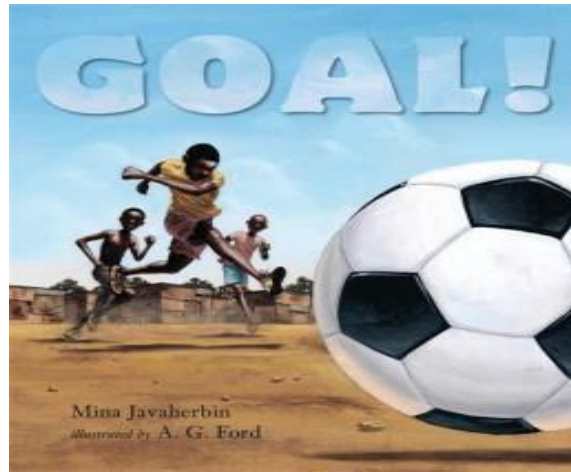


## **GOAL!**

Written by Mina Javaherbin and Illustrated by A.G. Ford



### **Book Summary:**

One South African afternoon a group of young boys gather to play their most beloved yet most secretive game, soccer. It is a time where war and poverty are first and fun is second. When a group of bullies tries and end this game of fun, Ajani and his friends must stand up for themselves and the game they love most. Although there are dangerous times, poverty and bullies all around, the boys learn to unite in this game they love.

### **Social Studies Themes:**

Geography

People, Places and Environments

### **English Language Arts Standards:**

Writing:

Persuasive composition

Reading:

**3.RL.2.3.** Describe characters in a story (e.g. their traits, motivations and feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the plot.

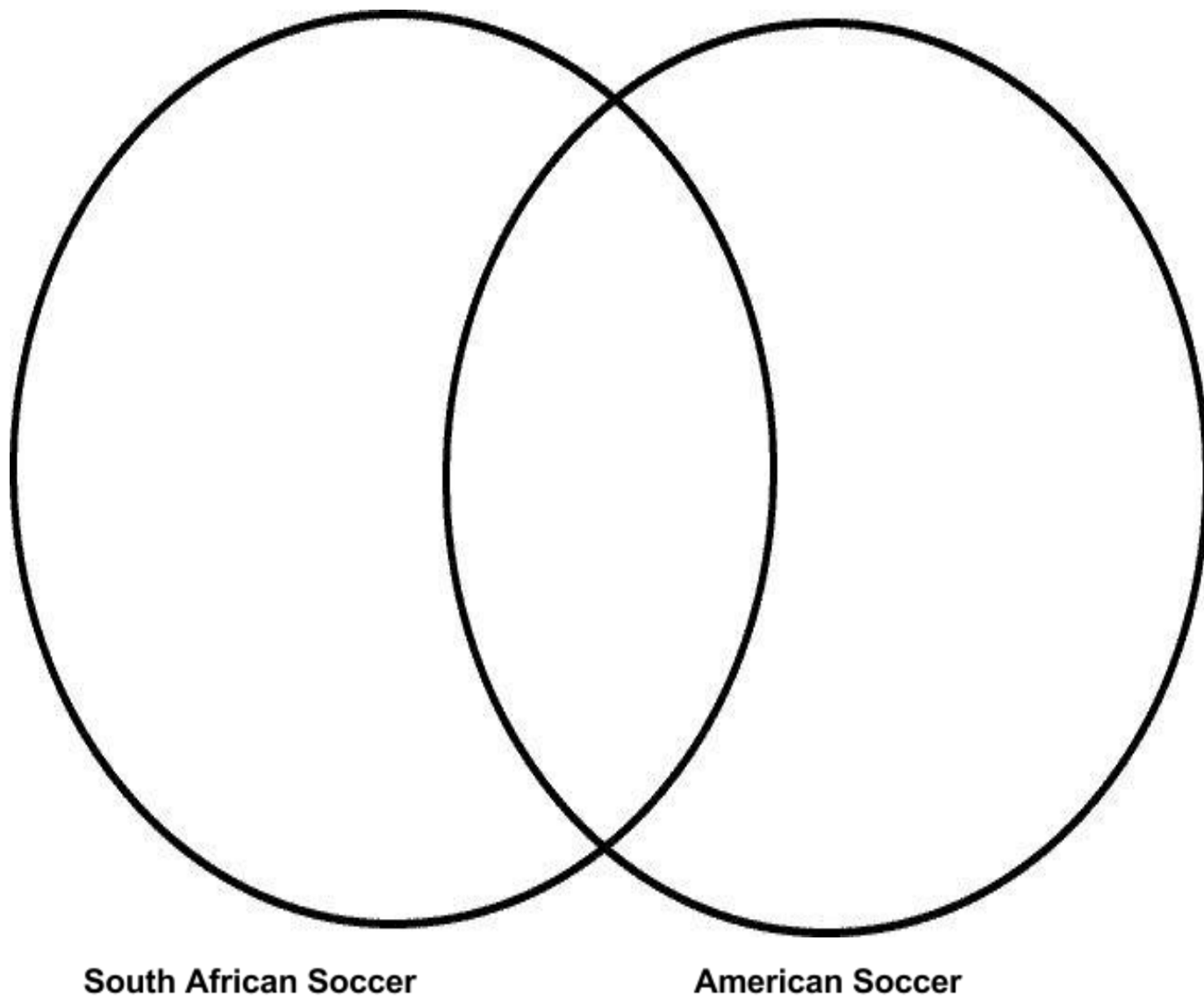
**3.RL.3.2.** Distinguish personal point of view from that of the narrator or those of the characters.

### **Learning Invitations:**

1. WHAT DOES SOCCER LOOK LIKE AROUND THE WORLD?
2. WE ARE MORE ALIKE THAN DIFFERENT!
3. WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

### **WHAT DOES SOCCER LOOK LIKE AROUND THE WORLD?**

1. You read in *GOAL!* How Ajini and his friends played soccer in streets of their South African village.
2. Using your map, photographs and the illustrations from the book, compare and contrast where soccer is played in the United States to how Ajini and his played in South Africa.
3. With the person next to you, what are things that are similar to the field you play or have seen soccer played on to the soccer field Ajini and his friends played on?
4. How are the two kinds of fields different? Write these observations into your Venn diagram.
5. If you have time, think about what it would be like to get your friends and Ajini and friends together and play a game against one another. What would be easy? What would be difficult?



[Map of South Africa](#)

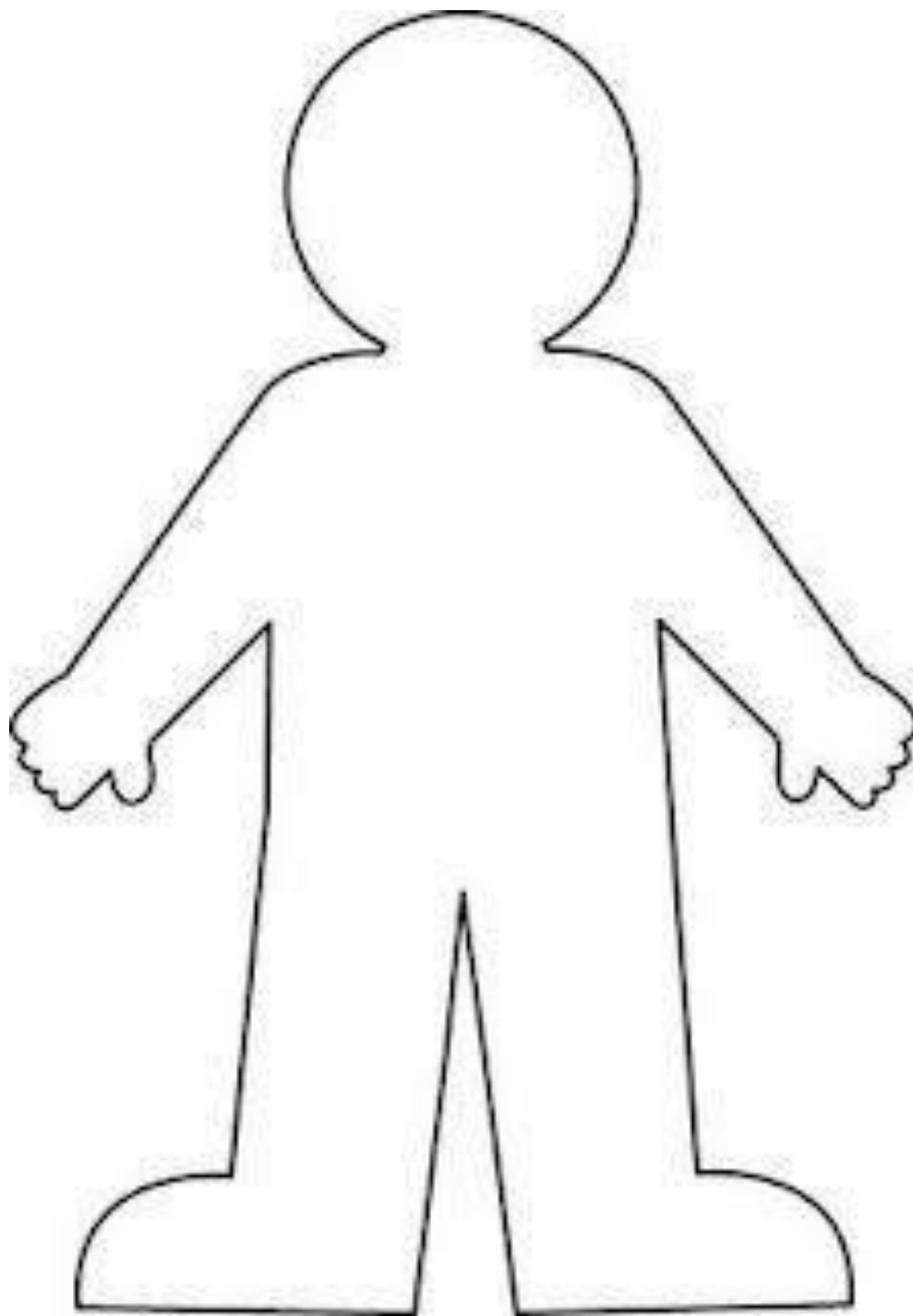


[Desert Storm Soccer Team in South Africa](#)

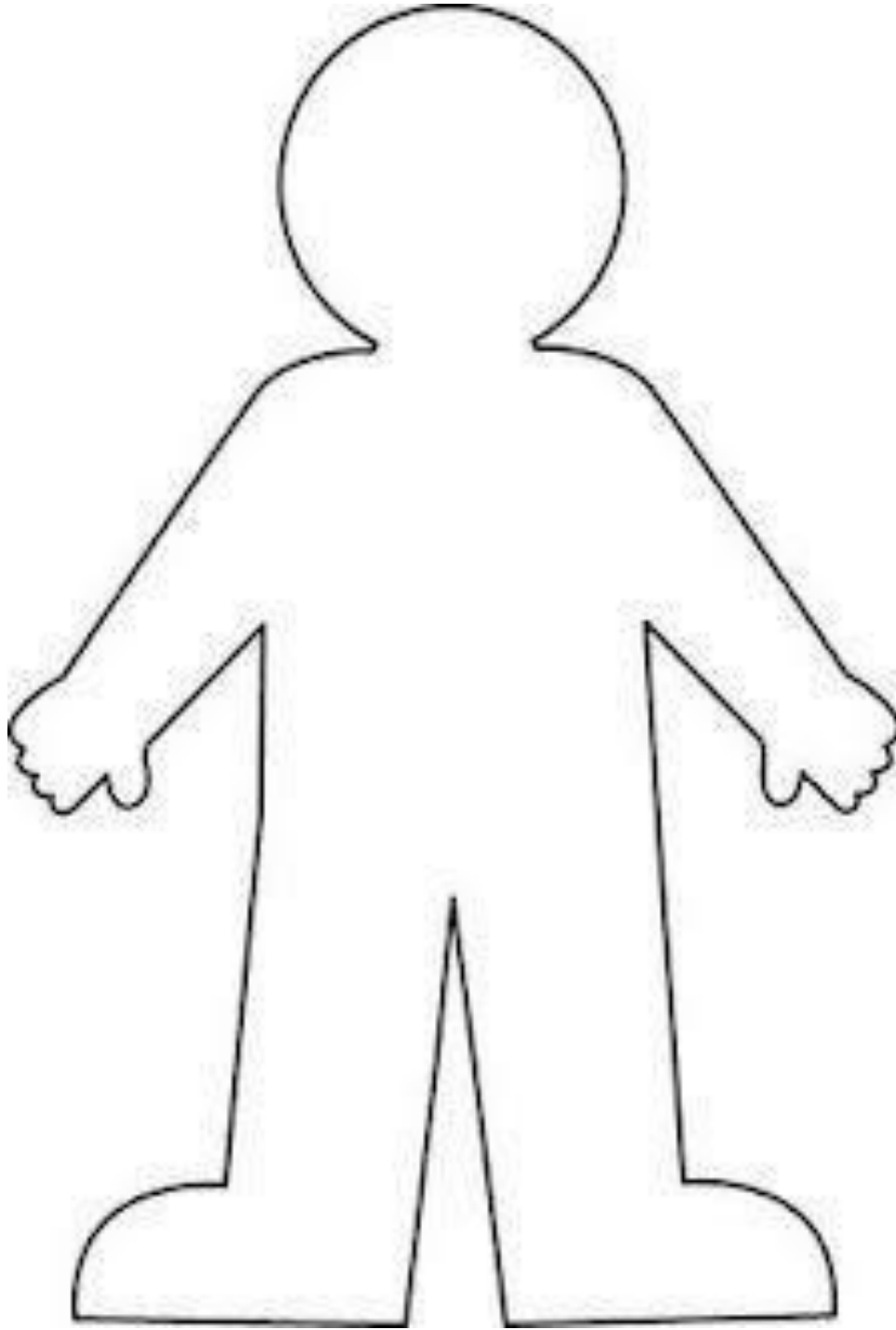


## **WE ARE MORE ALIKE THAN DIFFERENT**

1. People celebrate, believe and do the same things all throughout the world. We may be oceans apart but that does not mean we will not face the same challenges. Just like Ajini and friends faced people who were unkind, we too may face people who are unkind. In order to help stop unkind behavior, we need to take a look at who we are on the inside.
2. In the figure titled "Me" below, write characteristics to describe what you are like on the inside.
3. To do this, think about how you treat others. Do you treat others the way you would want to be treated? Do you make people smile? Do you help around the house?
4. In the figure titled "Ajini" below, write characteristics to describe what Ajini is like on the inside.
5. To do this, think about he treats others. Is he kind to everyone? Does he stand up for things that are wrong? What are things he enjoys doing?



**ME**



**AJINI**

### **WHAT WOULD YOU DO?**

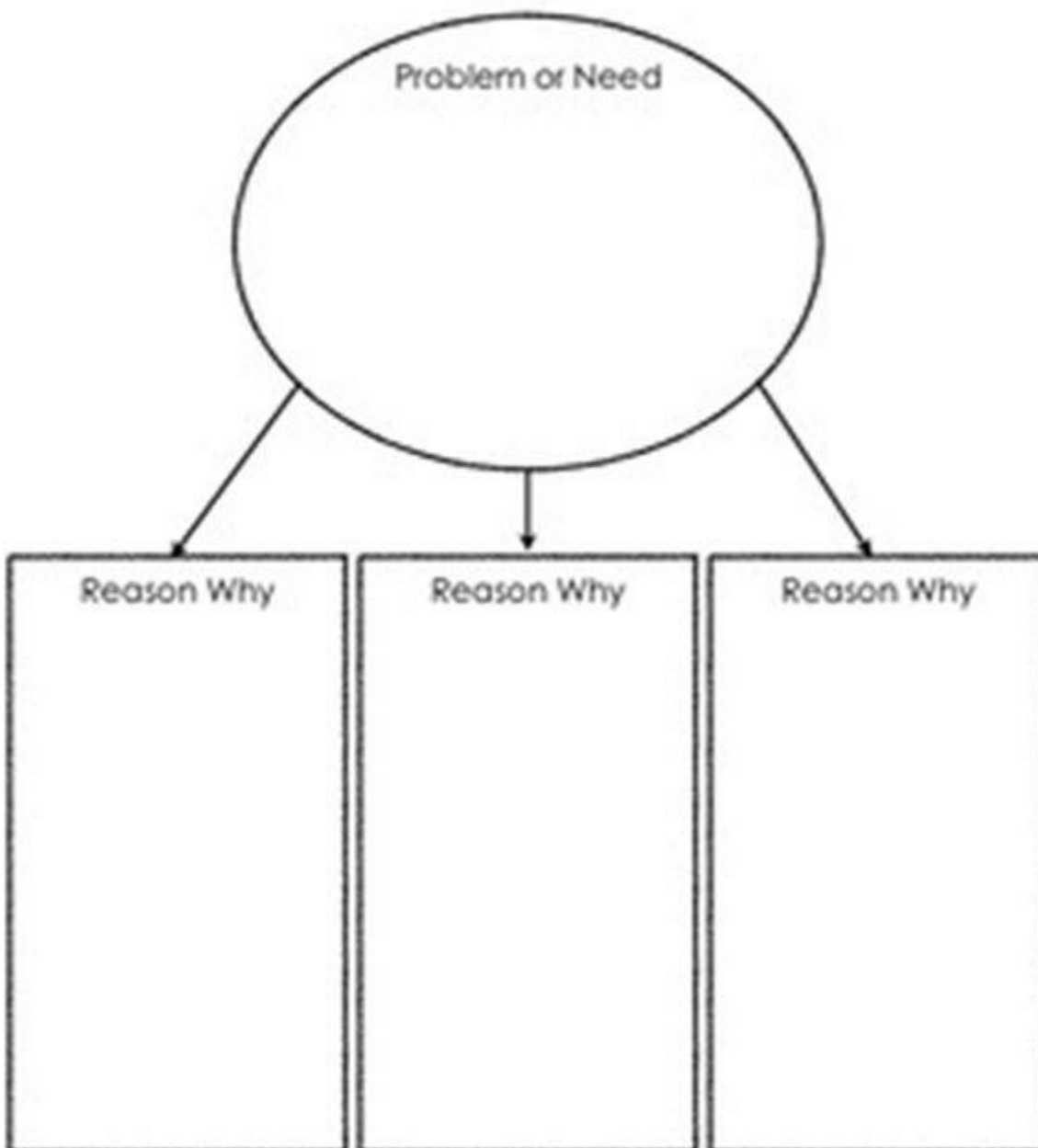
Ajini and friends were faced with some bullies. In the story, Ajini and his friends did not say anything to the bullies to stop them from taking their things. Do you feel like this is the right thing to do? Do you think that the Ajini and friends should have stood up to the bullies and stopped them from taking their things?

It is your turn to tell Ajini what you think is the right choice.

1. Your task is to write a persuasive letter to Ajini and friends as to why you think they should have either stood up to the bullies or why they made the right choice.
2. Before writing the letter, complete the “Persuasive Planning Web” to organize your thoughts.
3. Once you have completed the web, you may write the final letter on the paper found in the packet.
4. In your letter be sure that you include the following:
  - a. A clear position (if they made the right choice or if they should’ve stood up to the bullies)
  - b. Support your position with 3 reasons why you believe this.
  - c. Make sure to elaborate on those reasons. Don’t just list them. Make sure you tell the Ajini why you feel this way.



### Persuasive Planning Web





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