Most stories include conflict. Not necessarily all-out-war or fist-fights, but there is always some sort of disagreement or threat to things being nice and happy.

A lot of books are about how two or more people see things very differently. This creates conflict. The same goes for football. Take Portugal v Iceland in the Euro 2016 football tournament.

Portugal were expected to win easily. They are one of the best teams in Europe. They have Europe’s finest ever player (one might say). Iceland were at the finals for the first time. They have a population 41 times smaller than Portugal. They were proud to be playing in the most important game in their country’s history against one of the world’s legends, Ronaldo.

The final score was 1-1.

After the game, Cristiano Ronaldo spoke to the media. He said:

“The way they celebrated at the end was unbelievable. Iceland don’t try to play, they just defend, defend, defend. Then they celebrate like they have won the Euros. This in my opinion shows a small mentality. They are not going to do anything in this competition.”

We would like you to think about how an Iceland player might have felt about the same match. What would he say at the end of the game?

Try to think about the things Ronaldo said, from the other side. Is it bad to defend? Did Iceland only defend? Why did they celebrate a draw? Are they small minded? Do they care if they go far in the competition – or are they just happy to be there?

Now write a quote of about 50 to 100 words from the point of view of an Iceland player. What would he say?

And, remember, he doesn’t have to be rude about the other team or its players.