# Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Grade 3

Answer Key

## Wilma Rudolph: The Girl Who Learned to Run

Wilma Rudolph was born in Tennessee in 1940. She was born early and was very small. As a young child, she got sick many times. When she was about four years old, she caught a disease called polio. Polio made her left leg weak, and doctors said she might never walk normally.

Wilma's family did not give up. Every week, her mother took her on a long bus ride to a hospital for treatment. At home, her brothers and sisters took turns rubbing her weak leg to make it stronger. For years, Wilma wore a heavy metal brace on her leg.

Wilma worked hard and never stopped trying. By the time she was about twelve years old, she could walk without her brace. Soon she was playing basketball, and she was fast! A track coach named Ed Temple saw how quickly she could run and invited her to train with his team.

In 1956, when she was only sixteen, Wilma ran in the Olympic Games and won a bronze medal in a relay race. Four years later, at the 1960 Olympics in Rome, Italy, she won three gold medals. She became the first American woman to win three gold medals in track and field at one Olympics.

After she stopped racing, Wilma became a teacher and a coach. She wanted to help young people believe in themselves, just as her family had believed in her. People still remember Wilma Rudolph as one of the fastest women in the world, and as someone who never let a hard start stop her.

## Circle the Correct Answer

**1. What sickness made Wilma's leg weak?**

**Answer: b) Polio**

**2. How did Wilma's brothers and sisters help her?**

**Answer: a) They rubbed her weak leg to make it stronger**

**3. Who invited Wilma to train with a track team?**

**Answer: c) Coach Ed Temple**

**4. How many gold medals did Wilma win at the 1960 Olympics?**

**Answer: c) Three**

## True or False

**5. Wilma wore a metal brace on her leg for years.**

**Answer: True**

**6. Wilma won three gold medals when she was sixteen.**

**Answer: False**

**7. After racing, Wilma became a teacher and a coach.**

**Answer: True**

## Build a Timeline

**8-9. Number the events 1, 2, 3, and 4 in the order they happened in Wilma's life.**

**3 Wilma wins three gold medals in Rome.**

**1 Wilma catches polio as a young child.**

**4 Wilma becomes a teacher and coach.**

**2 Wilma walks without her leg brace.**

## Think and Explain

**10. Choose one word that describes Wilma Rudolph, such as determined, brave, or hardworking. Explain why you chose that word using two details from the passage.**

**Sample answer: Accept reasonable answers. Example: Wilma was determined because she wore a heavy brace for years and kept trying until she could walk without it, and she trained hard enough to win three Olympic gold medals.**