

Name: _____

I Don't Understand

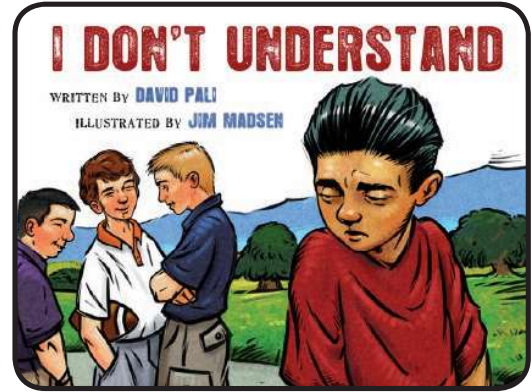
Lesson 99

Paired with *Don't Fence Me In*—Advanced

Written by David Pali

Illustrated by Jim Madsen

Lexile®: 750L, 378 words



Blowing his whistle, Mr. Morgan signaled that it was time for PE to start. Ricardo hated PE, because he didn't know the rules for American football or basketball. He was tired of looking silly in front of the other kids.

"Settle down, you guys, or you'll be in hot water," Mr. Morgan demanded.

Ricardo wondered what "hot water" had to do with PE.

Being new wasn't working out very well for Ricardo, because every day the kids at school made fun of him for something. He didn't dress like they did, and he couldn't understand what they were saying.

Just yesterday a couple of boys had pointed at him and said, "What's with the shoes, dude?" He'd looked around him and couldn't see anything "with" his shoes. He couldn't figure out what they meant.

Then there was the money, which was also difficult for him to understand. He didn't know how many nickels made a quarter or how many dimes were in a dollar. And he hadn't figured out the value of a quetzal in American money.

Now it was time for PE again, and, like usual, Ricardo was picked last when they chose teams. He just couldn't figure out how the games worked, so the kids didn't want him on their team.

As he trudged over to his group, he heard Mr. Morgan announce that they would be playing soccer that morning. Soccer? Ricardo knew how to play soccer! He'd played it every day in Guatemala, but there they called it "football."

Ricardo's team wasn't very good at soccer, though. They couldn't move the ball down the field, let alone score a goal. Good thing the other team was just as bad. Of course, no one ever passed the ball to Ricardo because no one on his team thought that he might actually know how to play.

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Then, just by chance, the ball came spinning towards Ricardo, and with a flick of his foot, he had it under control. Quick as lightning he was speeding down the field, dribbling the ball easily, avoiding all the players who tried to block him.

Goal! Ricardo smiled as his team ran up to him.

“Cool, man!”

“That was awesome,” they shouted.

Now those were English words that he could understand!

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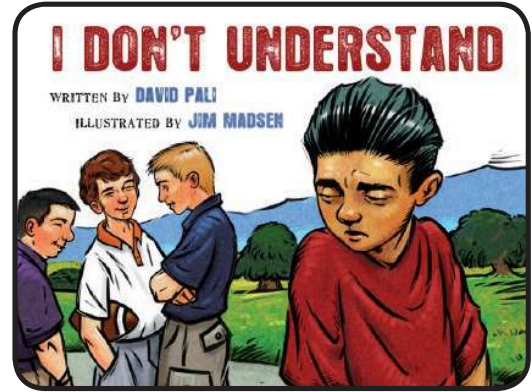
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ACCURACY: # of reading errors: _____ (Indep. = 0–8, Instr. = 9–19, Frustr. = 20+)
SPEED: To calculate: $22680 \div$ _____ (Reading time in seconds) = _____ WPM

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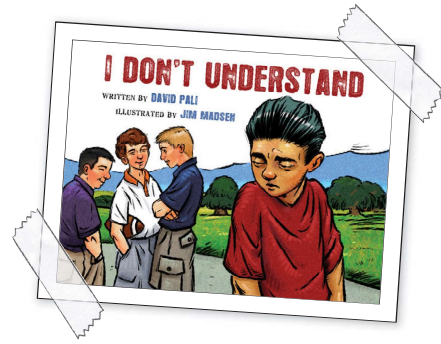
Paired with *Don't Fence Me In—Advanced*

Discover Story Vocabulary	signal, under control, avoid
Glossary Words	signal, under control, chose teams, couple

Question Type	Question
Vocabulary	<p>Read this sentence from the story: “‘Settle down, you guys, or you’ll be in <u>hot water</u>,’ Mr. Morgan demanded.”</p> <p>In this sentence, “in hot water” means the kids will _____.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. be in troubleb. sweat during the gamec. have a hot shower
Solution	<p>How does Ricardo solve his problem of always being chosen last for the teams in PE?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. He gets the same kinds of shoes as the other kids.b. He learns the meaning of “awesome.”c. He proves he is a good soccer player.
Author’s Purpose	<p>The author shows Ricardo making a goal to _____.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. teach readers how to play soccerb. show that Ricardo understands soccerc. describe an American sport

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Response Journal



Think about the story *I Don't Understand*.

Write about a time when you went to a new school, a new neighborhood, or a new team. How did you feel? What happened?

OR

Does this story make you think about something in your own life? Does it make you think of something you've read or seen? Write about it.

WORDS YOU MIGHT USE

I remember when...
This story made me think of...
understand
confusing

lonely
worried
excited
first

finally
familiar
nervous
friends