

## **Three??? Kids - THE STRANGE SOCCER PLAYER**

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In New York city there lived three boys, the three ??? called Ben, Christopher and Theo. They were detectives, although they went to school, but not now because it was their autumn holidays. They also lived in one house, because they were brothers. Theo was good at sports and athletics, Ben had a good memory and was good at remembering things, and Christopher was good at finding out things and knowing things.

Since their father and mother had flown to another country to work, the three ??? were alone at home, but they left their computer for them to talk with them. One day, Ben, Theo, and Christopher went to a sandy playground to play with the ball.

“Pass,” screamed Theo running to the other goal. Ben, Christopher and Theo were playing soccer in the afternoon. Christopher wanted to make a centre pass to Theo, but he hit the ball too hard, and it accidentally hit the window. “Hey,” said a person in the house. ”Shhhh! Be quiet,” said Ben to Theo and Christopher. The three ??? went fast into the bushes. “Oh no! The man is coming out,” Christopher said. “I’m going in to this house,” Theo said quietly. “I will go from the back door and you go with me,” whispered Ben.

They climbed into the house. It was dark in there. “Come here,” Christopher said. He found the man's passport. He was a policeman. Theo heard some voices coming from downstairs. “Fast, get out of here,” Ben screamed. At the last moment three??? were at home just across the street. It was almost night. Theo, Christopher and Ben went to bed.

It was morning. Theo woke up and went to the window. He saw two cars. He woke up Christopher and Ben. “I think there are police cars,” Christopher said. “What are they doing?” Ben asked. The three ??? went to see what they were doing. The policemen wanted to open the door. Suddenly a thief took the ball away and ran to the bank.

“Maybe that is the ball with which we played soccer yesterday, whooo,” Ben said. “It’s good that the policemen are away,” Theo said. The three ??? went out of their house to see where the thief had gone. They saw some policemen searching for the thief in the bank. “Where is the thief?” one of the policemen shouted. Ben, Theo and Christopher had nothing to do so they went home. As the three ??? came home they saw a poster hanging on the side. It said that two soccer teams would play in the stadium.

Five days later Theo, Christopher and Ben went to the stadium to watch the game. The weather was rainy so the three ??? had to put their jackets on. It was also foggy. That’s why Theo could not see the soccer players at all. At halftime the other team switched a player. When he went in, Ben noticed that the soccer player looked like the thief who stole the ball five days ago. Ben was not sure if it was the thief. He called Christopher to check if he was right. They were both not sure because he had other clothes on, and because Ben and Christopher could not get near him.

The match was over. “Where is the thief?” Theo asked. “I’m not so sure but it may be the one with the orange clothes,” Ben said. Theo ran to the stadium to have a better view of him. The thief’s eyes were covered with his hat. Christopher came up to him and said: “Who are you? I saw you stealing the ball five days ago. “No, that was my brother,” the player answered. “Where does your brother live,” Ben asked. “I will not tell you,” the player said. The three ??? went home.

They were at home. Christopher told Ben and Theo that they would have to get up at 7.00 o’clock the next day because they had to find out where the real thief lived. In the morning the three ??? went to another street. “I will check if anybody is there,” Theo said. There was nobody, only Ben heard some music which sounded like this: Suck! Suck cool and it was sitting on the banjo! The three friends followed the music. Theo quietly called Christopher and Ben. They hid behind the house and then they heard a voice. “Bye,” somebody shouted.

“It’s the player whom we saw yesterday”, Ben said. "I think he

has another game", whispered Christopher. "Hollystreet, number nine," Theo wrote on the paper. They ran back home as fast as they could so that the player's brother could not see them. One of them had to phone the police. "Whooh! That was a hard time," they said altogether. The next day Ben called the police: "Hello. We saw a thief yesterday." "Where does he live?" the policeman asked. "Em... Hollystreet, number nine." "Okay! We will come at 12.00p.m.," he said.

Theo and Christopher were in the bathroom having a shower but Ben didn't know what to do. Suddenly, he had an idea. "Should I go outside and see what is happening?" Ben asked himself. There was nobody on the street. Ben looked through the window to see if somebody was in the thief's house. However, there was nobody there. "Aha! Now I know where he went. Maybe the thief went to his brother"

At that moment Christopher and Theo went out of the shower. "Where is Ben? We have to help him," Christopher said to Theo. Ben was looking what the player and his brother were doing. They were watching TV. The brothers were watching a programme about thieves. In two hours the policeman would come. The thief was afraid of the policeman.

Suddenly, the thief had a plan. If he put other clothes on, the policeman would not know who he is. At that moment, Christopher and Theo found Ben and the three ??? saw what the thief was doing. "Come on, we have to phone the policeman," Christopher said.

Quietly the three friends sneaked to their own house. After a while Ben phoned the policeman. "Where were you the whole time?" "Sorry...but we live a long way from you." "So now listen: some policemen have to stay at the back of the thief's house and some at the front." Ten minutes later the policemen were at the thief's house. The police cars surrounded the thief and his house. He had no chance to escape. When the policemen came the three ??? kicked the thief into the police car. "Thank you very much," the policeman said. If you need us again, just call." Then quietly the three ??? said "We are detectives!"