

# CLASS NOTES

Class: VIII

Topic: POEM 4. NINE GOLD MEDALS

BY- David J Roth

Subject: ENGLISH

**About the Poem:** Nine Gold Medals is a poem based by David J Roth. It is based on a true incident. The poet describes the incident that took place in the Special Olympics of 1976. When nine athletes lined up to start the race, one of them fell down right after it started. What happened next is a unique example of sporting spirit.

## Summary of Nine Gold Medals

Nine gold medals is a poem written by David J Roth, an American rock vocalist. Nine gold medals summary encourages human compassion and cooperation. It draws inspiration from the nine differently-abled athletes in a Special [Olympic](#) event. Further, it is about a race which takes place between these runners. One runner fell to the ground and upon seeing this, all the others stopped running. They went back and helped the one who fell down stand up on his feet. After that, all of them walked hand-in-hand to finish the race. Thus, seeing this gesture, all of the athletes were awarded a gold medal. It recognized all of them for their exceptional show of empathy and compassion.

Nine gold medals summary tells us about the spirit of sportsmanship and compassion. Moreover, it also explores human kindness and empathy. All in all, all the athletes justified the true meaning of Special Olympics.

**THIS IS ONLY FOR UNDERSTANDING. IT IS NOT TO BE WRITTEN IN THE COPY.**

## Reading Comprehension

### A. Answer these questions within 20 words each.

All answers must be written in the book.

### B. Answer these questions in 30-40 words each.

1. What happened when the pistol exploded?

Ans. The athletes were all lined up for the final race. When the pistol exploded, all the runners who were waiting expectantly charged ahead with full enthusiasm to win the race.

2. Whose dreams were dashed? Why?

Ans. The smallest contestant's dreams were dashed to dirt because he stumbled and staggered and fell on the asphalt. He gave a cry of frustration and anguish as all his hopes turned to dust with his fall.

3. How did the race end?

Ans. The race ended with the hundred yards dash being reduced to a walk with all the other eight participants joining hands with the smallest participant. They came to the finishing line together and were the winners of the nine gold medals.

### C. Answer this question in 80-100 words.

What is the special quality that the participants show? How does this contribute to the title of the poem?

Ans. The special quality that the participants show is empathy. All the nine participants are the winners as they empathized with the smallest contestant who fell and was not able to run. They joined hands with him and walked to the finishing line. The poem is all about participating in the race together in true sportsmanship, not vying with each other to win the race. The title Nine Gold Medals is appropriate to the theme of the poem which describes a race with a difference. When the smallest contestant staggered and fell on the asphalt, all other participants stopped, and though they had undergone considerable training to compete in the race, they went back to help the young boy and make him stand on his feet. Then they joined hands and continued the race which was now reduced to a walk. They came to the finishing line still holding hands and were the deserving recipients of the nine gold medals.

EXTRA QUESTIONS FOR PRACTICE.

- ✓ Why has the participants come?
- ✓ What is the central idea or theme of the poem?

- ✓ How does the poem 'Nine Gold Medals' show the true value of sportsmanship?
- ✓ Do you think that the sight of an athlete falling during the course of a race is unusual? What does this result in?

**D. Read these lines and answer the questions that follow.**

**These answers must be done in the book.**

**Question A. Now choose the most appropriate answer of the questions given below.**

**1. The poem "Nine Gold Medals" by David Roth narrates**

- A folk tale
- A story based upon a real incident
- An imaginary story
- The poet's own experience

**2. In the poem "Nine Gold Medals"**

- Nine gold medals were awarded in total in that Olympics
- One athlete won nine gold medals
- All nine competitors in an event were awarded a gold medal each
- Nine differently abled athletes won gold medals in that Olympics

**3. What are the themes?**

- Leadership quality
- Brotherhood
- Empathy and cooperation
- All of the above
- True sportsmanship

**4. What was the unexpected thing that happened?**

- When the shortest among them fell down, everyone else continued their race
- The youngest athlete among them was still standing at the starting point.
- The tallest among them stopped to help the shortest runner.
- The youngest athlete among them fell on his knees to the ground. All the other athletes stopped to help.

**5. But the \_\_\_\_\_ among them \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.**

- youngest, staggered and stumbled
- shortest, stumbled and staggered
- youngest, stumbled and staggered
- tallest, stumbled and staggered

**6. Why did the athlete give out a cry of frustration and anguish?**

- After months of gruelling hard work and effort, it was all lost in just a moment.
- He fell down on his knees.
- He lost the race.
- None of the above.

**7. What are the poetic devices?**

- Alliteration
- Personification
- Metaphor
- All of the above



