

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Who's on First?

by Kelly Hashway

Liam carried his baseball mitt onto the field, feeling it wobble a little on his shaky hand. He was nervous. He'd been practicing and practicing. His dad told him he was ready. Now tryouts were here and Liam had to prove he was the right person to play first base.

"Hey, what position are you going out for?" Eric asked, running up to Liam.

"First base. You?"

Eric stopped short, and Liam turned to see what was wrong.

"I'm going for first base," Eric said.

"I thought your dad was helping you learn to play third." Liam's mitt shook even more on his hand. Er

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spent practicing for this position?

Coach Mathews jogged over to the boys. "What's the hold up?"

"We both want to play first base," Liam said, looking down at his shoes.

"Oh." Coach Mathews nodded. "Tell you what. I'm going to have to see you both play the position so I can choose the right person. Liam you take first base, and Eric why don't you try shortstop? No one seems brave enough to give it a try. After a while, I'll have you switch."

Liam nodded, but Eric looked nervous. As Coach Mathews headed



out to the pitcher's mound, Liam said, "What's wrong, Eric?"

"Shortstop is a huge responsibility. I don't know if I can do it."

"Do you want me to try it first?" Liam didn't see the harm in trying shortstop. It would be a good warm up

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Eric and Liam met halfway across the field.

"You were great," Eric said.

"So were you." Liam thought for a moment. Shortstop was a really cool position, and he was good at it. "Coach, I think I want to stay at shortstop, if it's okay with Eric."

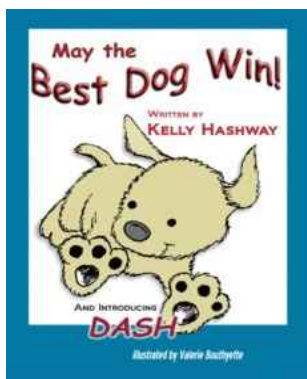
Eric looked relieved. "Fine with me."

Coach Mathews smiled. "Perfect. I think you two make a great team. Let's keep practicing."

Liam and Eric took their positions again. They smiled at each other and got ready as the batter made contact with the ball.



## About the Author



Kelly Hashway's picture book, *May the Best Dog Win*, is now available!

Dash has the perfect life until the Super Sweeper 5000 shows up. Sweeper runs all over the house sucking up the leftover food scraps, and he even gets his own room! But Dash won't give up his place as the favorite dog without a fight.

Hashway, Kelly. *May the Best Dog Win*. ISBN: 9780984589081

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1. When does this story probably take place?
  - a. before the first baseball game of the year
  - b. in the middle of baseball season
  - c. towards the end of baseball season
  - d. after baseball tryouts
2. When the coach found out that both Liam and Eric wanted first base, how did he plan to solve the problem?

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**~ PREVIEW ~**

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- What does Coach Matthews mean when he says this?
- a. Shortstop is the most dangerous position to play.
  - b. Nobody else volunteered to play shortstop.
  - c. Shortstop is a better position than first base.
  - d. There are several brave kids trying out for shortstop.
5. At the end of the story, who got the first base position? \_\_\_\_\_
  6. What type of story is this?
    - a. fiction
    - b. biography
    - c. non-fiction
    - d. science fiction

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Fill in the missing letters to create a vocabulary word from the story. Then write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.

1. \_\_\_ i \_\_\_ t \_\_\_\_\_  
**hint:** special glove used for baseball

2. \_\_\_ h \_\_\_ r t \_\_\_ to \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

hi

3. \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

hi



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4. \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

**hint:** hill of dirt that a baseball pitcher stands on

5. \_\_\_ a \_\_\_ t e \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

**hint:** person who is trying to hit the ball in baseball

6. p \_\_\_ u s i n \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

**hint:** stopping for a short time

7. \_\_\_ h o \_\_\_ s e \_\_\_\_\_

**hint:** pick; decide on

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Who's on First?

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In the story, "Who's on First?", Liam and Eric both try out for the position of first baseman. During the tryouts, Liam decides that he might be better suited for the position of shortstop.



If you could play any position on a baseball team, which one would you choose? Why?

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# ANSWER KEY

## Who's on First?

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1. When does this story probably take place? **a**
  - a. **before the first baseball game of the year**
  - b. in the middle of baseball season
  - c. towards the end of baseball season
  - d. after baseball tryouts
2. When the coach found out that both Liam and Eric wanted first base, how did he plan to solve the problem?

**The coach wanted to see both Eric and Liam play the position of first baseman so he could choose the better player.**

3. Eric and Liam are... **c**
  - a. brothers
  - b. not close friends

4. C  
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# ~ PREVIEW ~

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- a. **nobody else volunteered to play shortstop.**
  - c. Shortstop is a better position than first base.
  - d. There are several brave kids trying out for shortstop.
5. At the end of the story, who got the first base position? **Eric**
  6. What type of story is this? **b**
    - a. **fiction**
    - b. biography
    - c. non-fiction
    - d. science fiction

# ANSWER KEY

## Who's on First?

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Fill in the missing letters to create a vocabulary word from the story. Then write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.

1. mitt mitt

hint: special glove used for baseball

2. shortstop shortstop

hint: baseball position located between second and third base

3. ju  
hi

4. m  
hi

~ **PREVIEW** ~

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5. batter batter

hint: person who is trying to hit the ball in baseball

6. pausing pausing

hint: stopping for a short time

7. choose choose

hint: pick; decide on