



Year Level: Year 4/5
Genre: Biography

Pele the Hero

Pele is known as the best soccer player to have ever played the game. He has become a soccer legend. He was born in a small town in Brazil, South America. His family was very poor but they all loved soccer. Pele was taught to play soccer by his father who also used to be a soccer player.

The family had no money to buy a proper soccer ball so he used a stuffed sock instead. By the time he could walk, Pele could kick his stuffed sock ball very well.

Pele wanted a real soccer ball so he would shine shoes to earn the money he needed. When he was older, Pele formed a 'shoeless team' with the local street kids.

At one game when he was only eleven years old, he was noticed by another famous soccer player. This man knew that Pele was going to be a champion. He was right. At age sixteen Pele was chosen to be in the Brazilian soccer team.

In 1958, Pele helped Brazil win their first World Cup, a championship they had never won before. He was a hero. The team carried him off the field on their shoulders; the crowd cheering.

Pele went on to play for Brazil in another three World Cups. He was awarded the honour of becoming a member of the National Soccer Hall of Fame. This award is given only to the very best soccer players.

QUESTIONS:

Main Idea (MI)

1) This article is about...

- a) a boy who was poor and grew up helping others who were poor.
- b) a boy who became one of the best soccer players in the world.
- c) a boy who loved playing soccer.
- d) a boy who learned how to play soccer from his family.

Facts and Details (FD)

2) Pele's father also played soccer?

- a) True
- b) False

Cause and Effect (CE)

- 3) **Pele's family were very poor, his first soccer ball was a...**
- a) stuffed toy.
 - b) rubber ball.
 - c) rolled up newspaper.
 - d) stuffed sock.

Sequencing (S)

- 4) **What happened when Pele turned sixteen?**
- a) He won his first world cup.
 - b) He was chosen to play in the Brazilian soccer team.
 - c) He formed a team with his friends.
 - d) He stopped playing soccer for a while.

Words in Context (WC)

- 5) **It says in the information that Pele formed a 'shoeless team'. This means that...**
- a) the players agreed that shoes were stopping them from kicking the ball.
 - b) being shoeless was part of the uniform.
 - c) if you didn't have shoes you could join the team.
 - d) the players were poor and had no shoes to play in.

Facts and Details (FD)

- 6) **How did Pele earn money when he was young?**
- a) He shined shoes.
 - b) He begged in the streets.
 - c) He did odd jobs for his neighbours.
 - d) He taught other children how to play soccer.

Words in Context (WC)

- 7) **The word 'legend' has been used in the first paragraph. Which of the following is the best meaning?**
- a) Someone who is wealthy.
 - b) Someone who is talented.
 - c) Someone who is famous.
 - d) Someone who has performed kind deeds.

Conclusions and Inferences (CI)

- 8) **From the information in the article you can conclude that...**
- a) people from all over the world would come to watch Pele.
 - b) Pele played soccer until he was too old.
 - c) the Brazilian people were very proud of Pele.
 - d) Pele became rich.

Predicting (P)

9) If Pele hadn't played in the World Cup in 1958 then...

- a) Brazil might not have won its first championship.
- b) Brazil would have won the Cup anyway.
- c) Pele would still have been called their hero.
- d) Pele would have changed sport.

Words in Context (WC)

10) What do you call a group of people?

- a) a collection
- b) a crowd
- c) a gang
- d) a tribe

Conclusions and Inferences (CI)

11) To be awarded the honour of becoming a member of the Hall of Fame you must be...

- a) very popular.
- b) highly successful at what you do.
- c) able to win a lot of competitions.
- d) able to earn a lot of money for the sport's club.

Words in Context (WC)

12) What are the clue words in the text that tells the reader Pele was already showing signs of being a great soccer player when he was young?

- a) His family was poor but they all loved soccer.
- b) Pele's father was also a soccer player and he taught his son.
- c) By the time he could walk, Pele could kick a ball.
- d) He was in a team at the age of eleven.