

In Focus 1 - Speed Reading Unit 4

Nancy and Tonya

We all enjoy competition in sports, but sometimes it goes too far. In America, there were two women who loved to skate. Their names were Nancy Kerrigan and Tonya Harding. They both wanted to be the best skaters in the world. Nancy and Tonya were very different. Nancy was tall and skated like a dancer. She was happy and kind. She loved to skate with a big smile on her face. She was known for her beautiful skating and her fine moves. Tonya was shorter and stronger. She was full of energy and determined. She loved to skate with power and speed. She was known for her strong skating and moves that were full of energy.

Nancy and Tonya trained hard every day. They both wanted to win at the Olympics. Only the best skaters in the world go to the Olympics. In 1994, both Nancy and Tonya were selected for the Olympics. They were both very excited, but then, something bad happened. A man hit Nancy on the leg with a stick. Nancy couldn't skate for a while. The man was arrested, and it was discovered that he was paid by someone who wanted to help Tonya win.

People were very upset. They didn't think it was fair. Tonya said she didn't know anything about it, but many people didn't believe her. The man who hit Nancy was paid by Tonya's ex-husband. He wanted to hurt Nancy so that Tonya would have a better chance of winning. When Nancy couldn't skate, many people felt bad for her. They thought it wasn't fair, and perhaps she couldn't go to the Olympics. But Nancy didn't give up. She worked hard to get better.

In the end, Nancy was able to skate again. She did very well at the Olympics. Tonya didn't do well. Nancy won a silver medal, and Tonya didn't win anything. After the Olympics, people discovered that Tonya had known about the plan to hit Nancy. Tonya was banned from skating for a long time.

Even though what happened was bad, Nancy showed that she was strong and determined. She worked hard and never gave up. She showed that even when things are difficult, we can keep going and do our best. Nancy went on to have a successful career in skating. She spoke about skating events on TV and even started a skating school. Tonya had a harder time after the Olympics. She had some legal troubles and struggled to find work in skating.

In recent years, both Nancy and Tonya have talked about their experiences. They have said that they have become friends and have moved on from what happened. They both hope that their story can teach others about the importance of being fair.

The story of Nancy Kerrigan and Tonya Harding is a difficult but interesting one. It's a story about sports, competition, and what happens when people make bad choices. But it's also a story about hope and never giving up on our dreams.

When you have finished, write your time in the box.

Now, go to the next page and answer the questions. **Do NOT look back at the text.**

Now, let's test your understanding of the text with some questions.

1. What sport did Nancy Kerrigan and Tonya Harding compete in?
 - A) Skiing
 - B) Figure skating
 - C) Swimming
 - D) Gymnastics

2. How did Nancy Kerrigan's skating style differ from Tonya Harding's?
 - A) Nancy was known for her power; Tonya for her grace.
 - B) Nancy skated like a dancer; Tonya with power and speed.
 - C) They had identical styles.
 - D) Tonya performed ballet on ice; Nancy focused on speed.

3. What happened to Nancy Kerrigan before the 1994 Olympics?
 - A) She was injured by an attacker.
 - B) She won a national championship.
 - C) She retired from skating.
 - D) She moved to another country.

4. Who was discovered to have paid the attacker?
 - A) Tonya Harding's coach
 - B) Nancy Kerrigan's manager
 - C) Tonya Harding's ex-husband
 - D) A fan of figure skating

5. What was Tonya Harding's fate in the Olympics following the incident?
 - A) She won a gold medal.
 - B) She set a new world record.
 - C) She was disqualified before competing.
 - D) She did not perform well.

6. What did Nancy Kerrigan win at the Olympics?
 - A) A gold medal
 - B) A bronze medal
 - C) A silver medal
 - D) Nothing

7. What was the outcome for Tonya Harding after the incident?
 - A) She received a lifetime achievement award.
 - B) She was banned from skating.
 - C) She became a coach.
 - D) She went on to win in the next Olympics.

8. How did Nancy Kerrigan demonstrate her character after the attack?
 - A) By retiring from skating
 - B) By seeking revenge
 - C) By working hard and never giving up
 - D) By moving to another sport

9. What did Tonya Harding struggle with after the Olympics?
 - A) Finding work in skating
 - B) Starting her own business
 - C) Returning to school
 - D) Moving to another country

10. Have Nancy Kerrigan and Tonya Harding reconciled?
 - A) Yes, they have become friends.
 - B) No, they have never spoken again.
 - C) They have never met.
 - D) The text does not say.