

# The Winning Shot

Genre: Fiction Reading Level: 490L

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Carlos dribbled the basketball down the court, his sneakers squeaking	10
against the polished gym floor. The scoreboard showed only fifteen seconds	21
left in the championship game, and his team was losing by two points.	33
"Pass it here!" his teammate Josh shouted from the corner. Carlos	44
glanced at Josh, who was wide open, but he also saw an opening near the	59
basket. For a split second, Carlos thought about taking the shot himself.	71
Then he remembered what Coach Martinez always said: "Basketball is	81
a team sport. Trust your teammates." Carlos made his decision. He threw a	94
perfect bounce pass to Josh.	99
Josh caught the ball, aimed carefully, and released it toward the hoop.	112
The entire gym fell silent as the ball soared through the air. It hit the	128
backboard, bounced on the rim once, twice, and then dropped through the	140
net just as the buzzer sounded.	146
The crowd erupted in cheers. Carlos's teammates rushed onto the court,	157
jumping and celebrating. Josh ran over and hugged Carlos. "That was an	169
amazing pass! We couldn't have won without you," he said, grinning from	181
ear to ear. Carlos smiled back, feeling proud that he had made the right	195
choice.	196

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS:

1. What difficult decision did Carlos have to make during the game?
2. What advice from Coach Martinez helped Carlos make his decision?
3. Describe what happened after Josh released the ball toward the hoop.
4. How do you think Carlos felt at the end of the story? Explain your reasoning.