

Not So Little

Narrative Elements

"You can't kick it this far!" James called to Sam, who was standing at the other end of their backyard. Sam hated that James still treated him like he was a little kid.

"Come on and kick it, Sammy!"

Sam focused all his attention on the football in his hands. He took a deep breath and dropped it onto his foot, giving it an almighty *whack!* He watched with satisfaction as the football sailed high in the air.

That will show him! Sam thought.

His smile soon faded however, as the ball kept going and going, until it disappeared over the back fence. Nothing that ever entered that yard came back out. The yard was a maze of tangled vines, towering weeds, overgrown trees and bushes with menacing thorns. Not only that, but a fierce dog named Max prowled the perimeter of the yard, snapping and snarling at anyone who got too close.

"Great kick, Sammy. I guess that's game over," James said as he walked towards the back door of the house.

Sam was just about to follow James in, but then stopped. "No," Sam said firmly, "it's not," and set off towards the back fence. Sam was going to do something that no little kid, or big kid for that matter, had ever done. He was going into that yard. He was going to get his ball back.



Not So Little - Questions

Narrative Elements

1. Who is the main character in the story? How do you know?
2. What do you know about the main character so far?
3. Where is the story set?
4. What do you think might happen next in the story?
5. What do you think the theme of this story is?
6. What do you think might happen in the end of the story?
7. Why do you think the story is called 'Not So Little'?



Not So Little - **Answers**

Narrative Elements

1. Sam is the main character (Reasons will vary).
2. Sam is frustrated by being seen as a little kid by his brother. He is determined and brave.
3. In the brothers' backyard.
4. (Answers will vary) Sam might work out a plan to get the ball, James might discourage Sam from going into the yard.
5. (Answers may vary) Courage and growing up.
6. (Answers will vary) Sam might figure out a way to get his ball back and in doing so, impress his brother.
7. (Answers will vary)

