

Directions: Read the passage below and answer the question(s) that follow.

Shannon's Challenge

"Coach, I don't think I can do this after all," Shannon spoke tentatively, biting her lower lip to hold back the stinging tears behind her eyes.

"Why are you talking like a defeatist, a prophet of doom, Shannon?"

"I... I... I just... can't win because... I know who I'm running against!" Shannon exploded into angry speech while Coach Daniels listened patiently, a sparkle of triumph in his faded blue eyes. "I'm running against the top cross country female runner in the state in my age group, and she'll outrun me in the first five minutes with her strategy!"

"Shannon, Shannon, Shannon," Coach Daniels cut gently into her tirade, his laughter sounding like faraway thunder in his expansive chest. "I'm glad you're so fired up about this race, and I'm glad you know what you're facing, who you're up against, her strengths, her weaknesses. But, I know that you know, deep inside that fine mind of yours, that you can—and will—win this race."

Shannon sighed, "You weren't listening, Coach, when I just told you that in the first five minutes—"

"Forget the first five minutes thing and repeat after me these very important words: I, Shannon Bjorn—"

Shannon responded obediently, but with resignation in her voice, and the same tired, defeated expression on her face.

"Will beat Sharon Rodriguez to the finish line by at least fifteen seconds tomorrow morning."

"Will beat Sharon Rodriguez... I can't, I can't, I'm not that strong, and you're forgetting that I just sprained my ankle six weeks ago!"

"When you focus on your weakness, you will invariably fail," Coach Daniels answered. "Your ankle will not win or lose this race, nor any other muscle, joint, or bone in your body; of course your body plays a part in any athletic feat, but you know what wins a race, or have you forgotten?"

"No, I haven't forgotten what you've always told me: the mind wins the race, while the body only follows orders, right?"

"Will you go home now and have a long hot shower and write some music to those words? Take out your guitar and put those words into a little song that you can sing in your head over and over while you're leaving Sharon in the dust tomorrow."

Perhaps cheered by the prospect of a hot shower and some time alone with her guitar, Shannon nodded, and even managed a smile. Coach Daniels grinned at her, squeezed her shoulder encouragingly, and said, "Now that's much better, and that's the first winner's smile I've seen all week. Tomorrow you will be state champion in cross country running; in fact, you can even make that another line in your guitar song." Shannon laughed, picked up her duffel bag full of sweat-soaked towels, empty water bottles, and ankle braces, and said goodbye to Coach Daniels in a considerably more cheerful tone of voice than she'd used just moments before. Watching her walk across the all-weather track toward the locker room, Coach Daniels thought aloud to himself, "There goes a true champion athlete on the road to gold."



Directions: Answer the following question(s) relating to the passage titled "Shannon's Challenge".

1 TEACHER READS:

Read the question to yourself and select the best answer(s).

Part A:

This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Which statement *best* describes the theme of the text?

- A. Follow those in power.
- B. Believe in yourself and you will succeed.
- C. Use your intelligence to win.
- D. Follow your dreams.

Master ID: 434325 Revision: 1

Correct: **BC**

Standards:

CCSS.LA.9-10.RL.9-10.2

Part B:

Select the piece of evidence from "Shannon's Challenge" that supports the answer to part A.

- A. "I'm glad you're so fired up about this race, and I'm glad you know what you're facing, who you're up against, her strengths, her weaknesses."
- B. Shannon responded obediently, but with resignation in her voice, and the same tired, defeated expression on her face.
- C. "When you focus on your weakness, you will invariably fail," Coach Daniels answered.
- D. Perhaps cheered by the prospect of a hot shower and some time alone with her guitar, Shannon nodded, and even managed a smile.

Master ID: 434325 Revision: 1

Correct: **BC**

Standards:

CCSS.LA.9-10.RL.9-10.2

2 TEACHER READS:

Read the question to yourself and select the best answer.

Which sentence from the story *best* demonstrates the theme of the story?

- A. "I'm glad you're so fired up about this race, and I'm glad you know what you're facing, who you're up against, her strengths, her weaknesses."
- B. Shannon responded obediently, but with resignation in her voice, and the same tired, defeated expression on her face.
- C. "When you focus on your weakness, you will invariably fail," Coach Daniels answered.
- D. Perhaps cheered by the prospect of a hot shower and some time alone with her guitar, Shannon nodded, and even managed a smile.

Master ID: 181636 Revision: 1

Correct: **C**

Standards:

CCSS.LA.9-10.RL.9-10.2

Directions: Answer the following question(s) relating to the passage titled "Shannon's Challenge".

3 TEACHER READS:

Read the question to yourself and select the best answer.

Which of the following *best* explains the conflict that motivates the characters and affects the plot?

- A. Shannon's coach is conflicted between feelings of pity and the desire to inspire Shannon to win.
- B. Shannon's coach has an external conflict convincing Shannon that her injury will not affect her performance.
- C. Shannon is intimidated by the idea of facing a superior opponent which creates an internal/external conflict.
- D. Shannon has an internal conflict of self-doubt and an external conflict with an inspiring coach.

Master ID: 29452 Revision: 1

Correct: **D**

Standards:

CCSS.LA.9-10.RL.9-10.3

4 TEACHER READS:

Read the question to yourself and select the best answer.

What **BEST illustrates the main conflict in the story?**

- A. "Your ankle will not win or lose this race, nor any other muscle, joint, or bone in your body..."
- B. "Coach, I don't think I can do this after all," Shannon spoke tentatively, biting her lower lip....
- C. "Why are you talking like a defeatist, a prophet of doom, Shannon?"
- D. "I'm glad you're so fired up about this race, and I'm glad you know what you're facing..."

Master ID: 29451 Revision: 1

Correct: **C**

Standards:

CCSS.LA.9-10.RL.9-10.3

5 TEACHER READS:

Read the question to yourself and select the best answer.

How does Shannon's interaction with her coach influence the plot of the passage?

- A. Shannon's interaction with her coach provides the conflict and resolution of the passage.
- B. Shannon's interaction with her coach provides the suspense and mystery of the passage.
- C. Shannon's interaction with her coach sets the mood for a highly tense race the next day.
- D. Shannon's interaction with her coach reveals a confrontational relationship.

Master ID: 254 Revision: 1

Correct: **A**

Standards:

CCSS.LA.9-10.RL.9-10.3

Directions: Answer the following question(s) relating to the passage titled "Shannon's Challenge".

6 TEACHER READS:

Read and complete the task that follows.

This story consists primarily of a spoken interaction between a young runner, Shannon, and her coach, Coach Daniels. Clearly an experienced coach, Daniels reveals his character through his encouragement of Shannon. Using his words alone, Coach Daniels manages to transform Shannon's attitude from one of total self-doubt to one of confidence and happiness.

Write a paragraph in which you explain what Coach Daniels's words reveal about his character, and how his words successfully motivate Shannon during this interaction. Make sure your paragraph includes at least two examples from the text that support your argument.

Master ID: 287778 Revision: 1

Rubric: 3 Point(s)

3 The response:

- Explains what Coach Daniels's words reveal about his character
- Explains how Coach Daniels's words motivate Shannon
- Cites at least two examples from the text that support the argument

Clearly a successful coach, Coach Daniels uses his words to reveal his caring and determined character as well as to motivate his runner, Shannon, to improve her attitude. The dialogue in this story reveals how thoughtful and patient Coach Daniels is as he thinks about how to best help Shannon through a difficult time. He first tries to win her over with humor and levity, saying, "Why are you talking like a defeatist, a prophet of doom, Shannon?" and later laughs and says, "I'm glad you're so fired up about this race...I know that you know, deep inside that fine mind of yours, that you can—and will—win this race." Both of these instances show that Coach Daniels is caring and attentive to his runner, but is also trying to calm her down and help her make light of the situation and be more confident. As an understanding man, though, he realizes that he is failing to motivate her. Abandoning his lighthearted banter, Coach Daniels later gives her a more assertive, direct command: "Forget the first five minutes thing and repeat after me these very important words..." As a kind, understanding coach, he knows that Shannon is past kind banter and needs someone to clear her head for her. He remembers that she loves guitar and attempts to distract her, saying, "Take out your guitar and put those words into a little song that you can sing in your head over and over while you're leaving Sharon in the dust tomorrow." Coach Daniels is finally successful in motivating his runner to improve her attitude because he draws from his character traits of kindness, humor, assertiveness, and thoughtfulness. Through this interaction between the two of them, it is clear that he knows her well enough to know how to best motivate her.

Directions: Answer the following question(s) relating to the passage titled "Shannon's Challenge".

2 The response:

- Attempts to explain what Coach Daniels's words reveal about his character, but may not be convincing or clear
- Attempts to explain how Coach Daniels's words motivate Shannon, but may not be convincing or clear
- Cites at least one example from the text

Coach Daniels is kind, knowledgeable, and thorough and does an excellent job motivating Shannon with his words. Because she is depressed about running in an intimidating race, he knows he has to be kind and funny. He tries to laugh with her, but that really does not work. Because he is knowledgeable about coaching, Daniels turns to being in command of the situation and giving orders to Shannon, saying, "Forget the first five minutes thing and repeat after me these very important words..." He forces her out of her bad attitude by commanding her to think positively and then to put it to music. Because he is thorough, he knows that Shannon likes music and plays guitar. When he tells her to put confident words to a song to sing to herself in the race, he is successful in motivating her. As he leaves, he knows he is a good coach, and says, "There goes a true champion athlete on the road to gold."

1 The response:

- Attempts to explain what Coach Daniels's words reveal about his character, but may not be convincing

OR

- Attempts to explain how Coach Daniels's words motivate Shannon, but may not be clear or convincing
- May or may not cite at least one example from the text

Coach Daniels motivates Shannon to have a better attitude by making her think positively and write a song to sing to herself. He knows she doubts herself and he also knows that she plays guitar. So, he has her write a song at home that talks about how she is definitely going to win the race. He tells her to sing it in her head as she races. He is a great coach and Shannon is happy in the end of the story.

0 A response receives no credit if it fails to explain what Coach Daniels's words reveal about his character, fails to explain how Coach Daniels's words motivate Shannon, and fails to use textual support.

In this story, the coach is working hard to get Shannon to run in the race. She doesn't want to, but he wants her to, so he keeps trying to get her to run. She runs in the end.

Standards:

CCSS.LA.9-10.RL.9-10.3

Directions: Answer the following question(s).

7 TEACHER READS:

Read the question to yourself and select the best answer(s).

Read the paragraph below.

I urge all students at Centralia High to come to the gymnasium tomorrow afternoon for Tech-Free Friday. While we can all agree that modern technology is useful and enjoyable, the constant stimulation that we all face every day is overwhelming. Many of us are plugged in to some device—a computer, a tablet, or a cell phone—every moment we're awake. That doesn't allow us time to think things through, to make healthy lifestyle choices, or to develop new hobbies, new social skills, and new friendships. Even if you believe that constant connection isn't a problem, I encourage you to try the alternative. Come by the gym, get together with your fellow students, and enjoy a Tech-Free Friday! I guarantee you'll "like" it.

Which of the following sentences provide factual supporting evidence for the author's argument? Select *all* that apply.

- A. In one recent study, a majority of students said they were more comfortable using social media than talking to people face-to-face.
- B. One new book suggests that teens who use a smart phone several hours each day have better hand-eye coordination than other teens.
- C. Seventy percent of students surveyed reported that checking for new texts or other messages kept them from getting a good night's sleep.
- D. It's annoying to hold a conversation with someone who is constantly checking his or her phone.

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Correct: **AC**

Standards:

CCSS.LA.9-10.W.9-10.1

CCSS.LA.9-10.W.9-10.1.b

8 Which of the following is a valid theme statement?

- A. Education is the best path to freedom because once a person has been educated, nothing can take that from them.
- B. Getting a good education.
- C. The main character John wants an education so that he can move away from home.
- D. The author believes that John should get an education because it would be helpful for his future.

Master ID: 281152 Revision: 2

Correct: **A**

Standards:

CCSS.LA.9-10.RL.9-10.2

Directions: Answer the following question(s).

9 TEACHER READS:

Read and complete the task that follows.

Read the following claim from an argumentative essay.

Because of the destruction they bring to the environment, excavations to discover ancient civilizations and lost cities should no longer be conducted.

Explain what type of sources would provide the most credible evidence for the claim presented in the excerpt above.

Master ID: 338224 Revision: 1

Rubric: 2 Point(s)

2 The response:

- Provides a thorough explanation of the type(s) of credible sources
- Gives examples of what the sources may be
- Clarifies why the source(s) are the most credible for the claim presented

A good source to support this argumentative essay would be environmental reports on areas that have been previously destroyed through excavation. Reports that have been done on areas from government or non-profit agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency would provide credible and reliable information to support this claim.

1 The response:

- Provides an explanation of the type(s) of sources
- Includes sources that may not be credible or too general for the claim
- May not provide clarity as to why the source(s) are the most credible to support the claim

Sources that would provide credible support for the claim in the argumentative essay are websites about the environment. Other sources are periodicals that provide information about the environment and how it is being destroyed.

0 A response gets no credit if no sources are provided or are unrelated to the topic of the argumentative claim.

It is important to protect the environment and all the animals within it. It might not be around for the future if people do not do things to protect it today.

Standards:

CCSS.LA.9-10.W.9-10.1

CCSS.LA.9-10.W.9-10.1.b