

This is a poem about a child's experiences on Sports Day.

## Sports Day

We've been split into our teams,  
I'm ready to play my part,  
The sun is shining radiantly,  
I want the day to start.

I see the medal in my head,  
I want it to be mine,  
If only I can do my best,  
Will this be my chance to shine?

We walk out with our classes,  
Parents watch and wave,  
My stomach is in knots,  
Teachers ask us to behave.

We're sitting on the itchy grass,  
My mouth is feeling dry,  
The first race is about to start,  
I feel like I might cry.

It's finally time to race,  
We're standing in a row,  
The teacher blows a whistle,  
At last, it's time to go!

I fly along the running track,  
My eyes fix on the line,  
The crowd cheers from either side,  
This is my chance to shine.

My heart is pounding in my chest,  
The line is drawing near,  
My feet race as fast as they can move,  
I've lost all signs of fear.

Two runners pass the finish line,  
I follow close behind,  
Third place is good enough for me  
And I'm too tired to mind.

Read the poem and answer the questions below.

The answers are on the last page.

Question  
1

The sun is shining **radiantly**.

Which word is closest in meaning to *radiantly*?

Tick **one**.

constantly

quickly

calmly

brightly

Question  
2

Look at the second verse.

What does the child want to achieve on sports day?

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Question  
3

Read the third and fourth verse of the poem

What evidence is there that the child is nervous before the race?

Give **two** examples.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

Question  
4

Look at the fourth verse.

Where do the children wait before the race starts?

\_\_\_\_\_

Question  
5

What happens just before the start of the race?

\_\_\_\_\_

Question  
6

*I fly along the running track.*

What does this tell you about how the child runs?

\_\_\_\_\_

Question  
7a

How does the child feel during the race?

\_\_\_\_\_

Question  
7b

How have the child's feelings about sports day changed by the end of the race?

\_\_\_\_\_

Answers

1	<p><i>The sun is shining radiantly.</i> Which word is closest in meaning to <i>radiantly</i>?</p> <p>Tick one.</p> <p>constantly <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>quickly <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>calmly <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>brightly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>constantly <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>quickly <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>calmly <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>brightly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
2	<p>Look at the second verse. What does the child want to achieve on sports day?</p>	<p><b>Award 1 mark for one</b> correct response.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to win the medal</li> <li>to do their best</li> <li>to shine</li> </ul>
3	<p>Read the third and fourth verse of the poem. What evidence is there that the child is nervous before the race? Give <b>two</b> examples.</p>	<p><b>Award 2 marks for two</b> correct responses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Their stomach is in knots.</li> <li>Their mouth is feeling dry.</li> <li>It feels like they might cry.</li> </ul> <p><b>Award 1 mark for one</b> correct response.</p>
4	<p>Look at the fourth verse. Where do the children wait before the race starts?</p>	<p><b>Award 1 mark for one</b> correct response.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(on) the itchy grass</li> <li>They have to sit on the grass.</li> </ul>
5	<p>What happens just before the start of the race?</p>	<p><b>Award 1 mark for one</b> correct response.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The children stand in a row.</li> <li>The teacher blows a whistle.</li> </ul>
6	<p><i>I fly along the running track.</i> What does this tell you about how the child runs?</p>	<p><b>Award 1 mark for one</b> correct response.</p> <p>E.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>They run so fast it feels like they are flying.</li> <li>Their feet barely touch the ground.</li> <li>They speed down the track.</li> <li>Running feels as easy as flying.</li> </ul>
7a	<p>How does the child feel during the race?</p>	<p><b>Award 1 mark for one</b> correct response.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It's their chance to shine.</li> <li>Their heart is pounding.</li> <li>They've lost all signs of fear.</li> </ul> <p><b>Also accept</b> responses that accurately reword the child's feelings.</p> <p>E.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>They feel more confident.</li> <li>They're not scared any more.</li> </ul>
7b	<p>How have the child's feelings about sports day changed by the end of the race?</p>	<p><b>Award 1 mark</b> for a response that shows the child's feelings about sports day are more positive by this point of the poem.</p> <p>E.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By the end, they've lost all signs of fear.</li> <li>They enjoyed the race.</li> <li>The child was happy to come third.</li> <li>Their feelings had changed because at first they were really worried.</li> <li>He/she feels happy now.</li> <li>She feels too tired to care.</li> </ul>