

Sasha's Race

It was the day of Oakdale's annual snowboarding race. Best friends Brian and Sasha joined the crowd of kids at the top of the snow-covered hill. As they tightened the fastenings on their boards, Sasha and Brian wished each other luck. Far below, they could see the crowd of spectators gathering around the finish line. The people looked like tiny ants scurrying over the snow. Sasha wondered whether one of those "ants" was her dad. She couldn't distinguish him in the crowd, but he had promised to leave work early to watch her compete.

When they heard the thunderous crack of the starting pistol, the racers shot over the line. Sasha and Brian quickly found themselves at the front of the pack. Soon it was just the two of them flying neck and neck down the course. "Just like always!" shouted Brian. Sasha laughed, but she didn't respond. She concentrated on finding the fastest line down the slope.

Sasha and Brian traded the lead position back and forth as their boards flashed over the snow. Finally, Sasha pulled ahead. She was all alone in front, plunging down the steepest part of the course. A bump launched her board into the air, and her heart froze in her chest. A rabbit had wandered into the path below her! Sasha tucked her legs up into her chest, grabbed her board to pull it up even higher, and held her breath. She skimmed over the rabbit, landed just in front of it, and raced on down the hill. Behind her, Brian whooped with excitement. She saw the ribbon at the finish line rushing toward her—and just beyond it, she saw her dad shouting and cheering. Punching her arms into a victory stance, Sasha burst through the ribbon, skidded to a stop, and collapsed laughing into her dad's arms.



MONDAY

Match each word from the story to its definition on the right.

- | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------|
| spectators | • to single out |
| distinguish | • passed over quickly |
| launched | • the people watching an event |
| skimmed | • relaxed the muscles and fell |
| stance | • a posture or pose |
| collapsed | • shot into the air |

TUESDAY

Use the details from the passage to describe the setting.

WEDNESDAY

Choose the correct answer.

1. Who is the main character in this story?

Ⓐ Sasha

Ⓒ a rabbit

Ⓑ Brian

Ⓓ Sasha's dad

2. Which sentence does not describe Sasha and Brian?

Ⓐ They are best friends.

Ⓒ They finish the race in a tie.

Ⓑ They each want to win the race.

Ⓓ They are good snowboard racers.

3. What can you infer from Brian shouting "Just like always!"?

Ⓐ Brian always loses to Sasha.

Ⓒ Sasha and Brian are brother and sister.

Ⓑ Brian and Sasha have raced each other before.

Ⓓ The starting pistol always frightens them.

THURSDAY

Write **S** if the sentence is a simile. Write **M** if it is a metaphor.

_____ The people looked like tiny ants.

_____ Her heart froze when she saw the rabbit.

_____ The ribbon at the finish line rushed toward her.

_____ The starting pistol was as loud as a thunderclap.

FRIDAY

How do you think Brian felt at the end of the race? Why do you think so?
