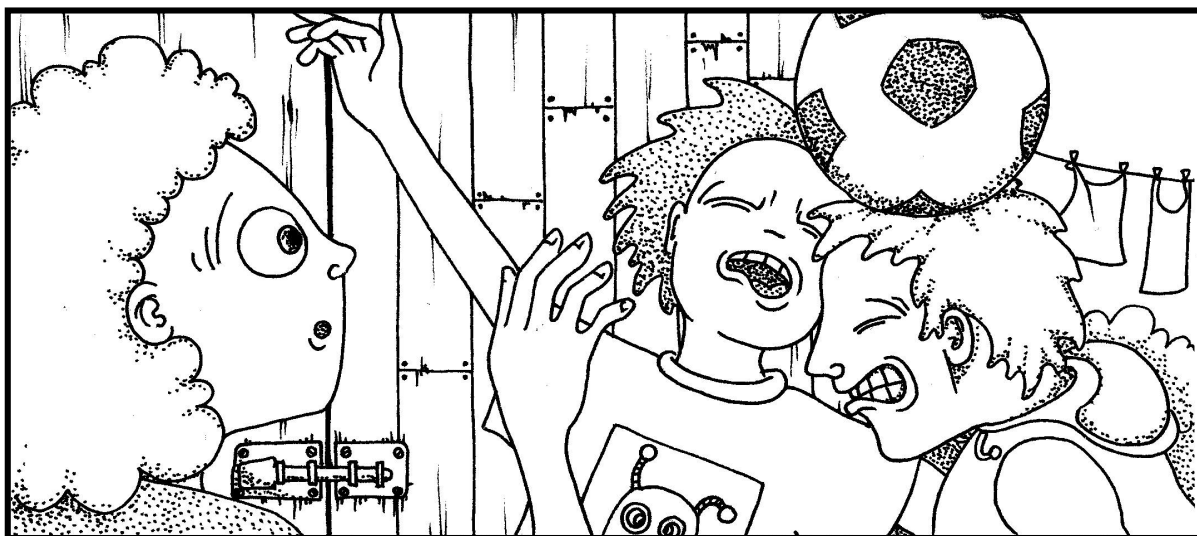


## Ned's header

I'm Ned. I like to play football with my friends Ed and Emma. They live next to me.

One day, when I was ten, they came over to play. First, we all kicked the ball against the shed. Then we each had a go in goal.



When Emma tossed the ball up, I hit it with my head. Next, Ed hit it with his head. Emma said, 'Ready, steady, go!' and tossed it again. We both headed it at the same moment. CRACK. The world went black.

I fell with my legs spread out and my head in the mud. Sweat went down my back. My lip felt like it was going to swell up.

Ed sat up and held his head in his hands. "Oh, will the pain ever end?" he said. We got to our feet. I took a deep breath. "Oh well," I said, "I guess our heads will mend."

"A game of keepy uppy?" asked Emma as she tapped the ball with her feet.

"Let's just take it easy," Ed said, as he rubbed his head. And we did. At least, for the rest of that day.