

Winning Isn't Everything



Will loved games. He played them every day. He liked board games, video games, and sports games. He liked word games, mind games, and card games. What he liked best was winning them. To Will, winning was everything.

At school, Coach Turtle picked teams. Will was on the blue team. Today they would race around the track field.

Everyone lined up. Will took a deep breath.

Coach Turtle blew the whistle and Will took off. He pumped his legs and arms, and he ran as fast as he could go. Will's legs started to burn. His chest started to hurt. But he wouldn't slow down. He had to win.

Suddenly, Will couldn't move his left foot. He stumbled and fell, and his face hit the dirt. Many pairs of feet ran past him, but one pair stopped. A hand reached down.

"Come on, let's finish together," said a voice.

Will looked up. It was a boy from his class. He was on the red team, but he helped Will stand up anyway. Together they finished the race.

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"Why did you help me?" he asked the boy. "You could have passed me and helped win the race for the red team."

The boy shrugged. "Winning isn't everything," he said. "I would rather be a nice person than win one single race."

Will had never thought about that before. At first, he was embarrassed to lose. That didn't seem so important now. Winning wasn't everything. Being nice seemed a lot better.

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- 1) The story is about:
 - a) the competition between the red team and the blue team
 - b) how Will loses the race
 - c) all the games that Will loves to play
 - d) Will realizing that being a nice person is more important than winning

2) What was Will's favorite part about games?

3) What does the boy from the red team do when Will falls?

4) What is the purpose of the text?

- a) It's written to make people laugh.
- b) It's written to teach people an important life lesson.

5) Read the below sentence that Will says to the boy. Which word describes his feeling?

"You could have passed me and helped win the race for the red team."

- a) excited
- b) confused
- c) angry