

Reading and Responding to Texts

This worksheet builds skills for comprehending texts and responding to them personally and critically, using prior knowledge, textual cues and an understanding of literary technique ([Topic](#), [Topic](#), [Topic](#)). Read the short passage below, then complete the exercises that follow.

Passage: "The Last Lap"

Maya's legs burned as she rounded the final curve of the track. Three months ago, a torn ligament had put her in a cast, and the doctor's voice still echoed in her head: *You may never run competitively again.* She had proven him wrong every practice since, but tonight's race would prove it to everyone else. The stands blurred into a wall of noise. She thought of her grandmother, who had crossed finish lines in a wheelchair race decades earlier, refusing to be told what her body could or could not do. Maya's chest tightened, not from pain this time, but from something closer to pride. She leaned into the last stretch and did not look back.

Exercises

1. Explicit and implicit information

Read the passage again and answer each question.

- a) What explicit detail tells you Maya was injured? _____
- b) The passage never says Maya wins the race. What implicit clue suggests how she feels about her effort, regardless of the result? _____
- c) Explain the difference between explicit and implicit information in one sentence.

([Outcome](#))

2. Using prior knowledge

Think of a time you faced a challenge after being told you couldn't succeed, or think of someone you know who did.

- a) Briefly describe that experience: _____
- b) How does your own experience change the way you understand Maya's determination in the passage? _____

([Outcome](#))

3. Scanning for structural features

Match each structural feature on the left with what it helps a reader do, on the right. Write the matching letter in the blank.

Feature	Answer	Purpose
1. Table of contents	_____	A) Confirms facts or sources used in a text
2. Bibliography	_____	B) Signals a shift in time, place or speaker
3. Bold subheading	_____	C) Locates a chapter or section quickly
4. Italicized phrase	_____	D) Highlights a key term or new section

([Outcome](#))

4. Theme and personal connection

Answer in complete sentences.

a) State one theme this passage explores (for example, perseverance, family influence, proving others wrong): _____

b) Compare this theme to a situation from your own life or from another text, show or film you know:

([Outcome](#), [Outcome](#))

5. Identifying technique

Which technique is used in the sentence "The stands blurred into a wall of noise"?

- A) Symbolism
- B) Irony
- C) Imagery
- D) Foreshadowing

Circle your answer, then explain in one sentence why this technique fits your choice.

([Outcome](#), [Outcome](#))

6. Comparing forms

"The Last Lap" is a short piece of realistic fiction. Choose one other form or genre (documentary, poem, song lyric, graphic novel, newscast) and answer:

a) Which form did you choose? _____

b) How might telling this same story in that form change the way the audience experiences Maya's determination? Consider what that form can show or do that prose cannot.

([Outcome](#), [Outcome](#))

Answer key

1. a) The torn ligament and the cast are stated directly. b) Her chest tightening "from something closer to pride" implies satisfaction independent of winning. c) Explicit information is stated directly in the text; implicit information must be inferred from clues.
2. Answers vary; look for a clear personal experience connected to a specific insight about Maya's determination.
3. 1-C, 2-A, 3-D, 4-B
4. Answers vary; accept any reasonable theme (perseverance, proving doubters wrong, family influence) supported with a relevant personal or textual comparison.
5. C) Imagery; the phrase appeals to sight and sound to create a sensory impression of the crowd.
6. Answers vary; look for a specific explanation of how the chosen form's features (visuals, sound, structure) would change the audience's experience.