

## BOOK SUMMARY

*How can play change the world?*

Professional soccer is the most popular professional sport worldwide. Aside from the estimated 3.5 billion fans, the 2006 World Cup collected 30 billion viewers (accumulated viewing audience across multiple games).

Where communication and cultural differences create barriers, soccer forms bridges! The *Banana-Leaf Ball* by [Katie Smith Milway](#) is a poignant story that shows the power one sport can have to bring people together.

---

## BOOKMARK

Our featured book resources include collectible bookmarks with easy access to our discussion questions (front) and personal reflection (back). Print in color on card stock and cut them out.

*Want to track your child's (ren's) development?*

Create a vlog with them answering, "*How can play change the world?*" at the beginning of the year, before reading this book. Then, repeat the exercise at the end of the year after working through this resource and any additional activities related to the power of play you want to introduce.

## ACTIVITIES

Let's bring greater context to the story!

This book is based on a true story and there are many more just like it. Check out the WBUR podcast interview with [Right To Play's](#) founder, Johann Olav Koss for a more in-depth understanding of how this story came to life.

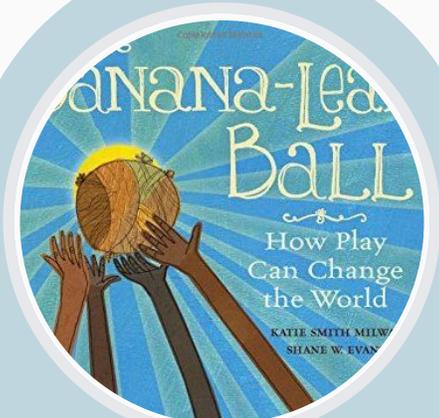
**Listen** to Johann Olav Kross and Benjamin Nzobonankira on WBUR <https://www.wbur.org/onlyagame/2017/05/26/the-banana-leaf-ball>

**Watch** how a group of young soccer players made their own floating soccer field off the coast of Thailand. These young men established Southern Thailand's Panyee Soccer Club.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jU4oA3kkAWU>

**Take action** as a family by supporting the organization that has grown to support more than 2 million children in 15 countries.

<https://www.righttoplayusa.org/en/>



## BOOK INFO

### Author

Katie Smith Milway

### Illustrator

Shane W. Evans

---

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

How can you empathize with Deo?

How does Deo's story relate to current events?

How can play change the world?

Why did Remy and Deo's relationship change?

How could you transform a relationship like Remy and Deo?

In what ways did Deo's experiences make him stronger?

How did Deo's time at Lukole impact his future?

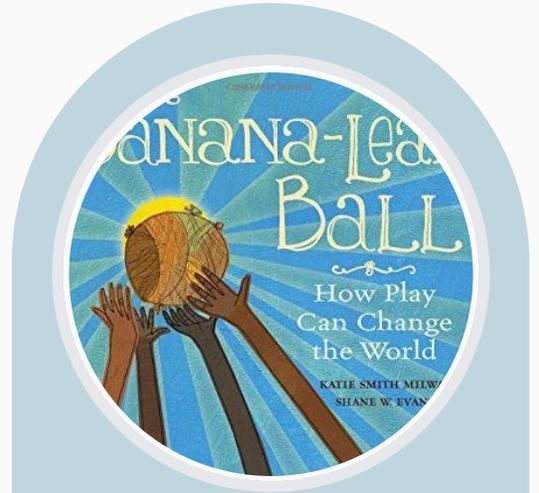
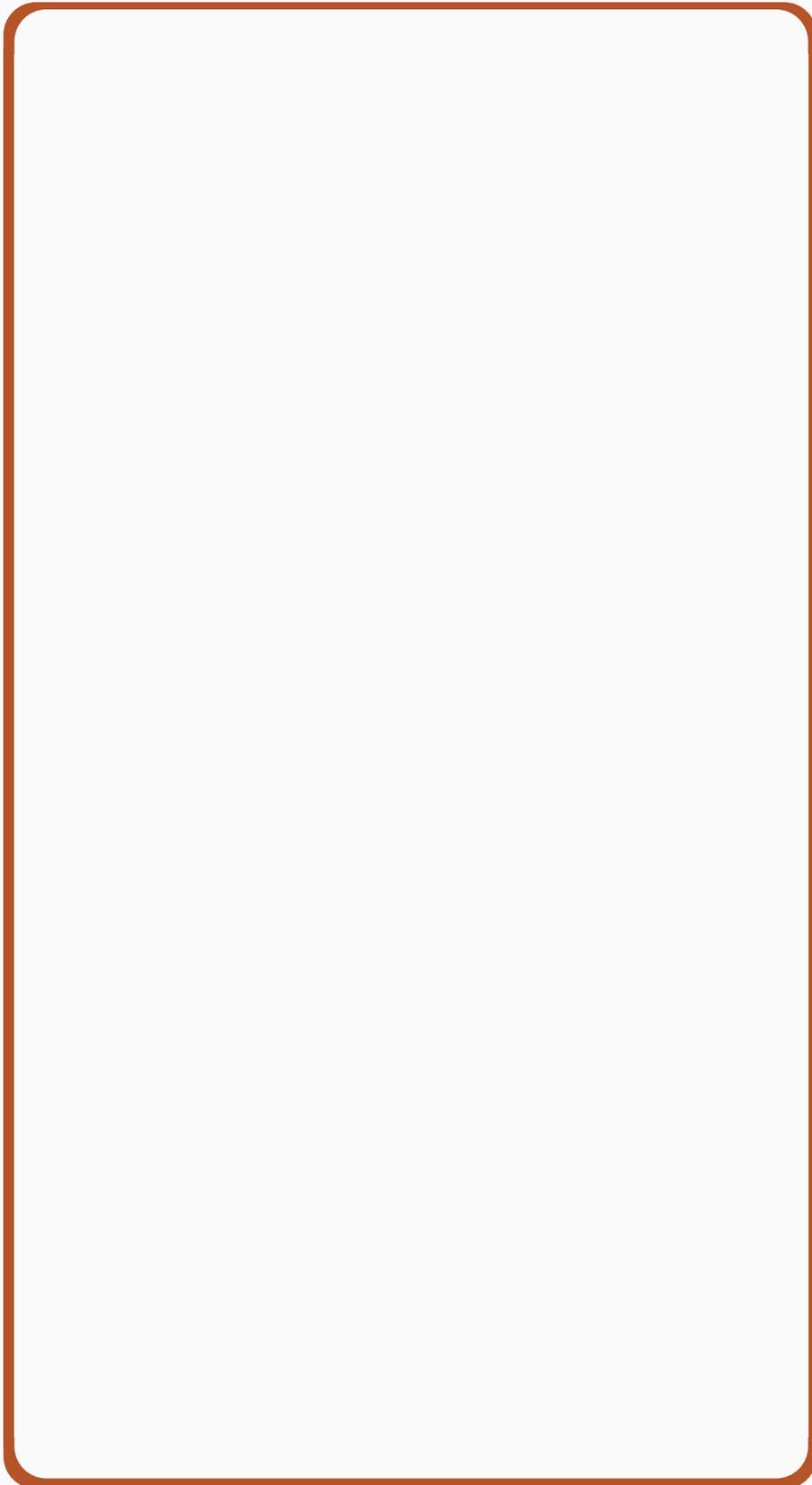
What strengths do you have that you can share with the world?

How can you deepen your connection with others?

Draw a picture of you playing your favorite sport or game with others and share it with us on social media!

 @cultured\_kids

 @culturedkidsMA



## BOOK INFO

**Author**  
Katie Smith Milway

**Illustrator**  
Shane W. Evans

---

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

Fill in the blanks of the following sentences to reflect on daily as a practice of gratitude.

I enjoy playing \_\_\_\_\_  
(what)

\_\_\_\_\_

with \_\_\_\_\_  
(whome)

\_\_\_\_\_

because \_\_\_\_\_  
(why)

\_\_\_\_\_