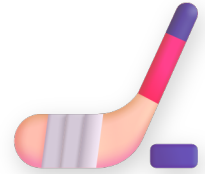




Read the story again. Then answer each question using details and your own thinking.

The Overtime Hero

Nadia had waited three years for this night. Section 114, Row 7, Seat 12 — right at centre ice at Scotiabank Arena. The Toronto Maple Leafs were facing the Montreal Canadiens, the oldest rivalry in hockey, and it was Game 7.



The first period was scoreless and brutal. Big hits along the boards. Breakaways stopped by both goalies. The crowd of 19,000 was so tense you could feel it in your chest.

At 11:34 of the second period, Auston Matthews picked up a loose puck at the blue line, faked left, and rifled a wrist shot top shelf. The red light blazed. Scotiabank Arena turned into a thunderstorm of noise. Nadia screamed until her throat ached. Her dad grabbed her by the shoulders and shook her. "Did you see that?!"



But Montreal answered before the period was over. A quick two-on-one, a perfect pass, and the puck slid under the pad of the Toronto goalie. Tied 1-1 heading into the third.

The final period was the fastest twenty minutes Nadia had ever watched. Both teams had chances. Both goalies made impossible saves. The clock wound down: 2:00, 1:00, 0:10.

Overtime. Four skaters per side. Wide open ice.

Ninety-three seconds into sudden death, a young Leafs winger named Cole Perfetti — only twenty years old, playing just his second full season — got the puck behind the net, spun around a Canadiens defenceman, and buried a backhand in the top corner. The arena exploded.



Confetti rained down from the rafters. Nadia's dad lifted her off the ground even though she was almost as tall as he was. She would remember every second of this night for the rest of her life. Hockey, she thought, is the best sport in the world.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

(1) The story says the crowd was "so tense you could feel it in your chest." What does this expression mean?

(2) Why do you think the author described the first period as "scoreless and brutal"?

(3) Cole Perfetti was only twenty years old in his second full season. Why might the author have chosen a young player to score the winning goal?

(4) How does the author show how loud the arena was without just saying "it was loud"?

(5) What does Nadia think at the very end of the story, and why is that important to the overall message?

