



My soccer granny



Vuyo is waiting at the busy bus stop. He is very excited because his granny is coming to stay while his parents are away visiting some relatives. His granny is from Tzaneen. He is especially excited because just last week he read an interesting report in the local newspaper, and it had his granny's name in it. He had it in his hand.

This is what it said ...

Grannies in Tzaneen show the soccer spirit

Several elderly women in Tzaneen, decided to get into the World Cup soccer spirit by playing soccer as a joke. They enjoyed it so much that now they run and compete as elderly soccer teams.

I was travelling past their soccer pitch, just as they were about to start their practice, so I stopped to find out more.

This is what I saw ...



The grandmothers were gathered on a lumpy piece of grass and the sun was slowly starting to cast its dark shadow over the 'field'. They were wearing long skirts, bright scarves and flat rubber shoes. Suddenly off came the skirts, revealing T-shirts and nylon shorts.

They put on their soccer boots. They quietly took their places on the uneven field. The coach blew his whistle and the game began. It all happened in slow motion with great cheering from the grandchildren and supporters gathered at the sides



As the elderly women began kicking the ball around, they nearly caused car accidents as drivers took their eyes off the road to watch the grannies! People walking by stopped to stare.

People were shouting, "The grannies are playing soccer! Come and see!" This was a sight to see.

After the match I interviewed Zulu Matewera, one of the oldest players. "People laughed at us at first, and told us we were too old. But now they see that it is good exercise for us," she said. "I can't wait to tell my grandson in Johannesburg about our teams when I see him soon."

Written by Sam Mjoba, Daily Times Reporter





As Vuyo was reading the newspaper report again, a big, red bus arrived. There was Granny waving at the window! She was holding a pair of new soccer boots in her hands.

“This is going to be a very exciting holiday,” thought Vuyo as he waved back at Granny, and jumped up and down shouting with excitement.

Discuss the following questions

1. Who are the main characters in the story?
2. What is the story about?
3. How did you feel when you read the story?
4. Explain what the newspaper reporter saw when he stopped to watch the soccer game.
5. Why is Vuyo's granny coming to stay?
6. What is his granny's name?
7. How did Vuyo's granny start playing soccer?
8. Who wrote the newspaper report?

Answers

1. Vuyo and his grandmother
2. The story is about elderly woman making their own soccer team.
3. Own answer
4. He saw the grandmothers taking off their skirts and revealing t-shirts and shorts. They also put soccer boots on.
5. His parents are away visiting some relatives.
6. Her name is Zulu Matewera
7. They started to play soccer as a joke.
8. The story was written by Sam Mjoba, Daily Times Reporter