

Title: Off and Running

Lesson #3:

Skill - Compare and Contrast, p. T172 or p. 82; Idioms, and Formal and Informal Language

Strategy - Infer/Predict, p T172 or p. 82

Genre:

Realistic Fiction

Essential Question:

Why is determination a good quality for a politician to have?

Think Through the Text:

1. What details does the author provide to show that Miata is nervous? (p. T176 & p. 87)
2. What can you tell about Rudy based on the way he speaks to Carlos and Jaime? (p. T176 & p. 87)
3. What do most of the ideas in Miata's speech reveal about her motives in running for office? (p. T178 & p. 89)
4. Would you describe Miata's language in her speech as more formal or informal? Quote examples from the text to support your answer. (p. T178 & p. 89)
5. Why does Miata feel exhausted when she sits down? (p. T180 & p. 90)
6. Summarize the differences between Rudy's and Miata's speeches. (p. T180 & p. 91)
7. How are Rudy and Miata alike and how are they different after their speeches? (p. T182 & p. 93)
8. What does the idiom "to put on a good face" tell us about Miata? (p. T182 & p. 93)
9. Why does the author use words slam, trudge, and groan? (p. T184 & p. 94)
10. Use story details to infer what Miata's relationship with her father is like. (p. T184 & p. 95)
11. Does the author feel it is better to be well liked or "help people, to get things done"? What clues tell you this? (p. T186 & p. 96)
12. What lesson does Miata learn from running for office? (p. T186 & p. 96)

Analyze the Text:

Read the Analyze the Text box on p. 87. Idioms - Idioms are phrases that have meanings that are different from their literal meanings.

People use idioms in casual conversation to better express their personalities. Authors use idioms to make their characters more realistic. What other idioms could Rudy have used that have the same meaning as “knock it off”? (p. T177 & p. 87)

Read the Analyze the Text box on p. 91. Compare and Contrast -

Comparing and contrasting means to look for similarities and differences. Think about how the audience reacts to the two candidates different speeches. Using an organizer, show ways the audiences’s reactions to the two speeches were similar and different? (p. T181 & pp. 91)

Read the Analyze the Text box on p. 93. Formal and Informal Language -

The way characters speak and types of English they use give us clues about their personalities and backgrounds. Varieties of speech can include: dialect, slang, and formal and informal language. Think about difference in types of language. What are some times when using formal language is appropriate? When is informal language more appropriate? Think about how Miata and Rudy present themselves with the way they speak. How does their choice of wording let you know what kind of people they are? (p. T183 & p. 93)

Your Turn:

Return to the Essential Question (p. T190 & p. 100)

1. How does Miata show determination in the story?
2. How are some of the obstacles that Miata faces similar to those faced by real politicians?
3. Do you agree with the advice Miata’s father gives her? Why?

Write About Reading:

(p. T190 & p. 101)