

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?

Have you ever experienced a change of heart like Remy and Deo?

How did Deo's experiences make him stronger?

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

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

How can you help someone feel like they belong?

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 for your educators. Easy access to discussion questions (front) and personal reflection (back), serve as a tool for educators to engage with their students.

STAFF ACTIVITY

Start your year off with a bit of inspiration!

Assign each of the below resources to one-third of your team for review before the first staff meeting.

Ask each team member to write down one word - inspired by their assigned material - that they would like to develop in their classroom. You can use the space provided on the back of this page if you want. At the meeting, implement the following:

- Have everyone tape their word to the wall as they come in, grouping like words together. Create rows of like words.
- Break into small groups according to the word they chose. For example, if ten people wrote: Inspire, they will meet together.
- As a group, brainstorm **how** they will develop this in their classroom throughout the year.
- Have group members commit to supporting one another throughout the year. They can share resources and activities that worked, check in with one another, and encourage each other.

RESOURCES

- ✱ Read The Banana Lead Ball by Katie Smith Milway
- ✱ Listen to the 10-minute WBUR interview with Johann Olav Kross (Founder of Right To Play) and Benjamin Nzobonankira (displaced refugee Deo's character was based on in the book).
<https://www.wbur.org/onlyagame/2017/05/26/the-banana-leaf-ball>
- ✱ Watch a 5-minute video about the formation of Thailand's Panyee Soccer Club: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jU4oA3kkAWU>

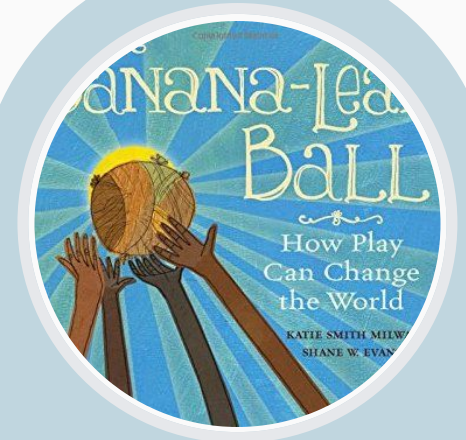
Use the space provided to write your word. Share a selfie with your word and tell us how you are going to make it happen!



@cultured_kids



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PERSONAL REFLECTION

Think of a time when you experienced a deeper connection with others through play that you can share with students.

Brainstorm some ways you can enhance play in the classroom to deepen students connections.