Running Dictation

From *Scaffolding Language, Scaffolding Learning: Teaching Second Language Learners in the Mainstream Classroom* by, Pauline Gibbons

“This is a team game that cam be a very noisy activity! Students should be in teams of 3-5 (depending on the length of the text). Before you begin, write a short text on a large sheet of paper starting each sentence on a new line or in a different color. Place the text on a wall somewhere outside the classroom. The first member of each team runs out of the class to the text and reads (and tries to remember) the first sentence. He or she runs back into the class and dictates it to his or her team who write it down. When everyone in the team has finished writing, the second member of the team runs out, reads and memorizes the second sentence, returns, and dictates it. This continues until a team has completed the text. If a member forgets the sentence on the way back (this happens often!), he or she can go back and read it again, but of course time is lost if they do this. Point out to students that they should try to think about the meaning of their sentence – simply trying to memorize a sentence as a string of words is much harder than remembering something meaningful. However, make sure that you use a text that is within your students’ capabilities to understand (p 184).”

For this activity, you may use any text. You may consider using the attached *Kickball Rules*.

Kickball Rules

(1) Kickball is played between two teams.

(2) Each team has at least six players. (3) Kickball can be played on a grassy field or on a blacktop.

(4) Here is how to play: (5) The pitcher rolls the towards home plate, and the player tries to kick the ball. (6) If the ball is caught in the air, the kicker is out.  (7) A player is also out if they are tagged while they are not touching a base.  (8) A player is also out if the ball is caught by a base man while the player is running towards the base.

(9) Once a team gets 3 outs, the teams switch sides.  (10) A team gets one point for having a runner make it all the way around the bases and back to home base. (11) The game is over when the bell rings. (12) At the end of the game, the team with the most points wins.