



Budi's plan is simple. He's going to be a star. Budi's going to play for the greatest team on earth, instead of sweating over each stitch he sews, each football boot he makes. But one unlucky kick brings Budi's world crashing down. Now he owes the Dragon, the most dangerous man in Jakarta. Soon it isn't only Budi's dreams at stake, but his life. A story about dreaming big, about hope and heroes, and never letting anything stand in your way.

1) Look at the front cover: make a prediction about the story by using the title and the images on the front of the book.

(2 marks)

2) Read the blurb. What is Budi's plan?

(1 mark)

3) What could have happened to make Budi owe the dragon?

(1 mark)

4) Why is the front cover effective when comparing it to the final line of the blurb?

Two minutes left on the clock.

The crowd watch with their hands clasped on top of their heads. Scarves hang loosely around their necks. Some of them puff their cheeks out.

It's now or never.

The ball is chipped in from midfield and finds him on the edge of the box. He takes it down on his chest and sidesteps the incoming defender. He pulls his foot back to take a shot but dummies instead, cutting inside the next tackle.

The crowd rise to their feet as he surges into the box.

The defenders slide to try and stop his shot, but his touch has taken the ball beyond their reach. The goalkeeper steps forward, arms stretched wide, eyes fixed on the ball. The crowd watch through their fingers.

Then he shoots.

The ball fires past the goalkeeper's fingertips. But for a split second – a heartbeat – it looks as though it might go over the crossbar. The crowd gasp. And then, as the ball hits the back of the net, they erupt.

Real Madrid are the new champions!

I run off to celebrate and slide on my knees. The little stones on the ground scrape against my skin, and as I get up I feel blood trickling down my leg. I rattle the rusty corrugated fence so it sounds like thousands of fans jumping and cheering in the stands. The crumbling apartment blocks rise up like a stadium on every side, and I roar loud enough for even the deaf old men on the fifth floor to hear. I put my fingers and thumbs together to make the shape of a heart, and pound my chest where the Real Madrid badge should be. The Indonesian wonder kid strikes again!

The heart shape is my trademark celebration. Whenever Uston scores he crosses his chest and points to the sky, even though he's supposed to be Muslim. We keep telling him that Allah will be angry if he makes the sign of the cross, but Uston says it doesn't matter because he's only pretending. I still don't think it's worth the risk.

Rochy comes over and puts his arm around my shoulders.

"What a goal, Budi! You left them for dead!"

Read the extract of chapter one, 'It's now or never.'

4) What does the word, 'surges' mean?

_____ (1 mark)

5) Why has the author use italics for the first part of this chapter?

_____ (1 mark)

6) Why does Budi have blood trickling down his leg?

_____ (1 mark)

7) What does, 'the crumbling apartment blocks rise up like a stadium on every side' suggest about where Budi and Uston are playing football?

_____ (1 mark)

Grammar focus

8) Find and highlight an example of parenthesis in the text.

9) Find and copy two verbs from the text.