



What's the Difference?

Plays About Tolerance



By Catherine Gourley



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Note to the reader: Be sure to look at the Glossary on page 32 to find definitions of words that might be unfamiliar.

Who's Got Game?

Liz and Erika are a couple of seventh graders who meet at a summer basketball camp. They have hoop talents, but they also have big egos. Can two star ball players from diverse backgrounds learn to work together for a goal greater than their own athletic glory?

Characters:

Narrators 1, 2, 3

Liz Thomas, a seventh grader who plays on a city-league basketball team

Erika Hudson, a seventh grader who plays on her middle-school team

Talia, a college student who works as a camp counselor

Lena Walters, a former professional basketball player

Basketball coach

Scene 1

Narrator 1: On the campus of a large university, girls in the seventh and eighth grades from across the state have arrived for a week-long summer basketball camp.

Narrator 2: Many of the girls have come with friends from their schools' basketball teams. Liz Thomas, however, stands alone. Her school doesn't have a basketball team. She plays on a team in a city league.

Talia: (*approaching Liz*) Hi, are you Liz? I'm Talia. You're from my former school! They didn't have a team when I played there either. Like you, I played on a team in the city league. Then I went on to play in high school and college.

Liz: (*feeling relieved*) That's awesome! It's nice to meet you!

Talia: You look a little lost. The first couple of days at camp are always hard. Trust me, it gets easier. You'll have a great time, meet new friends, and learn a lot on the court, too! Come with me. I'll get you registered.

Narrator 3: Liz smiles, again feeling a bit relieved. Just then, the coach blows a whistle, silencing all the girls.

Coach: Listen up, ladies! We have a great week planned, but it's going to be hard work! Our special guest this week is a former pro—Lena Walters. We're going to make sure you don't get this confused with being on vacation!

Narrator 1: The girls groan and laugh. They are excited to be on a college campus and in the presence of a pro.

Coach: Ladies, you have one hour to settle in. Unpack. Meet your roommates. Break the ice. I want everyone back at ten sharp for drills. (*claps her hands*) Go, go, go!

Narrator 2: The excited girls hurry from the gymnasium. Liz turns quickly, almost knocking another girl over.

Erika: Ow! That's my foot you stepped on! Watch it.

Liz: I'm sorry. Are you okay?

Narrator 3: The girl doesn't answer. She hurries out the door to catch up with her friends.

Scene 2

Narrator 1: Liz finds her room in the dorm. Sitting on the bed is Erika, the girl whose foot she accidentally stepped on.

Erika: (*surprised and a bit disappointed*) You? You're my roommate? But I thought they'd pair me with someone from my school!

Liz: What school do you go to?

Erika: Kennedy Tech. What about you?

Liz: Midtown Middle.

Erika: So we're from the same town. How come we never played your school?

Liz: We don't have a school team.

Erika: Then why are you here?

Liz: (*defensively*) I play on a team in a city league, and I'm here for the same reason you are—to improve my game. What did you think?

Narrator 2: Erika shrugs. She begins to unpack her stuff—upscale sneakers, T-shirts, and shorts, all with designer labels.

Narrator 3: Liz opens her own duffel bag. Her clothes seem plain compared to the fancy wardrobe Erika is unpacking.

Erika: You any good at basketball?

Liz: Definitely. How about you?

Erika: (*boastful*) Just wait and see. See you on the court.

Liz: (*mutters to herself*) So much for breaking the ice.

Scene 3

Narrator 1: An hour later, the players run through drills while the coach, counselors, and Lena Walters take notes.

Narrator 2: The staff is deciding how to divide the girls into teams, based on both the positions they play and their ability.

Lena: Who's the girl who keeps losing control of the ball when she dribbles with her left hand?