



All Stars 6: Tara, Goal Keeper

by **Maryann Ballantyne**

black dog books

Teacher Notes prepared by Fran Knight

Readership: Upper Primary to Lower Secondary

Tara is new to the town. She would like to make some friends before going to school, and goes to the Rec Centre to watch the girls playing Netball. She sees a notice asking for more players, and watching the girls, sees that they are all very good friends.

On Saturday morning she goes to the shopping centre, and while giving away to shoppers the origami butterflies she has made, meets some of the girls from the team. They invite her to join them.

Tara is concerned that she won't fit in with such a group, but soon realises that they are not all good friends all of the time, but that being part of a group means being honest. Tara has very clear ideas of rules and what is right

and what is wrong, and the team shows her how to relax and become more accepting of people's differences.

1 Newspaper article.

Find a newspaper article about netball. Cut it out of the newspaper and stick it into your book. Read it carefully, underlining the main points that the journalist is making. Rewrite the article in your own words. Write an article about an event in one of the All Stars books.

Or write a letter to the editor saying how unfair it is that Sarah was left out of the school team. Or write about the Goal Shooting Competition in All Stars 5: Sarah, Goal Shooter.

2 Tara makes origami butterflies. Find an Origami book in your library (Dewey 736). Find a butterfly page and using Brenex squares, make one of the butterflies. You could have a classroom display of all the things you have made and written about the All Stars books.

3 Tara's real name is Ishtara. Use a book of names and their meanings from the library to see if you can find out what this name means. Are there any unusual names in your class? Find out what some of them mean.

Even the most common of names, eg John, Susan and Jane have meanings, and often authors use these names to give some depth to their characters.