

“Raymond’s Run” Skills Check

Do not write on this! Record answers on a separate piece of paper.

Multiple Choice: 8 Points Each

1. At the end of the first paragraph, the narrator tells us that, “All I have to do in life is mind my brother Raymond, which is enough.” The words, “all I have to do in life” tell the reader that
 - A. The narrator has too many responsibilities to deal with.
 - B. The narrator’s sole responsibility is taking care of her brother.
 - C. The narrator finds minding her brother to be too overwhelming.
 - D. The narrator’s brother is too much to handle.

2. According to Squeaky, what makes her a better person to watch Raymond than her brother George?
 - A. George was good at standing up to the people who said bad things about Raymond.
 - B. She is a faster runner, so she can offer him training that her brother can’t.
 - C. George wasn’t good at running, so he couldn’t run from the people who picked on them.
 - D. She is better at standing up to people who say mean things and she can run fast if she needs to.

3. Cynthia Proctor’s philosophy on practicing can best be described by which of the following statements?
 - A. She believes in practicing and does not care if anyone is aware.
 - B. She believes in lying to others about the fact that she practices a lot.
 - C. She believes in telling people that she does not practice when she actually does.
 - D. She believes in showing off her talents while practicing for the neighbors.

4. In the last line of the first paragraph on page 14, the author calls Cynthia “a real prodigy.” The word prodigy means about the same as
 - A. genius
 - B. show off
 - C. liar
 - D. natural

5. Reread the second and third paragraphs on page 15. The story states:

“I don’t think you’re going to win this time” says Rosie, trying to signify with her hands on her hips all salty, completely forgetting that I have whupped her behind many times for less salt than that.

“I always win cause I’m the best” I say straight at Gretchen who is, as far as I’m concerned, the only one talking in this ventriloquist-dummy routine.

In this passage, what is the word “salt” trying to communicate?

- A. seasoning
- B. attitude
- C. attraction
- D. kindness

6. In the last paragraph on page 15 that continues onto the top of page 16, Squeaky tells the reader about why she does not like the May Pole dancing. From this information, you can infer all of the following EXCEPT:
- A. Squeaky has given more thought to tradition than other girls her age.
 - B. Squeaky realizes that her family is not in the best financial situation.
 - C. Squeaky has a respect for tradition and societal expectations.
 - D. Squeaky is aware that being female inspires certain expectations.
7. What was the nice gesture that Mr. Pearson suggested Squeaky make in the middle of page 17?
- A. She could let Gretchen borrow her running shoes.
 - B. She could let someone else win the race.
 - C. She could dance around the pole to make her mother happy.
 - D. She could allow Raymond to run the race instead of her.
8. What realization does Squeaky have as she is waiting to hear who has actually won the race?
- A. She is as good at spelling as Cynthia.
 - B. She would rather play the piano and be a star.
 - C. She could be Raymond's coach because he is a good runner.
 - D. She already has medals so it doesn't matter if Gretchen beat her.
9. What is Squeaky actually thinking about when she jumps up and down after they announce the winner?
- A. She can't wait to rub it in Rosie's face that she just won the race again.
 - B. She thinks that Gretchen's middle name must be ridiculous since it starts with a P.
 - C. She is excited about the potential she sees in Raymond's ability to run.
 - D. She thinks the announcers need to retire since it took them so long to figure out who won.
10. Why is the smile that Gretchen and Squeaky share at the end of the story not quite "real"?
- A. Girls don't know how to be nice to each other because of their wasted time on other expectations.
 - B. The two are only being nice to each other so that they can secretly plot their strategy to win next year's race.
 - C. They each want to coach Raymond and neither of them realize that the other is having the same idea.
 - D. The two girls think they are supposed to be smiling because it is a May Day Race.

Short Response: 20 Points

11. Identify and explain how the story shows that being a female can be difficult.

Write the answer to this on your loose leaf under your multiple choice answers.