A life lesson from a volunteer firefighter

- Lex Luthor – the main enemy of Superman from the original comic strip
- Nemesis – Greek goddess of revenge, vengeance

I. Match the words and phrases with their meanings.

1) Non-profit organization
2) To supplement
3) Footrace
4) Assignment
5) To be stunned with jealousy
6) To beat smb in a footrace
7) Nemesis
8) To display the valiant effort
9) Avocation
10) Act of grace
11) Courage
12) Remarkable level of success
13) Mentor

a) To add to make smth larger or better
b) Bravery, the ability to control your fear
c) Work you do in addition to your main job or profession, esp. for enjoyment
d) A person who gives a younger / less experienced person help or advice over a period of time
e) A piece of work given to smb as part of job
f) Intended to make money for a social or political purpose or to provide a service that people need
g) Smb / smth that is very difficult to defeat
h) Shocked or surprised
i) Outstanding, unusual or special
j) To show very courageous, bravely determined actions, esp. when things are difficult or give no cause for hope
k) A running race
l) Polite and pleasant way of behaving
m) To become better than smb, to show a better result

Vocabulary in Context

II. Read the sentences and choose the correct meaning of the words and phrases in bold.

1) Now in our town, where the volunteers supplement a highly skilled career staff, you have to get to the fire scene pretty early **to get in on any action**.
   a) Be ready for work
   b) Avoid doing any work
   c) Be part of what people are doing
2) I was the second volunteer on the scene, so there was **a pretty good chance** I was going to get in.
   a) A piece of good luck
   b) A strong probability
   c) A real danger
3) She was standing outside in the pouring rain, under an umbrella, in her pyjamas, **barefoot**, while her house was in flames.
   a) With cold feet
   b) With no shoes
   c) Tired
4) …but off I went – up the stairs, down the hall, past the 'real' firefighters, who were **pretty much done** putting out the fire at this point.
   a) Almost finished
   b) Very tired from
   c) Having difficulty
5) I'm also witness to acts of grace and courage on an individual basis. And you know what I've learned? **They all matter.**
   a) They are all difficult
   b) They are all different
   c) They are all important
6) Not every day is going to offer us a chance to save somebody's life, but every day offers us an opportunity to affect one. So **get in the game**.
   a) Become involved
   b) Get a good job
   c) Be part of a team