

Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Firsthand vs. Secondhand

Read the short story and answer each question.



A Day at the World Cup

Firsthand Account - Journal Entry by Mateo (Age 11)

July 10

I'll never forget today. My dad and I went to see the World Cup match between Argentina and France. The stadium was huge and full of flags, drums, and singing fans. When Argentina scored the first goal, the crowd exploded with cheers. I could barely hear myself shout! My heart was pounding the whole time. Even when France tied the game, the energy never stopped. I was jumping, clapping, even crying by the end—Argentina won in a shootout! It felt like I was part of something way bigger than just a game.

Secondhand Account - Sports Report

Argentina Claims Victory in Historic World Cup Match

Argentina defeated France in the World Cup final with a score of 4-3 after a tense penalty shootout. The game was held in Qatar and attended by over 80,000 fans. Lionel Messi scored two goals and was awarded the Golden Ball as best player. France made a strong comeback in the second half, but Argentina held on for the win. This marks Argentina's third World Cup title. Analysts are calling it one of the most exciting finals in soccer history.



Name: _____

A Day at the World Cup

1. Which best describes the difference between the two accounts?

- A. The journal tells how the game felt for a fan; the article gives facts and statistics about the match
- B. Both describe how Argentina trained before the match
- C. The journal is more formal and focuses on numbers
- D. The article shares more personal emotion than the journal

2. Which sentence is from a secondhand account?

- A. I could barely hear myself shout
- B. Argentina scored four goals and won in a shootout
- C. My dad and I went to the stadium together
- D. The drums and cheers were nonstop

3. Fill in the blank:

The **journal entry** shares _____, while the **news article** focuses on **game** _____ and outcomes.

4. How are the focus and tone different in the two accounts? Use evidence from both texts.

5. Which account helped you feel the excitement of the game? Which helped you understand what actually happened in the match? Why?



Instructional Guide

Guide Reading Level: Q

Lexile Level: 735L-885L

Grade Level: 4th Grade, Beginning of the Year

Genre: Informational Nonfiction – Sports & Media

Introducing the Text

“Today we’ll compare two different texts about the same soccer match. One is written by someone who was there. The other is a sports article that gives facts. We’ll learn how each one gives different kinds of information and how to tell them apart.”

Vocabulary: firsthand, secondhand, tone, penalty shootout, journal

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever watched or been to a live sports game?
 2. What’s the difference between telling a story and reporting facts?
 3. What kind of details do you expect in a news article?
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During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What feelings does Mateo share in his journal?
 2. What facts does the news report include that the journal does not?
 3. How does the tone change between the two texts?
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After Reading Discussion Questions

1. Which account helped you picture the moment better?
 2. Why is it helpful to read both firsthand and secondhand accounts?
 3. How do authors choose what to include based on their purpose?
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Activity Idea

Have students create a Venn diagram comparing the two accounts. In the middle, list what they both mention (Argentina, the win, the game). On either side, list what’s unique to the journal (feelings, reactions) and the article (score, player stats). Then have students write a short paragraph summarizing the differences in focus and tone.

