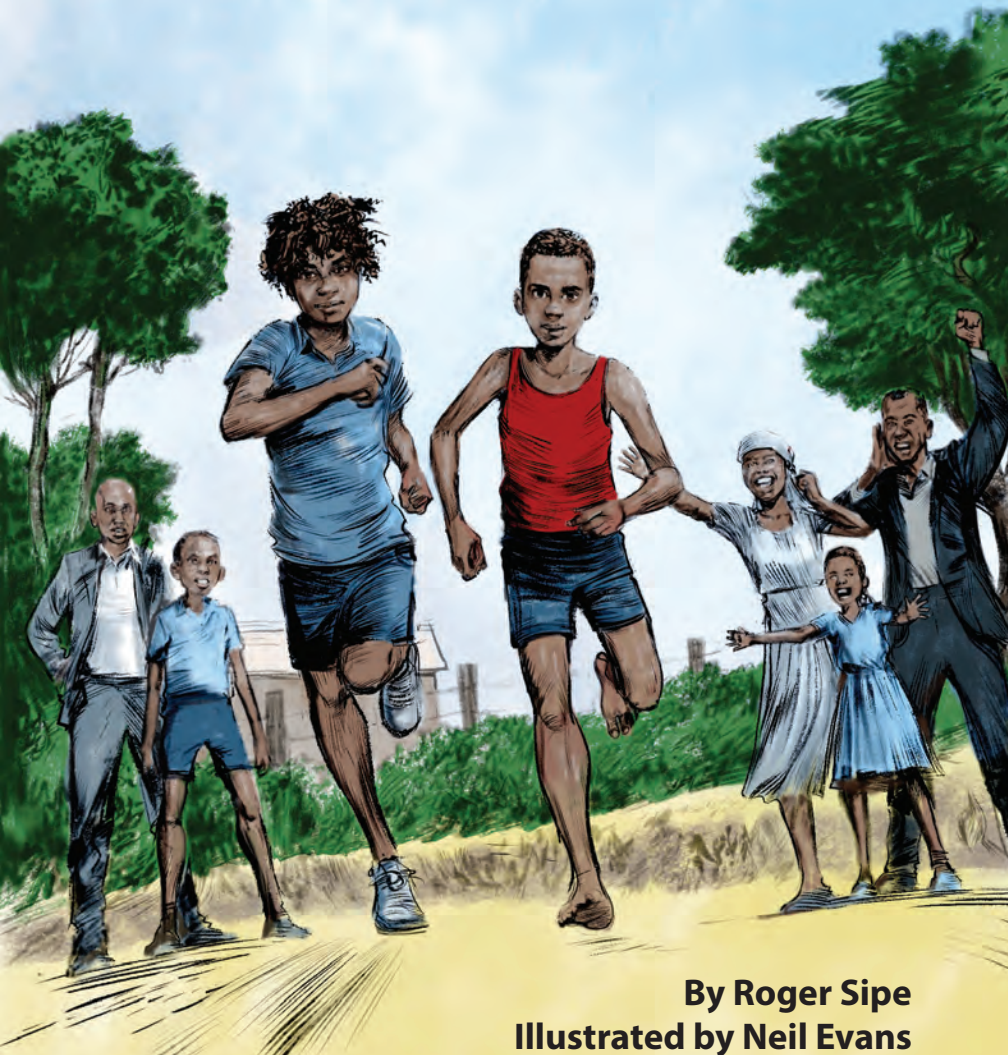
So You Think You Can Run?



By Roger Sipe
Illustrated by Neil Evans

TCM Teacher Created Materials

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Chapter One



Runners

In Kenya, sports are popular. Most Kenyans enjoy tennis and cricket. But one of the most popular sports is running. Running *very* long distances, that is.

The British Empire once ruled Kenya. But Kenya became its own country in 1963. Kenyans ran for their own nation at the 1966 British Empire and Commonwealth Games. The event was held in Jamaica. No one thought a Kenyan would win. Most people thought Ron Clarke would win. Clarke was an Australian.

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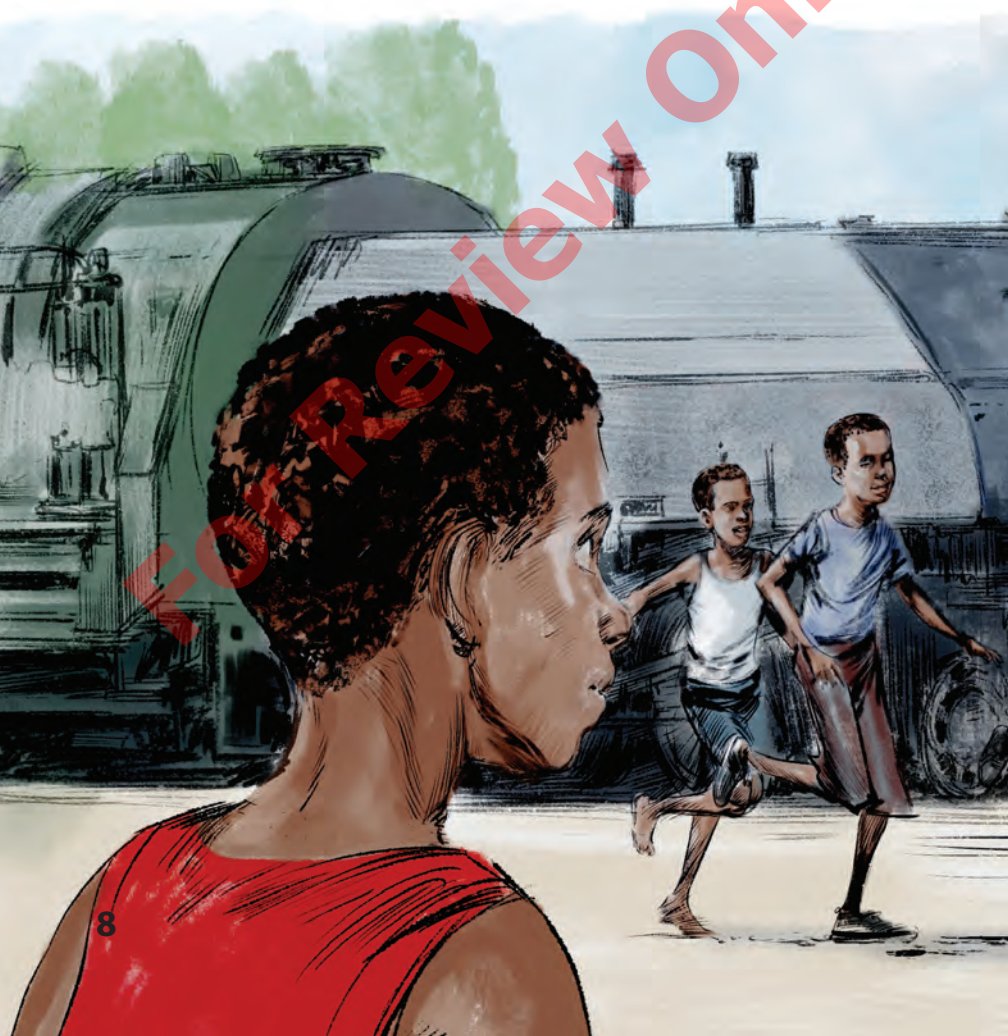
All anyone could talk about for weeks leading up to the big race was how easy it was going to be for Clarke to win. People had never seen anyone faster than him.

Some Kenyans went to their local railroad station to watch the race. The station had a small television. A young boy named Daniel watched closely. He was ten years old. He wanted to be a runner, too. His dream was to run in America. He wanted to win the Boston Marathon. Sometimes, he even thought he might be able to run in the Olympics.

Naftali Temu was from Kenya, and Daniel was rooting for him to win. Clarke started out fast, but so did Temu. Temu stayed with him for a while and then pulled ahead. He won the race easily. He beat Clarke! Everyone was surprised—everyone but Daniel.

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Temu was Daniel's favorite runner. Daniel had watched him train for as long as he could remember. Temu ran beside the rail tracks and always waved to Daniel. As he got closer, he would wink at Daniel and then pick up speed.



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It was like watching a cheetah. One minute he was there, and the next he was off in the distance. But Temu didn't become fast without effort. He ran every single day. Daniel knew that Temu was fast because he trained rain or shine.



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So You Think You Can Run?

A boy named Daniel dreams of becoming a great long-distance runner. But first, he must learn that running is not just about crossing the finish line first.

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Reading Levels
Guided Reading: O
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