

English FAL

Listening text & Activity



I want to tell you a factual account about a guide dog called Sammy and how she was a wonderful help to her owner. First let me tell you about Wendy. Wendy is 16 years old. She is just like the average 16 year old teenager that you might know. She loves spending time with her friends and she loves running. She has always been a fast runner, and when she was younger she usually came first in athletic events. She was also very good at cross country running, and could run long distances without getting tired.

There is one thing that is different about Wendy. She is blind. When she was in Grade 8 she suffered from a rare and unfortunate disease that left her blind. This was a very traumatic time in Wendy's life. Her parents got her a guide dog. Guide dogs are young dogs that undergo demanding training to assist blind people. They are usually given to one owner and they help that owner in countless ways. Wendy loved her guide dog and called her Sammy. Sammy was devoted to Wendy.

After a while Wendy decided that she wanted to continue cross country running along with Sammy. Her parents agreed. Sammy ran with Wendy every day for long distances, and they trained hard. Wendy's school said that Wendy and Sammy could continue running in the cross-country events at school and could even enter the competitions. On the day of the first cross-country competition, Wendy was very excited but also very nervous. She didn't have to feel worried. Sammy behaved beautifully. Together they ran, just as they did every morning, and Sammy helped Wendy navigate the cross-country course. Guess what? They won! Everybody shouted with joy and some shed tears. Wendy is now in the school cross-country team and the team has an additional four-legged member – Sammy. Sammy helped Wendy cope with her disability. That is what guide dogs do.

Adapted from a story called "Internation Guide Dog Day: 10 Inspirational Guide Dog Stories"
<https://goo.gl/JNdDqe>

Questions:

1. Why did Wendy need a guide dog?
2. What is a guide dog?
3. How old is Wendy?
4. Why do you think Wendy was nervous on the day of the competition?
5. Why do you think Wendy won the cross-country event?

