

Directions: Read the poem and answer the questions that follow.

### **Victory**

She gritted her teeth  
and took a breath as she  
crouched at the line.

She paused,  
the sound of her own heart  
beating beating beating

A quick glance to the right  
and to the left was all it took.  
No one would pass her this time.

This time would be different.

This time she would  
feel the rush  
hear the cheers  
be at the finish first.

She would finally feel the heavy weight  
lifted from her heart  
and draped around her neck instead.  
Joy would fill places

where before only worry lived.

This time,  
victory was  
hers.

1. What is the character in the story doing?
  - a. Training for a race
  - b. Waiting at the free throw shot line during a basketball game
  - c. Jump roping
  - d. Running in a race
  - e. Competing in the Olympics
2. Based on the poem you can conclude \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. The character has lost before
  - b. The character has trained for a long time
  - c. The character is one of the best
  - d. The character thinks winning is everything
3. Based on the information in the poem, what can you conclude about the character's feelings? Select the **two** correct answers.

She is proud of herself.

She is worried that she will lose.

She is feeling self-conscious about her appearance.

She is determined to succeed

She is disappointed in herself.