

THE BIG RACE

Note: The transactional processes suggested in CISCE curriculum are highlighted in grey.

Learning Outcomes

- To get familiar with a first-person narrative
- To infer that practice helps one succeed
- To relate to the excitement that competitions bring in
- To recognise the spirit of sportsmanship among the children



Pre-reading

This focusses on *assessment for learning*. Students are introduced to the excitement, preparation and the support of spectators that are part of sporting events.

This leads them to the story that talks of a different kind of race, involving insects. Students learn that the excitement and preparation is just the same as any normal sports event would usher in.

A. Let students study the image and share with class what it is about.

Ask students: *What race are the participants taking part in? can participants slow down when they reach the finish line or should they keep up the speed until they cross it?*

B and C. Let students circle the target words and say why they think so.

Generate a discussion on how they feel when their friends are taking part in competitions, how they support them and so on.

READING

Students read to comprehend, predict, analyse and organise

Play the audio / Read the text and pause at relevant points to explain / check comprehension.

Tell students that the text is narrated by a child whose beetle was taking part in a race.

- *I was awakened...still asleep on her apple core.*

Look at the picture. The box where Maharani was kept had holes on its sides. Why do you think these were needed? (The holes in the box were needed so air could enter for Maharani to breathe)

This question leads students into understanding how insects should be kept and taken care of.

Talk to the class about

- how the narrator was woken up and the excitement experienced.



- what 'seasonal beetle race' meant. (The race took place regularly during this time of the year)
- the scene at the gardens.
- the three competitors.

Let students help you fill in the details and predict who the winner would be and their reasons. This will help students organise information and develop prediction skills.

Owner	Name of the beetle	Description	winner—reason?
Narrator	Maharani	Bamboo beetle	
Ranbir	Black Prince	Black Rhino beetle—big with a large forehead	
Anil	Moocha	Ordinary n size; long pair of whiskers	

- *The six-feet long...to her apple core.*

Ask students:

How long was the track? why were the strips of cardboard placed there? How were the beetles kept in place— a. at the starting point? b. while moving on the track? What were the rules that had to be followed? Now, who do you think would win the race? (Let students predict and state the reasons for their choice.)

Let students state their reasons for the following:

Why were the owners of the beetles not allowed to:	
a. touch the beetles during the race?	They would move forward upon being touched.
b. feed the beetles?	This would make them move forward for more food.
c. blow air at them?	This action would push them forward.

- *Everyone was cheering...grips with it.*

What is a gasp of surprise? (When we are surprised, we take a short breath in with an open mouth. This is called a gasp of surprise.)

Can you show how a surprised person gasps? (Free response)

Students learn how a surprise is expressed. They are introduced to an exclamatory action.



Ask students:

Who was moving at a terrific speed? What made Moocha stop? What made the narrator angry? Did the anger last long? Why? How did Anil and Ranbir react after Maharani's win? What does this teach us? (We should accept losses graciously and not get upset by some else's win.) What did Grandfather have to say after the race and the prize had been won?

Explain what sportsmanship is all about.

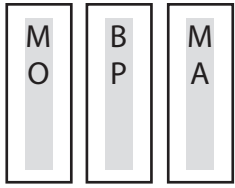
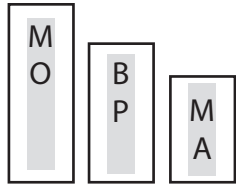
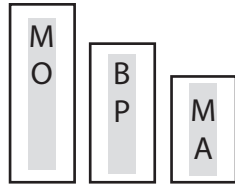
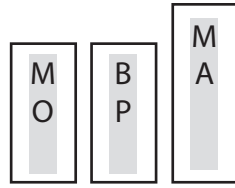
(Sportsmanship is behaviour that shows respect for the rules of a game and for the other players.)

Post-reading

Pair-work

Put up the given table on the board. Let students copy the table with the headings, in their note books. (Do not provide the details. They are for the teacher's reference.)

Let students record the positions of the three beetles at each given stage. Help them with the first stage. This will help students record the momentum and the position of the competitors at each given point in the story and nudge them into outlining the plot.

Stage 1 The beginning	Stage 2 Moocha was moving at terrific rate	Stage 3 Moocha had trouble with his whiskers	Stage 4 Black Prince drew level with Moocha
			

GRAMMAR

The present and past continuous tense

The present continuous tense

Write the following sentence on the board: *Please be quiet. The students are writing a test.*

Ask students:

Are the students writing a test now? (Yes) Have they finished writing the test now? (No)

Tell students:

- The sentence '*The students are writing a test.*' is in the **present continuous tense**.
- We use the **present continuous tense** to talk about something that is happening at the moment of speaking.

Basic structure: Subject + is/are +verb(ing)

Subject	is/are	verb+ing
<i>Monu</i>	<i>is</i>	<i>working</i>
<i>They</i>	<i>are</i>	<i>sleeping</i>

Brainstorm with the class for some sentences in the present continuous tense and write them on the board.

The past continuous tense

Write the following sentence on the board.

Dad was cooking when Sindhu telephoned.

Ask students:

Is Dad cooking now? (No)

Was Dad cooking when the phone rang? (Yes)

Is Dad/Sindhu talking over the phone now? (No)

Did a shorter action (Sindhu's phone call) happen in the middle of a longer action (Dad's cooking)? (Yes)

Are both the actions complete? (Yes)

Tell students:

We use the past continuous tense

- to talk about an action that was going on for a period of time in the past. (They **were playing** in the rain yesterday.)
- With the simple past to show that an action was already going on when another action happened.

(Manu **was watching** a film when he **heard** a loud sound.)

Basic structure: Subject + was/were +verb(ing)

Subject	was/were	verb+ing
Monu	was	working
They	were	sleeping

Practice

Divide the class into two groups.

Select a mystery case you can work around. For example: The mystery of the stolen diamond / car.

- They must investigate this case by asking questions. One group (*detectives* with only 6 students) should ask questions and the other group (*suspects*) should answer the questions.
- The suspects each have to create a story of where they were and what they were doing at the time of the theft.

Prompt them to use the *past continuous tense* by only asking questions about the time of the theft.

For example: *What were you doing at ten o'clock last night?*

Some words for word-cards:

paint, trees, breakfast, sleep, book, find, wallet, bus, bucket

VOCABULARY

Homonyms

Explain the concept with the simple homonym 'bark'.

Ask students to make sentences with the word 'bark' using the two meanings.

Example: *Those dogs bark all the time. / The bark of this tree is very rough.*

Put up some homonyms on the board and brainstorm for their meanings.

Example: *bat, match, light*

LISTENING**Post-listening**

The listening exercise helps students stay focussed and develops concentration skills.

Tell students that they are going to listen to a conversation between two people.

Instruct them to listen carefully and underline the correct answers.

Let them go through the given answers before listening to the audio.

Now, play the audio track. Give students sufficient time to complete the task.

You may play the audio track one more time, depending upon the capability of your class.

Review the answers.

WRITING**Imaginative paragraph**

Recap paragraph-writing with class.

Tell students to describe the experience including the following points

- sports events held in your school.
- the scene around you—What did you see, hear and feel?
- the participants and how you practised for your event.
- the winners

**SPELLING****Suffix**

This focusses on *assessment as learning*. Students learn the right suffixes for the given words by guiding each other.

Explain what suffixes are.

A suffix is a letter or a group of letters added to the end of a word. Often, a suffix changes the word from one part of speech to another.

Example: *happy* (adjective) *happiness* (noun)

As the suffixes for words can be learnt only through practice, let students refer to their dictionaries and write the answers.

STUDENTS' BOOK ANSWER KEY**The Big Race****Pre-reading**

A. *Free response.*

B. Circle the words which show how the people on the track feel?

nervous

excited

determined

proud

C. Underline the words which show how the people watching feel?

nervous

excited

proud

Comprehension

- A.**
1. At the park, attention was focused on three beetles. They were Black Prince, Moocha and Maharani.
 2. The rules of the race were: they could not touch, feed, or blow air at the beetles from behind, or encourage them forward with bits of food.
 3. When the race started, the speaker was in a furious temper because Maharani was still looking confused and hadn't moved forward at all.
 4. Nobody was paying any attention to Maharani. They were looking at Black Prince catching up inch by inch to Moocha.
 5. The first prize was a shining black stag beetle.
 6. Grandfather examined the prize and said they must not neglect Maharani.
- B.**
1.
 - a. The speaker is the narrator. The sound of a hornbill honking on his veranda had woken him up that day.
 - b. The pet beetle of the narrator and his friends' beetles would be running in the race.
 - c. The big race would be held at the park.
 2.
 - a. The speaker is referring to Maharani, a bamboo beetle. Maharani was kept in a cardboard box punctured with little holes, placed inside the speaker's dresser drawer.
 - b. The speaker did not disturb her rest that morning because he and Grandfather had given her a week of training for the seasonal beetle-race.
 - c. Maharani would run in the race held in the park, later that morning.
 3.
 - a. Ranbir had a black rhino beetle which had a large forehead. Anil had a beetle of ordinary size which had a pair of long whiskers.
 - b. Ranbir's beetle was called Black Prince and Anil's beetle was called Moocha.
 - c. The boys and girls had gathered in a corner of the park where the race would take place.
 4.
 - a. As Moocha went ahead, Black Prince moved forward but did not take much interest in the race. Maharani had not moved at all and was still looking confused.
 - b. Moocha stopped two feet from the finish line because he was having trouble with his whiskers and kept twitching them this way and that.
 - c. Just when Black Prince caught up to Moocha, Maharani rushed forward in hope of getting better food. Black Prince did not seem to know where the finish line was and Maharani drew level with him and Moocha.
- C.**
1. *(Suggested answer, please accept any logical answer):*
No one was allowed to touch or feed the beetles during the race because it would help the beetles move faster and the beetles had to win the race without any help.
 2. *(Suggested answer, please accept any logical answer):*
Grandfather thought it was important to keep Maharani in mind because she had helped the narrator win the race and get the prize black stag beetle. So, it would be wrong to forget Maharani.

Grammar

A. 2. is landing 3. is staying 4. am looking 5. am not carrying
6. is sleeping, is playing

B. 2. were making 3. was crying, heard 4. were enjoying, rang
5. was climbing, called 6. were playing, was talking

Vocabulary

2. view 3. clear 4. sign 5. book 6. tie

Listening

1. c 2. a 3. a 4. b

Speaking

Free Response

Writing

Free Response

Spelling

2. decision 3. revision 4. connection 5. explanation 6. expression

ANSWER KEY TO WORKSHEET 10

A. 1. were walking 2. were you doing 3. was cleaning
4. was climbing 5. was riding 6. was decorating

B. 1. are eating 2. am watching 3. are shining
4. is singing 5. am calling 6. Are, sitting

C. *Free Response*

D. *Sample answers:*

1. toy, light 2. fall, brave 3. fright, tight
4. fountain, bees 5. true, book 6. child, sleeps

QUESTION BANK

The Big Race

A. Answer in brief.

1. How was the track prepared for the beetle-race?

Ans. The six-feet long course was fenced with strips of cardboard. Another piece of cardboard was kept at the starting point to hold the contestants. This would be placed behind as soon as the race began.

2. What happened when the whistle was blown for the race to start?

Ans. When the whistle was blown, Moocha moved past the other two at a terrific rate. Black Prince moved slowly and Maharani looked confused and did not move at all.

B. Answer in detail.

1. Describe the three beetles that took part in the race.

Ans. The narrator's beetle was Maharani, which was a bamboo beetle. The next competitor was a black rhino beetle called Black Prince. It was a big beetle with a large forehead. The third beetle was quite ordinary in size. It had a long pair of whiskers and was called Moocha.

C. Choose the right answer.

Maharani's box had holes so that

- she could look outside.
- she could breathe.
- the narrator could watch her.

Ans. b

D. Read the lines and answer the questions.

Grandfather examined the prize and said, "He's a magnificent fellow."

- Who was the magnificent fellow?
- How did he get to be there?
- Who would be his new friend?

Ans. a. The magnificent fellow was a black stag beetle.

b. He was the prize that Maharani, the narrator's beetle, had won in the race.

c. His new friend would be Maharani, the bamboo beetle.