

**Suggested Activities for *Hunter and Stripe and the Soccer Showdown* and *Hunter's Best Friend at School***

**Vocabulary**

*Hunter and Stripe and the Soccer Showdown*

absolute	corkscrew	mysteriously	referee	soccer
bottle-nosed	dizzy	nabbed	showdown	undefeated
celebrate	dribble	nudged	skittered	whisker
comet	lightning	opponent	snout	

*Hunter's Best Friend at School*

crawfish	half-eaten	minnow	somersault
eyebrows	huckleberries	mischief	

**Discussion Questions**

1. Why did the author choose the names she did for her characters?
2. What do the words Hunter, Stripe, Luna, and Mr. Ringtail have to do with raccoons?
3. What might be some other good names for raccoons?
4. In both books, Hunter thinks about being “his best self.” He thinks about this when Stripe misbehaves in school, and he thinks about it when it is hard for him to watch Stripe’s team win. Have you ever thought about being your very best self? What does that mean to you?

**Class Activities**

1. Help the class make a list of qualities that show “your very best self.”
2. Ask each child to draw a picture of him- or herself and his or her best friend.
3. Make a class list of good qualities of friends—each person can contribute three words or phrases.
4. Ask each child to design a T-shirt or flag for her or his team.
5. As a class, practice noticing when students have done things that exemplify good friends. Tell each other and tell the class at the end of the day. Keep a running list of people and their kind or friendly actions.
6. Using the letters in the word FRIEND, write a free-verse poem; students can also add descriptive words or use the letters in a specific friend’s name.
7. Play the Mystery Friend game—Place all the names of the students in a container. Direct each student to draw out the name of another student, to draw a picture of this person, and to write down three nice characteristics below the picture on the page. Then, write the name of the described student on the back. Post the pictures around the room and ask children to see if they can identify the students by the characteristics listed.
8. If you have a featured student each week (Star of the Week), give each of the other students a sheet of paper. Ask students to fill in the blanks: “I like \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.” Collect the papers and bind them as a keepsake for the featured child.

**Additional Classroom Community-Building Resources:**

Let the Stars Shine

<http://edcommunity.apple.com/ali/story.php?itemID=555>

The Name Game—Creating a Classroom Community

<http://edcommunity.apple.com/ali/story.php?itemID=455>