

LEVEL
4



Shelly's Curve Ball

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Shelly and Dan went to the grass by the pond to play ball. Dan had the bat, and Shelly had the ball. She had a big urge to strike Dan out just once.



"Get set!" said Shelly. She hurled the ball as fast as she could. It was a blur, but it did not curve at all.



Dan gave a big swing and hit it far over the grass. Shelly hurled pitch after pitch. Each one went just where Dan thought it would, and he hit them all.



Soon her face felt hot. Shelly sat on the bench to think. A fast pitch was not the trick. She turned the ball in her hand. What if she held it by the side?



Then the ball might spin as she hurled it, and a spinning ball might curve. Shelly went back to her spot. Dan grinned and held up the bat. "Bring it!" he said.



Shelly turned her grip and curled her hand on the ball. Then she hurled it with a quick snap. The ball spun. It went at Dan, and then it curved away!



Dan's swing missed it. "Strike!" yelled Shelly. She felt a surge of pride and burst out laughing. Dan's mouth fell open. "How did you do that?" he asked.



"Will you show me the trick?" Shelly set the ball in his hand and helped him curl it just right. Then she picked up the bat. It was her turn to hit.