. She says it looks like a mess. But she says it's good for us to be outside having fun. And she says it's good for us to learn to not give up when things go wrong. We think she just likes it when we come home too tired to make a noise. Oupa comes to watch us play. He says Zane is a great striker. Oupa gets very happy when he sees Zane get the ball past the goalie and score a goal. Zane wants to score as many goals as Benni McCarthy did. Benni McCarthy is from the Cape Flats. He is the best goal scorer South Africa has ever had. My ma likes Benni McCarthy because Benni said we should have a Gun-Free World Cup in 2010 when the World Cup was held here.

In COVID lockdown, our soccer coach gave meals to children every day at the sports club. His family helped him. The schools were closed and there were no school meals. So lots of children here did not have enough to eat. But every day there was food for children at the club. That man and his family did a very good thing. It is very bad to be hungry and have no food. Our soccer coach saved a lot of children from going to bed hungry.