



## Not an Easy Out

Bethany overheard her older brother James and some neighborhood boys planning to play a game of baseball. She asked if she could play. One of the boys named Jared complained that she was too young and too small. James looked into the pleading face of his little sister, ignored the whining of his friend, and agreed that Bethany could join them.



Bethany's first turn at bat finally came. She stood firmly planted at home plate with a determined look on her face. James was the pitcher. Jared was the catcher.

"This will be an easy out," Jared said with a sneer. "Move in, guys, she can't hit!" he called to his fellow teammates in the outfield.

Bethany lifted her bat and looked at James. He winked and tossed the ball directly over home plate. Crack! It was a beauty of a hit, and the ball sailed deep into center field. Completely shocked, the boys fumbled the ball several times, and when they finally threw it to Jared, it was too late. Bethany sprinted triumphantly across home plate.

She turned back to look Jared squarely in the eyes. "I am not an easy out," she said. Then, she walked to the pitcher's mound and gave her big brother a happy high five.

1. Bethany's brother James was planning a \_\_\_\_\_ game.
2. When Bethany asked to play, \_\_\_\_\_ complained.
3. Jared thought Bethany was too \_\_\_\_\_ to play.
4. James was the \_\_\_\_\_ during the baseball game.
5. Jared played in the position of \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Bethany hit the ball deep into \_\_\_\_\_.
7. She scored because the boys kept \_\_\_\_\_ the ball.
8. After that, Bethany gave \_\_\_\_\_ a happy high five.

### WORD BANK

James  
catcher  
baseball  
Jared  
fumbling  
young  
pitcher  
centerfield