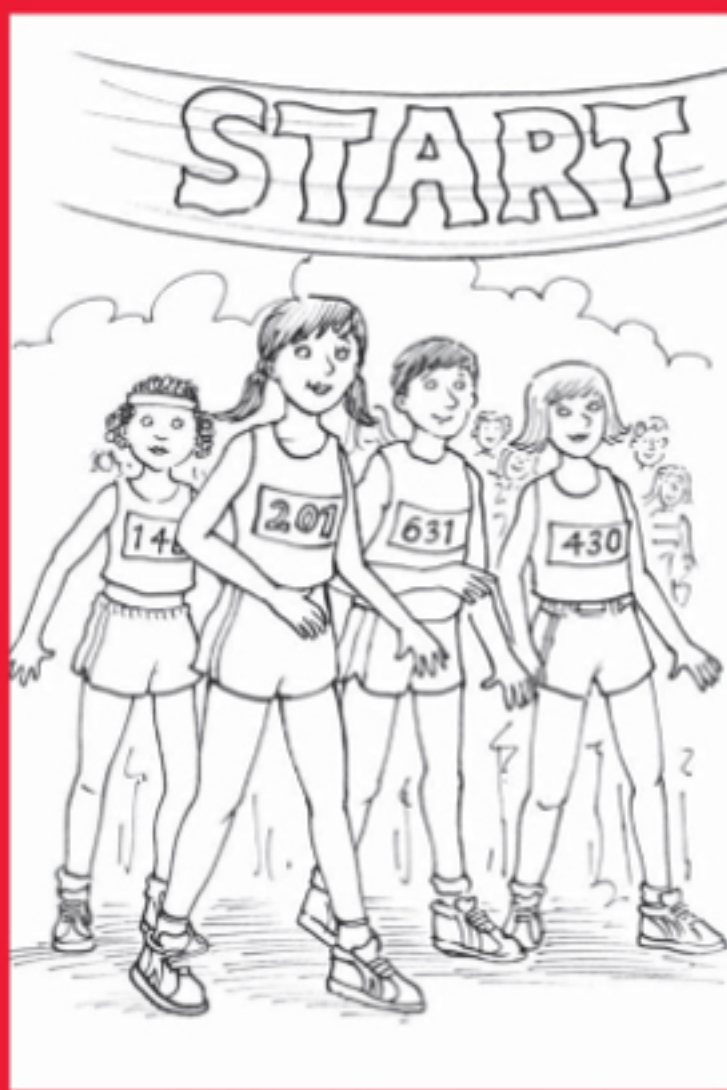


# The Best

By Sheila Clark-Edmands

Illustrated by Steve Cox



Specialized Program Individualizing Reading Excellence

EDUCATORS PUBLISHING SERVICE

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**EDUCATORS PUBLISHING SERVICE**  
Cambridge and Toronto

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## Table of Contents

*The Best*

Note to Teachers and Parents

Focus Concept

Previously Taught Skills



Abby was the fastest runner in her class.

She had jogged with her mom from the time she was just a small child. But she wanted to run faster than a jog.



Running became her hobby. At the age of ten, Abby got a winner's cup. She had run the fastest mile of all the kids in her state.



Then when Abby was 16, she was set to go in the ten mile run. Lots of the best runners in the state were going to run. The winner got a big prize. Abby was thrilled to be a runner. But she also wanted to be the winner.



On the big day, it was hot and windy. Abby felt fit and strong. When the man yelled "Go," Abby set off with the rest of the runners. She was running well.



Abby was running up a hill when it happened. She got a cramp in her left leg. She had to stop, sit on the sidelines, and rub her leg.



All the runners ran past Abby. She felt sick. The run was not going well at all!



Abby got back up to run, but the cramp was still there. Her leg throbbed.



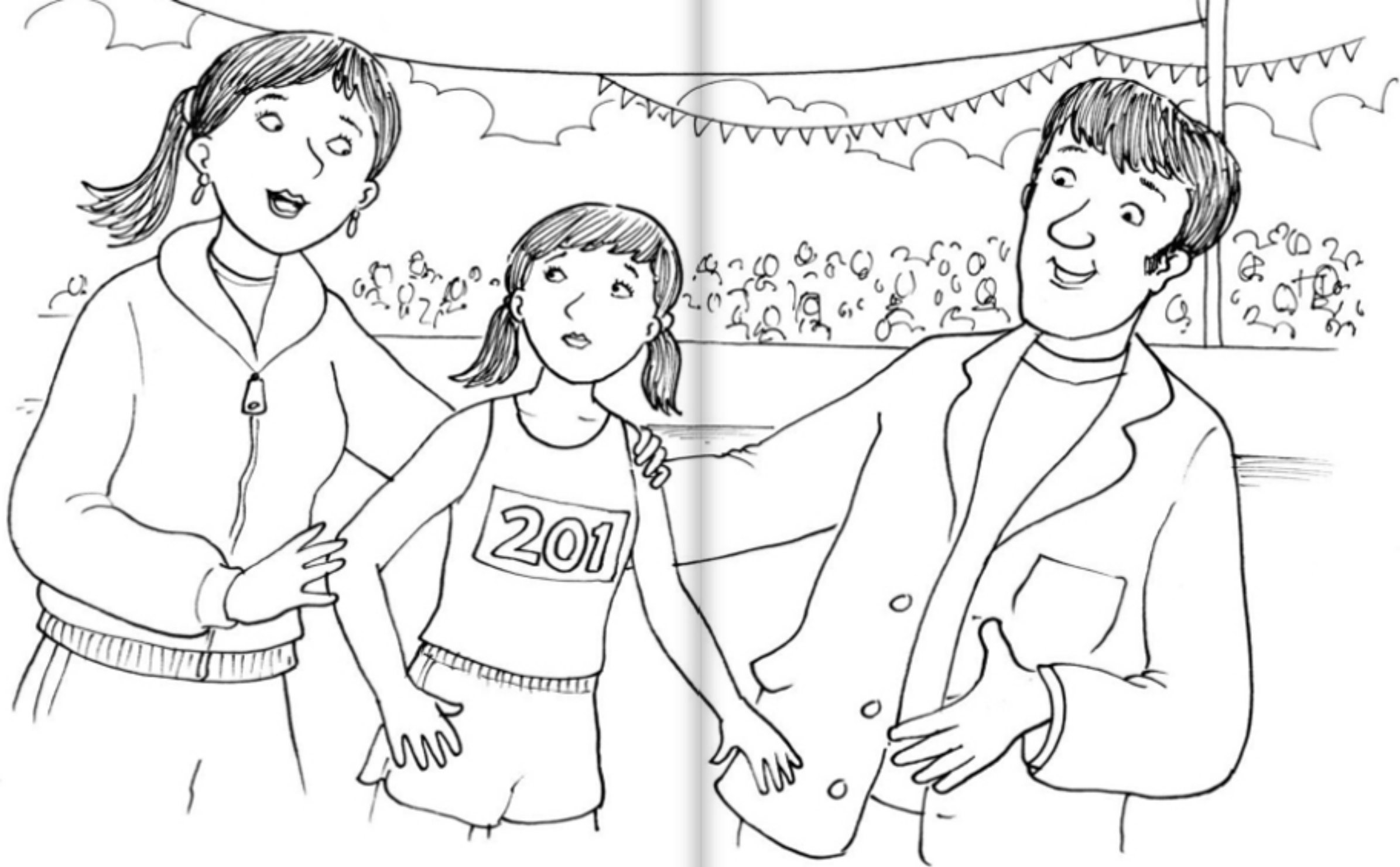
"It's just not your day," someone called to her. "Give up!"

"No," Abby said grimly. "I may not win, but I will not be a quitter."



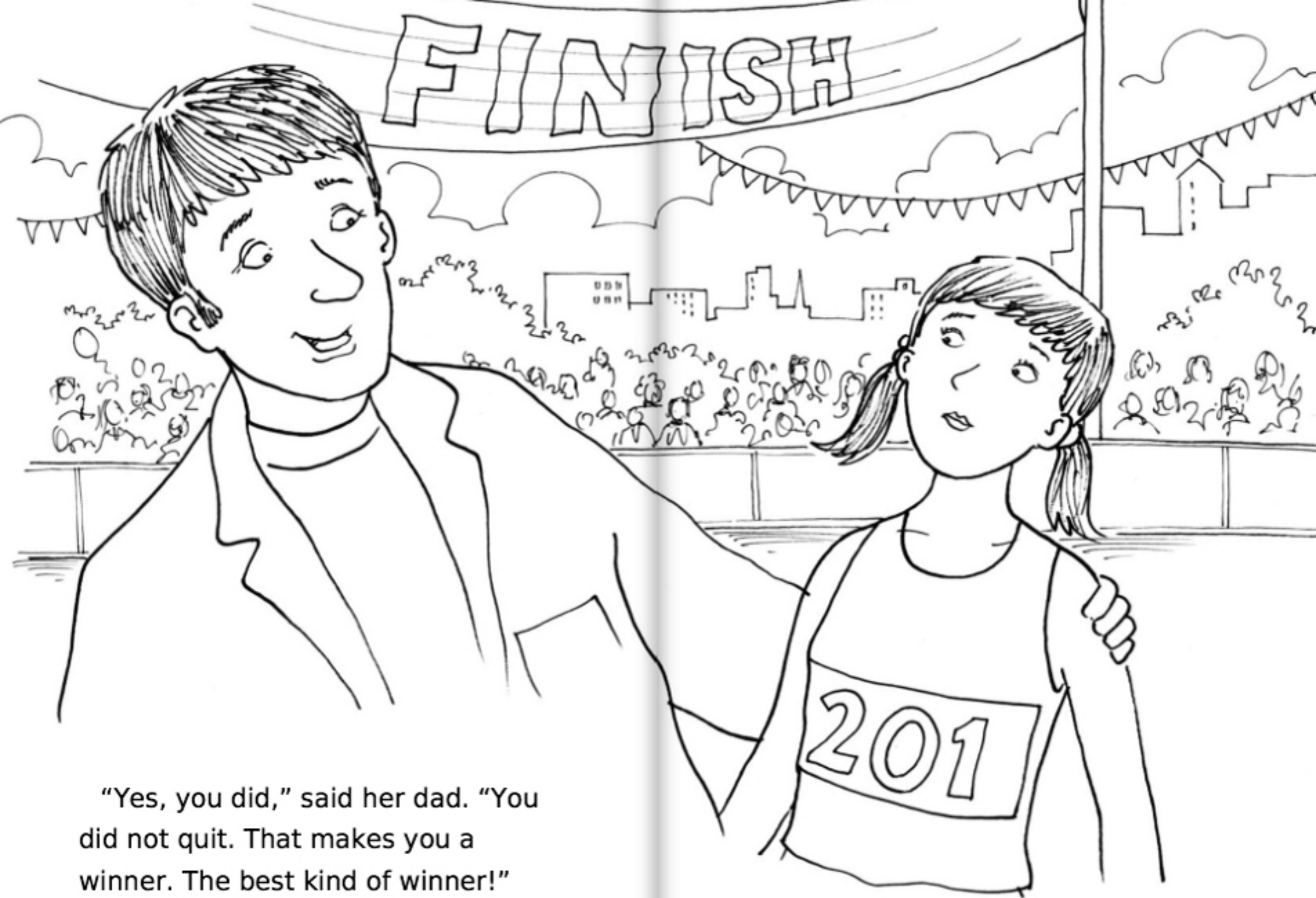
She got up and began limping her way to the end of the run. She crossed the line last.





Her mom and dad ran to her and gave her a big hug.

"Well, I did not win this time," Abby said.



"Yes, you did," said her dad. "You did not quit. That makes you a winner. The best kind of winner!"



Abby nodded. "I did my best," she said softly. "That's all I can do!"

## Note to Teachers and Parents

All children should have the opportunity to experience success when reading. The decodable ebooks in this engaging series begin with simple words and sentences and increase in difficulty from level to level. Children may begin reading anywhere in the series, depending on their reading ability. The focus concept and sight words for this title, as well as a list of phonics skills children may already be familiar with, can be found at the end of this book.

This decodable ebook is perfect for independent reading. Encourage children to find a quiet spot to read, away from distractions. Help children build confidence by having them read aloud to you or to a friend or sibling.

Before beginning, you may wish to have children read the list of focus concept and sight words. When children have finished the story, encourage them to find these words on each page. To extend children's experience with these phonics concepts, encourage them to name or write down other words that follow the same phonics pattern. For example, if the focus concept is short *o*, they might write *log*, *pot*, and *frog*.

The presentation of phonics concepts in this series of ebooks was developed for the S.P.I.R.E.<sup>®</sup> reading program, a product of Educators Publishing Service.

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Abby  
happened  
hobby  
nodded  
quitter  
runner  
runners  
running  
winner  
winner's

## Sight Words\*

a, do, give, I, of, said, someone, the, The, there,  
to, was, were, you, your

\*Sight words are nonpatterned or very low-patterned words of high frequency.



## Consonant Sounds

all consonants  
sh (ship)  
ch (chin)  
th (this, thin)  
wh (whisk)  
ck (clock)  
tch (catch)

ff (cliff)  
ll (will)  
ss (miss)

qu (quilt)

Vse

## Welded Sounds

ang (sang)  
ing (ring)  
ong (strong)  
ung (stung)  
ank (bank)  
ink (wink)  
onk (honk)  
unk (trunk)

## Syllable Patterns

open single syllables (so, he, fly)  
closed syllable exceptions  
(child, cold, find, post, roll)

## Vowel Sounds

a (ax)  
i (hit)  
o (ox)  
u (up)  
e (bed)

al (ball)  
wa (wasp)

a (lake)  
i (bike)  
o (rode)  
u (tune)  
e (Pete)

ay (spray)

## Affixes

suffix -ed (melted, smelled, winked)  
suffixes -s, -es, -ing, -er, -est, -en,  
-ish, -ly, -y, -ful, -ness, -less



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**The Big Catch**

Open Single Syllables (so, he, fly)

**The Bold Robins**

Closed Syllable Exceptions (child, cold, find, post, roll)

**The Rays of the Sun**

ay (spray)

**A Day of Play at Black Cove**

Suffix -ed (melted, smelled, winked)

**No Time to Ride**Suffixes -s, -es, -ing, -er, -est, -en, -ish, -ly, -y,  
-ful, -ness, -less**Helpful Pals**

Twin-Consonant Syllable Division

**The Best**

Twin-Consonant Syllable Division

**A Play**

Nontwin-Consonant Syllable Division

**The Humpback Whale**

Nontwin-Consonant Syllable Division

**A Big Problem**

ou (mound, cousin, doughnut, you), Prefix a- (alike)



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