

## Sportsmanship

1 No one thought it was possible. No one thought it could be done. No one thought the human body was capable of it. Then on May 6, 1954, it was done. The impossible had become possible. Someone broke the four-minute mile. The man was Roger Bannister. His time was 3 minutes and 59.4 seconds. That is all it took him to run one mile.

2 The second man to run a sub-four-minute mile was John Landy. Landy's time was one and a half seconds faster than Bannister's. It was 3 minutes and 57.9 seconds. It took only 46 days for Landy to break Bannister's record. Landy held on to his record for over three years. Landy was fast, but he is known for more than his speed. He is also known for his sportsmanship.

3 The year was 1956. Landy was in a race. It was an important race. It was for the National Championships. A man named Ron Clarke was also in the race. The runners were on their third lap. Then something happened. A runner clipped Clarke's heel. This made Clarke fall down. Landy was close behind Clarke. Landy didn't want to hit Clarke so he leapt over him. He didn't leap far enough.

4 All the track runners had spikes on their shoes. The spikes were like little nails. The spikes helped stop the runners from slipping. Landy scraped one of Clarke's shoulders with his spikes. Landy could have kept running. He had done nothing wrong. After all, falls are part of racing.

5 Landy stopped. He turned back! He checked on Clarke. All the other runners kept running. They got far ahead. When Landy knew Clarke was okay, he started running again. No one thought he would. Why would he when he was so far behind? Landy didn't quit. Instead, he ran. He caught up with the other runners in the last two laps! He won the race! Landy's catching up is thought to be one of the greatest moments in the history of sports. So is his act of sportsmanship.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Partner: \_\_\_\_\_

## Sportsmanship *(cont.)*

**First**

Silently read "Sportsmanship." You might see words you do not know. There might be parts you do not understand. Keep reading! Try to find out what the story is mainly about.

**Then**

Sum up paragraphs 2–5 only. Write the main actions and most important information. If someone reads your summary, that person should know it is this story you are writing about, not a different story!

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**After  
That**

Read the story again. Use a pencil to circle or mark words you don't know. Note places that confuse you. Underline the main action or idea of each paragraph.

**Next**

Meet with your partner. Help each other find these words in the text.

capable

record

clipped

spikes

Read the sentences around the words. Think about how they fit in the whole story. Write what the words mean. Which information in the text helps you and your partner define (give the meaning of) the words. One row of the chart is filled in for you.

Word	What It Means	Information That Helps
capable		
record		
clipped	to hit with a slight blow	A runner clipped Clarke's heel and made him fall.
spikes		

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## *Sportsmanship* (cont.)

Now

Answer the story questions below.

1. What made Landy stop running in the 1956 National Championships race?

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2. Why do runners have spikes on their shoes? Write down the sentence from the story that tells you the answer. Remember to put quotation marks (" ") around the sentence.

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3. The second paragraph starts with this sentence: "The second man to run a sub-four-minute mile was John Landy."

- a. What does "sub-four-minute" mean in this sentence?

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How do you know? Use evidence from the story to prove your answer.

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- b. Now use what you know to say if *a subway* is more likely to go above the ground or underground. Why?

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4. Who held the record longer for breaking the four-minute mile?  
Check the box beside your choice.

☐ Bannister

☐ Landy

Use evidence from the story to support your answer.

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**Challenge:** Landy broke Bannister's record in 1954. In what month of that year did he break it? You must use information from the story to figure this out.

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Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## *Sportsmanship* (cont.)

**Then**

Reread the entire story one last time. Think about how paragraph 1 relates to the rest of the story.

5. Sum up paragraph 1. What happens in this part of the story?

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6. Why do you think the author began the story this way? How did it help you understand more about what kind of runner Landy was?

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7. Write a new beginning for the story. Your beginning should be the thoughts inside Landy's head when he breaks Bannister's record. Will your version of Landy be happy, tired, or worried? It is up to you! Write at least three sentences. Remember to use the word "I," since you will be writing as if you were Landy.

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How does your new beginning change the passage? Do you think it is a better beginning? Is the main idea still the same?

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**Learn  
More**

Find out two facts about Landy or Bannister. On the back of this paper, write the facts in sentence form and share them with the class.

### **“Never Growing Old” (pages 64–67)**

**Summary:** Carroll Spinney plays Big Bird, a character on *Sesame Street*. Information is given about Big Bird and how the puppeteer does his job.

**Vocabulary:** b. *misname* means “to not name correctly”; c. *miscount* means “to not count correctly”; d. *mislead* means “to take in the wrong direction, not lead correctly”; e. *misbehave* means “not act or behave correctly”; f. *misuse* means “to not use correctly”; g. *misfortune* means “to not have good luck”

1. He grew younger. He used to be an adults, but is now 6 years old.
2. “No” should be circled. “He never grows older.”
3. Spinney’s head is in Big Bird’s neck. His right hand is holding up Big Bird’s head.
4. No, because Oscar also changed by turning from orange to green.
5. You are asked to try a hard task, which is to hold up four pounds with your right hand for a long time.

### **“Always First” (pages 68–71)**

**Summary:** An older brother always goes first, saying, “Age before beauty.” The sister knows it isn’t fair.

**Vocabulary:** *exhibit* = “display, show”; *polite* = “nice, well mannered”; *firm* = “not wobbly or shaking”

1. Sam got the last carrots, and he had finished feeding them before Laura could ask him to share.
2. There is a chance, because she was told the zoo was closing (“The zoo is now closing.”) when she tried to buy a giraffe treat.
3. One’s age is more important than how one looks; the older lady should go first because age comes before looks.
4. No, she won’t. Sam will be two years older, too. He will always be older.
5. Laura gives a speech about taking turns. Sam has to do more work now because he is older.
6. Grown-ups smile. His grandfather lets him pick which exhibit to see first, or he gets to feed the giraffes first; he is given more work because he is older.
7. The illustration shows that the brother is unhappy (frowning) and the sister is happy (smiling) at the news that he will be doing more work around the house.

### **“Sportsmanship” (pages 72–75)**

**Summary:** Landy was in an important race. His spikes hit a runner who had fallen. He stopped running to make sure the runner was okay. He still won the race.

**Vocabulary:** *capable* = “able to do something”; *record* = “the best or highest score”; *clipped* = “to hit with a slight blow”; *spikes* = “sharp pieces of metal”

1. He had accidentally spiked another runner, and he wanted to make sure that person was okay.
2. “The spikes helped stop the runners from slipping.”
3. a. It means “less than four minutes.” The story is about both Bannister and Landy running miles in times less than four minutes; b. A subway would go below the ground, because *sub* means “below.”
4. Landy held it longer. Bannister’s record lasted 46 days, while Landy’s lasted over three years. (Challenge: He broke the record in June. We know that Bannister set the record on May 6, and Landy broke it 46 days later.)
5. Information is given about Roger Bannister and how he was the first to break the four-minute mile.

### **“On the Leash” (pages 76–79)**

**Summary:** The narrator tells you why pets should be on leashes and what happens when his pet is not on the leash. At the end, you find out the narrator is a dog.

**Vocabulary:** b. “is not” (The story says the leash was taut and wasn’t sagging or drooping.); c. “is” (The story says the boy’s pace was too slow for the dog.); d. “is” (The story says the dog releases heat to cool down.)

1. “makes a lot of noise.”; he probably barks, because he is a dog.
2. safer, less likely to get hurt, less likely to get lost, less likely to get in fights
3. He was going really slow. The narrator had to pull on the leash to get him to go faster.
4. Students should draw a slide. The story describes the pet climbing up a high, steep ladder and then sliding down a steep metal hill.
5. You learn that the narrator is a dog. He tells you that like other dogs, he cools down by panting.

### **“Surviving the Fire” (pages 80–83)**

**Summary:** Scientists put trackers on echidnas to find out how they survived fires. The echidnas go into a state called torpor in which they barely use any energy.

**Vocabulary:** *researcher* = “one who studies something, a scientist”; *roaming* = “moving about”; *snouts* = “noses”; *torpor* = “state where everything is slowed down”

1. They put trackers on them.
2. It might not be able to find enough food.
3. *Possible answers:* blackened areas have become green; seeds have sprouted; plants have grown; insects have hatched out of eggs.
4. “Most mammals give birth to live young. Echidnas don’t. They lay eggs.”
5. Scientists wanted study what fires do to plants and animals, so they lit a fire. After the fire, they saw strange spiny animals sticking their noses in ashes.
6. nonfiction; a. It tells about scientists who studied how real animals called echidnas survived fires. It is full of facts; b. Most mammals don’t lay eggs, and if an animal doesn’t move for four days, it most likely isn’t alive.
7. It gets cold at night, and it’s hard to find food. It takes energy to keep warm. By going into torpor, you save energy. You can wait out the cold and the night.

### **“Cat for Dessert” (pages 84–87)**

**Summary:** Jane’s dad is angry at her favorite uncle’s cat. Jane’s uncle makes everyone think they are having the cat for dessert. He is only teasing.

1. He laughs and tells him, “Don’t ever change” when he sees the cat is a cake.
2. frosted with brown icing, gum drops for eyes, black licorice for whiskers
3. He said, “We’re having the cat for dessert. I told you I’d make good use of it.”
4. He had the beginning of an idea. He has the gleam in his eye when he says, “I’ll put the cat to good use.” That’s when he first thinks of the joke.
5. He baked two cakes in two round cake pans. One cake was the body. He cut a tail and two ears out of the second cake. The rest of the cake was the head.