

## THE PRINCESS FOOTBALLER

### **Page 2:**

Once upon a time, in a very far-away country, there lived a beautiful princess. In most fairy tales princesses spent the whole day waiting for their Prince Charming, while seated in the window and embroidering either napkins or handkerchiefs and doing all kinds of strange things.

But our princess, Princess Tesa, was different from all the other princesses in the world: she didn't like embroidery, and nor was she waiting for her Prince Charming with her head sticking out of the palace window. That was so boring!

She liked doing the same things as the rest of the children: running, playing, jumping, having fun with her friends, walking round the castle, going to the countryside...

She also liked both drawing and reading. Everyday since she had learnt to read she read for a good while. She had read many fairy tales, goblin and castle stories, so she knew that fairytale princesses were a little weird and they liked doing peculiar things. She was different because she was like all the children from his city.

### **Page 3:**

But what Princess Tesa liked most was playing soccer. For that reason, she was nicknamed the princess footballer, and she loved that name. She used to play with other children who lived in the neighbouring castles. Some of them were Prince and Princess Charming blue, or green, or yellow, like her; others were normal children, neither princes, nor princess, nor anything similar. But she did not mind: she had fun with everybody. Princess Tesa also went to school and she learned to count there: one,

### **Page 4:**

two, three, four... and to enumerate: first, second, third, fourth... and to add up: one plus one two, two plus one three, three plus one four. She always added balls.

She also learned to know all the coins from her country. A euro, 2 euros, 5 euros, 10 euros, 20 euros... The coins were made of metal and notes were made of paper, but not normal paper, no, but special paper. She could buy balls and many more things with those coins and notes.

### **Page 6:**

But princess Tesa did not want to buy other things, she only wanted to buy a regulation football. The one she used to play with was already very old and she was a great football player. When her mates passed her the ball, she could score a lot of goals, lots and lots, and with a regulation ball she was sure that she could score many more. But regulation balls were very expensive, and she did not have much money.

Yes, yes... I know! Tesa is a princess, and perhaps you are thinking that she must have much money, are you not? But Tesa was a princess who did not have much money, so little that she could not afford to buy a regulation ball.

One day she thought that her father, the King, and her mother, the Queen, had more money and that she could perhaps borrow some money to buy it. Also, she could ask them to buy the ball for her, as a gift.

### **Page 7:**

Therefore, she asked her father, the King, for a ball. But the King, who was in his Palace, said to her very seriously:

- Tesa, my dear daughter, every Sunday I give you money so that you spend it as you want. You always spend that money to buy sweets. Save up, and then you will be able to buy the ball you like!

### **Page 8:**

And those comments about princesses who had everything they wanted were only lies from other tales. The princess, the princes, well-behaved children, never can have everything they want because, later, they do not know how much it costs to obtain those things and they become sad, bored and moaning children.

The King of the Palace, who was Tesa's father, tried to teach his daughter a lesson because he loved her.

### **Page 10:**

Another day, Tesa asked her mother, the Palace's Queen, for a regulation ball, but the mother – every inch a Queen - said to her the same as her father did:

- Save up, my dear daughter! If you save you will have the best ball in the world, if you want. Moreover, I am going to help you, so that you can begin to save.

And then, to her surprise, she gave Tesa an earthenware piggy-bank with a slot in its back .

- What is this? - Tesa asked, very surprised.

- It is a money-box - her mother, the Queen, answered to her-. If you put your coins in it through this slot, you will see, in a short time, you can buy a regulation ball.

In some countries, for example in Germany, it is said that pigs bring good luck, for that reason money-boxes are piggy shaped.

Princess Tesa began to think that her father, the King, and her mother, the Queen, were right, so she became very happy because of her lucky money-box.

### **Page 11:**

The following Sunday, the king and queen, her parents, called to Tesa in order to give her her pocket money as they always did. Then, Tesa decided that it was the moment to begin to save. Instead of spending all her coins on sweets and candies for the whole week, as she had done before, she decided to keep some coins in the lucky piggy-bank that her mother had given her as a present.

**Page 12:**

- That way I will be able to buy the regulation ball - she thought.

In addition, she also had her thoughts, very, very positive thoughts: She did not have to buy only sweets. She could buy juices, toys, and story books too... Now she had begun to save up she would be able to buy a lot of things. The key question lay in knowing how to wait.

**Page 14:**

And weeks passed in the Palace of the King, the Queen and the Princess. Every Sunday, Tesa put a part of her pocket money in her piggy-bank and she spent the rest of the money buying very different things: sweets, juices and other things that she bought in the sweet shops and bookshops around the Palace.

She spent her time either at school or playing with her friends and the old soccer ball.

Now she knew, she was completely sure, that someday she could buy the regulation ball. So, just to be sure, she began visiting different shops where regulation balls were sold. Sometimes her older brother went with her, and others, either her mother, the Queen, or her father, the King.

She visited a lot of shops until she found the best ball, the prettiest and cheapest. This way she learned that she had to compare before buying.

**Page 16:**

One morning, Tesa felt curious to know how much money she had saved. Since she had been become fond of keeping coins in her lucky piggy-bank, it was completely full and she could put no more coins in. When she opened her money-box and counted the coins that were inside, she became very glad. She had enough money to buy a regulation ball, the ball that she had seen in the best shop of all those stores she had visited.

But, on top of that, she got an even bigger surprise, because she could buy not only one ball, but two.

Then, she started to think what she could do with two balls. And, as usually happens whenever you think so much, Tesa found the solution: she had a great idea.

**Page 17:**

Quickly, she ran to the fair that was placed at the outskirts of the palace, where she could buy anything she liked. The shop that sold the best regulation balls was there. She knew that because she had looked and compared before deciding, as you must do. She popped in to ask the salesman for the two best balls he had.

Finally, she had the balls she had so longed for in front of her very eyes. Beautiful hand-stitched black and white leather balls; they looked wonderful. She counted the coins she had saved and she gave them to the shop assistant.

**Page 18:**

He gave her two great regulation balls in exchange for those coins. She had done it!

When she arrived home, she left a ball in her bedroom, later she would show it to her parents, the King and Queen. But, beforehand, she wrapped the other one carefully and took it to the post office. She wanted to send that ball to the poorest children in the world, so poor that they could not save any money; then, like her, they could play soccer with a genuine regulation ball.

**Page 19:**

In the evening, in the courtyard of the castle, Tesa finally played with her new ball along with all her friends. She was the happiest football playing princess in all the fairytales that had ever been written. That ball was hers. She had bought it thanks to her savings.

That evening, she scored more goals than ever before. They were the best goals of all her life, because she had scored those goals with her own ball. Both the King and the Queen stopped working for a while to see the football match. They were so proud of their daughter!

**Page 20:**

The King and the Queen were also very joyful because their daughter, princess Tesa, had a kind heart.

At that moment, the princess footballer was thinking about buying a new goal. How long would she have to save?