

Grab My Hand!





Jojo stands by the wire, watching a boy on the football field. The boy kicks the ball higher and higher, moving swiftly across the grass. Jojo holds his own ball tightly. He wonders if the boy will play with him.

The boy sends the ball flying with a swift kick. Jojo watches it swoop downward in a big arc. He puffs out his chest and bumps it **boldly**. No hands allowed in football! He feels **hopeful**. Maybe the boy will let him play.





The boy is so
swift! Jojo is
taller, but he can
barely keep up.

He feels
hopeless at
football.

Jojo watches closely
as the boy controls the
ball. It rolls from foot
to foot and stops right
where he wants it.

This boy could be a
teacher! Jojo has never
seen a player this
skillful.





Jojo calls out for a break, but the boy does not stop. Jojo keeps trying **boldly** to get the ball off him.

He reaches **forward**, but the boy is **simply** too quick.

Just then, Jojo sends a **really** hard kick. The ball flies **upward** and sails right off the field!

The boy reaches **forward** with a startled look. Now they need to find the ball!



The boy dashes onto the road to grab the ball. He is so **reckless!** Jojo calls to him **loudly**, but the boy does not lift his head.

A bike speeds closer. Jojo must act **quickly!** He wonders if the boy **simply** cannot hear him.





Jojo jumps forward and grabs the boy by the hand. He pulls him safely onto the grass just as the bike rushes past.

The boy holds the ball tightly and looks at Jojo with grateful eyes. This is the start of a real friendship.

They sit side by side on the hill, catching their breath **slowly**. The sun is sinking **lower**, turning the sky **golden** and bright. Jojo leans back and lets out his longest breath. The boy bumps Jojo's shoulder **gently**, and Jojo bumps him right back.





The boy draws his name **proudly** in the dirt: FAFA. Then he signs it with his hands, fingers moving **nimbly** and **swiftly**. Jojo copies the hand movements **closely**. He grins **gladly**. Now he has his new friend's name!

Jojo tries to sign his name, but his fingers get tangled. 'Hang on,' he says **softly**.

He bends down and **slowly** spells four letters in the dirt: J-O-J-O. Fafa looks over, reads it, and smiles **brightly**.





They lay on the field,
watching clouds drift
across the **golden** sky.

Two boys, two balls, no
words needed. Jojo had
come hoping to find a
kicker to play with, and
instead he found a friend.

The next day, he would
learn the sign for 'break'
first.



Grab My Hand!

Jojo spots a boy juggling a football on the other side of the fence, and his feet are a total blur. Can Jojo keep up with this lightning-quick player? And why won't the boy stop when Jojo calls for a break, no matter how loudly he shouts? When the ball rolls into the road, Jojo has to act fast. This decodable reader practices suffixes in words like 'bravely,' 'quickly,' 'hopeful,' and 'friendship.'

Reading Skills: Suffix

barely, boldly, bravely, brightly, closely, closer, downward, forward, friendship, gently, gladly, golden, grateful, higher, hopeful, hopeless, kicker, loudly, lower, nimbly, player, proudly, quickly, really, reckless, safely, simply, skillful, slowly, softly, swiftly, taller, teacher, tighter, tightly, upward

Learn to read with confidence

The Bookbot app and its carefully designed decodable books help children practise the sounds and words they are learning, building strong phonics and reading skills one step at a time. In the app, children can listen to stories read aloud, follow highlighted words as they are spoken, and read independently when they are ready. Together, the decodable books and oral reading support help develop accuracy, fluency, confidence and a love of reading. Learn more at www.bookbotkids.com.

