

**Directions: Read the story and answer the questions that follow**

**Brett and the Valley Bears  
by Thelma Jarosz**

1        When I made the Valley Bears' football team, Mom tried to change my mind. "Your'e only twelve years old, Brett," she said in her kindest voice. "What if you break your arm?"

2        She never said, "What if you catch the ball and run like the wind for the winning touchdown?"

3        Dad, though, was cool. He said, "Those uniforms are as padded as an overstuffed sofa."

4        But Mom didn't like the uniforms. She said, "Why do you wear white uniforms? Grass stains will never wash out. It's unsanitary."

5        Because most of the guys on our team were gigantic, I sat on the bench for a lot of the games. Our team was pretty good, and we even made it to the playoff game. Even Mom came to see it.

6        We had to play Ogden Hills, and within a few minutes, Ogden was leading 13-0. Then, the clouds go ominous, and the wind started to gust. You probably already know that even a torrential rain never stopped a football game.

7        At half time, Ogeden was still in the lead, 20-13. Of course, I had been on the bench the whole game.

8        As soon as the teams returned to the field, the rain thundered down as if someone had emptied a giant bathtub. Everyone was up to his ankles in mud. The football went slipping and sliding everywhere.

9        Rain was still pounding down when Howie Clark skidded into the end zone and tied the score, 20-20. When he came limping on the bench, I could see he was trying not to cry. With two minutes to play, Ogeden had the ball when the rain abruptly stopped. I mean, it just stopped, as if someone had turned off a faucet!

10        Ogeden didn't score, so we got one more chance. "Okay, Hamilton," Coach yelled at me, "you're substituting for Clark!"

11        My heart pounded like a drum, and I was really nervous. The quarterback threw the ball, and it came barreling right at me. I hugged it for dear life and ran like the wind. The goal was less than a yard away when a tackle by Ogeden sent me catapulting into the air.

12        Coach substituted a big guy to run for the last yard. When Andy Beck took the ball across for the winning touchdown, we all went crazy!

13        Mom and Dad came running down to our bench. Dad said, "Excellent run!"

14        Mom embarrassed me by hugging me in front of the guys. She said, "I just hope I can get off work to see the championship game."

15        And not one word about my muddy uniform!

**At the beginning of this story, Brett's mother thinks of football as**

- A** fun and exciting
- B** dirty and dangerous
- C** a ridiculous game
- D** a great way to spend the day

**How does Brett seem compared to the other kids on his team?**

- A** He is bigger and more talented.
- B** He is thinner and slower.
- C** He has the biggest feet on the team.
- D** He is smaller and less sure of himself.

**What is the meaning of the word torrential as it is used in paragraph 5?**

- A** light
- B** steady
- C** drenching
- D** drizzling

**Which word best describes how Brett feels about being benched for most games?**

**A** estatic

**B** disgruntled

**C** accepting

**D** uninterested

**Directions: Read the sentence from the story.**

**I hugged it for dear life and ran like the wind.**

**In this sentence, ran like the wind is an example of-**

- A** onomatopoeia
- B** a metaphor
- C** personification
- D** a simile

**Which question is answered in paragraph 9?**

- A** How did the player injure himself?
- B** Why did the rain stop suddenly?
- C** Why was Howie leaving the field?
- D** Who was put in Howie's position?



**Which word best describe how Brett feels after the playoff game?**

**A** humiliated

**B** depressed

**C** irritated

**D** honored

**The author most likely wrote this story to**

- A** persuade boys to play football
- B** tell about an exciting event
- C** teach other players how to win
- D** convince others to never give up

**Directions: Click and drag the answers to the correct boxes**

**Complete the sentences.**

**At the beginning of the story, Brett feels  about making the team. When the coach tells Brett he is going to be in the game he feels  . After the end of the game, he feels  .**

curious

uncomfortable

amused

pleased

anxious

**Directions: This question does not have a passage to go along with it. Read and answer the question.**

**What is the root word of "reorganization?"**

- A** org
- B** organ
- C** organize
- D** reorgan