

1. Dreams is what makes people go great lengths to achieve something in life. Read the story of a young girl and complete the sentences below choosing the correct solution.

To Track Down My Dream

by Ashley Hodgeson



It was the district track meet – the one we had been training for all season. My foot still hadn't healed from an earlier injury. As a matter of fact, I had debated whether or not I should attend the meet. But there I was, preparing for the 3,200-meter run.

"Ready ... set ..." The gun popped and we were off. The other girls dated ahead of me. I realised I was limping and felt humiliated as I fell farther and farther behind.

The first-place runner was two laps ahead of me when she crossed the finish line. "Hooray!" shouted the crowd. It was the loudest cheer I had ever heard at a meet.

"Maybe I should quit", I thought as I limped on. "Those people don't want to wait for me to finish this race." Somehow, though, I decided to keep going. During the last two laps, I ran in pain and decided not to compete in track next year.

It wouldn't be worth it, even if my foot did heal. I could never beat the girl who lapped me twice.

When I finished, I heard a cheer – just as enthusiastic as the one I'd heard when the first girl passed the finish line. "What was that all about?" I asked myself. I turned around and sure enough, the boys were preparing for their race. "That must be it: they're cheering for the boys."

I went straight to the bathroom where a girl bumped into me. "Wow, you've got courage!" she told me.

I thought, "Courage? She must be mistaking me for someone else. I just lost a race!"

"I would have never been able to finish those two miles if I were you. I would have quit on the first lap. What happened to your foot? We were cheering for you. Did you hear us?"

I couldn't believe it. A complete stranger had been cheering for me – not because she wanted me to win, but because she wanted me to keep going and not give up. Suddenly I regained hope. I decided to stick with track next year. One girl saved my dream.

That day I learned two things:

First, a little kindness and confidence in people can make a great difference to them.

And second, strength and courage aren't always measured in medals and victories. They are measured in the struggles we overcome. The strongest people are not always the people who win, but the people who don't give up when they lose.

I only dream that someday – perhaps as a senior – I will be able to win the race with a cheer as big as the one I got when I lost the race as a freshman.

Source: Jack Canfield/Mark Victor Hansen et al., Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul

1. Ashley did not want to take part in the district track meet because she ...

- a) had broken her leg.
- ☒ b) her foot still hurt after a serious injury.
- c) she was not good in form.

2. At the beginning of the race Ashley ...

- a) was in the lead.
- b) was in the middle of the group.
- ☒ c) was last.

3. When the first place runner won the race Ashley ...

- ☒ a) decided to keep on running.
- b) immediately quit running.
- c) ran for another lap but then stopped.

4. All the time Ashley thought about ...

- a) the accident that had caused all the pain in her leg.
- b) the pains in her leg.
- ☒ c) not taking part in the district track meet next year.

5. When Ashley finally crossed the finish line some girls in the audience ...
- a) were still cheering for the winner of the race.
 - ☒ b) cheered for her.
 - c) were already cheering for the boys who were preparing for the next race.
6. After the race Ashley limped to the bathroom where she met a girl ...
- ☒ a) who congratulated her on keeping on running.
 - b) who would have wished Ashley had won the race.
 - c) who told her that she should not have taken part in the race with her injured leg.
7. This conversation in the bathroom ...
- a) deeply depressed Ashley.
 - ☒ b) cheered Ashley up.
 - c) was just a nice conversation with a complete stranger.
8. Ashley decided to ...
- a) stop taking part in competitions like these.
 - b) go for another kind of sport.
 - ☒ c) take part in next year's district track meet again.
9. This conversation made one thing clear to Ashley. Everyone of us needs people who ...
- a) keep motivating us.
 - b) go for their own dreams themselves.
 - ☒ c) show kindness and confidence in you.
10. On this day Ashley understood one thing: It's not medals and victories that count in life but ...
- a) courage, motivation and idealism.
 - ☒ b) courage, strength and the struggles we overcome in life.
 - c) courage, strength and fairness.
11. The moral of the story is ...
- ☒ a) keep on to your dreams even in times of hardship.
 - b) some dreams are simply too far away to be reached.
 - c) dreams are important but they should not be too big.
12. From then on Ashley's dream was to ...
- a) do everything she could to win one of the next races.
 - b) impress people with her sport skills.
 - ☒ c) earn a cheer as big as the one she got when she crossed the finish line last of all the participants.

2.

Complete the following sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets: Past Simple, Past Continuous or Present Perfect Simple.

1. While I was running (run) lap after lap I kept asking myself whether it was really worth taking part in the district track meet.
2. But then I crossed (cross) the final line and was (be) glad that I had not given up.
3. Even if I didn't win (not/win) the race, it finally was (be) the right decision.
4. But this was something that I realized (realise) only much later, in fact after I had talked to the girl in the bathroom.
5. When I left (leave) the sports ground and went (go) to the bathroom I was feeling (feel) so depressed and insecure.
6. When the girl told (tell) me that she and her friends had cheered for me, not because I would win the race, but because I had kept on running, I experienced (experience) a great feeling of joy and satisfaction. I would have never thought it possible that somebody could praise me simply for giving it a try.
7. And I learned (learn) something important for my life: it is not victories and medals that count, but courage, motivation, idealism ... And it is so important that there is somebody who believes in you.
8. And ever since then it has been (be) very important for me to have these things in life.
9. From that day onwards I have fought (fight) for my dreams, I have chosen (choose) people as friends who support me, believe in me, share my dreams with me, and love me for what I am.
10. So this day at the district track meet proved (prove) to be very important for me.

3. Revision: conditional clauses

Complete the sentences with the correct forms of the words in brackets.

1st if-sentence:

1. If I see him, I will inform (inform) him.
2. If you ask me, he will never forgive (never/forgive) you.
3. I will try to help you, if you tell (tell) me how.
4. Sheila will certainly talk to him too, if she knows (know) what has happened.
5. If he forgives (forgive) you, you must promise never to do such a stupid thing again.
6. His parents will certainly be (certainly/be) shocked if they find everything out.
7. If you ever deceive him again, this means (mean) the end of our friendship.

2nd if-sentence:

1. If I had (have) more money I would take a year off.
2. I would travel the world if my children didn't need (not/need) me so urgently.
3. If my husband didn't own (not/own) this company we could go on holidays more often.
4. If we weren't (be) able to do what we wanted, we would lead a totally different life.
5. My friend often says: If I were (be) you, I would follow my dreams.
6. But if we really followed our dreams we would disappoint (disappoint) a lot of people.
7. And if we did that nobody would understand (understand) us.

3rd if-sentence:

1. If I had listened (listen) to my parents I would not have come here.
2. I would have never dropped out of school if I had learned (learn) more.
3. If my parents hadn't been (not/be) so strict, I would not have run away from home.
4. If I had worked (work) more for school, my grades would have been better.
5. If I had had (have) better grades, I could have gone to university.
6. If I had gone to university, I would've found (find) a well-paid job.
7. And my parents, friends and teachers would've praised (praise) me for what I have achieved in life.