Let's Play Ball

by Winston White
illustrated by Jan Bryan-Hunt
Sara liked to play games. She wanted to play ball, so she got a bat and a ball.

But she needed someone to play with her.
Sara saw her Dad.
She asked, "Can you play ball with me?"
"I can't play now," said Dad.
"I'm too busy."
Sara went to her Mom. “Can you play ball with me?” Sara asked.

Mom shook her head. “Not today,” Mom said.
Sara saw Sam and Jason. "Let’s play ball,"
Sara said.

"Sorry" said Sam. "I have to work."
"I have to work, too," said Jason.
Sara sat alone in the yard. No one would play ball with her. She thought about what to do.
Then Sara had an idea. "Come here, Max!" shouted Sara.

Max ran to Sara and wagged his tail.
Sara said, "Listen, Max. I’ll hit the ball and you bring it back."

Sara hit the ball. The ball went a long way.
Max ran after the ball. He got it and brought it back.

When Sara hit the ball, Max got it again. He did not want to stop.
Sara was tired.

“Good dog, Max,” she said.

“Let’s play ball again on another day.

You are never too busy to play ball with me!”
Responding

**TARGET SKILL** Understanding

**Characters** What kind of person is Sara? What words and actions help you know? Copy and complete the chart below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Description</th>
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**Talk About It**

**Text to Text** Think of another story about someone who has a pet. What did he or she do?
**WORDS TO KNOW**

- beautiful
- caught
- friendship
- idea
- listen
- minute
- thought
- took

**TARGET SKILL**  Understanding

**Characters**  Tell more about characters.

**TARGET STRATEGY**  Visualize  Picture what is happening as you read.

**GENRE**  Realistic fiction  is a story that could happen in real life.
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