

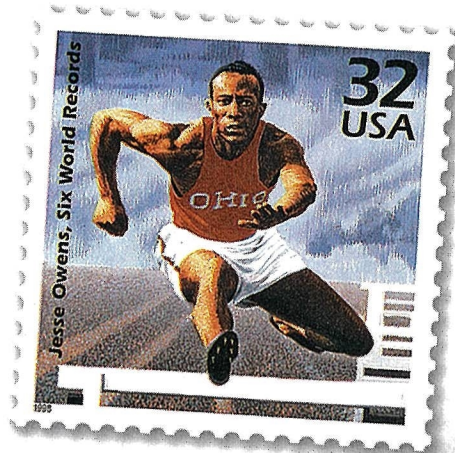
READING Adventures

Welcome, Reader!

In this magazine, you will discover a world of achievers. You'll read about a runner who crossed America in a 1928 foot race and a mountain climber who relies on his sense of touch. A neighborhood that comes together to save a dog may inspire you.

You'll read poems and articles about sports, spellers, and inventions, and you'll do lots of fun activities.

So, on your mark...get set...turn the page!



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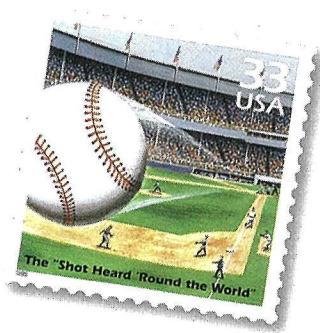
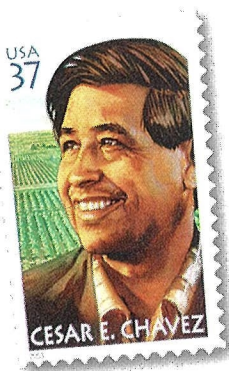
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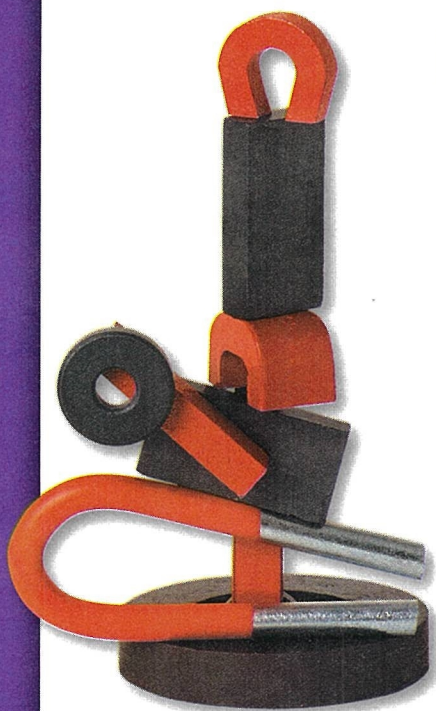
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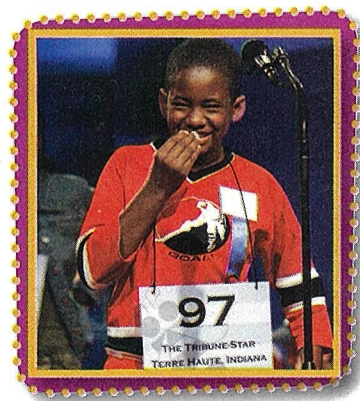
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Paca and the Beetle

A Folktale from Brazil

A beautiful red, blue, gold, and green macaw watched a brown beetle as it crawled across the jungle floor.

"Where are you going, my friend?" Macaw called out.

"I am going to the sea."

Just then, a paca skittered by. "You?" Paca laughed. "You're so slow it will take you a hundred years!" Macaw looked down. "You shouldn't brag, Paca. Why don't you race him? I'll give a new coat to whoever first reaches the big tree beside the river."

Paca laughed harder. "This is no race!" he giggled. "You may as well give me the yellow coat and black spots of a jaguar right now!"

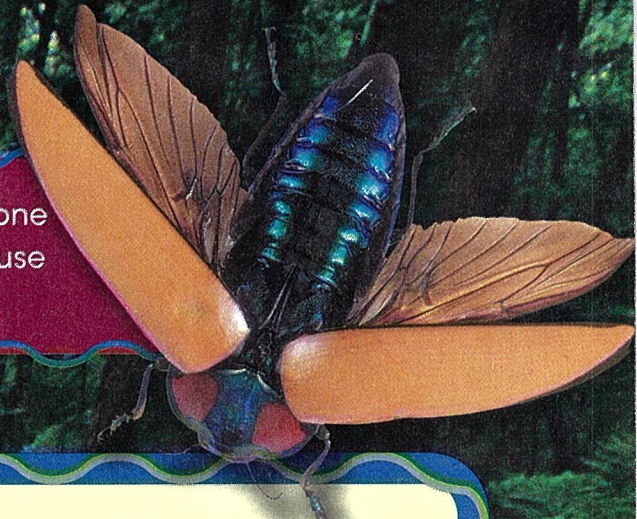
"I will race," Beetle said. "If I win, I would like a coat like yours, Macaw."

Paca dashed away. Then he thought, "Why should I hurry? I am so much faster than slow Beetle. I can take my time." He smiled, thinking of the fine new coat he would soon wear.

When Paca neared the tree, however, he was amazed to see Beetle on a branch waiting for him.

Scarlet macaws are found throughout South America. These spectacular birds are about three feet long from head to tail.





The Ceiba borer, or “living jewel,” of Brazil is one of the world’s most beautiful insects. People use the wing covers of its shell in jewelry.

Paca gasped. “How did *you* get here?” he demanded.

“I flew,” Beetle answered with a smile.

“You have wings?” Paca asked.

Macaw answered. “Beetle doesn’t brag about his wings, but he can use them when he needs to. Beetle is the winner.”

Paca hung his head and slunk away, still wearing the brown coat with white spots he had always had. Then Macaw smiled at Beetle, and Beetle’s hard back began to shine with the colors of Macaw’s feathers. The beetle’s shell has gleamed with a rainbow of colors ever since.

The spotted paca lives in the jungles of Brazil. It weighs between twelve and twenty-five pounds and is the world’s second-largest rodent.



Discuss the Selection

- What is the moral, or lesson, in this story? Which story details explain this lesson?
- Compare and contrast “Paca and the Beetle” and *The Raven: An Inuit Myth* from Lesson 20. How are the characters, settings, and plots alike and different?

The Foot Race Across America



Back in 1926, in the hills around Foyil, Oklahoma, the jackrabbits must have gotten used to the sound of Andy Payne running by. The Cherokee teenager was almost as fast as they were.

Andy loved to run. After he finished the morning chores on his family's farm, he ran five miles to school. He often got there before his brothers and sisters, who arrived on horseback. "I just . . . had a knack for being able to cover the ground on foot," he later explained. In those days, Andy won prizes in many track tournaments, especially long-distance events like the mile. His biggest race would be much longer than that, though.

“Runners Wanted”

After he graduated from high school in 1927, Andy, now age twenty, went to Los Angeles, California, to look for a job. Work turned out to be hard to find. One day he read an ad in a newspaper that would change his life. “Runners wanted,” the ad said. An International Trans-Continental Foot Race was going to take place in March. The race would start in Los Angeles and end across the country in New York City. That was a distance of over 3,400 miles. The winner would receive twenty-five thousand dollars!

The 1920s were already known for crazy contests. There were dance marathons, six-day bicycle races, even people setting records for sitting on flagpoles. A man named C. C. Pyle planned the foot race to follow the recently built Route 66, a road that stretched from Los Angeles to Chicago.

Andy Payne was excited. He felt he had as good a chance to win as anyone. The prize money would help his parents pay for their farm. It might also help persuade his girlfriend, Vivian Shaddox, to marry him.



The Starting Line

Andy hurried back to Oklahoma. He talked his father and local officials into lending him the \$125 he needed to enter the race. Then he returned to California to train. After three weeks of running and getting into shape there, he felt ready.

On the morning of March 4, 1928, Andy lined up with nearly two hundred other runners at the starting line. They came from across the United States as well as from other countries, including Finland, Switzerland, Canada, and Italy. They were as young as sixteen and as old as sixty-three. A few were already famous for competing in marathons and other long-distance races. One was the son of a millionaire. Most, however, were poor. In 1928, an average factory worker earned \$1,200 a year. Winning the prize money would be like receiving twenty years' salary.

Finally, the great football player "Red" Grange gave the signal. Boom! All 199 men sprang forward, each one dreaming of victory in New York City.





Over Mountains and Deserts

The first day of the race was the easiest. All the runners made it to the town of Puente, California, seventeen miles away. But it would soon get harder. The runners had to climb steep Cajon (kuh HOHN) Pass, and then deal with the intense heat of the Mojave (moh HAH vay) Desert. By the 12th of March—one week into the race—more than fifty runners had dropped out, tired by the steep climbs and blistered by the desert sun.

A record was kept of the runners' time for each day. Surprising many of the more famous runners was number forty-three, Andy Payne. Andy was running in third place.

As the runners left behind California for Arizona, they faced even tougher climbs. By March 21st, more than half of the original 199 had dropped out, including the man who had been in first place, the South African long-distance champion, Arthur Newton.

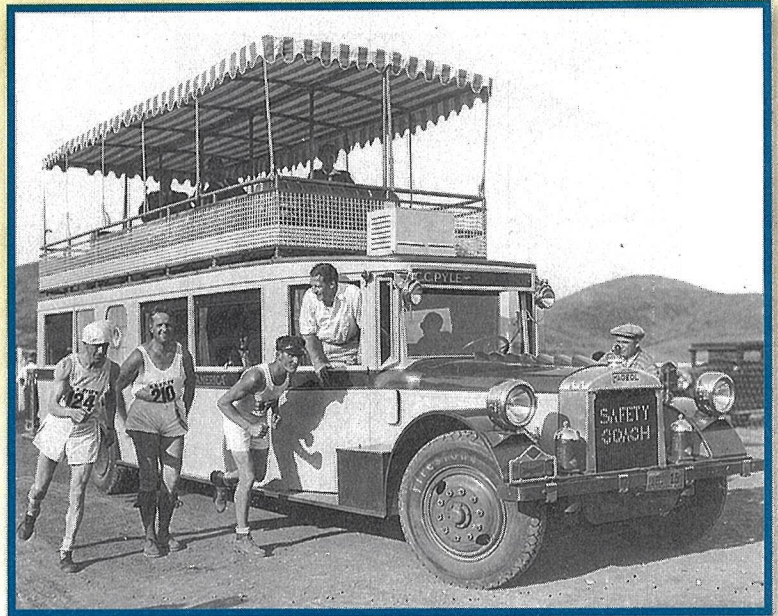
The runners had also discovered that C. C. Pyle, the race organizer, was not a man of his word. Instead of the big meals they enjoyed at the start of the race, they were now served poor stews. Often, Pyle's big caravan, nicknamed "America," was late with the tents, cots, and blankets—which were never washed. Then the runners were forced to sleep in barns or stables.

Andy Payne was having his own troubles. He had tonsillitis and a fever. But he kept up the pace. After the runners had made their way through the snow and mud of northern Texas, Andy entered his home state of Oklahoma in the lead.



The Bunion Derby

By now the foot race was attracting lots of attention. The newspapers had begun to call it “The Bunion Derby.” But Andy was lucky—he didn’t have bunions, swelling of the big toes. In Oklahoma City, Andy told a cheering crowd and the governor of the state, “Hope to see you in New York.” When he ran



through his hometown of Foyil, he took a few minutes to visit his girlfriend, Vivian, and his family. And he bought a new pair of running shoes.

Andy was becoming friendly with some of the other runners. One, John Salo, had adopted a dog in Arizona named Blisters, and ran with Blisters all the way to Missouri. Phillip Granville, a Canadian, believed he could win the race by walking, then changed his mind and began to run. Andy’s closest friend was also his closest rival, an Englishman named Peter Gavuzzi. They traded the lead from Oklahoma to Ohio. That was where Peter, more than six hours ahead of Andy, had to drop out because of a toothache.

With a thousand miles left to go, Andy Payne took over first place for good.

The Finish Line

By the third week of May, the runners were closing in on New York City. The daily distances were getting longer. One day, the men ran nearly seventy-five miles. C. C. Pyle, the race organizer, was broke. It wasn't certain that he would be able to pay the winners the prize money. But on May 26, 1928, the Bunioneers, as the fifty-five remaining runners were now called, came plodding in to New York's Madison Square Garden. Even though they had been running for eighty-four days, they had to keep running, circling the arena for another twenty miles before the race was over.



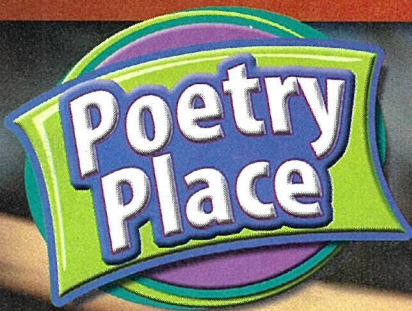
In the end, C. C. Pyle did come up with the money. It took 573 hours, 4 minutes, and 34 seconds, but Andy Payne achieved his dream. He won the \$25,000 first prize. John Salo (and Blisters) won the \$10,000 second prize. Phillip Granville, the Canadian walker, won the third prize of \$5,000.

Andy took the train back to Oklahoma. True to his word, he paid what his family owed on their farm. In 1929, he married Vivian Shaddox. That year there was a second Trans-Continental foot race, this one going in the opposite direction, from New York City to Los Angeles. Andy did not take part. The winner was Peter Gavuzzi, his sore tooth all healed.

Today, people still remember Andy Payne for his remarkable achievement. Every May an "Andy Payne Bunion Run" marathon takes place in Oklahoma City. And if you happen to be traveling on Route 66 by Andy's hometown of Foyil, you'll see a life-size statue of Andy, doing what he loved to do. Running.

Madison Square Garden occupied this building from 1925 to 1968.



A photograph of a young woman in a purple track uniform with the number 4 on the front. She is smiling and has her arms raised in a celebratory gesture. The background is blurred, showing other people and what appears to be a track setting.

Fast Track

by Nikki Grimes

When the whistle blows
I am ready and set
and no one can tell me
I am too anything
or less than enough.
I am a tornado of legs and feet
and warm wind whipping past
everyone else on the track
and all that's on my mind
is scissoring through
the finish line.

Ode to My Shoes

by Francisco X. Alarcón



my shoes
rest
all night
under my bed

tired
they stretch
and loosen
their laces

wide open
they fall asleep
and dream
of walking

they revisit
the places
they went to
during the day

and wake up
cheerful
relaxed
so soft

Discuss Poetry

- The first poet uses a **metaphor**. What does she say a runner *is*? How does this help you imagine what it's like to be the runner?
- The second poet uses **personification**. Which human traits does he give to a pair of shoes? How do they look, act, and feel?

Design a Stamp

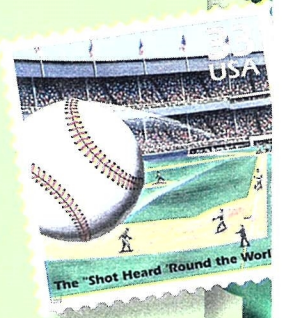


You need a stamp to send a letter. But stamps have another purpose. They are often used to honor people's achievements.

Design a stamp to honor Andy Payne and his race across the United States, or choose another person whose achievement you would like to honor.

Make sure you include the following features in your stamp design:

1. The **country**: All United States stamps have the letters *USA*.
2. The **value**: Include a number that shows how much the stamp costs.
3. A **picture**: Show a picture of the person you are honoring, or show a place or object connected with the achievement.
4. A **name or description**: Include the person's name or a brief description of the achievement. For example, you might use the words *World's fastest runner* for an athlete who set a record.



Add-ion

When the suffix *-ion* is added to a verb, the new word is a noun.
It names the action that the verb shows.

Example: Paca didn't **act** kindly toward Beetle. His **action** made him look foolish in the end!

Go on an *-ion* hunt. Read each pair of sentences. Find a word in the first sentence that you can add *-ion* to. Use the noun you form to complete the second sentence on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Do you suggest that we run across the United States? What a silly _____ that is!
2. The runners had nothing to protect them as they ran through the desert. People need _____ from the desert sun.
3. Signs were used to direct the runners. They ran in an east-west _____ across the country.
4. Inspect the map on page 9 to see the race route. During your _____, count how many states Andy Payne ran through.
5. I predict that you will win a race one day.
If my _____ comes true, I'll congratulate you!





Your Turn

And the

In "Paca and the Beetle," you read about a race between two very different creatures. Write your own story about a contest between two animals that are opposites. For example, the contest might be between the tallest animal and the shortest animal in a jungle. Or the contest might be between the strongest animal and the weakest animal on a farm. Remember, the winner of the contest doesn't have to be the one you'd expect to win.

Winner Is...

Story Tips

- Introduce the characters and the setting, or where and when the story takes place.
- Tell about the contest. What is it supposed to prove?
- Describe what happens during the contest.
- Show who wins the contest, and tell why.

