Trish watched as all her classmates were divided into two teams for today’s lesson on basketball. Mr. Truman had named Amber and Jesse the two team captains, and they were choosing their teammates by who were the best athletes. That meant Trish was left last.

“Trish, you’re with me,” Amber said, sounding disappointed.

Trish lowered her head and joined her team on the court. If only her classmates knew she was pretty good at basketball. Her older brother had taught her how to make a free throw, but Trish was sure no one in her class would give her a chance to show them.

Once everyone was in position, Mr. Truman blew his whistle to start the game. Jesse’s team was very aggressive. They covered all the players on Amber’s team, except for Trish. The girl who was supposed to cover Trish was blocking Amber from passing the ball.

Trish moved across the court and met Amber’s eyes. She reached her hands out to show Amber she was open. Amber turned and looked for someone else to throw the ball to, but everyone was covered.

Trish lowered her arms thinking Amber was going to throw the ball away before she gave Trish a chance. But Amber passed the ball, bouncing it under the arms of the two girls blocking her. Trish caught the ball and stared at it, still in shock that Amber had passed it to her.

“Shoot!” Amber yelled.

Trish squared her feet and lined up her shot. She threw the ball and watched as it bounced off the backboard and fell through the net. Trish’s teammates cheered.

“Great shot!” Amber said, walking over to Trish.

“Thanks,” Trish said. “My brother taught me how to play. We shoot baskets almost every night.”

“You should come out and play with our the team,” Amber said. “My friends and I play in a league at the park every Saturday.”

Trish thought about that. She thought playing basketball with the other girls would be fun. And, if she joined the basketball team, maybe she wouldn’t be picked last in gym anymore.

“I think I will,” Trish said with a smile.
A Team for Trish
By Kelly Hashway

1. Where does this story take place?

_________________________________________________________________________________________

2. How did Amber feel when she picked Trish to be on her team? Also, explain why she felt this way.

_________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________

3. In the story, Mr. Truman assigned captains to choose teams. When Trish was chosen last, how do you think she felt?

_________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________

4. Describe another way Mr. Truman might have divided the class into teams so that the last people chosen would not have felt disappointed.

_________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________
The words below are scrambled vocabulary words from the story. Unscramble each word and write in on the line.

1. t u r c o
   
   Clue: a place where basketball is played

2. e a g r g v e s i s
   
3. a b b c d a o r
   
4. u e e l a g
   
   Clue: group of teams that compete against each other

5. a c p i n a t
   
   Clue: leader
A Team for Trish
by Kelly Hashway

1. Where does this story take place?
   
in a school gym (also accept: basketball court)

2. How did Amber feel when she picked Trish to be on her team? Also, explain why she felt this way.
   She felt disappointed because she didn't think Trish was a good basketball player.

3. In the story, Mr. Truman assigned captains to choose teams. When Trish was chosen last, how do you think she felt? Explain why you think she felt this way.
   Trish felt disappointed because she felt like nobody wanted her on their team.

4. Describe another way Mr. Truman might have divided the class into teams so that the last people chosen would not have felt disappointed.
   Answers will vary. Correct answers should suggest random team selection.
A Team for Trish
By Kelly Hashway

The words below are scrambled vocabulary words from the story. Unscramble each word and write in on the line.

1. t u r c o  
   Clue: a place where basketball is played
   court

2. e a g r g v e s i v  
   Clue: bold; assertive; energetic; forceful
   aggressive

3. a b b c d a o r  
   Clue: flat surface behind a basketball hoop, usually made of wood or glass
   backboard

4. u e e a l g  
   Clue: group of teams that compete against each other
   league

5. a c p i n a t  
   Clue: leader
   captain