

MENTORS





Talk About It

Think of a time when you helped a younger student. What did you learn from the experience?



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Vocabulary

reputation	mistreated
uttered	wrath
quicken	illegally
migrant	ruptured

Word Parts

Word Families are groups of words that share the same base word.

illegal	legally
illegally	legalize

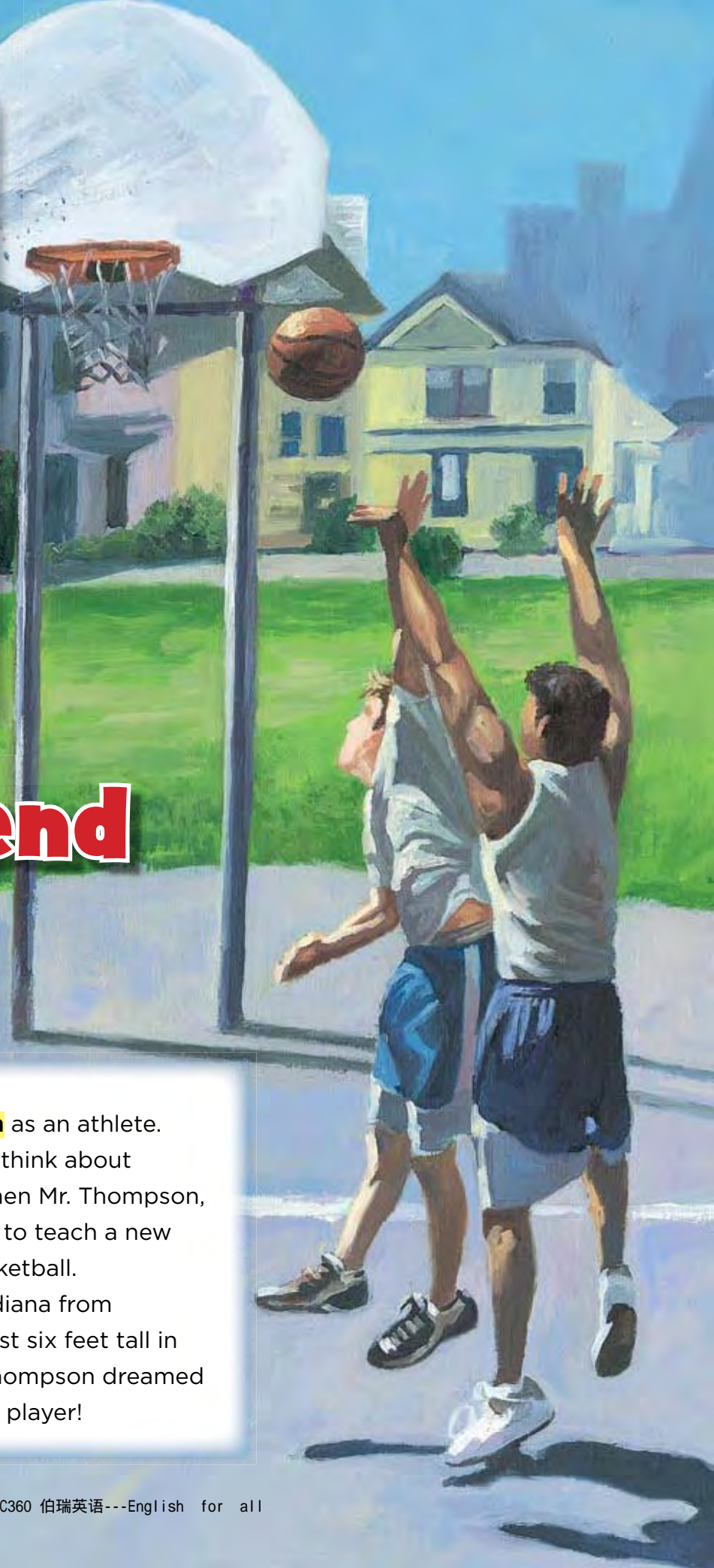


My Friend Mateo

by Kareem Williams

I have always had a **reputation** as an athlete. When people think of me, they think about sports. So it was no surprise when Mr. Thompson, my basketball coach, asked me to teach a new student the ins and outs of basketball.

Mateo had just moved to Indiana from California. He was already almost six feet tall in eighth grade! No wonder Mr. Thompson dreamed of making him into a basketball player!



Mateo was shy. The first time I met him at basketball practice he **uttered** the word “hello” to me, but he didn’t move his eyes away from the floor. That shyness didn’t last for long, however. Soon he had **quicken**ed his running and perfected his dribbling. Before long, I couldn’t get him to stop talking!

The more I got to know Mateo, the more I liked him. He had lived a life that was different from mine, and I was very interested in the stories he told. He said that his parents were **migrant** farmworkers when they first moved to the United States. The family moved from town to town so his parents could find farmwork. He said that a few of the bosses were not kind to his parents and that some

even **mistreated** them. Mateo said that sometimes his parents were treated unkindly when they made a mistake, but sometimes they suffered the boss’s **wrath** just because the boss was in a bad mood. Often this anger would drive Mateo’s family to move and find new work.

Mateo got to be pretty good at basketball. He was probably even better than I was! He could drive to the net without traveling **illegally**. But during our fourth game of the season, Mateo **ruptured** the tendon in his right knee. This means that the band of tissue holding his knee together had ripped or broken. All I know is that Mateo was done with basketball for a while. But I wasn’t done with Mateo! We’ve been best friends ever since!

Reread for Comprehension

Evaluate

Author’s Purpose

Understanding why an author wrote a selection will help you to better evaluate that piece. Authors write to inform, to persuade, or to entertain.

Use the Author’s Purpose Chart to keep track of the clues that reveal the author’s purpose as you reread “My Friend Mateo.”

Clues	Author’s Purpose

