

# Reading and Responding to Texts

This worksheet asks you to identify explicit and implicit ideas in a short story, then to explain theme, character motive and literary technique in your own words ([Outcome](#), [Outcome](#), [Outcome](#)). You will also practise skimming an informational text for structural cues and reflect on how your own experience shapes your reading ([Outcome](#), [Outcome](#)).

**Read this short passage before answering Exercises 1 to 4 and Exercise 6.**

Maya stood at the starting line, lacing her shoes for the third time even though they were already tied. Her coach had warned her that the regional final would be her toughest race yet, but she hadn't told him about the pain in her ankle since Tuesday's practice. Across the track, her rival Dinah stretched calmly, as if she had already won. Maya remembered her grandmother's words: "A quiet start doesn't mean a slow finish." The gun went off. Maya's ankle screamed at the first stride, but she kept pace, matching Dinah step for step through the backstretch. By the final curve, it wasn't her legs that carried her past Dinah. It was the memory of every early morning she had run alone, when no one was there to see if she quit. She crossed the line first, then sat down hard on the track, finally letting herself wince.

## Exercises

### 1. Explicit and implicit ideas

Based on the passage, choose the best answer for each question.

- a) Which detail is stated explicitly in the text?
- A) Maya's ankle has hurt since Tuesday
  - B) Dinah is nervous about the race
  - C) Maya's grandmother ran track
  - D) The coach knew about the injury

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

- b) Which idea is only implied, not stated directly?
- A) Maya finishes the race first
  - B) Maya has been training alone before the race
  - C) The race takes place at a regional final
  - D) Dinah stretches before the race

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Theme and point of view

In one or two sentences, state the theme of the passage (the message about life or people that the story suggests). Then identify the point of view (whose thoughts and feelings the reader has access to).

Theme: \_\_\_\_\_

Point of view: \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Character motives

Explain why Maya keeps her ankle injury a secret from her coach. What does this choice reveal about her as a person? Write two to three sentences ([Outcome](#)).

### 4. Literary techniques

Match each technique on the left with the example from the passage on the right. Write the matching letter in the blank.

| Technique | Match |
|-----------|-------|
|-----------|-------|

|             |       |
|-------------|-------|
| Irony       | _____ |
| Symbolism   | _____ |
| Perspective | _____ |
| Proportion  | _____ |

- A) The story spends far more time on the final curve than on the whole rest of the race, showing what matters most.
- B) Maya finishes the race not through visible pain but through the memory of quiet, unseen effort.
- C) The lacing and re-lacing of already-tied shoes represents Maya's nervousness rather than an actual need to tie them.
- D) The reader only knows Maya's private thoughts and pain, never Dinah's.

### 5. Skimming for information

Below is part of a table of contents from a sports training guide. Skim it, then answer the questions using only the headings and page numbers, not by reading full paragraphs ([Outcome](#)).

| Section                               | Page |
|---------------------------------------|------|
| Chapter 1: Warm-Up Routines           | 4    |
| Chapter 2: Managing Minor Injuries    | 12   |
| Chapter 3: Race-Day Nutrition         | 19   |
| Chapter 4: Mental Preparation         | 27   |
| Chapter 5: Recovery After Competition | 34   |

- a) Which chapter would most likely help Maya decide what to do about her sore ankle? \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Which page would you turn to first if you wanted advice on staying calm before a big race? \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Name one structural feature of this table of contents that helped you find information quickly.

### 6. Prior knowledge and interpretation

Everyone reads a story a little differently depending on their own experiences ([Outcome](#)). Answer both parts.

- a) Describe a time in your own life when you kept a problem to yourself the way Maya did. How does this connect to the passage?

- b) Someone who has never played a sport might interpret Maya's choice differently than someone who competes regularly. Explain one way their interpretation might differ from yours ([Outcome](#)).

## Answer key

- a) A; b) B
- Theme: quiet, unseen effort and determination matter as much as visible talent (accept reasonable equivalents). Point of view: third person, limited to Maya's thoughts and feelings.
- Sample answer: Maya hides the injury because she does not want to be pulled from the race or seen as weak; this reveals her determination and pride, and her willingness to endure pain to reach

her goal.

4. Irony: B; Symbolism: C; Perspective: D; Proportion: A
5. a) Chapter 2 (page 12); b) Page 27; c) Sample answer: the page numbers and chapter titles let a reader locate a topic without reading the whole guide.
6. Open-ended: accept any answer that draws a genuine personal connection (a) and explains a plausible difference in interpretation based on experience (b).