Words to Know

Read each Context Card.

Use a blue word to tell about something you did.

1. **two**
   Two desert lizards are sitting on the rock.

2. **into**
   The bird flew into the big cactus.

WORDS TO KNOW
HIGH-FREQUENCY WORDS

- two
- into
- three
- starts
- over
- four
- five
- watch
three
There are three birds resting in the sun.

starts
The desert starts to cool down at sunset.

over
A hawk flew over the tall rocks.

four
All four legs of this fox are strong.

five
This desert flower has five red spots.

watch
The rabbits watch and listen for danger.
Background

WORDS TO KNOW Running Contest

1. The race starts at four o’clock.
2. We watch the runners get into place.
3. Five runners start to go fast.
4. Then three of the runners slow down.
5. Two runners are very close.
6. The winner goes over the finish line!

Who do you think will win this race?
Tell about races you have been in.
Comprehension

TARGET SKILL Conclusions

In a story, authors do not always tell all the details. Readers must use story clues and what they already know to make a smart guess about what the author does not say. This smart guess is a conclusion.

Conclusion: The boy won. What clues helped you know this?

As you read The Big Race, use story clues and what you already know to think of conclusions. Use a chart like this one to tell what helps Red Lizard win the race.
Meet the Author

Pam Muñoz Ryan

California summers can be very hot. When Pam Muñoz Ryan was growing up, she was often at the library on summer days. That’s because the library was one of the few places nearby with air conditioning!

Meet the Illustrator

Viviana Garofoli

Viviana Garofoli and her family make their home in the country of Argentina. Sophie’s Trophy and My Big Rig are two of the books she has illustrated.

WORDS TO KNOW

two over
into four
three five
starts watch

TARGET SKILL

Conclusions Use details to figure out more about the text.

TARGET STRATEGY

Infer/Predict Use clues to figure out more about story parts.

GENRE

A fantasy is a story that could not happen in real life.
The Big Race
written by Pam Muñoz Ryan
illustrated by Viviana Garofoli
Win the Big Race
Win this Big Cake

Today is the big race.
"I like cake!" said Red Lizard. "I will run in that race."
Red Lizard gets to the race.

Four animals will run with him.
Cottontail is not late.
She will run in lane one.
Rat naps in the shade.
She will run in lane two.
Snake takes his spot in lane three.
Roadrunner stands in lane four.
He waves to his pals.
Red Lizard is in lane five.
The animals bend and hop.
Get set. Go!

The flag is down, and the race starts! Many animals watch and clap.
Cottontail does not get far.
Rat falls into the hay.
Snake stops and chases bugs.
Roadrunner trips over a rake.
Who will win?
Hip, Hip, Hooray!

It’s Red Lizard who wins!
"Watch me eat this cake," he yells. Red Lizard looks at his big cake.
Red Lizard looks at his pals.
His pals like cake, too.
What will Red Lizard do now?
Red Lizard gets five plates.  
He gets cake for his pals, too.  
**Hip, Hip, Hooray** for Red Lizard!
Grammar

Verbs and Time  Some *verbs* tell what is happening now. Some verbs tell what happened in the past. Add *ed* to most verbs to tell about the past.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Now</th>
<th>In the Past</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The <em>animals</em> watch the race now.</td>
<td>The <em>animals</em> watched the race yesterday.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>They cheer</strong> for their friends.</td>
<td><strong>They cheered</strong> for their friends.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Work with a partner. One partner reads aloud a sentence. The other partner finds the verb. Together, tell how to write the verb to tell about the past. Take turns.

1. The runners look at the flag.
2. They start the race.
3. Some racers jump high.
4. They finish the race quickly.
5. The winners pick prizes.

Grammar in Writing

When you proofread your writing, be sure each verb tells clearly if something is happening now or in the past.