

**Read this story to find out about Dave and what he wanted to do.**

Dave wanted very much to succeed in athletics, but he was always afraid he would not quite make it. Last winter, in basketball, he had not. He spent more time on the bench than on the floor, much more. So, with spring, he had turned to track. Coach Stevens said he greatly needed a good quarter-miler, and Dave hoped to be that person.

The coach stressed that because Dave's legs were shorter than average he should work on lengthening his stride. To do that, the coach added, would require much practice and an equal amount of desire.

At first, Dave's father ruled out the road beside the railroad tracks for practice, but then he talked with Mr. Johnson. The old man assured the father that it would not be dangerous as long as Dave stayed well away from the tracks and used only the quiet road. Mr. Johnson also promised to "keep an eye" on the boy.

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Source: From "Run for the Blue Ribbon," by Rafe Gibbs.

**COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS**

- \_\_\_ main idea            1. Using your own words, tell me one sentence that describes what Dave had decided to try to do. (He had decided to try to be a quarter-miler in track.)
- \_\_\_ detail                2. How did Dave feel about athletics and his ability in athletics? (He wanted very much to succeed but was afraid he would not quite make it.)
- \_\_\_ sequence            3. Name, in order, the two sports Dave tried. (basketball and track)
- \_\_\_ inference            4. Was Dave good at basketball? (no) What does the story say that makes you believe that? (He spent more time on the bench than on the floor.)
- \_\_\_ cause and effect/  
   \_\_\_ detail              5. Why did Dave need to work on lengthening his stride? (because his legs were shorter than average)
- \_\_\_ vocabulary         6. What does the phrase "lengthening his stride" mean? (taking longer steps)
- \_\_\_ inference            7. Did the coach believe it would be easy for Dave to lengthen his stride? (no) What did the story say that caused you to believe that? (The coach told him it would take much practice and desire.)
- \_\_\_ detail                8. How did Dave's father feel, at first, about him using the road beside the railroad tracks for practice? (He ruled it out.)
- \_\_\_ cause and effect/  
   \_\_\_ inference         9. What caused Dave's father to change his mind? (talking with Mr. Johnson; Mr. Johnson telling him it would not be dangerous as long as Dave stayed well away from the tracks)
- \_\_\_ detail                10. What did Mr. Johnson promise Dave's father at the end of the story? (to "keep an eye" on Dave)

**SCORING AID**

**Word Recognition**

- %-Miscues
- 99-2
- 95-8
- 90-16
- 85-24

**Comprehension**

- %-Errors
- 100-0
- 90-1
- 80-2
- 70-3
- 60-4
- 50-5
- 40-6
- 30-7
- 20-8
- 10-9
- 0-10

**157 Words**  
(for Word Recognition)

**157 Words**  
(for Rate)

**WPM**  
**9420**

**Link is a city boy who has come to the wilderness with his Aunt Harriet. He has been asked to do some photography for his uncle while he is there. Read the story to find out what Link does and how he feels about his situation.**

He went to his room, got out his Uncle Albert's camera, and picked a 105 mm lens. There were only four exposures left on the roll of film, so he went outside and used them up taking pictures of the cabin. Then he reloaded the camera, tucked his aunt's bird guide in his pocket, and started off through the woods. There might be a sandhill crane at the old beaver pond. "Wet areas," Harriet had said. He might be lucky and get his pictures right away. If he did, he wouldn't say anything but wait until he got the developed slides back. He could put up with another week or so buried in the woods. Then Harriet wouldn't feel she had completely wasted her money having the cabin repaired.

He spent the next hour crouched beside the pond, trying to sit quietly, but it was almost impossible. Tiny insects buzzed around his face, crawled down his collar, and generally made him miserable. At first he tried to swat them but decided this was a waste of time. Finally he crawled underneath a low shrub and, with the leaves almost brushing his face, managed to find a little peace.

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Source: From *In Search of a Sandhill Crane*, by Keith Robertson.

### COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| ___ main idea                      | 1. What is the main idea of this story?<br>(Link tries to get a picture of a sandhill crane; Link tries to take pictures in the woods.)   |
| ___ detail                         | 2. Whose camera was Link using? (his Uncle Albert's; his uncle's)   |
| ___ sequence                       | 3. What was the next thing Link did after he picked a lens?<br>(went outside and took pictures of the cabin)  |
| ___ cause and effect/<br>inference | 4. Why did Link use up the four pictures on the cabin?<br>(He wanted to take the camera to the woods with a full load of film.)   |
| ___ detail                         | 5. What did Link put in his pocket before he started for the woods?<br>(his aunt's bird guide)  |
| ___ inference                      | 6. Why would Link want to take a bird book with him? (so he could recognize a sandhill crane; so he could recognize different kinds of birds)   |
| ___ inference                      | 7. Did Link like the woods? (no)<br>What did the story say that made you believe that?<br>(He thought he could put up with another week or so "buried in the woods." The insects made him miserable.)                           |
| ___ inference                      | 8. Was Link considerate of his Aunt Harriet? (yes)<br>What did the story say that made you believe that?<br>(He was going to put up with the woods for another week or so, so that she wouldn't feel she had wasted her money.) |
| ___ vocabulary                     | 9. What does the word "crouched" mean? (stooped down; bent down low)  |
| ___ inference                      | 10. Did swatting the insects keep them away? (no)<br>What did the story say that made you believe that?<br>(He decided that swatting them was a waste of time.)   |

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90-20  
85-30

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30-7  
20-8  
10-9  
0-10

**198 Words**  
(for Word Recognition)

**198 Words**  
(for Rate)

WPM

11880