

"Stop!" says the policeman. "Can't you see the red light?" The policeman is taking out his book.

"What is your name?" he is asking Number Fourteen. "Where do you live?" He is writing in his book.

Here is Tim. He is crossing the road. The light is green. It says *GO!*

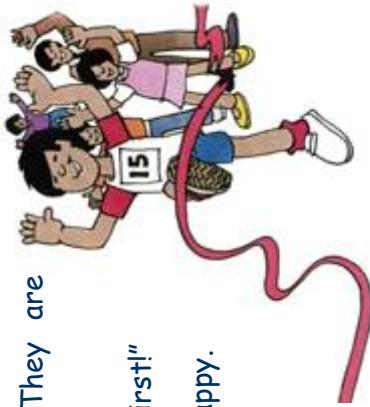
Tim is running past the policeman. He is running past Number Fourteen.

Tim is first! He is small and short and he cannot run fast but he is first!

Look at all the people! They are shouting.

"Good, Tim, good! You are first!"

Tim is smiling. He is very happy.



THE BIG RACE

What are these boys doing? They are waiting. They are waiting for the big race.

They are wearing shorts and shirts. There are numbers on their shirts. Can you see the boy with number fifteen on his shirt?

His name is Tim. All the boys are big and tall but Tim is small and short.

"You cannot run," they are saying. "We are big and tall. We have long legs. You are small and short. You have short legs. We can run fast. You can't run fast. You run slowly. Sit down and look at us. You cannot race."

"No," says Tim. "I am small but I can run. I run slowly but I can run."

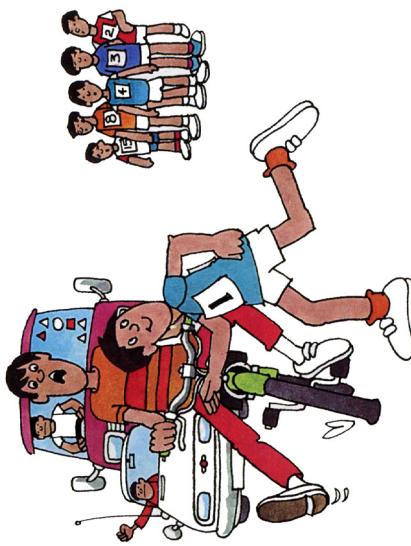
D. H. Howe
The Big Race
Oxford, O. U. P., 2001

Look at the man in the white hat. He is beginning the race. He is holding up a flag. What colour is it? It is black and white.

The man has a whistle in his mouth. He is looking at his watch. The boys are looking at the man. Now the flag is down. The man is blowing his whistle. The race is beginning.

The boys are running. There are a lot of boys. They are pushing Tim. He is falling down. Some of the boys are running over him!

Now the boys are at the road.



There are lorries and cars and people on bicycles. It is dangerous.

Some of the boys are waiting. Can you see Tim?

He is at the back. He is behind the boys. Some of the boys are crossing the road.

Number One is in front. Look at the man on the bicycle! He is running into Number One!

"This is good!" he is saying. "No one can see me. Now I am not hot and tired. I am not running. I am sitting down!" He is smiling.

What is the bus doing now?

It is turning to the right. It is not going along the road beside the path. It is going the wrong way.

Number Ten is not smiling now! He is out of the race. Here are three more boys. They are hot and tired but they are running fast. They are looking down. They cannot see the notice. Can you see the notice?

They are running along the wrong path.
They are out of the race.

Here is Number Fourteen. He is hot and tired but he is running fast.

"I am first," he says. All the other boys are out of the race.
Tim cannot catch me. I am first." He is smiling.

Now Number Fourteen is crossing the road. The light is shining. It is red. It says STOP!

There is a policeman at the other side of the road.

he is running on.

Now Number Nine is in front. We cannot see the other boys. Number Nine is very tired and hot. He is buying an ice-cream and he is buying a bottle of Coca-cola. Now he is sitting down under a tree. He is eating the ice-cream and he is drinking the Coca-cola. He is very tired and hot. Now he is asleep.

The other boys are coming. They are laughing at him.

"Look!" they are saying. "He is asleep. Don't wake him." They are running on.

Here is Tim.

He is not laughing at Number Nine. He is pushing him.

"Wake up!" says Tim. "You are running a race!"

"No," says Number Nine. "I am hot and tired. I cannot run."

Number Ten is in front now, but he is very hot and tired. We cannot see the other boys.

A bus is coming along the road. It is stopping at the bus-stop. What is Number Ten doing? He is getting on the bus! Now the bus is moving off. Number Ten is sitting down.

He is giving the man some money.

All the boys are crossing the road. Number Two is in front.

Can you see Tim? He is at the back.

Now the boys are running along a path.

The path runs along a river. Number Two is in front but he is running very near the river.

Number Three is running near Number Two. Number Three is holding out his arm.

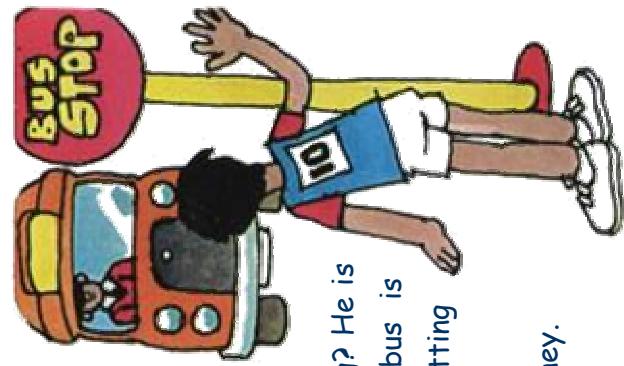
He is pushing Number Two!



Look at Number Two! He is in the middle of the river! He is swimming. He cannot run in the race now.

Now Number Three is in front. The other boys are behind him. Some of them are tired.

Can you see Tim? He is at the back. He is behind all the boys. He is running slowly but he is running!



Now Number Three is stopping. He is sitting down. He is taking off his shoe. There is a nail in his shoe. He is taking off his sock. He is putting a bandage on his foot. He cannot run in the race now.

Number Four and Number Five are in front now. They are running very fast. We cannot see the other boys. We cannot see Tim. There are some black clouds in the sky. The boys are looking at the clouds.

Now it is raining. It is raining very hard. The two boys are standing under a tree. They are waiting for the rain to stop. They cannot see the other boys.

Now Number Six is in front. Tim is behind all the others. He is running slowly but he is running! Can you see the dog? It has a big mouth and long teeth. Look at Number Six's face!

Look at Number Six. He is up the tree. He is holding on very carefully. The dog is jumping up. It is trying to bite him. He cannot run in the race now.

Number Seven is in front now. The other boys are behind him. Tim is at the back.

Number Seven is wearing glasses but they are falling off his nose. Now Number Seven's glasses are on the grass.

He is looking for them. He cannot see. The other boys are coming. They are not stopping.

Number Seven is on the grass. The other boys are not stopping. They are running fast.

Tim is not running fast. Tim is stopping. Tim is looking for his glasses. Tim can see Number Seven's glasses. He is giving the glasses to him.

"Here are your glasses," says Tim.

"Thank you," says Number Seven. He is putting his glasses on but he cannot see. He cannot run in the race.

Number Eight is in front now. The other boys are behind him. We cannot see Tim.

Number Eight is coming to a gate. He is not opening the gate. He is jumping over it. His right foot is touching the top of the gate.

Now Number Eight is sitting on the ground. He is holding his head. The other boys are opening the gate. They are not jumping over it. They are running past Number Eight. They are not helping him. One boy is closing the gate. Here is Tim!

He is opening the gate and now he is closing it.

"Hello!" he says to Number Eight. "What are you doing?"

"Oh! My head! My head!" says Number Eight.

Tim is helping him. He is giving him a bandage. Number Eight has the bandage around his head. He cannot run in the race now.

Tim is running on. He is tired and his legs are short but