

The solar car race

It was three weeks before the race. Rick and Anna were finishing their solar car when Johnny Wilkins walked into the garage.

'Is that it?' he said looking at the small car.

'It will be faster than yours,' said Rick.

'If you finish the race with that car, I'll be amazed!' said Johnny and left.

Rick and Anna's car was small but it was fast. Its name was RA from the first letters of their names and from the Egyptian sun god. It had three solar panels on top and got enough energy from the sun. The engineer of the car was Anna. She was very good at Science and loved working on the car.



On the day of the race, Rick and Anna were very excited. The race was from one end of the playground to the other. Everyone from school was there to watch. Rick was looking at the other cars when he saw Johnny's car.

'I don't believe it!' he said. 'Look, Anna, he's copied our design! That's cheating! I'm going to talk to the race judge.'

'Don't worry about it,' said Anna. 'His car may look the same, but there's no way his engine is as good as ours.'

'I hope you're right,' said Rick.

Soon, it was time for the race. Johnny put his car on the starting line. He looked at Rick and Anna and smiled.



The race judge asked everyone to be quiet and said, 'Ready, steady, GO!'

The cars started moving. Slowly in the beginning, but then they went faster and faster. Everyone was shouting as the cars moved across the playground. After a while it was clear that only two cars could win the race. Johnny's car was first, with RA close behind.

'It's not fair!' shouted Rick. 'We're going to lose!'

'Just wait and see,' said Anna. 'I think there's something wrong with Johnny's car.'

Suddenly, a wheel from Johnny's car fell off.

'I knew it,' shouted Anna. 'The engine in his car is too heavy!'

'We might win!' shouted Rick.

Johnny's car stopped, RA raced past and won the race.

Rick and Anna were jumping up and down and everyone was cheering. Johnny just sat under a tree with his car. Anna saw him and went to talk to him.

'Nice car,' she said.

'I copied your design. I'm sorry,' said Johnny.

'I know,' said Anna. 'Listen, I can show you how to make yours work better, if you want.'

Johnny started smiling and said, 'I'd like that.'

Read again and write T for True or F for False.

1. Johnny helped Rick and Anna make their car.
2. Johnny didn't think Rick and Anna's car would finish the race.
3. Anna and Rick copied Johnny's design.
4. Rick talked to the race judge.
5. The race took place at the children's school.
6. Johnny's car finished the race behind Rick and Anna's car.

