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Before Reading

 **1 Listen, to the text about the famous British horse rider, Ellen Whitaker, and tick (✓) the correct words to complete the sentences below.**

a Ellen Whitaker was one of the riders to represent Great Britain.

1 tallest **2** youngest **3** oldest

b She was born in Yorkshire in the of England.

1 north **2** south **3** east

c Two of her are famous horse riders.

1 friends **2** uncles **3** brothers

d She began riding before she could

1 talk **2** stand **3** walk

e The legal age to compete internationally is

1 fourteen **2** sixteen **3** fifteen

2  **Now fill in the fact file about Ellen Whitaker.**

Name:

Age:

Nationality:

Appearance:

Profession:




3 Write a fact file about your favourite sports personality.

4 Match the characters from the story with the descriptions.



- 1 Hi! My name's Caroline. I've got long auburn hair. I love horses and I've got my own horse. I haven't won any competitions yet, but I hope I will soon!
 - 2 Hello. My name's Applewind. I'm Caroline's horse. I'm white, and I've got a long tail and mane which Caroline brushes every day. I like show jumping and we enter a lot of competitions together, but unfortunately we never win.
 - 3 Hi! My name's Fred. I'm Caroline's brother. I've got short auburn hair. By the way, I haven't got a horse. In fact, I don't know anything about horses!
 - 4 Hello, I'm Mr Morley and I'm the head of the stables. I've got grey hair and I'm going bald!
- 5 Look at the pictures in the book and guess the answers to these questions.
- a Who or what is Blossom?
 - b Why does Sophie's horse fall?
 - c Do you think the story will have a happy ending?



 'Do you think you can win this competition, Caroline?' Mrs Winterbottom asked her daughter.

'I don't know, Mum. But I'll do my best.'

'I know, my dear. Just remember that your father pays a lot of money for the horse. And a lot of money for the stables. And a lot of money for the riding club.'

'I know, Mum, I know. I'll do my best. I really will.'

Caroline always did her best, but it was never enough. She was a good rider, and her horse Applewind was a great horse. She went to Sunshine Stables to ride Applewind. And she never missed a competition. But Sophie Craig was always better than her. Sophie won all of the show jumping competitions, and Sophie's horse Blossom was everybody's darling. Everyone loved Sophie and Blossom.

GLOSSARY

- **darling:** (here) favourite
- **missed:** (here) didn't go to
- **riding:** (here) horse riding
- **show jumping:** sport where horses and riders jump over small walls and fences
- **stables:** place where you keep horses

‘If you really want to win, you will win,’ Caroline’s dad said. He said the same thing before every competition. ‘It’s the same with my work. I want to win, so I win. Life is about winning. You have to learn that, Caroline!’

Caroline sighed •. ‘Dad,’ she said. ‘I want to win, too. But Sophie is too good.’

‘You have to be better than her,’ Mr Winterbottom said. ‘If you don’t win, Caroline, I’ll sell your horse. No trophy •, no horse! When is the next competition?’

‘In five days, Dad,’ Caroline said.

‘I want you to win it, Caroline. If you win the competition, you can keep Appleswind!’



GLOSSARY

- **sighed:** took a long deep breath
- **trophy:** cup you win in a competition



‘What’s the matter[•], sis[•]?’ It was Fred, Caroline’s brother. ‘Applewind again?’

‘It’s not Applewind, it’s me,’ Caroline said. ‘Dad said that he’ll sell Applewind if I don’t win the next competition. But Sophie Craig always wins. She’s too good. What can I do?’

Fred was sorry for his sister. He wanted to help her. But how? Caroline was right, Sophie was good. And Blossom was a great horse. Caroline worked hard, but Sophie also worked hard. Fred didn’t know what to do. He sat down in his favourite armchair[•] and fell asleep. Suddenly he woke up with a jump.

‘Sleep! That’s the answer. Dad’s sleeping pills[•]!’

He went to the bathroom. A minute later he had five sleeping pills in his hand.


-
- **armchair:** big comfortable chair with armrests
 - **sis:** (abbrev.) sister
 - **sleeping pills:** tablets (medicine) to make you sleep
 - **what’s the matter?:** what’s the problem?

BLOSSOM

RAINBOW



After Reading

- 1  Talk about the story. Ask and answer questions using the words below.

sleeping pills	a lot of money	win	competition
sell	sick	a bad fall	in real trouble
help	broke a rib	leave the stables	

Who gave Blossom the sleeping pills?

Fred gave Blossom the sleeping pills.

- 2 Complete the sentences with the adjectives below.

tired nervous confident lucky happy

- a Sophie was before the show jumping competition.
- b Caroline was before the competition.
- c Blossom looked before the competition.
- d Caroline was when she won the competition.
- e Sophie was because she only broke a rib.

- 3 Now make sentences about the story with the adjectives and nouns below.

Example: *Sophie is a good rider.*

Adjectives	Nouns
bad	rider
expensive	horse
great	fall
good	trophy
gold	stables