

The Race

Level 4

Jamie had done it! He was standing on the podium holding the golden trophy high above his head. The crowd was going wild with excitement, cheering for the newest go kart champion.

“Jamie! Jamie! Jamie!” he heard the crowd chant.

“...Jamie. Time to wake up.” A voice repeated.

“Huh? Oh, right,” Jamie mumbled sleepily, rubbing his eyes.

“It’s the day of the big race!” his mother replied.

After a quick breakfast, Jamie headed to the garage and checked over his go kart. He had spent the past three weeks building it from bits and pieces he had found around the house. Jamie had decorated his kart using some bright yellow paint he had found in the garage. The *Golden Thunder* was born!

Around lunch time, Jamie and the other competitors assembled at the top of Green Street, which was the longest and steepest street in the town. Jamie pushed his go kart up to the start line and climbed into his kart.

The race began! Jamie got off to a good start. The second corner was one of the more difficult parts of the track. As they approached, he noticed the driver ahead of him slowed down to go over the speed bump. Jamie had another idea. He held his breath and carefully steered his kart through the narrow gap, avoiding the bump altogether.



That was close! Jamie thought. There was now only one kart in front of him. It was *Purple Flash*. For the next four corners, Jamie skilfully avoided obstacles, ducked under low tree branches and weaved around corners at break-neck speeds. He was now neck and neck with *Purple Flash*, their wheels almost touching. The two karts hurtled towards the last corner of the track, which wound around a lake. Suddenly, just as the lake came into view, the steering wheel dislodged from *Golden Thunder*! Jamie felt his heart stop. He watched, mouth open, as the lake ahead of him got bigger and bigger.



“Help! I need help...” he started to shout. But who could help him?

His kart sped down the steep hill, out of control. He reached down to his feet, his fingers desperately searching for the steering wheel. He found it! But the lake was getting closer and closer! Jamie tried to place the steering wheel back in its spot. If he didn't, his race was over, and his kart would be lost forever at the bottom of the lake. But the steering wheel refused to fit. “What's wrong with this thing!” Jamie yelled in frustration. He held his breath, watched the lake, and braced for the crash.

All of a sudden, he heard a click. The steering wheel was back in place! At the last possible second, he pulled the wheel to the left as quickly as he could. Was it too late? Jamie closed his eyes, expecting his kart to slide down the steep bank and into the lake. After what felt like an eternity, Jamie opened his eyes. The lake and *Purple Flash* were behind him. He had crossed the line! He had done it!



Questions

The Race – Level 4

1. How long had Jamie been working on his go kart?

2. Why do you think Green Street was chosen for the race?

3. What does the word 'assembled' mean?

4. What made the second corner of the race challenging?

5. Why do you think Jamie named his go kart *Golden Thunder*?

6. Jamie 'checked over' his go kart after breakfast. What do you think he did exactly?

7. What was happening in the beginning of the story?

8. Why do you think the author chose to begin the story this way?



Answers

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1. How long had Jamie been working on his go kart?

Jamie had worked on his go kart for 3 weeks.

2. Why do you think Green Street was chosen for the race?

Green Street was steep and very long.

3. What does the word 'assembled' mean?

Assembled means grouped together.

4. What made the second corner of the race challenging?

There was a speed bump in the corner.

5. Why do you think Jamie named his go kart *Golden Thunder*?

He named it Golden Thunder because he had painted it yellow, and the word 'thunder' sounds like it will go very fast. Thunder is also threatening, so the name makes his go kart sound dangerous.

6. Jamie 'checked over' his go kart after breakfast. What do you think he did exactly?

Answers may vary. Jamie checked the wheels were pumped up. He checked all the screws were tight. He checked the brakes were working.

7. What was happening in the beginning of the story?

Jamie was dreaming that he won the go kart race.

8. Why do you think the author chose to begin the story this way?

Answers may vary. This was a good way to start the story off in an interesting way. It makes the reader want to read on.