

		
<p>Characters: Coach Heron, Sparrow, Cardinal One, Chickadee, Cardinal Two Finch, Owl, Bluebird, Raven</p>		

Eight players wait for the coach on the soccer field.

Coach Heron: Good morning! Are you ready for our first practice?

Everyone: Yes!!

Coach Heron: If you've played push ball before, raise your wing.

Finch, Owl and Bluebird raise their wings.

Coach Heron: Three of you. Now if this is the first time at pushball, raise your wing.

Raven, Cardinal One and Two, Chickadee and Sparrow raise their wings.

Coach Heron: Five of you are new. So we'll start with the basic moves in pushball.

Owl: I already know the rules.

Finch and Bluebird: Me too!

Coach Heron: That's good! You three can help me explain the rules to the newcomers. Look at the ball.

We push this ball with our wings. First rule?

Finch: You can only use your wings to move the ball.

Bluebird: I've heard people call it a golf ball.

Owl: Don't try to bounce it.

Finch: We need two teams.

Coach Heron: Bluebird, you are the captain of team A. Finch, you are the captain of team B. Owl you will help me. Bluebird, you stand on one side of the field and Finch stand on opposite side.

Bluebird moves to one end of the field and Finch to the other.

Coach Heron: Captains, choose your players now . . . three each.

Bluebird: I want Chickadee, Sparrow and Cardinal One.

They run over to join Bluebird.

Finch: I need Owl on my team and Cardinal Two. But Sparrow should be on my team.

Coach Heron: What about Raven? He's not on either team yet.

Raven stands with his head down, feeling rejected.

Bluebird: He doesn't belong in this pushball game. He's too dark and big. I'm sure he can't push the ball.

Finch: Yeah, he's too big and black to play pushball. We're all small, colorful songbirds so we're good at pushball.

Raven (cries quietly): Nobody wants me! I'll just go home now.

Coach Heron: No, Raven. (*puts pushball on the ground in front of Raven*) I know you can push the ball with your wings.

Raven pushes the ball with his right wing and the ball flies into goal net.

Coach Heron: Good push, Raven!

Finch: I want him on my team!

Bluebird: I want him on my team!

Now Raven stands with his head held high.

Coach Heron: Raven can decide which team he wants to join. I hope you learned a lesson from watching Raven push the ball so expertly. There's an old saying. "Don't judge a book by its cover." Don't judge Raven's skills and character (book) by his black feathers (cover). Do you understand?

Everyone: Yes, Coach.

Bluebird: Your color, blue or black, doesn't tell who you really are and what you can do.

Cardinal One: Or red.

Finch: Or yellow.

Raven: I'm proud of my black feathers, and I do want everyone to see that I'm a good guy.

Coach Heron: Let's hear three cheers for Raven.

Everyone: Hip, hip, hurrah! Raven! Raven! Raven!

Raven: I promise to be a good team player.



Do I reject someone based only on their appearance? Am I prejudiced against someone before I know anything about them? How would I feel if people rejected me?

Name _____

date _____

On a Team

1. Who are the characters? _____

2. What is the setting? _____

3. Who has played pushball before? _____

4. Who is new to pushball? _____

5. What excuses do the captains have for not choosing Raven? _____

6. What does Coach Heron help the players understand? _____

7. Why is color not important? _____

8. Writing. Text-to-self. Have you had a similar experience?

9. Writing. Stop and Think! Do I reject someone based only on their appearance? Am I prejudiced against someone before I know anything about them? How would I feel if people rejected me?

