

## Rania Had a Dream



Rania lived with her family on a farm in the countryside. The farm was a calm and beautiful place to live, but Rania always had bigger dreams.

She used to watch basketball games every night before she went to sleep.

And in the morning, while watering the flowers in her mom's garden and gathering the eggs from the chicken coop, Rania daydreamt of becoming a famous and successful basketball player.

Rania's father didn't want her to go to the city and become a basketball player. He wanted Rania to be a farmer, just like him.

But Rania kept practicing and training everyday. She would watch how all the great players held the ball and threw it and she would try doing the same until she mastered the shots.



One day, there was a fire in the barn. All the ducks, chicken, and sheep ran out the door. Only Stella, the dog, was stuck on the top floor of the barn.

Rania bravely climbed up the tree and grabbed Stella. She was worried she might drop the dog and break its leg, but then she had a great idea! She asked her mom and dad to bring the big vegetable basket and hold it still.

Rania took a deep breath, she counted till three and remembered all the training and practice that she had with shooting hoops.

And then, just the same way that she holds the ball and shoots, Rania held Stella up in the air and threw the dog straight into the basket.

The whole family started cheering, and Rania's father was so proud of his daughter's skills that he immediately contacted the leader of the basketball team Rania loved.

The next week, Rania packed her bags, said goodbye to her family and went to the city to start training with her favorite basketball team.



**1. Why did Rania watch basketball games every night?**

**Rania watched basketball games every night because\_\_\_\_\_.**

- a) she didn't enjoy watching movies
- b) it was her dream to become a basketball player
- c) her father liked to watch the games
- d) she only enjoyed watching and not playing it

**2. What does Rania do every morning on the farm?**

**Every morning on the farm, Rania \_\_\_\_\_.**

- a) milks the sheep and cleans the barn
- b) cuts the trees and rakes the leaves
- c) waters the flowers and gathers the eggs
- d) feeds the chicken and walks the dog

**3. Why did the animals run away from the barn?**

**The animals ran away from the barn because\_\_\_\_\_.**

- a) the door was open
- b) it was on fire
- c) they were scared of the dog
- d) it was flooding

**4. What was Rania's plan?**

**Rania's plan was to\_\_\_\_\_.**

- a) stay in the tree until help came
- b) say goodbye to Stella
- c) throw Stella into the basket, like shooting a basketball
- d) hold onto Stella and jump together.



## First Day at a New School



It was the first day of school. Rayan had just moved with his family to a new house, and he was attending a new school.

He was very nervous. “What if I don’t make any friends? What if no one likes me?” he thought.

The first day seemed too long. They had a “Back to School” session, a music session, and a history session. All his least favorite subjects.

All his classmates seemed to know each other. They sat in groups, talked and laughed. He felt uncomfortable sitting alone so quietly.

The next day on his way in, one of his classmates approached him.

“Hello, I’m Lamia. What’s your name?” she asked.



“Hello Lamia. I’m Rayan. How long have you been in this school?” Rayan asked.

“Oh, I only started yesterday. Are you a new student too?” Lamia wondered.

“Yes, I don’t even have the schedule yet,” said Rayan with a shy smile.

“Don’t worry, I have it. We have gym next. Let’s go!” said Lamia.

On the way to the basketball court, Rayan told Lamia that he was a great player. She wanted to challenge him, so she asked the coach to let Rayan start.

“Yes, I don’t even have the schedule yet,” said Rayan with a shy smile.

“Don’t worry, I have it. We have gym next. Let’s go!” said Lamia.

On the way to the basketball court, Rayan told Lamia that he was a great player. She wanted to challenge him, so she asked the coach to let Rayan start.

Rayan, nervously, took the ball from the coach. He walked to the end of the court. He could hear his classmates whispering and only Lamia cheering, “Go, Rayan, go! You can do it!”

Rayan took a deep breath; he bent his knees and threw his best shot.

The ball flew all the way to the opposite side of the court and went right through the net.

“Wow! That’s an awesome shot!” everyone shouted and clapped.

The coach ran to Rayan and asked, “ Would you like to play for the school team?”

“Of course,” answered Rayan.

“I would love to!”

Rayan, Lamia, and a couple other friends bumped elbows as a way to express their happiness.



**1. Why did Rayan feel nervous on his first day of school?**

**Rayan felt nervous because he \_\_\_\_\_.**

- a) wasn't wearing the school uniform
- b) was worried no one would like him
- c) didn't like the new school
- d) didn't do the summer assignment

**2. Why did Lamia ask the coach to let Rayan start?**

**Lamia asked the coach to let Rayan start because \_\_\_\_\_.**

- a) he said he was a great player
- b) she wanted to embarrass him
- c) she didn't believe him
- d) she didn't want to play herself

**3. How did Rayan's classmates react to his awesome shot?**

- a) They didn't notice what was going on.
- b) They pretended they didn't see it.
- c) They cheered and clapped.
- d) They hugged him and high-fived him.



## Fun Facts About Basketball



The first basketball was brown instead of orange.

The court where players play this game was about half the size that it is now.

The tallest basketball player ever is Muggsy Bogues. Now the shortest basketball player ever is Manute Bol. And guess what, these two played for the same team in 1988.

Among all sports, only American football causes more injuries than basketball.

The first basket that was used to score points was an actual peach basket which had a closed bottom, so the keeper would climb the ladder after every score to get it.

The original baskets didn't have backboards and they were usually hung on the balcony of the basketball court.

The reason basketball is played with just 5 players is that football and soccer were played with 10 players, so when basketball was played indoors during the cold winters, the team was simply split in half.



Dribbling wasn't part of the rules of the first basketball games. The moment you caught a ball, you had to throw it to another player to move the game along.

**1. Which game causes more injuries than basketball?**

- a) Soccer
- b) Baseball
- c) American football
- d) None

**2. What were players supposed to do when they catch the ball before dribbling was allowed?**

**The players were supposed to \_\_\_\_\_.**

- a) shoot the ball through the hoop
- b) throw the ball to another player
- c) throw the ball to the coach
- d) hold the ball and run across the court



## What's a Triathlon?



**Mira:** Hi mom. Are you busy? I need to ask you about something for school.

**Mom:** Hello darling. I'm a little bit busy washing the dishes. Ugh! I do not like washing dishes. It's so boring! And your school is very important, so I will help you and ask your father to finish the dishes.

**Mira:** Great, thank you! So, I'm doing some research for school about the triathlon. It's one of the events in the Greek Olympic Games, and...

**Mom:** Actually Mira, the triathlon is not one of the ancient Greek sports. It started much later in France and was only included in the Olympic games in the year 2000. ...Do you know why it's called a triathlon?

**Mira:** Yes! My teacher said that 'tri' means three, and there are three sports in this race: swimming, cycling, and running.



**Mom:** That's right! You know what? Why don't you grab the laptop, and I'll help you find more information about the triathlon.

**Mira:** Oh, I was hoping you'd know more about it because we can't do an internet search right now. The power is out again.

**Mom:** Okay, don't worry dear. We'll do it later this evening then.

**1. Why can't Mira do an internet search?**

- a) The laptop is broken.
- b) Her mom is busy.
- c) Mira is busy.
- d) The power is out.

