

## Sprint - a poem by Roger Stevens

### **Retrieval Questions**      **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February**

1. True or false: It had been raining earlier.
2. Which of these does the runner NOT feel?
  - a. hot
  - b. nervous
  - c. focused
  - d. out of breath



3. What does the runner hear as he is waiting to start?
4. What is a sprint? Tick one.
  - A beating heart
  - A short, fast race
  - A busy stadium
  - A starter's gun
5. Which of the following best describes the crowd just before the race starts? Tick one.
  - They are breathing deeply and relaxing.
  - They are quietly watching and waiting.
  - They are cheering madly with excitement.
  - They are hoping there is no false start.

6. 'And then the training - days, months, years - kicks in'. Why has the poet included the phrase 'days, months, years' here?

### Inference and summary questions

### Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February

1. 'Expect no favours from the sun'. What does this sentence suggest about the sun?
2. Look at the last line of the poem. 'You are the bullet in the starter's gun'. What does this suggest to you about the runner?
3. Think about the whole text. What is it mainly about?
  - a) The years of training before a race
  - b) The runner's feelings during a race
  - c) The moments leading up to a race
  - d) The reactions of the crowd at a race
4. Number each sentence to show what order things happen in the poem. The first one has been done for you.

\_\_\_ The runner gets into the starting blocks.

1 The runner looks all around at the track and stadium.

\_\_\_ The runner hears the starter's gun and sets off.

\_\_\_ The runner takes deep breaths and tries to relax.

5. The poet uses lots of very short sentences. What effect does this create? Explain your answer as fully as you can, using the poem to help you.