Name:_____

Reading Comprehension

A thunderous cheer rose from the entire school as my fellow competitors and I were assigned to our lanes. I could hear my heart pounding in my ears and feel my legs begin to tremble.

"What are you doing, boy? You're a sprinter, You would eat up a 100m and a 200m, but to run a 1,500m? Boy, that is sheer suicide!"

I tried to still the voices in my head and focus on the task ahead. "Take your mark!" the starter bellowed, as he extended his arm into the air. "Getttt setttttttt!".....BANG!! went his gun and we were off. I zoomed ahead feeling very proud of myself. After a few yards, I looked behind and realised that all my other competitors were way behind jogging. A cocky smile creased my face and I continued speeding along quite merrily. By the first 150m, my body began to get tired, and I felt myself beginning to slow down. Realisation dawned too late; I was sprinting in a long-distance race! What a catastrophe! This time I didn't even have to look behind for my competitors. I heard their ragged breath as they approached me from behind, then watched as if in slow motion, as the runners in blue, red and green shirts overtook me one by one, leaving me in the dust. I was crushed. I felt humiliated.

Pride said to me: "Jackson you can't let Marlon from Green House and even Fat Albert from Red House beat you. It wasn't your fault that Chad sprained his ankle at the last minute. Coach Clay had no business putting you to run in a distance race; you're a sprinter. If you lose this race, you will spoil your primary school record of never losing a race."

Once again, I silenced the voices in my head and plodded on. By this time, I was sweating profusely and gasping loudly. My pace had slowed to a slow jog because my legs felt as heavy as lead. My throat was dry and parched. I just wanted to collapse and give up.

I finally crossed the finish line and collapse from exertion. Even though I was the last person to have crossed the finish line, disappointed but proud, I had finished the race.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Choose the correct answer to correct answer each question

1. Who was not a competitor in the race?
   A. Jackson
   B. Fat Albert
   C. Chad
   D. Marlon

2. What do you think the different colours of the runners' shirts represent?
   A. The runners favourite colour
   B. The different houses in the school.
   C. The colours of the different schools the runners came from.
   D. None of the above

3. The word profusely means the same as
   A. Excessively
   B. Slightly
   C. Loudly
   D. Completely

4. The MOST LIKELY reason for Coach Clay putting Jackson in the race was because
   A. Jackson had never lost a race.
   B. Jackson was the best runner in the school
   C. Nobody else wanted to run
   D. Chad sprained his ankle

5. What was wrong with Jackson's approach to running the race?
   A. He allowed his competitors to pass him.
   B. He did not focus on the race.
   C. He should have ran without looking behind.
   D. He started off running too quickly.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

6. Jackson had a 'cocky smile' on his face because
   A. He thought he was winning the race.
   B. He was laughing at his competitors
   C. He was happy to be running in the race.
   D. He felt that he was better than everyone.

7. Jackson was "gasping loudly" because
   A. He was thirsty.
   B. He wanted to collapse.
   C. He was finding it difficult to breathe
   D. He was running too quickly

8. Jackson was not the 'most suitable' runner for the race because
   A. He was a sprinter not a long-distance runner
   B. He did not do enough training for the race.
   C. He did not have the strength to run long distances.
   D. He was not a confident runner.

9. Which of the following is NOT an emotion experienced by Jackson during the race?
   A. Fear
   B. Pride
   C. Anger
   D. Humiliation

10. Which of the following statements is TRUE?
A. Jackson was exhausted after he finished the race.
B. The spectators cheered for Jackson as he finished the race.
C. Coach Clay was proud of Jackson
D. Marlon came first in the race.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

11. Which of the following phrases suggest that Jackson knew he was losing the race?
    A. “Leaving me in the dust”
    B. “I was sweating profusely”
    C. “What are you doing, boy”
    D. “I zoomed ahead”

12. What is the MOST SUITABLE title for the passage?
    A. Jackson’s Defeat
    B. School Days
    C. Coach Clay’s Decision
    D. Bad Decisions.

LIVEWORKSHEETS