

Name _____ Date _____

Weekly Test Lesson 18

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

Aidan's Race

“Swimmers, take your mark.”

Aidan took a final stretch, bouncing down to touch his fingers to his toes twice before climbing onto his starting block in lane two and getting into position. The starting horn sounded, and Aidan dove into the crisp water to start the 50-meter freestyle race.

As Aidan swam, he could feel the other swimmers around him, and his heart pounded when the swimmer in lane one passed him. Each time he took a breath, he tried to see the other swimmers' locations. As he saw another one pass, he thought, “That's it. I've come in fifth again.”

Aidan touched the wall and turned to look at the results board. Seeing his name in fifth place, Aidan hung his head in defeat. Only the fastest four swimmers would advance to the next round.

After the meet, Aidan's mom congratulated him on the race. “Mom,” he said sadly, “I came in fifth again, so I'm going to tell Coach Thomas tomorrow that I'm quitting the team.”

The following day, Aidan walked up to the coach, and with eyes downcast, he announced, “I've decided to quit the team, Coach.”

Coach Thomas shocked Aidan when he declared, “I don't think you should.” Aidan was confused. Why would he want Aidan on the team when he hadn't won a single race?

The coach continued, “Aidan, you are a determined swimmer who has improved tremendously. You defeat yourself at the meets by giving up before the end of a race. You just need to acquire some confidence. Keep swimming and stay focused. Remember, nothing ventured, nothing gained.”

Aidan decided to stay on the team. At practice, he stayed focused and his times improved. He was feeling more confident at the beginning of the next meet, but would it be enough for him to win a race?

Name _____ Date _____

Reading

Just before his meet, Coach Thomas gave Aidan a pep talk. “Remember, stay focused on your swimming, don’t pay attention to the other swimmers, and you can do this.”

The starter called, “Swimmers, take your mark.” As always, Aidan took a final stretch, bouncing down to touch his fingers to his toes twice before climbing onto his starting block, this time in lane six. As he got into position, Aidan visualized himself in the water, swimming strongly and steadily. He took a deep breath. The starting horn sounded, and Aidan dove forcefully into the pool.

Aidan felt confident as he took his first few strokes, but as he turned his head to take a breath, he saw the swimmer in the next lane. Suddenly, his heart beat faster and he lost concentration. “Not again,” he thought. Aidan forced himself to remember Coach Thomas’s words: “You can do this.” The other swimmer disappeared from Aidan’s mind as he thought about the story of Odysseus, the ancient hero who avoided monsters at sea to make it safely home. Soon, Aidan had forgotten the other swimmers and was focused only on finishing the race.

Aidan remained focused all the way to the wall where he stretched out his arm, touching the underwater sensor. Immediately, he turned to look at the results and saw his name, A. Pérez, in third place. He’d made it to the next round! He beamed with pride.

Coach Thomas quickly caught up with Aidan. “I made it to the next round, Coach! But how will I keep up with these swimmers? They’re even better, and they . . .”

“Aidan,” Coach Thomas interrupted. “Forget about the other swimmers and swim for yourself. I believe in you.”

As he waited for the next race to begin, Aidan thought about Coach Thomas’s words and knew he could do this. He would swim for himself and do well. This time he knew it was true.

Name _____ Date _____

Reading

- 1 How does the setting of the swim lanes in the pool contribute to Aidan's problem?
- (A) He can see his coach watching him during the race.
 - (B) He can see the other swimmers passing him.
 - (C) He can concentrate on improving.
 - (D) He can keep to himself.

- 2 Read the paragraphs from the passage. Underline the sentence that identifies Aidan's problem during his swim races.

Coach Thomas shocked Aidan when he declared, "I don't think you should." Aidan was confused. Why would he want Aidan on the team when he hadn't won a single race?

The coach continued, "Aidan, you are a determined swimmer who has improved tremendously. You defeat yourself at the meets by giving up before the end of a race. You just need to acquire some confidence. Keep swimming and stay focused. Remember, nothing ventured, nothing gained."

- 3 Read the sentence from the passage.

"Remember, nothing ventured, nothing gained."

What is the meaning of these words?

- (A) You never know what might happen.
- (B) You can't win unless you train harder.
- (C) You won't accomplish anything unless you try.
- (D) You will always lose unless you have confidence.

Name _____ Date _____

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- 4 This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A

How does Coach Thomas help Aidan become a better swimmer?

- (A) He lets Aidan quit the team when it's clear he's not doing well.
- (B) He helps him learn to stay focused on his own swimming.
- (C) He gives him tips on how to improve his movements.
- (D) He cheers for Aidan as he swims in the race.

Part B

Read the paragraphs from the passage. Underline the **two** sentences that **best** support the answer to part A.

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"Aidan," Coach Thomas interrupted. "Forget about the other swimmers and swim for yourself. I believe in you."

- 5 How does the story of Odysseus help the reader understand Aidan's attitude during the race?
- (A) It shows that Aidan is using Odysseus's drive to focus his efforts.
 - (B) It shows that Aidan is too concerned with the other swimmers.
 - (C) It shows that Aidan is comparing Odysseus to his coach.
 - (D) It shows that Aidan is bored and needs a distraction.

Name _____ Date _____

Reading

- 6 What is the theme of the passage? Use details from the passage to support your answer.

Name _____ Date _____

Writing

- 7 Which sentence contains an error in grammar usage?
- (A) The prince sat to the table next to the princess.
 - (B) A moat had been dug all the way around the castle.
 - (C) The king of the land kept all his gold in his chambers.
 - (D) The princesses waited for dinner to ask their question.
- 8 Which sentence contains an error in grammar usage?
- (A) Icarus used his wings to fly high above the land.
 - (B) Hercules lived with his father from the rest of time.
 - (C) “You must sail out to sea,” the king of Argos replied.
 - (D) “Will all my wishes come true during my lifetime?” King Midas asked.
- 9 Keisha is writing a story about a knight in shining armor. She wants to revise the draft to eliminate any spelling errors. Read Keisha’s draft. Underline the **two** words that need to be revised.

The knight bravely chased the villain through the castle. Suddenly, the dangerous man ducked into a hallway and dissappeared. The knight retraced his steps around the castle, but he was unable to find the man anywhere. Unnhappy with his defeat, the knight stomped back to his room to decide what to do next.

Name _____ Date _____

Writing

- 10 Alanna wrote a story about a dragon. Her teacher asked her to revise the story to be more descriptive. Read the story. Then complete the task that follows.

Long ago, there was a big dragon that lived near a small village. The big dragon lived in its cave and cried. It wanted to become friends with the people who lived in the small village. However, the people living there were too afraid of the big dragon. It felt so lonely. It cried some more. It did not know what to do.

Rewrite the paragraph to use more precise words and vivid details.
