

Sprinting Joyce

by Mia Lewis

Joyce had a big brother. His name was Roy. He drove her to school each day. When they arrived, he always said the same thing.

“See you later, slowpoke!”

This was starting to bug Joyce. She had joined the track team. Her coach didn’t think she was a slowpoke!

READ & RESPOND

Figurative Language

Look at the word “slowpoke.” Is this an example of a simile or an idiom? How do you know?



Joyce told her friend Leslie what was going on.

“Roy is the sports editor of the school paper,” said Leslie. “I’ll write some articles about the team. I’ll give you a nickname. I’ll say you are a great athlete. Roy won’t know it’s you. Once he finds out, he’ll know you aren’t a slowpoke.”

Joyce smiled. “This sounds like fun!”

Copyright © by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company.

READ & RESPOND

Literary Elements

How does Leslie help Joyce solve her problem?

Leslie told her plan to the track team.

“From now on,” she said, “Joyce will be SJ. It stands for Sprinting Joyce. Don’t tell Roy!”

“Your secret is safe!” said Meg and Rita.

“You just have to run fast, Joyce!” said Leslie. “Then our plan will succeed.”

“I’ll try!” said Joyce.



Copyright © by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company.

READ & RESPOND

Figurative Language

What is the phrase “your secret is safe” an example of? What sound is repeated?

SJ Makes Team

by Leslie Chin

What's the buzz around school? It's about our girls' track team. They are fast, and they keep winning. They may even earn a spot at the state track meet!

The rising star is SJ. This sprinter is no slowpoke! She can contribute more speed to the team. SJ will help them win.

READ & RESPOND

Figurative Language

Write two examples of figurative language you find on this page.

“Now I have to win!” said Joyce.

“Don’t worry,” said Leslie. “Just don’t tell Roy how fast you run. He’ll be so surprised!”

Just then, Roy walked by their table.
“Who is this SJ?” he asked.

“You must be kidding!” Meg said.
“Everybody knows SJ!”



Copyright © by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company.

READ & RESPOND

Figurative Language

**Do you think Meg is serious when she says that “everybody” knows SJ?
What type of figurative language could this be an example of?**

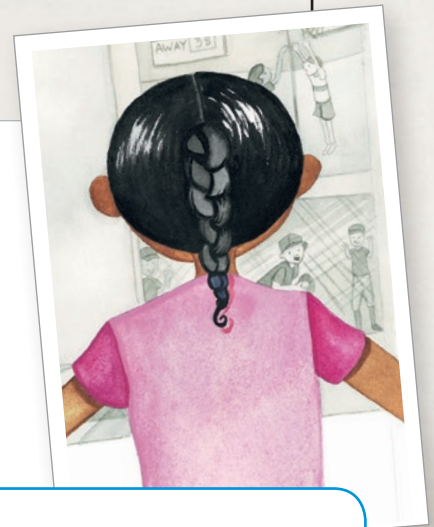
Track Coach Predicts Victory

by Leslie Chin

Get set for a big win! Our girls' track team is filled with excitement. SJ is heating up the track. We're all rooting for her!

The coach is happy, too. "I think SJ will take us to the top," she said.

"I wish I could tell Roy," said Joyce.
"He thinks I'm warming the bench."
"Just run," said Leslie.



READ & RESPOND

Figurative Language

What does Leslie mean when she writes that SJ is "heating up the track"? What type of figurative language is she using?

It was time for their next race. Joyce led the team to a big win.

“Did you know that SJ is short for Sprinting Joyce?” Leslie asked Roy.

Roy smiled. “I won’t call you slowpoke anymore,” he said. “I promise!”

Joyce was happy. Leslie wrote about the race. She chose a headline for the story: “Winning Team Gets Cheers from Roy!”



Copyright © by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company.

READ & RESPOND

Literary Elements

How does the story end?

Reread and Respond



1 How does Roy bother Joyce?

Hint

For a clue, see page 162.

2 Write two words to describe Leslie.

Hint

Think about Leslie's plan and her stories.

3 Write three words to describe Roy.

Hint

Think about how Roy acts at the beginning and at the end.

4 Write a title of your own for Leslie's final story.

Hint

Think about what happens in the story.