

## A Fusion of Cool Ideas

An activity of “Mbappé: football’s next king?”.

Have you ever been stuck for story ideas? Let’s see how we can draw inspiration from stories about real-life sports heroes. The January 2023 issue of *What’s Up* has two such stories. Read “**Mbappé: football’s next king?**” (page 26), and “**Billie Jean King**” (page 27).

1) In this table, the key parts of Mbappé’s story have been filled in for you. Complete the table with two more examples of other sports heroes you have read about.

	<b>Character</b> Who is the hero? Describe his/her personality, behaviour, appearance, and relationships with others.	<b>Setting</b> Where and when does the story take place? What is the overall mood or feel of the story?	<b>Plot</b> What is the story about? What difficulties or challenges does the hero face? How does the story end?	<b>Theme</b> What is the overall message of the story? Is there a big idea or take-home message?
e.g.	<i>Mbappé is a young, talented, and hardworking footballer. He has a supportive, sporty family.</i>	<i>There is suspense. Mbappé needs to score a very important penalty kick to qualify for the European championship.</i>	<i>Mbappé faces a lot of pressure for the first time in his 11-year career. He does not give up despite setbacks and disappointments.</i>	<i>Take-home message: Don’t give up despite hardships.</i>
1				
2				

2) Now, with the ideas that you have written above, mix and match the different points to come up with something new. Jot down point-form a story plan of your own, based on an imaginary sporting hero at your school. An example is given below.

	<b>Character</b> Who is your hero? Describe his/her personality, behaviour, appearance, and relationship with others.	<b>Setting</b> Where and when does your story take place? What is the overall mood or feel you would like to achieve?	<b>Plot</b> What is your story about? What difficulties or challenges does your hero face? How will the story end?	<b>Theme</b> What is the overall message of your story? Is there a big idea or take-home message?
e.g.	<i>Bob is a talented, handsome, but over-confident footballer.</i>	<i>The story happens in the middle of an exciting interschool championship game. Bob needs to score a penalty kick.</i>	<i>Though talented, Bob has allowed pride to get in the way of his achievements. He neglects teamwork and daily practice. He underestimates his opponents. He misses the penalty kick. He is devastated.</i>	<i>Take-home message: work hard and stay humble. Big ideas: diligence and teamwork.</i>

3) Develop your short story, based on your plan above. Give your story a title.

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

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[If you need more space, use a fresh sheet of paper.]

4) Share your short story with a child younger than you.