Fall, 2016
Text Dependent Analysis (TDA) Pilot
English I

Item 2

Hawaii Ironman: An Irongirl's Story
Read the passage. Then answer the TDA question.

Hawaii Ironman: An Irongirl’s Story

Greta was a triathlete. Unlike other athletes who specialize in one event, a triathlete competes in events that require swimming, biking, and running. Greta’s dream was to compete in the Hawaii Ironman, a race for which she would have to swim 2.4 miles, bike 112 miles, and run a standard marathon distance of 26.2 miles—all in the same day.

For Greta, being a triathlete had its price in time and energy. When she first became interested in the sport, she woke up at 5:30 A.M. every morning in order to swim for an hour before her high school classes began. During track season, she trained with long distance runners. For much of the time, however, she was out on coastal roads, logging a weekly average of 200 miles on her bike and running between thirty-five and fifty miles a week.

Greta persisted. Finally, just after her eighteenth birthday, she managed to qualify and soon found herself on an airplane headed for Kailua-Kona, Hawaii.

Race day: 5:30 A.M. The grandstands lining Alii Drive in Kona were already filled with spectators. Greta stood in line, swim cap and goggles in hand, along with close to 1,500 other athletes, waiting to receive her number.

The entrance to the harbor was crowded with swimmers. The horn sounded and the Ironman triathlon was under way. Greta swam steadily. After ten minutes, she found herself alone, the next swimmer three body lengths behind her. Fighting the numbness in her arms, she maintained her pace. At 1.2 miles, she rounded the turning point and headed for shore.

When her feet hit the boat ramp, Greta ripped off her swimming cap and ran to the changing tent. A quick change into bike shorts, and she was off to the bike transition area. A volunteer pointed to the row where her bicycle stood racked and ready with bike shoes already clipped in the pedals. Greta downed a bottle of Gatorade, put on her helmet, and headed out.

The first hill was tough, a steep ascent up Palani Road, but the crowd lining the street urged her on, and Greta rode gracefully and powerfully out onto Queen K highway. She forced herself to eat a protein bar, which she washed down with a swig of water. From experience Greta knew that if she didn’t eat and drink all day, she would deprive her body of much-needed nutrients and run out of energy.
With 110 miles to go, Greta let her mind relax into the “zone”—that state of mind in which she was aware of nothing but the delicious strength of her muscles gliding on the pedals. She felt energetic and strong, and a great calm enveloped her.

At 3:00 P.M., Greta entered the bike-to-run transition area and dismounted from her bicycle, having now been on the move for seven and one-half hours. Only the grueling 26.2-mile run to go!

Although aid stations had been set up every mile, they seemed farther apart to Greta, who was now beginning to feel dizzy. She grabbed half a banana at Mile 10 and several packets of GU (a high energy gel) at Mile 15. The road was littered with orange peels and empty GU packets, and the sun beat down over the lava fields. Focusing on the stride of a runner ahead of her, she dug deep inside herself for strength to continue.

When at long last the crowds along the road thickened, Greta knew she was approaching the final stretch. The cheers of the crowd revived her, and with a final surge, she strode down Alii Drive, crossing the finish line with a young man from Switzerland, who grabbed her hand and held it with his over their heads.

It was then that Greta realized exactly why she loved the triathlon. She told a local newspaper reporter, “At Ironman, you look around and see 1,500 other triathletes like you, with the same goal. Of course, there are a few elite athletes here who intend to win. But it doesn’t matter if you finish in under ten hours, or if you come in after the sun has gone down and the stars are out. To finish is to win.”

**Text-Dependent Analysis (TDA) Question**

One theme of the passage is “To finish is to win.” Write an essay analyzing how the author develops this theme. Use evidence from the passage to support your response.

Refer to the Writer’s Checklist on page 3 of this document. **Write your final response on pages 6 and 7.**
Hawaii Ironman: An Irongirl's Story is about a girl named Greta. Greta is a triathlete aiming to compete in a triathlon in Hawaii. She heads off and is able to compete in the race soon after her eighteenth birthday. One theme in this story is to finish is to win.

Throughout the text, the author develops this theme in multiple ways. The first of which being the fact that he never actually tells us what place Greta was in. It hinted at her being in first during swimming and we knew she fell behind during biking. In the passage it says, "the next swimmer three body lengths behind her," and later it says, "the ground was littered with orange peels..." The passage never says "She fell into third place," or "She crossed the finish line first." This gives the impression that what place she's in doesn't matter.
Another way the author builds this theme is through Greta's actions and words. In the beginning of the story it tells us about Greta's training regime and it didn't seem to hard core. She wasn't pushing her self past the limit and running a marathon every day. She typically ran, swam, and biked the triathlon through a week. Also, after at the end she word-for-word said, "To finish is to win."

Greta, a 18 year old triathlete, went to go compete in Hawaii's Iron man, a triathlon in Hawaii. She held the belief that finishing was basically the same thing as winning. This is shown in many ways throughout the story. Greta was shooting to finish, not necessarily in first place.
Throughout the story, the author hints at one of the themes, "To finish is to win." The author hints at this in many ways. One example would be in paragraph two. He says that Greta wakes up at 5:30 A.M. every morning to go for a swim before school. She also cycles 200 miles per week and runs from 35 to 50 miles per week. This is showing that she is preparing for the triathlon and she is ready to finish it.

The author also throughout the race writes how Greta is determined to finish. While Greta is swimming, she fights through the pain she is in and fights the numbness in her arms and finishes the swimming part of the race. After that is cycling, I thought an example of her mentality to finish the race is when she quickly changed clothes and drank the Gatorade. Because she did not
Sit down and try and cool off. It showed how badly she wants to finish this race. About 2 miles into the cycling part, she let her mind relax into the "zone". This allowed her to feel no pain, just strength. She felt strong and energized after that. After she finished the cycling part, she has been on the move for seven and one-half hours. The author included this to show her strive to finish and how determined she is. Once she started to run, she felt dizzy. Luckily at mile 10, there was a station that she grabbed food at. She continued to run even though she felt deaf. She was still focused on finishing and pushed herself to finish. She was close to the end. The cheers revived her and led her to finish the race along with another runner.

The author included these little details in order to show that as long as she finished; she was a winner, and how determined she was to finish.
Throughout the passage, the writer steadily develops a theme; to finish is to win. The author does this through several means, one of which is explaining all of Greta's obstacles or difficulties. The passage explicitly describes 'the mutihoness in her arms' and how she 'began feeling dizzy yet, through her arduous journey, she prevails.

Another way the author follows the theme 'to finish is to win' is the opening paragraphs. These paragraphs explain all of the training prior to the triathlon that Greta went through. It talks about how she woke up at 5:30 A.M. every morning to swim before her high school classes began. This shows determination and all of this training pays off at the end.

The final way that the author builds the theme, 'to finish is to win,' is less explicit than the others. Throughout her training, she never once trained for speed. She only trains with endurance. Though it never directly states it, Greta appears to be one of the final contenders to finish. Throughout the passage it describes how she found her self alone, the only swimmer 3 body lengths behind
her one hour, the road was littered with orange peels and GU packets. Unlike many other stories about a winning athlete and her mission to get the gold, this passage is about an average girl trying to complete her first triathlon. She doesn't make first, second, or even third place. But she finishes, and to finish is to win.
"But it doesn't matter if you finish in under ten hours, or if you come in after the sun has gone down, the stars are out. "To finish is to win." To Finish is to win is the theme that the writer has presented to the readers. The theme is being developed throughout the whole story. Greta remained consistent on what her goal was - she finished the triathlon it wasn't mad or sad about what she placed, in her mind she won because she finished. There are many places in the book that show parts of this theme.

The first part where the author begins to show her theme is in Chapter 4. After ten minutes she found herself alone. Fighting the numbness in her arms... "This is seen as something leading up towards the end (overall theme). At that point while she was struggling she could've given up, however she continued the race. For many people they would've quit, but Greta showed the strength
you have to have in order to reach the goal you have set. This was just the beginning of her goal, "To Finish is to win."

Another place in this story where the theme "To Finish is to win." is in chapter 10 and chapter 9. "The first hill was tough, a steep ascent up Palani Road..." This part was in the transition from swimming to biking — this part really been a part where she would have given up also, but she heard the crowd edging her on and she pressed through to the running segment. In chapter 9, Gireta explains how she started to feel dizzy at that also could’ve been a part where she gave up. Gireta stuck to her phrase "To Finish is to win.

"To Finish is to win," Gireta completed her goal and did not quit. She probably did not get first place or finish early, but she did finish. This theme is shown throughout the story as Gireta stuck to it.
TDA Final Response

The theme of the passage is "To finish is to win." That means, that no matter how or when you finish, you're still a winner. The author develops this theme by showing that whenever Greta was feeling weak and tired, she found the strength in herself to keep going, and she wasn't worried about being first place. "To finish is to win" developed when the author said Greta's arms were numb when Greta felt dizzy while running, and finally when she told the news reporter "To finish is to win!"

The first way the character developed the theme into the story was when Greta's arms were numb, but she kept swimming. She did not give up. She was only focused on finishing, not winning.

The second way the author developed the theme into the story was when Greta was feeling dizzy from running. Even though she felt dizzy, she ate
a banana and found the strength within herself to keep going. She didn't let the hard times stop her from finishing the race.

The last way the author developed the theme into the story was when Greta finished the race and told the news reporter "To finish is to win". She was proud of herself, even if she wasn’t first place. She felt confident and complete. She didn’t care what place she’s in because in her mind set, she won.

In the end, the author developed the theme "To finish is to win" by Greta’s arm going numb, Greta getting dizzy while running, and finally when she told the reporter "To finish is to win."
Greta is a determined athlete who want to compete in the Hawaii Ironman. To qualify, Greta must train very hard, the author choose to tell us about her hardships in the beginning to show determination. This tells us that Greta has a goal that might not be to win but to finish.

Greta says to a reporter that "to finish is to win," letting us the readers know that beating everyone else was not her goal, her true goal was to compete and have fun. The author choose to include this in his story to convey that even if you do not come out on top, if you set a goal and accomplish it you have won.

When Greta is struggling in the race, it shows the readers that Greta even though she trained she still have hardships in accomplishing her goal. Letting the reader know that Greta's goal is just like
any other goal. And that no matter how big or small your goal is, it’s how much you work for it that matters.

In conclusion, the author makes many choices to convey to finish is to win. The readers then can set goals of their own to accomplish with the mindset that it doesn’t matter who is first; it matters who came and did what they set for themselves.
In this passage, the author develops the theme in the story by starting off with her routine. By telling this, he is showing that even though she is training a lot, she doesn’t expect to win. There are 1500 athletes there to race many don’t think they will win. What the author is trying to say is that even though you don’t win, you still win at finishing the race. When there is 1500 athletes, it is very hard to win. Cause there are a lot of good athletes. When he talks about the actual race, he shows how hard it is. When a good athlete like Guera is having trouble finishing a race, that it is hard. When she feels dizzy, he is saying that it takes a lot of energy and food to do this. Obviously, it’s a hard race for a lot of people. These races aren’t easy, and you need a lot of experience with things like that to be able to do that. What he did was inform you of all the things you have to have before doing a race like that.
TDA Final Response

This short story has many themes that make up this story. The main one that is spoken in the story is “to finish is to win.” I think this means to stay determined, don’t over-work yourself, and to never stop or give up.

One example of determination is the story says “it’s price in time and energy.” It shows that the protagonist stays with it and stays determined.

Then, the second example is don’t over-work yourself. Like in the story the main character, Greta, let her mind relax and go into the “zone,” she did this to focus on the task at hand, to win.
TDA Final Response

Three, never stop and give in. We see this through the whole story, for example "the cheers of the crowd revived her." If it wasn't for the crowd she might have fallen back. She never give up even when she started to feel dizzy.

So, in conclusion to stay determined, don't over-work, and to never give in discourage the me. To finish is to win is explained all throughout the story. Greta persisted and keep going.
In the passage Greta practices for a triathlon. A triathlon is were you swim, bike, and run. She was so determined to qualify to go, she practiced with her school's Cross County long distance team and would wake up at 5:30 AM to swim before school. She ran a total of thirty-five miles to fifty miles a week. She would total 200 miles on the bike a week. Finally, she made it to be able to go to Kailua-Kona, Hawaii.

Greta started the triathlon and there were like 1,500 people there just like her. The first thing was swimming and about 12 miles in, she noticed that there was no one in sight but for one person behind her. Greta's arms were numb, but she finally made it to shore.

Next it was the biking part she went 112 miles to ride. It took her 1.5 hours to bike that far.
She had to run next 26.2 miles to finish. She finally ran the 26.2 miles and was done.

After the triathlon, she said to a news reporter that, "At Ironman you look around and see 1,500 other people just like you, with the same goal. Of course, there are a few elite athletes here who intend to win, but it doesn't matter if you finish in ten hours or if you finish when the Sun is down, to finish is to win." Which means that if you do your best and try it doesn't matter if you came in first. Knowing that you can do it is the only thing that matters at the end of the day.
The author developed the theme "To finish is to win" from constantly talking about it doesn't matter how you finish it, it's all about just getting it done. The author also explains that Greta was so dedicated that she was waking up around 5:30 AM so she could swim for an hour before her classes start. The author shows us that he thinks winning isn't everything when he said "Of course there are a few elite athletes here who intend to win. But it doesn't matter if you finished in under ten hours, or if you came in after the sun has gone down and the stars are out. "To finish is to win."
The theme "To finish is to win" can mean many things. The author came up with this theme because Grata never gave up on her dreams. When her legs became numb, she kept on swimming. When she reached the first hill, it was tough and steep, but the crowd urged her on. It's not about who finished first or who finished the fastest, it's all about you completing your goals and never giving up. If you finished the race, you'll always be a winner.
TDA Final Response

When the author says "To finish is to win," he/she is basically stating that once you start something and you finish it, that's an accomplishment. Even though you may not have finished on time, you still should take that as a win because you pushed through to finish it. If you didn't finish at all, you would most likely be disappointed in yourself and wouldn't want to do whatever it was you did anymore. But if you finish, even if you didn't win, you would be proud of yourself for pulling through and finishing whatever you finish in life, that is an accomplishment because you've completed it and many others may have not. Everything I do, I count finishing it an accomplishment because there's no telling when you may get...
The chance to do it again. If anyone in my family finished something, I always help them celebrate it because once you accomplish something, that's one big chapter in your life that you can close. Always remember, anything you finish is an accomplishment once it's over and done with.
The quote "to finish is to win" is basically saying that if you finish you win. Meaning you can maybe become successful in something that you enjoy doing. You can also become a pro at doing what you do best. To finish is to win gives you a great understanding of what it means if you pay close attention. In order to finish something you have to stay focused. In order to win something you have to try your very best at it. It won't hurt to just give things a try. You have to attempt not want to do it. All you have to do is put your mind to it, and believe that you can. That's what I think the quote/question meant.
The author came up with the theme because she was getting dizzy but she still finished and she won. She ate so that she and her body didn't run out of energy.