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QUIN ACTIVE READING

LEVEL 1

# The Olympic Promise

Lynda Edwards



### 1.1 What's the book about?

Look at the picture on the front of this book. A boy is running. Talk about these questions. What do you think? Then write your answers.

1 Why is he running?

.....

2 Why is he smiling?

.....

3 Does he have a lot of money?

.....

4 Where does he live?

.....

### 1.2 What happens first?

Match the sentences and the pictures. Write A, B or C after the sentences.

1 The white man visits Nelson's house. ....

2 Nelson takes a letter to Miss Tlali's house. ....

3 The white man watches Nelson. ....



## 'I can't stop!'

*'Go, Nelson!' his friend Abra shouted. Nelson didn't look at the boys but there was a light in his eyes.*

**N**elson ran. His feet moved quickly on the road. One, two, one, two ... he ran for three **kilometres**, four, five. He was in the sun but he wasn't **tired**. He loved running. It was his **life**. The road **felt** good under his feet.

Old Jacob Mutwa was at his door. 'Where are you running today, Nelson?'

'River Street. A letter for Miss Tlali from her sister.'

'You're a good boy!' The old man smiled. 'Can you take a letter for *me* tomorrow?'



**ran** /ræn/ (v, past tense of run) I never walked to school. I always ran.

**kilometre** /'kɪləmi:tə/ (n) My school is a kilometre from my house.

**tired** /taɪəd/ (adj) I walked all day and now I'm tired.

**life** /laɪf/ (n) Her life is difficult. She hasn't got much money.

**feel** /fi:l/ (v, past tense of felt) I felt ill yesterday but today I feel very well. I'm not ill now, and that's a good feeling.



'No problem!' Nelson ran down the road. He was happy. A lot of his friends didn't have any work. Their families were **poor** and they lived in small, old houses. They didn't have much good food or many new things. Life was difficult in the town. But Nelson had a job. Every day he **took** letters across the town and into the country for people. He was a quick runner and he took a lot of letters.

'Do you want a drink, Nelson? It's hot.' It was his **grandmother's** sister, Ruthie. She was a big woman with a big smile.

'I can't stop!' Nelson ran **past** her. 'How's your leg now?'

'Good! Say hello to your grandmother,' Ruthie said to Nelson's back. She smiled and then she went into her small, dark house.



Nelson's legs were strong. He liked long runs. The **different** colours of houses, people and cars danced past him in a film. Sometimes pictures came into his head. They were pictures of green gardens and beautiful houses. In the pictures children played in the roads. They were happy and there were shoes on their feet. There was music in Nelson's head too – the music of his country, and always the music of his feet on the road. One, two, one, two ...

**poor** /puə/ (adj) My father was *poor* but now he's got a lot of money.

**took** /tuk/ (v, past tense of **take**) I *took* my books from my bag and did my homework.

**grandmother** /'grænmʌðə/ (n) One of my *grandmothers* is dead. *Granny* is my father's mother.

**past** /pa:st/ (prep) Dan ran *past* the shop. Then he *passed* Mrs Brown and her daughter. In the *past*, I was a teacher. Now I'm a taxi driver.

**different** /'dɪfrənt/ (adj) My friend and I like *different* things on television. She watches football but I watch films.



Nelson was near River Street. Suddenly there was a lot of noise. It was a football game.

'Quick, Abra, you're very slow! Get the ball, now!' the **trainer shouted**. There was a tall white man with him in an expensive coat. They watched the game. The boys ran up and down with the ball. The white man talked to the trainer. Then Nelson ran past them. The boys stopped playing.

'Go, Nelson!' his friend Abra shouted. Nelson didn't look at the boys but there was a light in his eyes. He ran quickly.

The white man stopped talking to the trainer. His eyes were on Nelson. This boy was quick! Slowly he smiled.

**trainer** /'treɪnə/ (n) Tom was a very good football *trainer*. He *trained* the boys every Saturday morning. The boys *trained* from nine o'clock to one o'clock.  
**shout** /ʃaʊt/ (v/n) Don't *shout*! I can hear you.

# The Olympic Promise

Lynda Edwards

**British English**  
**Original**

There are two important things in young Nelson's life – running and his Granny Sarah. Trainer Ken wants Nelson to be a famous runner. Can Nelson run for his country at the Olympic Games? And does he remember his promise to his grandmother?

Number of words (excluding activities): 2,750

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Cover illustration by Emmanuel Censier

