



THE PANYEE FLOATING SOCCER FIELD

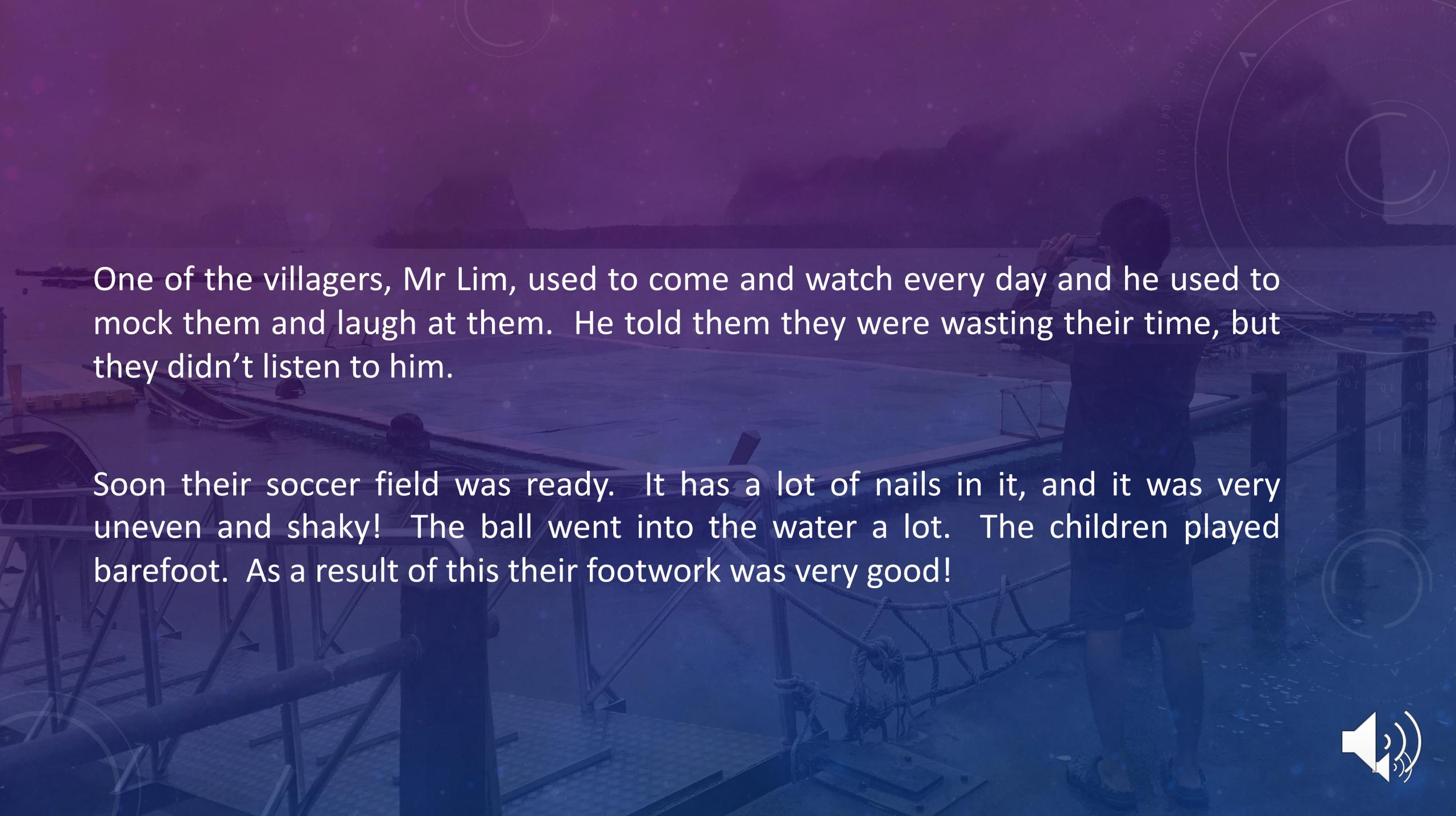




In the year 1986 there was a small floating village called Panyee (pronounced Pan-ye) in Thailand. The children in Panyee loved watching soccer on TV. The only sport they could play in their floating village was boat racing. There was no ground for anything else.

One day Nattaping came up with the idea that they should start a soccer team and build a floating soccer pitch. To his surprise all the children thought this was a very good idea. They collected drifting wood and tied it together and slowly built a giant wooden football field raft.



A person is standing on a wooden pier, holding a camera up to take a picture of a coastal scene. The pier has a rope railing. In the background, there are several boats docked at the pier, and a body of water extending to a hazy, mountainous coastline under a clear sky. The entire image has a blue tint and some faint circular patterns overlaid on it.

One of the villagers, Mr Lim, used to come and watch every day and he used to mock them and laugh at them. He told them they were wasting their time, but they didn't listen to him.

Soon their soccer field was ready. It has a lot of nails in it, and it was very uneven and shaky! The ball went into the water a lot. The children played barefoot. As a result of this their footwork was very good!





This is the true story of the original Panyee FC.

One day Jongjaroen came running up with a flier from the mainland about a soccer tournament. They decided to enter. The villagers made them t-shirts and they bought boots. At the tournament it was pouring with rain! They chucked off their boots and played barefoot. They got right to the semi-finals and lost by only one goal scored right at the last minute!

They became known as the Panyee football club and were soon one of Thailand's best football clubs! Playing in such rough conditions help them to be very good players. This story shows us that whatever challenges you face in life, if you think you can make a difference, then you can!



ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS



1. Where did this story take place?



2. List the different characters that were mentioned in the story.



3. How did the children make the soccer field?



How did this help them when they entered the tournament?



Did they win the tournament?

Description	Character's name
This person had good ideas. He thought they should start a soccer team. He gave ideas on how to do it.	
This person found an advert for a soccer tournament and he excitedly showed the others.	
This person used to laugh at the boys and tell them they were wasting their time.	

Read these descriptions and write down who the characters are.