**Summary**

The book I read was *The Penalty* by Mal Peet. This book is about a very good soccer player that they called El Brujito. He disappears after a soccer game when he didn’t play very well. He missed a penalty shot and lost the game for his team. He left right after the game alone. After the game he goes to his home in Santo Tomas and only his sister knows where he went after that.

Paul Faustino is one of the top sports reporters in South America and he is the one of the people that Brujito’s sister needs to help save him. Paul doesn’t want to help, even though he said no he was reluctantly forced into helping find him. He is kidnapped and taken on a boat to Santo Tomas and is forced to help find Brujito. Brujito believes that his spirit has been separated from him. He believes that his spirit is the reason why he is such a great soccer player and now that it's gone he can't play soccer anymore until he has his spirit again. This book shows a lot about how people in sports can be very superstitious. Brujito won’t play soccer until his spirit is with him again so he can still have his soccer skills.

**Recommendation**

I would recommend this book to people who like history and mysteries because the book has a little bit of both. The history in this book describes varies situations about the slavery in South America. There are a couple of mysteries in this book. They start with how and why Brujito is kidnapped and about why he thinks he can’t play soccer anymore.

I would give this book a seven out of ten on a rating scale. At first I didn't like this book. There really isn't any action in this book and there wasn’t a lot of interesting things that happens in the first half of the book. It was mostly about how Paul was learning more about what happened to Brujito, but there was nothing exciting. Paul just meets Bakula and he helps him find out more about Brujitos disappearance. However, in the second half of the book the story became more interesting because they knew where Brujito was, but they didn't know how to save him. There was a lot more action in this part of the book and I started to understand the meaning of the book a lot better.

There is another mystery in this book too. A lot of the book is also about how superstitious Brujito is. He believes that his spirit gives him the skill to play soccer so well. When he misses a penalty kick and loses the game he starts to believe that his spirit has separated from him. Paul Faustino goes with Brujito’s sister to try to help him get his spirit back. Paul doesn't really believe that any of the things that happen at the end even happened. I think that this book was very confusing at the beginning and at the end of the book. However, I believe that what the story was trying to the readers is that skill, hard work and faith in what you do is all tied together somehow.