

I don't know why. I can't explain it. By the end of the third lap I was barely moving, clawing at the air, oblivious to everything except the dirt unfolding endlessly in front of me. "Let him go," I heard
 65 somebody say. They'd all finished by then, recovered, and now stood watching as I staggered past them like something shot. "C'mon . . ." I heard someone start to call out uneasily, and then, "What's his name?" A small crowd, I found out later, sensing something
 70 going on, had gathered by the fence to the parking lot. The last of the newcomers had passed me long ago.

I remember seeing him appear in front of me like I was coming up from underwater and trying to
 75 swerve but I was barely standing and I walked right into him and he caught me as I fell, his one good arm around my back, saying over and over, "All right, easy now, easy, you're done, keep walking, walk it off," like he was gentling a horse. I threw up on the
 80 infield grass.

"What we have here," he was saying, "is a failure to communicate. Stay within yourself, I said. Don't drain the well, I said."

"What did I get?" I couldn't seem to hold my head
 85 up, or open my eyes—the pain kept coming in waves. "What?"

"Time. What time did I get?"

He laughed—that bitter Falvo laugh—ha!—like he'd just been vindicated. "He wants to know what
 90 he got," he said, like there was somebody with us. "You want to know what you got? I'll tell you what you got: proof you could beat yourself senseless—something I very much doubt you needed."

1

Based on the passage, which character would most likely agree with the idea that, when trying something new, it is best not to push one's limits?

- A) Falvo
- B) McCann
- C) Mosher
- D) The person who said "Let him go"

2

Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- A) Lines 14-17 ("All right . . . McCann")
- B) Lines 19-22 ("He turned . . . yourself")
- C) Lines 55-60 ("I remember . . . sprint")
- D) Lines 76-79 ("he caught . . . horse")

3

In the context of Falvo's instructions to the runners, the main purpose of lines 24-27 ("Pace . . . OK") is to

- A) provide useful general information to the group.
- B) emphasize and elaborate on advice given earlier.
- C) introduce a philosophy applicable to sports and life.
- D) reveal Falvo's underlying motivation.

4

In the context of the passage, “I shrugged” (line 23) and “‘Sure,’ I said” (line 28) mainly serve to show the narrator’s

- A) shyness.
- B) dismissiveness.
- C) dishonesty.
- D) hostility.

5

Based on the passage, how did the experienced runners respond to Falvo’s advice?

- A) They enthusiastically embraced it.
- B) They acted like they hadn’t heard it.
- C) They generally accepted it.
- D) They only pretended to take it seriously.

6

What does the narrator say about his motivation for performing as he did in the time trial?

- A) That he was determined to keep up with the other runners
- B) That he wanted to prove something to himself
- C) That he wished to improve on his previous time
- D) That he was unable to provide a reason for his behavior

7

Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- A) Lines 36-39 (“They didn’t . . . power”)
- B) Line 61 (“I don’t . . . explain it”)
- C) Lines 73-76 (“I remember . . . into him”)
- D) Lines 91-94 (“I’ll . . . needed”)

8

Based on the passage, when Falvo says, “Don’t drain the well” (line 83), he most probably means

- A) don’t use up all of your energy.
- B) don’t get sick.
- C) don’t try to outdo one another.
- D) don’t quit before you’re finished.

9

As used in line 89, “vindicated” most nearly means

- A) avenged.
- B) set free.
- C) defended against.
- D) proven right.