



## Dan the Basketball

By Clark Ness [www.clarkness.com](http://www.clarkness.com)

"Good morning, Mr. Ness," said Dan as he walked into the classroom before school.

"Oh, good morning," said Mr. Ness who was sitting at his teacher's desk. "How can I help you?"

"I want to be a basketball," said Dan.

"Why do you want to be a basketball?" asked Mr. Ness.

"I think it would be fun to fly in the air and then go *swish* through the net," replied Dan.

"O.K.," said Mr. Ness. He reached inside his desk and pulled out his lucky buffalo nickel. "Please come over here."

Dan walked over to Mr. Ness. The teacher held the buffalo nickel above Dan's head and said, "Basketball, basketball, basketball."

There was a loud *poof*, followed by some white smoke, and Dan was a basketball. He sat on the floor looking up at Mr. Ness.

Bill walked into the classroom just at that time. "Bill, do you want to go out and play basketball?" asked Dan the basketball.

Bill stopped right in his tracks and looked at the talking basketball. "How can a basketball talk?" he asked.

"Bill, it's me, Dan," said Dan. "Mr. Ness used his lucky buffalo nickel and turned me into a basketball."

"Boy, you must have done something really bad for Mr. Ness to turn you into a basketball," said Bill.

"No, I didn't. I asked him to turn me into a basketball. I wanted to be a basketball," said Dan.

"You boys can go outside and play," said Mr. Ness. "You have about five minutes before school will start. Bill, just remember to bring Dan back inside."

Bill grabbed Dan the basketball and ran outside with him.

"Cool basketball," said the other kids on the playground.

"It is just me, your friend, Dan," said the basketball.

"Neat," said the kids.

The other kids and Bill played basketball with Dan the basketball.

"Does it hurt being a basketball?" asked Bill.

"Not a bit," said Dan. "Shoot me through the hoop again."

Bill picked up Dan and took a shot. *Swish* went Dan.

"That sure is fun," said Dan. "Thanks, Bill."

The bell for school to begin rang. Bill went back into the classroom with Dan and walked over to Mr. Ness. Mr. Ness held up the lucky buffalo nickel and said, "Dan, Dan, Dan." There was a *poof*, then some white smoke, and Dan was Dan the boy again.

"Thanks, Mr. Ness. It was a lot of fun being a basketball. Maybe tomorrow I can be a baseball," said Dan.

"I am glad you had fun. We can see about you being a baseball tomorrow. Now time for school," said Mr. Ness.

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level 3.0  
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