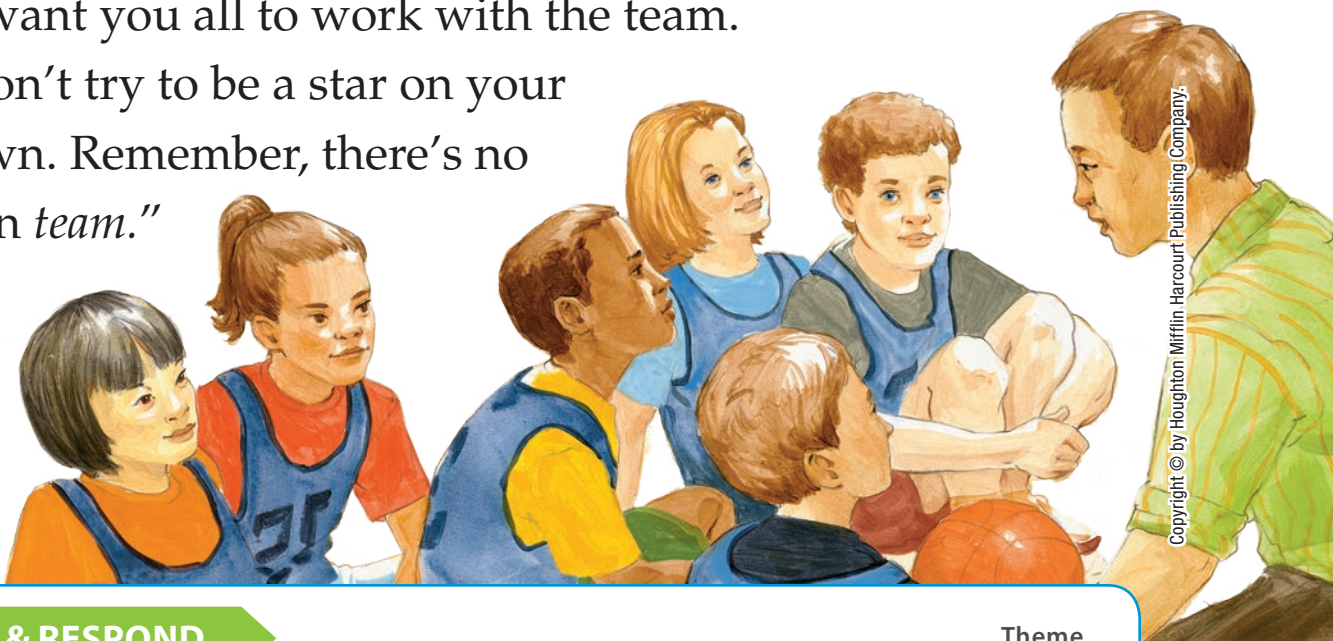


THE *Rockets*

by Candyce Norvell

It was the beginning of the season. Coach Gema was giving the Rockets a speech.

“There are three things we need for a winning team,” he said. “We need practice. We need discipline. We need teamwork. I want you all to work with the team. Don’t try to be a star on your own. Remember, there’s no *I* in team.”



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READ & RESPOND

Theme

Why does Coach Gema want the Rockets to remember that there is no *I* in team?



The team worked hard at practice. Soon they were working well as a team. They even won their first game!

Coach Gema was proud. Then he heard some team members brag. “I don’t like bragging. Remember what I told you,” he said. “There is no *I* in *team*.”

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READ & RESPOND

Theme

Why doesn't Coach Gema want the team members to brag?

One day, Emily told her friend Lupe bad news. Emily had to quit the team. “My mom is sick,” Emily said. “My family needs me at home. We all need to help out. We can’t afford to pay someone else.”

“The team will be sorry to lose you,” said Lupe. “You are a great player.”

Lupe told the team about Emily.

“I am worried about Emily and her family,” said Will. “Can the team help?”



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READ & RESPOND

Main Ideas and Details

What is the problem in the story?

“I know a group that helps families,” Anders said. “Maybe we can raise money for that group.”

“That’s a great idea,” said Coach Gema. “What should we do?”

“How about a car wash?” said Sovann. “We could have it this weekend.”

The whole team agreed.



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READ & RESPOND

Main Ideas and Details

How is the team trying to solve the problem?

On Saturday, the team brought supplies. They washed cars all day. They raised a lot of money. They gave the money to the group that would help Emily's family.

Coach Gema was proud of the Rockets. "You remembered that there is no *I* in *team*," he said.

"Maybe we can earn more money. Let's have a car wash next weekend, too," said Anders.



READ & RESPOND

Theme

This is the third time the author uses the phrase "there is no *I* in *team*." Why do you think that is?



When the season ended, the Rockets went to the school sports dinner.

“There are two more awards to give out,” said the principal. “One award is for a team that raised money to help someone. The other award is for the best teamwork. Both awards go to the Rockets! They remembered that there’s no *I* in *team*.”

Everyone clapped. The Rockets listened to the applause. They were proud.

READ & RESPOND

Theme

What did the Rockets remember? Why is that important?

Later that week, the Rockets went out for pizza.

“I want olives!” said Anders.

“I want extra cheese!” said Lupe.

“I want hot peppers!” Sovann said.

“Not peppers! I want sausage,” said Will.

“Hey!” said Coach Gema. “What about teamwork?”

“Coach,” Will said, “there is no *I* in *team*, but there is certainly an *I* in *pizza*!”



READ & RESPOND

Theme

How does the story end? What do you think is the theme of the story?



Reread and Respond

1 How do you know that Lupe is a good friend to Emily?

Hint

For clues, see page 92.

2 What shows you that the Rockets know how to work as a team?

Hint

For clues, see pages 91 and 94.

3 Would you like to play for the Rockets? Why or why not?

Hint

Think about how the team members treat each other.