St. Andrews Scots Sr. Sec. School

9th Avenue, I.P. Extension, Patparganj, Delhi – 110092
Session: 2026- 2027

Notes

Class - IX **Subject - English** **Topic: 9 gold medals**

Answer the following questions:

Q1. Why did the young boy cry out in frustration and anguish?
Ans. The young boy cried out in frustration and anguish because he had fallen during the race. His hopes of finishing the race were suddenly shattered. All the hard work, practice, and dreams he had about completing the race seemed ruined at that moment.

Q2. What can be inferred about the smallest runner when he stumbled and fell?
Ans. It can be inferred that the smallest runner might have lacked physical strength or balance compared to the others. His fall suggests that he struggled to keep pace with the race. Despite his determination to participate, he faced difficulty at the very beginning.

Q3. What did the other runners do when the young boy fell during the race?
Ans. When the young boy fell during the race, the eight other runners stopped running. Instead of continuing the competition, they turned back to help him. They lifted him up and supported him so that he could stand again, showing kindness, teamwork, and true sportsmanship.

Q4. Why is the banner saying "Special Olympics" described as being "on the mark" in this situation?
Ans. The banner saying "Special Olympics" was "on the mark" because the runners showed the true spirit of the event. Instead of focusing on winning, they supported one another with kindness and unity. Their actions reflected the values of compassion, teamwork, and respect.

Q5. How does the poet show the emotions of the runners and the audience at the end of the race?
Ans. The poet shows the emotions through the description of a "standing ovation" and "nine beaming faces." These images suggest great happiness and appreciation. The audience admired the runners' kindness, while the runners felt proud and joyful for completing the race together.

Q6. What does the act of the athletes stopping to help the fallen runner symbolise in the poem?
Ans. The athletes stopping to help the fallen runner symbolizes true sportsmanship, kindness, and humanity. Instead of competing only for victory, they show compassion and unity. Their action suggests that cooperation and empathy are more valuable than individual success, highlighting the poem's message that humanity is greater than winning medals.

Answer the following questions in detail:

Q. In the poem "Nine Gold Medals," the fall of the smallest runner becomes an important turning point in the race. Critically analyse how this incident changes the course of the race and reveals the true character of the other runners. How does this moment help the poet convey a deeper message about compassion, unity, and the real meaning of sportsmanship?
Ans. The fall of the smallest runner is a crucial turning point in the poem. It changes the direction of the race and sets the stage for the remarkable actions of the other runners. His fall shows that despite

determination and effort, challenges and failures can occur unexpectedly. This moment also highlights the vulnerability of the boy and creates sympathy among readers. More importantly, it leads to the extraordinary response of the other runners, who later choose to help him instead of continuing the race alone. Their decision reflects compassion, unity, and true sportsmanship. The incident teaches an important lesson that helping others and showing kindness are more valuable than individual victory. Thus, the boy's fall becomes the key event that reveals the deeper moral message of the poem.

Q. Imagine you were one of the spectators watching the race in the poem Nine Gold Medals by David Roth. When one runner falls during the race, the other runners stop and help him, choosing kindness over winning. Write a diary entry describing what you saw and how it made you feel.
Ans.
Diary Entry
Date: 14 March 20XX
Time: 10:00 p.m.
Dear Diary,
Today I witnessed a race that I will never forget. It was not just a race of speed but a race of humanity. Nine differently-abled athletes stood at the starting line, determined to give their best. The race had barely begun when one boy stumbled and fell on the track. Instead of rushing ahead to win, the other runners stopped. They turned back, helped the boy to his feet, and together they walked to the finish line. The crowd fell silent and then burst into applause. At that moment I realised that true victory is not about coming first but about compassion and unity. Today those athletes truly deserved all nine gold medals.