

CHAPTER 7: A RACE TO GET MARRIED



BEFORE YOU READ. Look at the picture and read the title of the story.

1. Write your answers on the lines.

Look at the picture. This is a _____

Why do some people do this? _____

The people in this story will _____

2. Circle your answer and complete this sentence.

I(like/don't like) to run because _____

A Race to Get Married

On Saturday, April 7, Wanda Johns, 49, and Clarence Melion, 56, ran a five-kilometer race in Valparaiso, Indiana, in the United States. This was not unusual for them. They both enjoy running and sometimes run in marathons, too. They both belong to the same running club and met at a race four years ago. But, Saturday's race was a little different. When they finished the race, Wanda and Clarence got married.

During the race last year, Clarence asked Wanda to marry him. Wanda said "Yes," but they didn't know where to get married. Many of their friends are in the same running club. Clarence and Wanda decided to get married at a race so their friends could be with them. They both wore shorts, T-shirts, and running shoes at their wedding. Wanda also wore a white veil on her baseball cap.

Clarence usually runs five kilometers (about 3 miles) in about 25 minutes. Wanda usually runs the same distance in 27 minutes. But on Saturday, they ran the race together. They were almost finished when Wanda's hat blew off. She continued to run, but Clarence ran back to pick up her hat. He picked it up and followed her to the finish line. Together they finished the race in about 33 minutes. Then they got married.

Hundreds of runners watched Wanda and Clarence's wedding. When it was over, everyone clapped for the couple. Then they all ate pizza and fruit. Wanda's son, Brian, was not surprised at the unusual wedding. He said "They both love to run and to race. It's perfect."

1. **MAIN IDEA.** What is the most important idea of the story? (Circle the letter)

1. Wanda and Clarence got married after a race.
2. Wanda and Clarence met at a race a few years ago.
3. Wanda and Clarence run in races and marathons.

2. **JUST THE FACTS:** Circle the letter of the correct answer.

1. a) Wanda usually runs faster than Clarence.
 b) Clarence usually runs faster than Wanda.
2. a) Clarence and Wanda met at a race four years ago.
 b) Clarence and Wanda got married at a race four years ago.
3. a) Wanda wore a white veil on her baseball cap.
 b) They both wore white veils on their baseball caps.
4. a) Wanda dropped her cap and stopped running.
 b) Wanda dropped her cap and continued running.
5. a) Hundreds of runners watched the race.
 b) Hundreds of runners watched the wedding.

3. **LEARN NEW WORDS.** Put the correct word in the blank.

~~belong~~ blew off continued distance marathons

1. Wanda and Clarence belong to the same running club
2. They both enjoy running. They sometimes run in _____.
3. Wanda's hat _____. It fell in the street.
4. Wanda _____ to run. She didn't stop to pick up her hat.
5. Clarence runs five kilometers in about 25 minutes. Wanda usually runs the same _____ in about 27 minutes.

4. **CORRECT THE SENTENCES.** The underlined parts of these sentences are wrong. Rewrite the sentences so they are correct.

a) Everyone clapped because Wanda and Clarence finished the race.

Everyone clapped because Wanda and Clarence got married.

b) They decided to get married at a race so they could eat pizza and fruit.

c) Saturday's race was the same as all races.

d) Clarence dropped the hat and followed Wanda to the finish line.

e) A few people watched Wanda and Clarence's wedding

4. **FINISH THE SENTENCES.** With a partner, draw lines from the words on the left to the words on the right to complete the sentences.

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| 1. Clarence asked Wanda to marry him | a. when they finished Saturday's race. |
| 2. Wanda and Clarence got married | b. when they were almost finished. |
| 3. Wanda's hat blew off | c. that Wanda got married at the race. |
| 4. Everyone clapped for the couple | d. during a race last year. |
| 5. Wanda's son, Brian, was not surprised | e. when the wedding was over. |

5. **TALK IT OVER.** Do you think it's a good idea to get married at a race? Why or why not? Write your answer on the lines and talk about it with your classmates.

I think it (is/isn't) a good idea because

6. **WRITE IT DOWN.** Why was Saturday's race unusual? Write three or four sentences.

Saturday's race was unusual because

