

## ***RUN FOR YOUR LIFE BEFORE READING***

### The Situation

Cassie Straydeer, a teenage Navajo girl, lives in a trailer with her mother and her brother on a reservation.

Form four groups. Each is responsible for writing and performing one of the following scenes:

### Scene One:

Cassie is at home alone watching TV. She is watching a long-distance race. When she sees the interview with the winner, a good-looking girl, she suddenly has the idea: I want to be like her!

Looking in the mirror, she sees that she's not at all slim like that girl.

When her brother comes in and begins watching TV, she asks him what he thinks about her idea of becoming a runner. He laughs at her, and tells her it's a stupid idea, one she cannot possibly realize.

She goes outside to be alone. There she holds an angry monologue, telling herself she's going to go for her dream no matter what.

### Scene Two:

Cassie goes to see her doctor, Doc Dalton, a very friendly man, looking for encouragement. He, himself a former runner, encourages her and gives her lots of good advice about how to become a long-distance runner.

Returning home, Cassie speaks with her mother about her talk with the doctor. The mother notices that she is upset and asks why. Cassie says the running shoes she needs cost over a 100 dollars. Her mother gives her money she had been saving for an emergency.

Dennis, the brother, comes in, sees what is in the envelope and becomes very angry about it. He accuses Cassie of sucking up to her mother.

### Scene Three:

At school, the kids have heard that Cassie is training to become a long-distance runner. They begin teasing and bullying her, resenting the fact that she is trying to do something so unusual.

At home, her brother picks on her. He hides her shoes and pretends to know nothing about where they are. Cassie knows that he is lying and gets angry. They get into a fight. The mother intervenes and orders Dennis to give Cassie her shoes.

### Scene Four:

It's the day of the big race and Cassie has just arrived at Ship Rock with her uncle and her mother. Cassie's friend Doctor Dalton joins them and they talk about the race. They look around and see the other runners, including the favorite, who gives Cassie a very unfriendly look. Uncle Joe, also a former runner, gives her some last-minute advice about how to run the race.

Dennis stayed at home and watches the race on TV, hoping to see Cassie lose. He's happy when the commentator says that Cassie has got off to a bad start. But as the race goes on his mood changes as Cassie slowly but surely gains on the leader. In the final phase, when Cassie overtakes the leader and wins the race, he freaks out. Shouting angrily, he rushes out of the trailer, picks up an empty bottle and smashes it against a tree.

### ***Run For Your Life After Reading***

*After finishing the story, put your book aside and do this comprehension test.*

*Mark the sentences true or false. Then check your answers. How many did you get right?*

41-45= excellent      35-40=good      29--34=satisfactory      23-28=acceptable

#### ***Chapter One***

1-Cassie's mother worked for the government.

2-Thor belonged to Sam Trujillo.

3-Mrs. Blackhouse called Cassie's brother to ask him to pick Cassie up.

#### ***Chapter Two***

1-When Cassie saw the beautiful winner of the race on TV, she wanted to be like her.

2-Dennis encouraged Cassie to become a runner.

3-The woman from Wings of America had told Cassie that she was a talented runner.

#### ***Chapter Three***

1-Doc Dalton warned Cassie about the dangers for a girl running alone.

2-He said that Cassie's biggest problem was her weight.

3-'Run for your life' was Doc's motto.

#### ***Chapter Four***

1-Cassie's mother said Cassie could earn the money for running shoes by babysitting.

2-Dennis said that Cassie must pay her mother back the 110 dollars for the shoes.

3-Cassie won the race against her brother.

#### ***Chapter Five***

1-When the kids at school heard that Cassie was in training, they began bullying her.

2-Cassie heard about the wild dogs in the area, and worried about them.

3-She bought herself a gun for protection.

#### ***Chapter Six***

1-Dennis became jealous of Cassie when he heard that she planned to run in a race.

2-He hid her running shoes under his bed.

3-Cassie's mother made him give Cassie back her shoes.

#### ***Chapter Seven***

1-In Cassie's dream, she was twisting her brother's ankle.

2-Waking up and looking in the mirror, Cassie realized why she was being bullied.

3-Cassie decided to do what the students wanted her to do.

#### ***Chapter Eight***

1-The morning of the race, Cassie read the book 'Running for Dummies' five times.

2-Dennis watched Uncle Joe talking with Cassie in the yard.

3-All the way to the race in Shiprock, Cassie talked with Uncle Joe.

#### *Chapter Nine*

1-Watching the race on TV, Dennis was pleased that Cassie got off to a bad start.

2-At the halfway mark of the race, Cassie was fifty yards behind Tanja Banks.

3-When Dennis saw Cassie win the race, he sent Uncle Joe a text message.

#### *Chapter Ten*

1-After Cassie won the race, the students at school became friendly to her.

2-Dennis also changed and began being more friendly to Cassie.

3-One day, Dennis asked her a lot of questions about her training program.

#### *Chapter Eleven*

1-Watching a movie, Dennis suddenly got the idea about a trap for Cassie.

2-A pack of wild dogs came after Dennis.

3-One of the dogs bit him in the leg.

#### *Chapter Twelve*

1-Cassie watched 'True Life', one of her favorite TV shows.

2-Cassie thought that Dennis was like the boy in the show.

3-Dennis imagined that he had rabies.

#### *Chapter Thirteen*

1-When the alpha dog came at her, Cassie waited until the last minute before acting.

2-Dennis didn't agree with Cassie about going to the hospital.

3-The doctor at the hospital gave Dennis a tinnitus shot.

#### *Chapter Fourteen*

1-Cassie asked Dennis what he was doing on her running route.

2-Dennis admitted that he was planning to set a trap for Cassie.

3-Cassie talked Dennis into becoming a runner like herself.

#### *Epilogue*

1-Cassie joined Albuquerque College's women's cross country team.

2-A year later, Dennis followed her to Albuquerque College.

3-They are often asked to speak at schools, but are too busy to accept any invitations.