

Table of Contents

1. Reflect and Respond
2. Reading for Appreciation

Reflect and Respond

This section encourages students to engage in thoughtful discussion and understanding of different sporting events and emotional responses. It begins with a comparison of the Olympics, Special Olympics, and Paralympics, highlighting their unique purposes and participants.

Understanding the Differences Between Olympics, Special Olympics, and Paralympics

- **Olympics:** International sporting event featuring able-bodied athletes competing in various sports.
- **Special Olympics:** Sports competition for athletes with intellectual disabilities, focusing on participation and personal achievement.
- **Paralympics:** Major international sports event for athletes with physical disabilities, held after the Olympics.

Empathy, Sympathy, and Compassion

Students match the words 'empathy', 'sympathy', and 'compassion' to different sentences that express understanding and care for someone who is upset or sad. The image provided illustrates three empathetic responses:

- **Sympathy:** Expressing sorrow for someone's situation and offering practical help, such as apologizing and offering food.
- **Compassion:** Acknowledging feelings and understanding the reasons behind them.
- **Empathy:** Recognizing how deeply someone feels and offering companionship to alleviate loneliness.

These responses demonstrate ways to communicate support and understanding effectively.

Associating Words with Empathy

Students are encouraged to list words they associate with 'empathy' and share their responses, fostering a deeper understanding of emotional connection and support.

Practice Set

- **Level 1 - Easy:** Define the terms Olympics, Special Olympics, and Paralympics in your own words.
- **Level 2 - Moderate:** Explain the difference between empathy, sympathy, and compassion with examples.
- **Level 3 - Challenging:** Describe a situation where you showed empathy to someone and how it helped them.

Answer Key

- **Level 1:** Olympics are international sports events for able-bodied athletes; Special Olympics are for athletes with intellectual disabilities; Paralympics are for athletes with physical disabilities.
- **Level 2:** Sympathy is feeling sorry and offering help; compassion is understanding feelings; empathy is sharing and understanding another's emotions deeply.
- **Level 3:** Answers will vary but should include a clear example of understanding and supporting someone emotionally.

Quick Reference

- **Olympics:** Able-bodied athletes, international competition.
- **Special Olympics:** Intellectual disabilities, participation focus.
- **Paralympics:** Physical disabilities, competitive sports.
- **Empathy:** Deep emotional understanding.
- **Sympathy:** Feeling sorry and offering help.
- **Compassion:** Understanding and caring for feelings.

Glossary

- **Empathy:** The ability to understand and share the feelings of another.
- **Sympathy:** Feelings of pity and sorrow for someone else's misfortune.
- **Compassion:** Concern for the sufferings or misfortunes of others.
- **Olympics:** International sports competition for able-bodied athletes.
- **Special Olympics:** Sports events for athletes with intellectual disabilities.
- **Paralympics:** Sports events for athletes with physical disabilities.

Reading for Appreciation

This section provides a detailed appreciation of the poem "Nine Gold Medals" by David Roth. It highlights the themes of sportsmanship, empathy, and unity among athletes, especially focusing on the Special Olympics.

Summary

The poem narrates the story of nine athletes competing in a race. One of the smallest runners stumbles and falls, but instead of continuing the race, the other eight runners stop, help him up, and all finish the race together holding hands. This act of kindness and unity is celebrated as the true victory, symbolized by nine gold medals and a standing ovation.

Themes

- **Sportsmanship:** The importance of helping others and valuing participation over winning.
- **Empathy and Compassion:** Understanding and supporting fellow competitors.
- **Unity and Teamwork:** Celebrating collective success and solidarity.
- **Perseverance:** The determination to finish despite setbacks.

Literary Devices

- **Imagery:** Vivid descriptions of the race and the athletes' emotions help readers visualize the scene.
- **Alliteration:** Repetition of consonant sounds, e.g., "gold, silver, and bronze" enhances the poem's rhythm.
- **Symbolism:** The nine gold medals symbolize collective achievement and the spirit of the Special Olympics.
- **Rhyme Scheme:** The poem follows a consistent rhyme pattern that adds musicality.

Important Quotes and Explanation

- "The smallest among them, he stumbled and staggered / And fell to the asphalt instead." – This line shows the moment of difficulty faced by the smallest runner.
- "One by one they all turned round and went back to help him / And brought the young boy to his feet." – Highlights the compassion and sportsmanship of the other runners.
- "Then all the nine runners joined hands and continued / The hundred-yard dash now reduced to a walk." – Symbolizes unity and the true spirit of competition.
- "A standing ovation and nine beaming faces / Said more than these words ever will." – Emphasizes the emotional impact and the value of empathy over winning.

Textual Evidence

The poem's narrative and imagery are supported by the accompanying images showing the stages of the race, the accident, and the celebration, reinforcing the message of unity and empathy.

Practice Set

- **Level 1 - Easy:** Summarize the poem "Nine Gold Medals" in your own words.
- **Level 2 - Moderate:** Explain the theme of sportsmanship as depicted in the poem.
- **Level 3 - Challenging:** Analyze how the poem uses literary devices to convey its message.

Answer Key

- **Level 1:** The poem tells about nine runners in a race where one falls, and the others help him finish together, showing kindness and unity.
- **Level 2:** Sportsmanship is shown by the runners stopping to help their fallen competitor, valuing friendship and support over winning.
- **Level 3:** The poem uses imagery, symbolism, and rhyme to highlight themes of empathy and unity, making the message memorable and impactful.

Quick Reference

- **Theme:** Sportsmanship, empathy, unity.
- **Devices:** Imagery, alliteration, symbolism, rhyme.
- **Message:** True victory lies in kindness and togetherness.

Glossary

- **Sportsmanship:** Fair and generous behavior in sports.
- **Empathy:** Understanding and sharing the feelings of others.
- **Unity:** The state of being united or joined as a whole.
- **Symbolism:** Using symbols to represent ideas or qualities.
- **Imagery:** Descriptive language that appeals to the senses.