

# Vinnie's Vacation

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 American English



## People in the story

**Vinnie Archer:** a 13-year-old boy

**Mrs. Archer:** Vinnie's mother

**Tom:** Vinnie's best friend

**Zoe:** Vinnie's friend

**Mr. Francis:** Vinnie's English teacher

**Lizzie:** this woman works for Your Dream Vacation

**Mrs. Jackson:** the principal at Vinnie's school

**Peter:** this man works for the New York Red Bulls soccer team

## BEFORE YOU READ



**1** Look at the pictures in Chapter 1. Answer the questions.

1 What is Vinnie looking at in the picture on the wall?

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2 What do Vinnie and his mom watch on TV?

.....

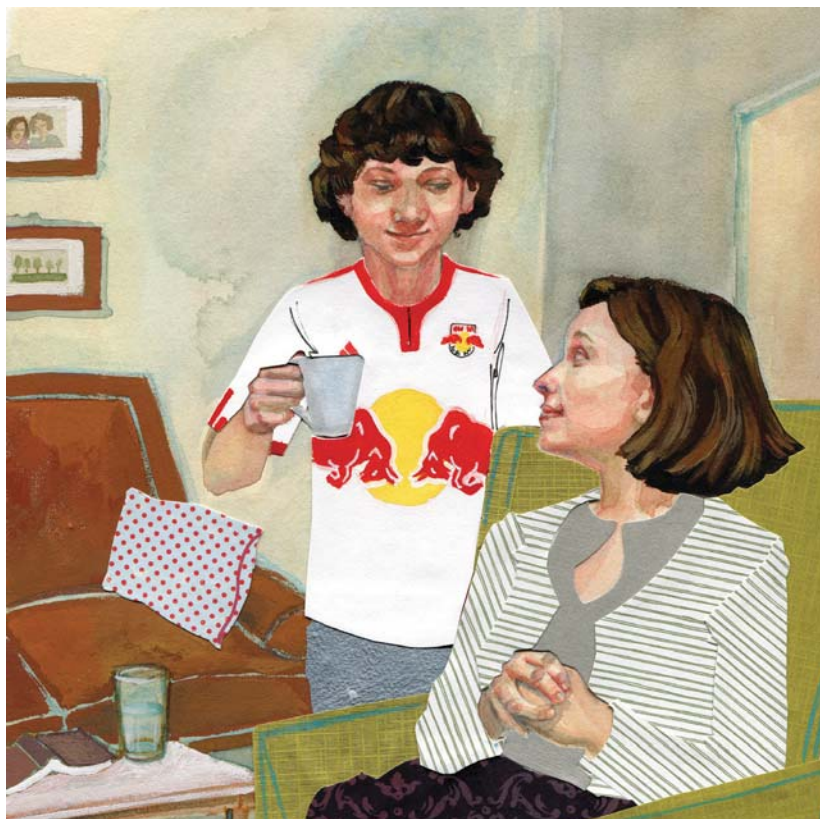
## Chapter 1

# We're a team

“Here, Mom,” said Vinnie. “Here’s a cup of tea.”

“Thanks, Vinnie,” said his mother.

Vinnie Archer watched his mother. Her hands were bad today, he thought. He helped her take the cup. She was always bad on cold days. And this April was very cold.





“Are you OK now?” Vinnie asked. “Do you need the bathroom?”

“No, I’m fine, Vinnie,” said Mrs. Archer. “Come and sit down. The soccer match is starting in five minutes.”

“Yeah,” said Vinnie. “And it’s a big game. The New York Red Bulls against LA Galaxy. I can’t wait!”

Mrs. Archer laughed. “You’re just like your dad. When you were a baby, your first word . . .”

“. . . was soccer,” said Vinnie. “I know, Mom!”

“Your dad laughed and laughed.” His mother smiled. Vinnie smiled too.

He thought about his father. “Do you think Dad is watching this game?” he asked.

“Of course he is. He’s a Red Bulls fan<sup>1</sup>, like you,” his mom replied. “He always watches his favorite team.”

“Where is he today?” Vinnie asked. He looked at the picture on the wall of his dad next to a ship.

“Brazil,” said his mother. “They’re leaving on the ship today.”



“Hmm,” thought Vinnie. He looked out of the window. “It isn’t cold in Brazil.”

“He’s going to be home for Christmas this year,” his mother told him.

“That’s great,” said Vinnie. “It isn’t easy without Dad.”

“No,” replied his mother. “It’s hard for you. But I can’t . . .” She stopped and looked down at her hands.

“It’s all right, Mom,” said Vinnie quickly. “We’re fine, you and me.”

“But it isn’t all right,” she replied. “You don’t do the things that other teenagers do.”

“They don’t do anything interesting,” said Vinnie.

“But other teenagers play soccer, talk to their friends, go shopping, and other things. You’re always at home. It’s Saturday today, there’s a big game, and you’re here watching it with me.”

“It’s OK,” said Vinnie. “I don’t need a ticket to the game. It’s a lot of money.”

“I know,” said his mom. “Perhaps you can stop eating chocolate for a month to get the money for a ticket?”

Vinnie laughed. “I don’t know, Mom . . . a month is a long time!”

“I know it’s hard for you,” said his mom. “But when my arthritis is bad, I can’t do anything.”

“And that’s why Mrs. Stevens comes here,” said Vinnie.

“Yes,” said his mom. “Mrs. Stevens cleans the kitchen and the bathroom, but she doesn’t buy food or cook. You do all that. And you do everything on the weekends.”

“Mom, it’s all right,” said Vinnie. “We’re OK, you and me. We’re a team.”

“Yes, but I often think about all the things you can’t do,” his mom replied. “You can’t play soccer after school. You can’t go to the movies. You can’t –”

“Shh, Mom,” said Vinnie. “The game is starting . . .”

Twenty minutes later, Galaxy got a goal. Red Bulls 0, Galaxy 1.

“One goal is OK,” said his mother. “The Red Bulls are going to win this game. I know it.”

She looked over at Vinnie. His eyes were almost closed. He was tired.



## LOOKING BACK

- 1 Check your answers to *Before you read* on page 4.

## ACTIVITIES

- 2 Complete the sentences with the names in the box.

Vinnie's dad (x2)	Vinnie (x3)
Vinnie's mom (x2)	Mrs. Stevens

- 1 ..... *Vinnie* ..... gives his mom a cup of tea.
- 2 ..... is never good when it's cold.
- 3 The first word ..... said was *soccer*.
- 4 ..... is on a ship in Brazil.
- 5 ..... is going to be home at Christmas.
- 6 ..... can't do anything when her arthritis is bad.
- 7 ..... comes to the house to clean.
- 8 ..... is very tired.

- 3 Underline the correct words in each sentence.

- 1 Vinnie helps his mom take the cup of tea / coffee.
- 2 The soccer game on TV is starting in *five* / ten minutes.
- 3 The Red Bulls are playing *Brazil* / Galaxy.
- 4 There is a picture of Vinnie's dad next to a *car* / ship.
- 5 Vinnie is at home with his *mom* / dad on Saturday.
- 6 Vinnie says other teenagers *do* / don't do interesting things.
- 7 Mrs. Stevens cleans the *bedrooms* / kitchen.



**4** Who or what do the underlined words refer to?

Vinnie's dad      a ticket to the game      ~~Vinnie's mom~~  
Vinnie (x2)      Mrs. Stevens      Vinnie and Vinnie's mom

- 1 He helped her take the cup. (page 5) ..... *Vinnie's mom*
- 2 "You're just like your dad." (page 6) .....
- 3 "He's a Red Bulls fan." (page 7) .....
- 4 She doesn't buy food or cook. (page 8) .....
- 5 "It's a lot of money." (page 8) .....
- 6 "We're a team." (page 9) .....
- 7 He was tired. (page 9) .....

**5** Match the questions with the answers.

- 1 What are Vinnie and his mom going to watch on TV?  a
- 2 What is Vinnie's and his dad's favorite soccer team?
- 3 When is Vinnie's dad going to be home?
- 4 Who buys and cooks the food?

- ~~a~~ Soccer.
- b Vinnie.
- c The Red Bulls.
- d Christmas.

## LOOKING FORWARD

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**6** Check (✓) what you think happens in Chapters 2 and 3.

- 1 Vinnie wants to win a vacation for his mom and dad.
- 2 Vinnie plays soccer after school and doesn't look after<sup>2</sup> his mom.