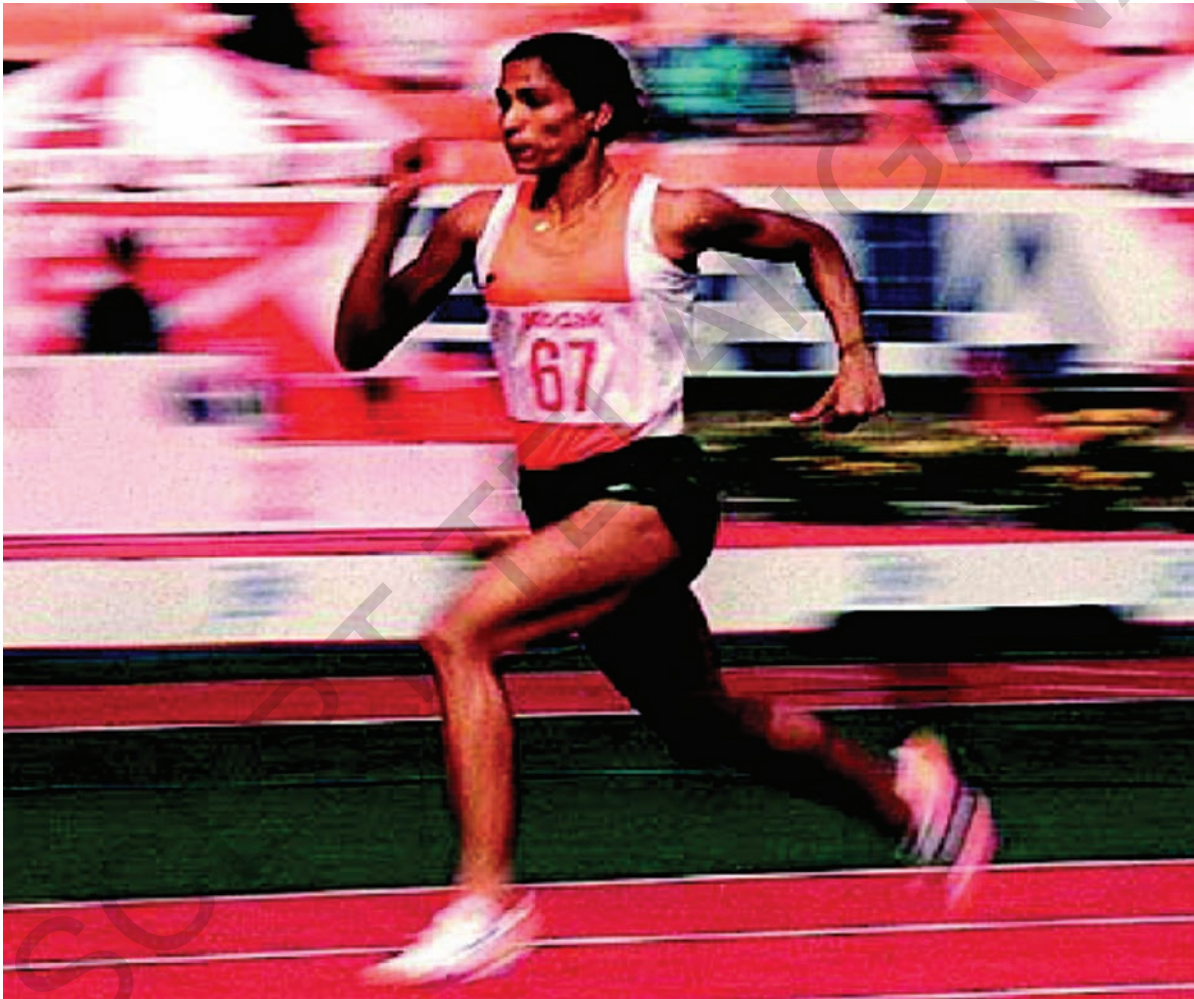


7

P.T. Usha, the Golden Girl



Look at the picture and discuss the questions that follow:



1. Which sport is shown in the picture?
2. Which sport/game do you play? Why?
3. What are the differences between the sports and games?

Oral Discourse: Talk on - Why sports and games are important for children?

A. Reading



“P.T. Usha, India.” This was the address on a letter from the Middle East. The letter was delivered by the postal department with no delay whatsoever. This was the status of PILAVULLAKANDI THEKKEPARAMBIL USHA who was born as the second daughter of Paithal and Lakshmi Amma on 20th May 1964 in the village of Payyoli, Kozhikode District, Kerala.

It was November 1973 when a dedicated physical education teacher called Balakrishnan discovered Usha while conversing with a parent. His eyes, ever watchful, kept drifting to a group of small girls playing blind man’s bluff just across the field. Was there a pair of feet that were moving extraordinarily fast? Was that tiny, dark girl in her blue skirt and white blouse moving like an instinctive athlete? Patient as ever, Balakrishnan waited for the game to be over. Calling the little girl, he gently enquired of her, “What’s your name, child?” The shy little girl hardly raised her eyes from the ground. “Usha,” she whispered and added, “from Class IV.”

Thus was made one of the greatest discoveries in the athletic arena of Asia, a simple question from an observant master, and an equally unassuming answer from a tiny village girl from a distant village in Malabar in Kerala. That same evening, at 4.15 p.m., Usha heard the magical words for the first time in her life – **On your Marks. Get set. Go.** The Master had explained to her what to do, and why. Confused, but very much aware of the ‘seriousness’ of the occasion, she ran for her life. The rest is history.

In 1975, Usha was 11 years old and was practising vigorously for the sub-junior District Meet – her first ever. With three days to go, Usha badly injured her heel, while practising for the long jump. The day of the event; all eyes were on her; she was so puny, so unbelievably tiny that she was the crowd’s favourite even before the race started. A white bandage on her heel won her even more sympathy. She came first in all the four events she participated in – 100m, 200m, long jump, and high jump. She was also the individual champion at the Meet.

Academically, Usha was an extremely bright student. She was always amongst the top three in her class and was popular with her teachers. She passed her standard VII exams with a first class grade. Just then, the government of Kerala announced a separate Sports Division for girls at Cannanore, a town with special facilities for sports in addition to regular studies.

Usha joined the Sports Division at Cannanore to improve her sport talent. She was left in the safe hands of C.H. Paithal, the headmaster of the school. It was at Cannanore that another great master fired her imagination so much that together they achieved the impossible. His name was Madhavan Nambiar.

By 1977, Usha and Nambiar were inseparable. Nambiar had found the ward he had been waiting for all his life and Usha had found her guru. Nambiar would, from now on, care for her like a father. Usha's meticulous, systematic training began in earnest.

Usha had a regular training run on the beach of Payyoli. She preferred to be trained alone, for the vastness of the beach gave her a sense of freedom. She ran joyfully and freely, and she derived her strength from the serenity and peace of her beloved Kerala surroundings. Nambiar introduced his sand training in her programme to enhance her performance in the athletics, just after the 1982 New Delhi Asian Games. Sand training had enhanced the performance of many great athletes, from Edwin Moses to top flight Indian athletes like Milkha Singh and Sriram Singh.



Usha's athletic achievements are well-known to almost all Indians – two silver medals in the 1982 New Delhi Asian Games; 4th place in the 400m at the 1984 Jakarta Asian Meet; and four Golds and one Silver at the 1986 Asian Games in Seoul.

P.T. Usha's story is that of a gifted child, from humble origins, achieving international success through sheer dedication and immense hard work. "Never, never in the history of independent India has a youngster from a remote background town of rural origin caught the imagination of youth in particular and the public in general as Usha has," said a Professor of English in Usha's home town.

Glossary

instinctive (<i>adj</i>):	arising from natural ability
vigorously (<i>adv</i>):	working with strength and energy
puny (<i>adj</i>):	small and weak
earnest (<i>adj</i>):	serious
serenity (<i>n</i>):	calmness
enhance (<i>v</i>):	to make greater or better

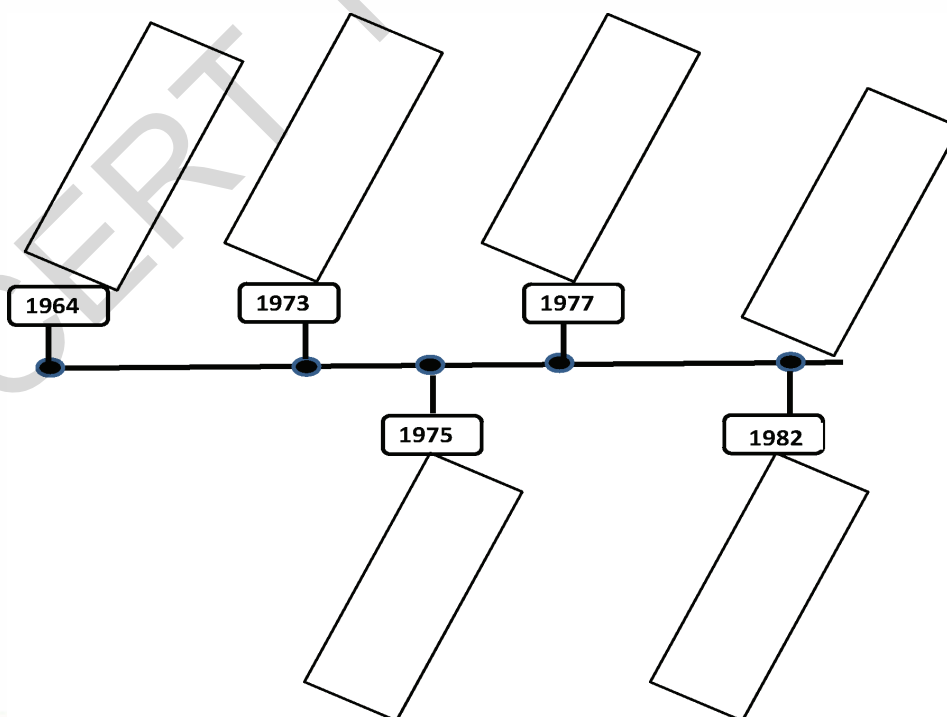
How well did I read?

Fill in the boxes using yes/ somewhat/ no.	
I enjoyed reading the passage.	
I got the idea of the passage on my own.	
I got the idea with the help of my friends in the group.	
The teacher helped me to understand the passage.	
I used the glossary given at the end of the passage.	

I. Answer the following questions:

1. At what age was Usha's sports talent recognized first? Who did it?
2. What quality do you notice in Usha while she practised athletics from a young age?
3. How was Usha in her studies?
4. How does Usha's life inspire the young girls of our country?
5. What qualities in Usha made her great in athletics?
6. Can you name some great Indian women athletes who have been inspired by P.T.Usha?
7. List out different events in athletics.

II. Write on "the time line" given below the important events from the life of P.T. Usha.



III. Write whether the following statements are True or False in the brackets.

1. P.T. Usha is also called the golden girl. []
2. She is the only daughter of her parents. []
3. Usha was the individual champion in the sub-junior District Meet. []
4. Usha was an average child in her studies. []
5. Madhavan Nambiar alone was responsible for her international fame. []

Vocabulary

I. The following is the list of some sports and games. Classify them into sports and games. Add some other games or sports you know to the list.

- | | |
|------------|--------------|
| Volleyball | Cricket |
| Running | Chess |
| Badminton | Table tennis |
| Soccer | Skiing |
| Swimming | Motor racing |
| Baseball | Sailing |
| Carrom | Lawn tennis |

Sports (Single person participation and take less time)	Games (More than one participation and take more time)

II. Pick out from the reading passage the synonyms of the following words:

devoted	title-holder	attained	exceptional
small	happily	tranquility	increase
talented			

III. Look at the following sports goods. Write the number of the sports item and its name in your notebook. You may use the words from the box.

weights	goggles	shorts	a tennis racket	a volley ball
spikes	a football	football socks	a football skirt	a basketball
a track suit	running shoes	a hockey stick	a cricket ball	a shuttle cock



Grammar

I. Adjectives and their order in a phrase

Look at the following sentences from the reading passage:

Usha was a tiny village girl. She was an extremely bright student.

The underlined words are adjectives. They describe Usha. We may use more than one adjective to describe a person, place or thing or an object. They may give us information about things like quality, colour, age, make, shape etc., of a person, place, thing or an object.

Quality : a pleasant day Size : a small room
 Age : a young man Temperature : a hot day
 Shape : a square table Colour : a black cat

Order of adjectives

When we use two or more adjectives to describe a noun, we have to take care of their order. The position of the adjectives depends on how closely they are related to the noun. Though hard and fast rules cannot be given, the following guidelines will be of some help.

Adjectives : usual order						
determiners (articles, demonstratives, possessives)	quality	size/ age/	colour origin	past participle	material	noun
	beautiful	old	brown Indian	hand made	wooden	

Example: It is Rani's beautiful old brown Indian handmade wooden table.

I. Rewrite the following sentences with the correct order of adjectives:

- Usha was born at farm mother's old her house.
- Usha is dark little a shy girl.
- There are flowers some beautiful rose white in our garden.
- It is new my textbook English.
- Sunitha was dressed in saree kancheepurm expensive an silk.

II. Look at the following sentences paying special attention to the underlined phrases:

- Usha joined the Sports Division at Cannanore to improve her sport talent.
- Nambiar introduced the sand training in her programme to enhance her performance in athletics.

The underlined phrases in the above sentences are used to talk about the purpose of activity and answer the question “why” as shown below.

Why did Usha join the Sports Division at Cannanore?

... to improve her sports talent.

Why did Nambiar introduce her sand training?

... to enhance her performance.

1. Ask and answer the following questions as shown in the example:

A: Why do people go to library?

B: They go to library to read books.

A: Why do people go to school / post-office / the cinema / hospital / market / bus-stand / railway station

B: Why do people use a watch / an umbrella / a toothbrush / a microscope / a mirror / shoes /...

2. Make sentences using the clues given. The first one is done for you.

Smt. Lakshmi Devi is an old woman.

eg. She / like / eat / sweets. - She likes to eat sweets.

She / like / eat / soft things - she / hate / eat / hard things - One day she / -want / eat / palkova - She / ask / her neighbour / buy / some palkova - The young woman / agree / get / some - She / promise / buy / a kilo - The old woman / promise / pay her later - In the market / the young woman / remember / buy / something for Lakshmi Devi. - She bought pakodis! - The old woman / refuse / pay.

3. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate forms of the verbs in the brackets.

1. Reema is planning _____ admission in French classes from next year. (take)

2. She practised _____ with a pitcher on her head.(walk)

3. My grandfather has promised _____ care of Sheru, the dog, in our absence. (take)

4. I have no idea how they are planning _____ the New Year’s Eve this year. (celebrate)

5. I have decided _____ the job in view of my financial position. (accept)

6. My mother dislikes _____ alone in the kitchen. (work)

Writing

- I. You have read about P.T.Usha . Using that information and any other information you may have, try to write a short profile of this great athlete. You can use the following skeleton if you like.

P.T. Usha - The Payyoli Express

Name : _____

Father's Name: _____

Mother's Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Place of Birth: _____

Name of the Coach: _____

Brief Biographical Sketch: _____

Achievements :

1.

2.

3.

4.

Records :

1.

2.

Medals :

1.

2.

Awards and Honours:

1.

2.

- II. Suppose you have Rs. 10,000 to spend on sports equipment. Write in your notebook the things you would want to buy. As the Secretary of The Sports Club in your school, write a letter to M/S. India sports, Hyderabad for placing order for these sports goods. You should ask them to send you the price list of the goods before you place the final order.
- III. The Telangana Sports Club, Hyderabad has decided to collect data about the popularity of sports and games in schools. Write a message about the Telangana Sports Club's visit to your school.

How well did I write?

Fill in the boxes using yes/ somewhat/ no.	
I was able to explain / describe / narrate well.	
The sentences I used were properly connected.	
I was able to express my ideas in apt words.	
The ideas were arranged in proper sequence.	
I used proper punctuation marks.	

How well did I edit my work?

Fill in the boxes using yes/ somewhat/ no.	
I deleted the excess words.	
I corrected the wrong forms of words.	
I corrected the punctuation errors.	
I added new words wherever necessary.	
I corrected the misspelt words.	

Study Skills

Read this questionnaire and write your answers in the notebook. The points you get depend on your choice of answer, a, b, or c. Look at the table given below the questionnaire for points. For example, if your answer to question 1 is b, you will get 0 points. Mark your answers and calculate your score. Then you will know how sporty you are.

How sporty are you?

1. How often do you play sports per week?
a. Three times b. Never c. Every day
2. What do you like to do on a Sunday afternoon?
a. Watch television b. Study c. Play sports with friends
3. How often do you watch sports on television?
a. Never b. Sometimes c. Often
4. During the last Cricket World Cup.
a. I watched some of the matches.
b. I watched most of the matches.
c. I didn't watch any of the matches.
5. What do you think of your physical education classes at school?
a. I hate them. b. I think they are O.K. c. I love them.
6. Which of these do you have?
a. A lot of sports books, magazines and equipment.
b. Some sports books, magazines and equipment.
c. No sports books, magazines and equipment.
7. Do you ever think of becoming a famous sports player?
a. Never b. Sometimes c. Often
8. Do you plan to participate in sports this weekend?
a. Yes b. May be c. No

Question No.	Points		
	a	b	c
1.	1	0	2
2	1	0	2
3	0	1	2
4	1	2	0

Question No.	Points		
	a	b	c
5	0	1	2
6	2	1	0
7	0	1	2
8	2	1	0

Score: Less than 5 points – you hate sports.

From 5 to 9 points – you like sports.

More than 9 points – you love sports.

Give the questionnaire to the members of your group and tell them how sporty they are.

Listening and Speaking

- I. Your teacher will read the story, “The Olympic Champion and the Ducks.” Listen carefully and say whether the following statements are True or False. Write T for True and F for false statements in the brackets.**



1. The first Olympic Games were held in Olympia. []
2. Olympic Games are held once in a year. []
3. Bobby Pearce learnt sculling from his father. []
4. When Bobby won his first race, he was six years old. []
5. Myers slowed down the boat because he loves animals. []
6. People praised Bobby for his kindness towards the innocent creatures. []
7. He lost only a single race. []
8. He completed thirty three races in his life. []

Group work - Oral Activity

- II. Given below are some statements expressing the views of some people about sports and games in schools. Discuss them in your group. Each member should either agree or disagree with the statement and give reasons.

Sports/games slow down students' progress in their studies.

When school children participate in sports/games, they become tired.

Girls should not be encouraged to participate in sports/games

When girls take part in sports/games, they become masculine and insensitive.

Participating in sports/games is a mere waste of time.

Sports/games spoil the entire career of students.

The success rate is very low in sports/games.