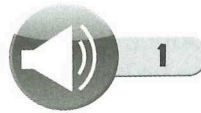


OPENING DIALOG



(spoken directly to the audience)

Speaker 1: Edson Arantes do Nascimento, or Pele for short, was one of the greatest soccer players of all time.

Speaker 2: In 1999, he was named Athlete of the Century!

Speaker 3: When talking about the sport he loved so much, Pele once described football—er, soccer—as “The Beautiful Game!”

Picky Patty: *(has her doubts)* “Beautiful?” Huh! You can’t even use your hands!!!

(The rest of the cast ignores her.)

Speakers 1, 2, 3: *(together)* And a “Beautiful Game” it is!



SCENE 1



(The entire cast is standing with their hand on their heart finishing up the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of another school day.)

All: “...Indivisible, with liberty and justice for all!”

Opening Announcement over the intercom or read by a cast member portraying a teacher or administrator; announcer begins in a calm sing-songy manner and gets more excited as the announcement progresses.

Announcer: Good morning, Boys and Girls! Welcome to another day of joyful learning here at O. My. We. Learnalot School! Today is a special day as we have an All-Star International Youth Football...er soccer team visiting and we will host the biggest soccer game in school history starting at four forty-five on the soccer field! Everyone is invited!!! Oh, forget it! I can't wait that long! Let's go play right now!!!!

All: Yay!!!!

SONG 1: Goal!



SCENE 2



(The kids from the school show how excited they are to play in a real soccer game. Johnny is confused about the rules of the game.)

Mia: *(enthusiastically)* I can't wait to play a real live soccer....I mean football ...game!

Alex: All of our practice is finally going to pay off when we hit that field and scoooooore!

Tommy: *(with awe)* Ah...The Beautiful Game!

Picky Patty: *(skeptically)* I don't get it. Beautiful Game? It's just a bunch of kids running around on a field! What's so beautiful about it?

(They all ignore her.)

Carrie: Today we get to play in a real, international soccer...er... football game!

Danny: I can't wait to get out on that field and show the crowd what it really means to play The Beautiful Game!

Johnny: *(earnestly)* Me, too! I'm gonna score a touchdown!

(Everybody stops and looks at him.)

Julia: There are no touchdowns in soccer.

Johnny: *(confused)* No touchdowns?



Julia: None.

Johnny: *(He thinks.)* I'm gonna hit a home run!

Julia: Nope. No home runs.

Johnny: Hmm. I can't wait to get out on that field and...uh...dribble!
(dribbles a soccer ball across the stage)

Julia: Okay!

Danny: Me too. Come on, mates! Let's play some soccer.

All: Yay!

Michael: This is going to be awesome!

Johnny: But, but...where's my helmet?

SONG 2: Awesome



SCENE 3



(The Coach tries to fire up the team.)

Picky Patty: But really, Coach. I just don't get what all the fuss is about. This whole "beautiful game" thing is totally lost on me.

Assistant

Coach: You know Patty, sometimes you just have to give something a try to find out what it's really all about.

Picky Patty: But really...soccer? Beautiful?

Assistant

Coach: Just wait. You'll see.

Coach: *(talking to some players who are putting on their shoes)*
Now kids, you know how much fun it is to be good. But I'm here to tell you the only way to be good, I mean **really** good at anything, is to work hard at it.

Whiney Kid 1: But, Coach...I'm tired!

Whiney Kid 2: *(rubbing his feet)* My feet hurt! I think I've got a bunion.

Whiney Kid 3: I didn't sleep well last night.

Whiney Kid 2: *(looking at his feet)* Yep, that's it. A bunion!

Coach: What? What? Time out! That sounded like whining!



Kids: *(still whining)* But, Coach!

Coach: There's no room for whining in soccer! No whining!

Kids: *(even whinier)* But, Coach!

Coach: *(to the audience)* I can tell this is going to take drastic measures. I'm going to have to rely on my strongest motivational speech ever. Here goes...

(to the team) Now team, I'm going to need you to give 110 percent everyday. When the going gets tough, the tough get going. Leave nothing on the field! This game will be won in the trenches. To the hardest worker goes the glory!

(It's not working. The team just stares at him unenthusiastically. He thinks... then continues)

Coach Okay...and after practice there will be treats!

Kids: Yay!!!!

Coach: Come on, team! Let's kick it! *(He blows his whistle.)*

SONG 3: Kick It



SCENE 4



(The International Youth Football team arrives. They represent soccer players from all over the world and could be named and dressed accordingly.)

Faye: *(from the home team)* Hey everybody, the International Youth Soccer...er...football team has arrived!

Picky Patty: *(rolling her eyes)* Beautiful?

(The visiting team arrives.)

Juan: *(from Mexico)* Hola Amigos!

Kevin: *(from the home team)* Hola! Welcome to America!

Heinrich: *(from Germany)* Let's play some football!

Johnny: I knew I should have brought my helmet.

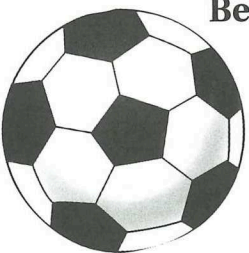
Anna Maria: *(from Italy)* Oh, that's right! Here in your country, you call football... er...soccer!

Pablo: *(from Argentina)* Did you know that soccer is the most popular sport in the world?

Carlos: *(from Panama)* The fact is that only the United States and Canada actually call soccer ... well, "soccer."

Benni: *(from South Africa)* Most countries call soccer "football" because you play it mostly with your feet!

Lisa: *(from the home team)* I'm confused.



Pablo: You can call it what you want, but in Spanish, we call football... er...soccer...El Juego Bonito!

Carlos: "The beautiful game!"

Picky Patty: Why is a game that's pretty much a bunch of sweaty people running around on a big lawn, trying to kick a little ball into a net, called "The Beautiful Game?" I don't get it!

(All gasp and look at her.)

Kim: *(from Korea)* Patty. Is that your name?

Picky Patty: Some call me Picky, but you can call me Patty.

Kim: Patty, in many ways you are right. Football...er...soccer is just a bunch of sweaty people running around on a field, trying to kick a little ball into a net. But that's just one part of it.

Emma: *(from Holland)* What soccer really does is bring people together from all over the world. They challenge each other physically and emotionally in a game that, in many ways, almost looks like a ballet.

Benni: They meet face to face in a spirit of competition and courage.

Carlos: When every ounce of energy is spent and every effort has been given...

Anna Maria: when all is said and done, and the last muddy players are leaving the field, knowing they have given their all with honor and respect...

Pablo: ...they shake their opponents hand and are able to say...
"Ah! That was a beautiful game!"



SONG 4: El Juego Bonito

SCENE 5



Picky Patty: I think I get it.

All: *(shocked)* Really?

Picky Patty: Sure! I've learned a lot playing El Juego Bonito!

Hiroko: *(from Japan)* The beautiful game it is! But the most important thing about soccer is that it IS a game.

Luis: *(from Spain)* Call it football, soccer or any other sport, it is not whether you win or lose, but how you play that game!

Lev: *(from Russia)* If you give it your all...

Oliver: *(from England)* Respect the game, your teammates, coaches, officials and your opponents...

Danielle: *(from France)* You'll be a winner no matter what the final score!

Hiroko: That's something for the whole world to celebrate!

Picky Patty: That's...that's...that's... *(Everyone stops and looks at her.)*

(smilingly)Beautiful!

SONG 5: It's Not If You Win

