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with
NEW ACTIVITIES



Before Reading

1 Match the words to the pictures.

a mirror

b porch

c whistle

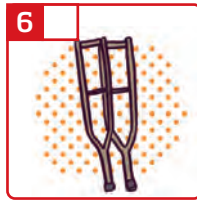
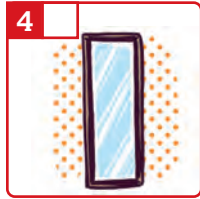
d bench

e crutches

f stubs

g cheerleaders

h touchdown



2 Now use the words to complete the sentences below.

a Jay hurt his leg and was on

b The dance and jump and cheer at the football matches.

c Jay looked at himself in the

d They were sitting on the front outside Jay's house.

e Coach Hubbard blew his for a five-minute break.

f When trees or plants are cut down a short part remains, these are called

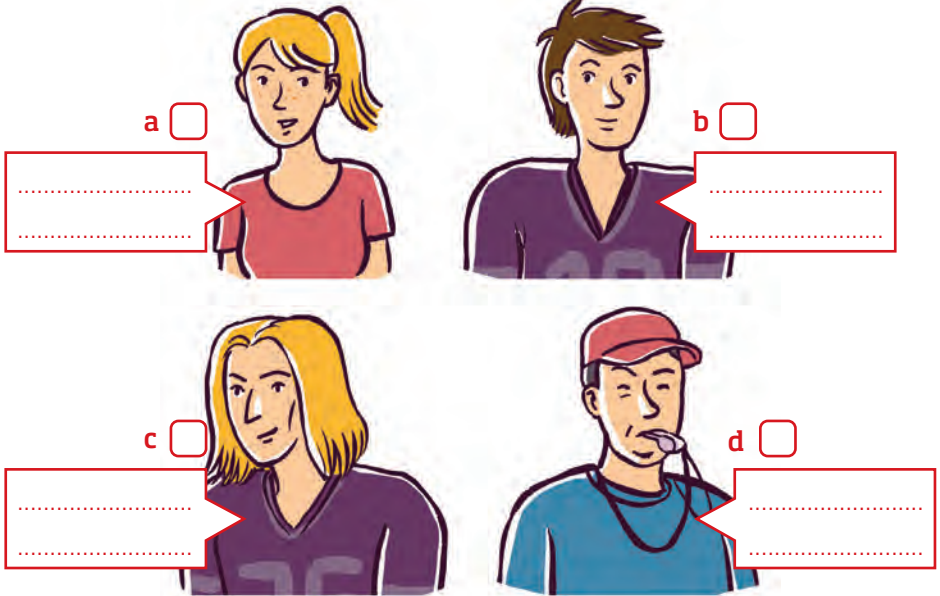
g Ben was sitting on a , in the changing room.

h The coach smiled when Jay scored a

Before Reading



- 1 Look at the pictures of some of the characters in the story. Then listen to the descriptions and number the pictures.

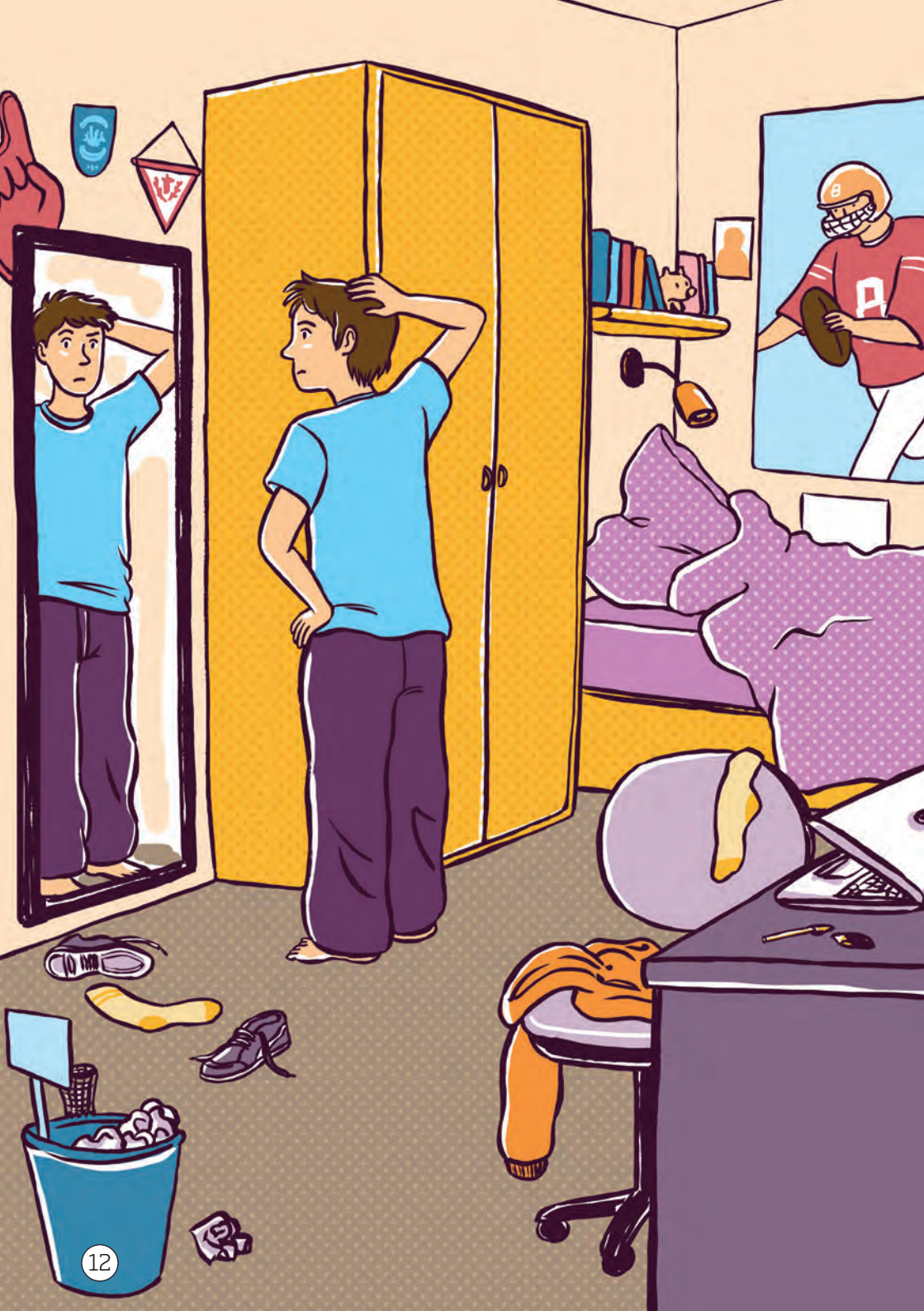


- 2 Write the names beside the pictures.

Brendon Carter Coach Hubbard Hannah Sawyer Jay Stone

- 3 Read these extracts from the story. Circle the name of the character you think is speaking.

- a** 'You can't hide anything from me. I know you too well for that.'
1 Brendon **2** Hannah
- b** 'I think Coach has got big plans for Stubs.'
1 Brendon **2** Hannah
- c** '11.6 seconds. Now who can do better than that?'
1 Coach Hubbard **2** Jay
- d** 'All I want is to be able to play football again. That's what counts for me.'
1 Coach Hubbard **2** Jay



1 MIRROR, MIRROR ON THE WALL



It's half past seven on Monday morning: time to get ready for school. Jay Stone rolled out of bed. He did a couple of quick wake-up exercises and then he went over to his mirror and looked at himself.

'Not bad, Stone, not bad,' he said to himself and smiled. Maybe he wasn't ready for Hollywood, but with his dark brown eyes and his thick brown hair and eyelashes, he had the looks that turned girls' heads. He moved in closer to the mirror and smiled, checking his teeth.

'Perfect,' he thought. 'Good enough for a toothpaste ad.'

As his eyes moved down to his muscular arms and chest, he smiled again. The hours he spent in the gym and doing sit-ups have paid off!

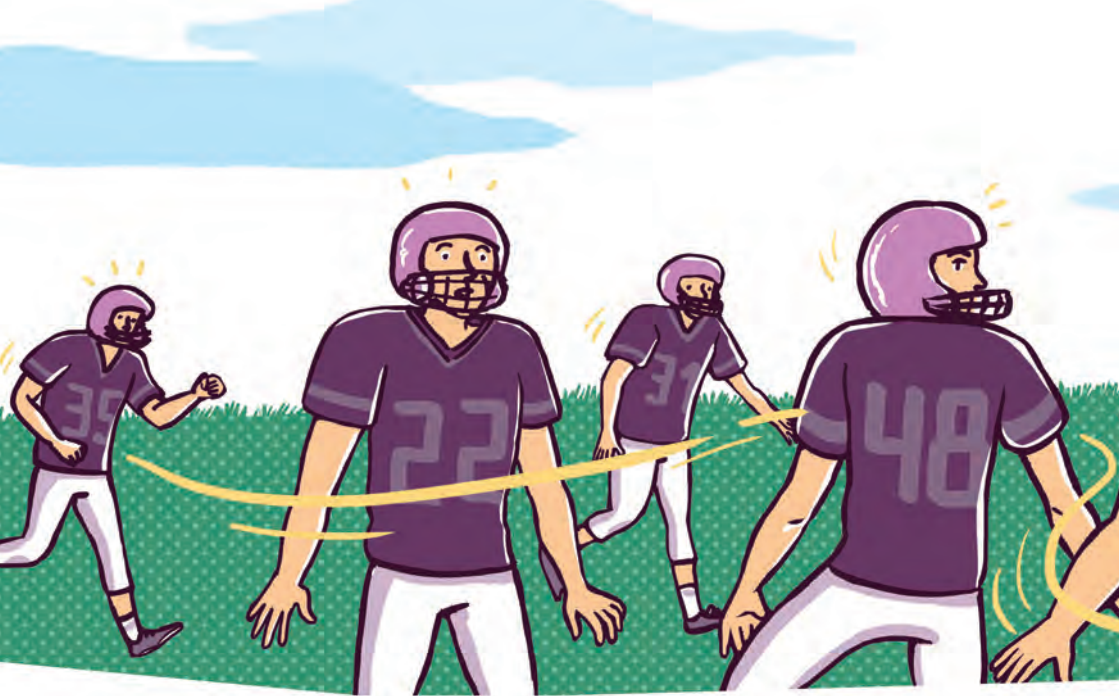
But suddenly, the smile froze on his lips. His eyes moved from the upper part of his body down to his legs. His legs were short. Not just short, but far too short for his body. He had the upper body of a six footer, but because of his legs he was much less than six feet, six inches less! Sitting, he was as tall as almost anyone. Standing, he had to look up at most of the boys and even many of the girls.

Describe yourself

Read Jay's description of himself again, then describe yourself to a friend.

GLOSSARY

- **ad:** short for advertisement; publicity
- **froze:** (here) stopped
- **have paid off:** has produced results
- **rolled:** moved by turning
- **sit-ups:** exercises for your stomach muscles
- **six inches:** c.15 cm (1 inch = 2.54 cm)
- **six-footer:** person who is six foot tall (182.8 cm)
- **thick:** (here) with lots of
- **turned girls' heads:** made girls look



Why didn't his legs grow with the rest of his body? At five foot six he was one of the shortest boys in his class. He was the shortest in his own family, he was even shorter than his 'little' sister – by three inches! Where did his legs come from? He certainly didn't get them from his parents. They were both quite tall. Looking through old photos in the family album, he found the answer. It was his grandfather on his mother's side. His short legs were a gift from Grandpa Tuttle. Thanks a lot, Grandpa!

Of course, the kids[•] at school all noticed Jay's short legs and they had a nickname[•] for him: Stubs[•]! Almost no one called him by his real name, they all called him Stubs. Stubs Stone. Jay didn't like his nickname, but he had to accept it. He had no choice.

GLOSSARY

- **kids:** (US) young people
- **nickname:** an informal, often humorous name for someone
- **stubs:** short things; (here) Jay's short legs



But Jay couldn't see in the mirror what his legs could do. They were quick and strong. He was the youngest player on the Brewer High football team. He could run faster than anyone else on the team – and, like a battery-charged• rabbit, he kept going and going•. Even at basketball, where the other players were much taller than him, they were still afraid of him because of his speed.

Jay shook his head.

'Stubs, Stubs Stone, the kid with the stubby• legs. Yeah, that's me,' he said to himself with a sad little smile. Suddenly, he heard his mother's voice.

'Jay! It's breakfast time!'

'I'll be right there, Mom.' Jay's smile brightened•. Then he dressed quickly and hurried down the stairs.

-
- **battery-charged:** that got power from a battery
 - **kept going and going:** never stopped
 - **stubby:** short
 - **brightened:** (here) became bigger

After Reading

Vocabulary

1 Use five of the words in the box to complete the sentences.

slightly sly tackle slap injure thick bunch bitter

- a Jay had brown hair and eyelashes.
- b Jay's girlfriend, Hannah, was only shorter than him.
- c 'A whole' is an American expression meaning 'a lot'.
- d Jack sent Jay flying into the air with a brutal
- e To Brendon, Ben's words were like a in the face.

2 In pairs, create three sentences with the words left out in Exercise 1.

3 Complete the following passages with *the*, *a*, *an*, or no article (-).

- a (1) following day, (2) practice began in (3) usual way, with (4) usual warm-up exercises.
- b In (1) break afterwards, Jay stood talking to Jud Tookey, (2) only other freshman on (3) team. Soon (4) break ended. For (5) next hour, (6) team went through (7) series of (8) drills.
- c (1) drills were hard but they were (2) fun. Coach Hubbard had (3) special method. He always brought (4) boom box along to (5) practice sessions. (6) players did their drills to (7) beat of (8) rap music, (9) hard, aggressive kind. (10) music helped to create (11) right atmosphere.
- d Jay's leg was only bruised, not seriously injured, and in about (1) week he could play (2) football again. Relieved, he called his mother, then Hannah, telling them (3) good news. What was (4) good news for Jay was (5) bad news for Ben Duffy. But Ben already had (6) new plan.

After Reading

Cambridge English Exams

K A2 Key English Test Reading and Writing Part 4

1 Read the sentences and choose the best word (A, B, or C) for each space.

- 1** Sit-ups are the easiest way to build our core and abdominal muscles and their endurance.
A enforce **B** multiply **C** increase
- 2** The best thing about sit-ups is that we don't need any kind of special equipment to them.
A have **B** do **C** make
- 3** They can be done and in a number of different ways.
A nowhere **B** everywhere **C** anywhere
- 4** Just make sure to do them properly and carefully, as they can cause injuries the neck and lower spine.
A to **B** at **C** for
- 5** In order to perform a proper sit-up, we have to down on our back.
A lie **B** let **C** lay
- 6** Our feet, hips and knees must aligned, with knees bent and feet flat on the floor.
A stay **B** remain **C** be
- 7** With our hands placed behind our ears or neck, we must move our upper body up toward our knees, sure to exhale on our way up and inhale as we return to the starting position.
A doing **B** making **C** having
- 8** It is a good idea to hold for some seconds before coming back to the starting position.
A down **B** up **C** towards