Have you heard of Damian Keogh? He was a member of the Australian basketball team in three Olympic Games and captain of the Sydney Kings team. Below you will find an excerpt from his autobiography ‘Making a Dream Come True’. In it he talks about his childhood, his entry into the sport of basketball and the hard work and determination that went into making his childhood dream come true.

Read ‘Making a Dream Come True’ to your supervisor.

**Making a Dream Come True**

By Damian Keogh

Dad knew I was getting serious about basketball and finally agreed to put up a basketball ring. He began by chopping down a big willow tree in the corner of the backyard. Then he and Wally Humphrey, from next door, constructed a backboard and ring and fixed a steel pole into the ground. They finished work at midnight the day before Dad had to go to the Philippines for a month.

A few days later an Italian concreter came to cement the area, which was a bit bigger than a basketball keyway. We admired his handiwork as he fussed over making certain the job was done properly. After he finished he left strict instructions for us to keep away from the concrete until it was dry. As soon as he left, my brothers and I engraved a handprint and the date on the concrete. It was September 1973.

Over the next ten years, I spent hours and hours playing on that basketball court. Instead of trampling the neighbours’ gardens I must have driven them crazy bouncing a rubber basketball every day. Sometimes I would play with friends, or my younger brother Martin who was a good basketballer and played 17-grade with the Vermont Vultures. Matthew, my youngest brother, also played basketball and football. He was the ‘brain box’ of the family and after gaining high marks at school is currently finishing a law degree at university.

Most of the time I just practised by myself. I would imagine I was playing for Australia against the Russians or the Americans and keep the score. Australia would always be close to the Americans and in the dying seconds Keogh for Australia would shoot the goal to win the game and get the gold medal at the Olympics.

It wasn’t a chore for me to practise. I never grew sick of it and there was nothing I preferred to do. While other children would be watching television, I was quite content to be practising basketball.
Paraphrasing involves putting a passage into your own words.

Read the following sentence aloud:

*Then he and Wally Humphrey, from next door, constructed a backboard and ring and fixed a steel pole into the ground.*

i. Discuss with your supervisor what it is saying and what it means.

ii. What is another way of saying it? Say it to your supervisor in another way. Rewrite the sentence in your own words.