



Name: _____

The Teacher Race

At Reeds Spring Elementary School, it was time for the annual teacher race. Some teachers had been practicing for weeks, while others were a little nervous. One of the teachers, Mr. Neaville, wasn't sure if he should even run. He didn't think he was fast enough to win.

"I'm not as fast as Mrs. Seaman," Mr. Neaville thought. "Maybe I should just not try very hard. What's the point if I'm not going to win?"

The day of the race arrived, and all the teachers lined up at the starting line. Mr. Neaville looked around and saw the teachers getting ready. Mrs. Seaman was bouncing on her toes, ready to go, while Mrs. Sutton was smiling and giving a thumbs-up to everyone.

"Remember," said Coach Sherer, the gym teacher, "it's not about winning. It's about doing your best. No matter what, always try your hardest, and you'll feel proud of yourself."

Mr. Neaville thought about what Coach Sherer said. Maybe it didn't matter if he wasn't the fastest. He could still try his best, and that was what really counted.

The whistle blew, and the teachers took off! Mrs. Seaman zoomed ahead quickly, and Mrs. Sutton ran with a big smile on her face. Mr. Neaville started running at a good pace. At first, he wanted to slow down and give up, but he reminded himself of Coach Sherer's words. "Just do your best," he whispered to himself.

As the race continued, Mr. Neaville noticed that some teachers were starting to slow down. But Mr. Neaville kept going, focusing on his own race. He wasn't worried about where he was compared to anyone else—he just wanted to finish strong. He pushed himself, step by step, giving everything he had.

Finally, Mr. Neaville saw the finish line up ahead. His legs were tired, but he didn't stop. He gave one last burst of energy and crossed the line with a big smile on his face.

Mrs. Seaman had come in first, and Mrs. Sutton was right behind her. But something amazing happened: Mr. Neaville felt proud, not because he won, but because he had tried his best and finished the race strong.

Coach Sherer came over and patted him on the back. "Great job, Mr. Neaville! You worked hard and gave it your all. That's what matters."

Mr. Neaville realized that trying his best made him feel just as good as winning. From that day on, he knew that no matter what he was doing, would always try his best.



Name: _____

1. What is the theme of this story? _____

2. How did Mr. Neaville's feelings about the race change in the story?

First, Mr. Neaville felt _____

Then, Mr. Neaville felt _____
