

# RAYMOND'S RUN

*Toni Cade Bambara*



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Think about each situation and check your answer.



Probably

Probably not

If you were choosing people for a ball team, would you pick your best friend instead of the best player to avoid hurting your friend's feelings?

Would you back down from an argument just to keep the peace?

Would you spend time with someone you didn't like because your mother asked you to?

Now discuss this question with your class:  
**Are girls expected to be nicer than boys?**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

During your second reading of the story, you marked places where Squeaky's attitude or opinion about something **helps** her or **hurts** her.

Now look over your notes and answer this question:

**Do you think that Squeaky's opinion of herself as the "baddest thing around" does more to help her or to hurt her?**

Be sure to give reasons for your answer.

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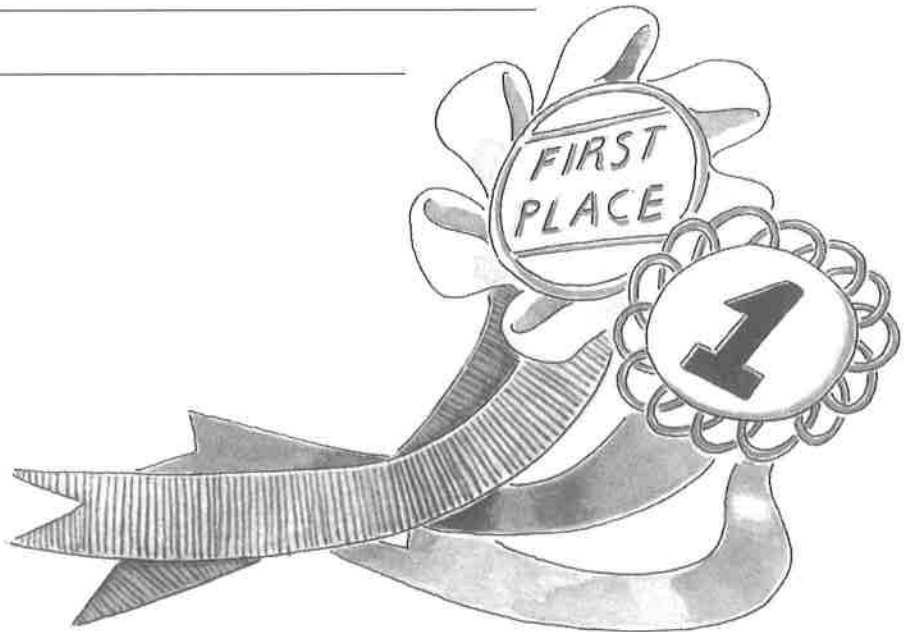
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## Interpreting Words

## RAYMOND'S RUN

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

After the big race, Squeaky and Gretchen find out that they **respect** each other.  
What makes Squeaky respect or not respect someone?

Squeaky **feels respect** for **Raymond** because \_\_\_\_\_

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Squeaky **feels respect** for \_\_\_\_\_

because \_\_\_\_\_

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Squeaky **doesn't feel respect** for **Mr. Pearson** because \_\_\_\_\_

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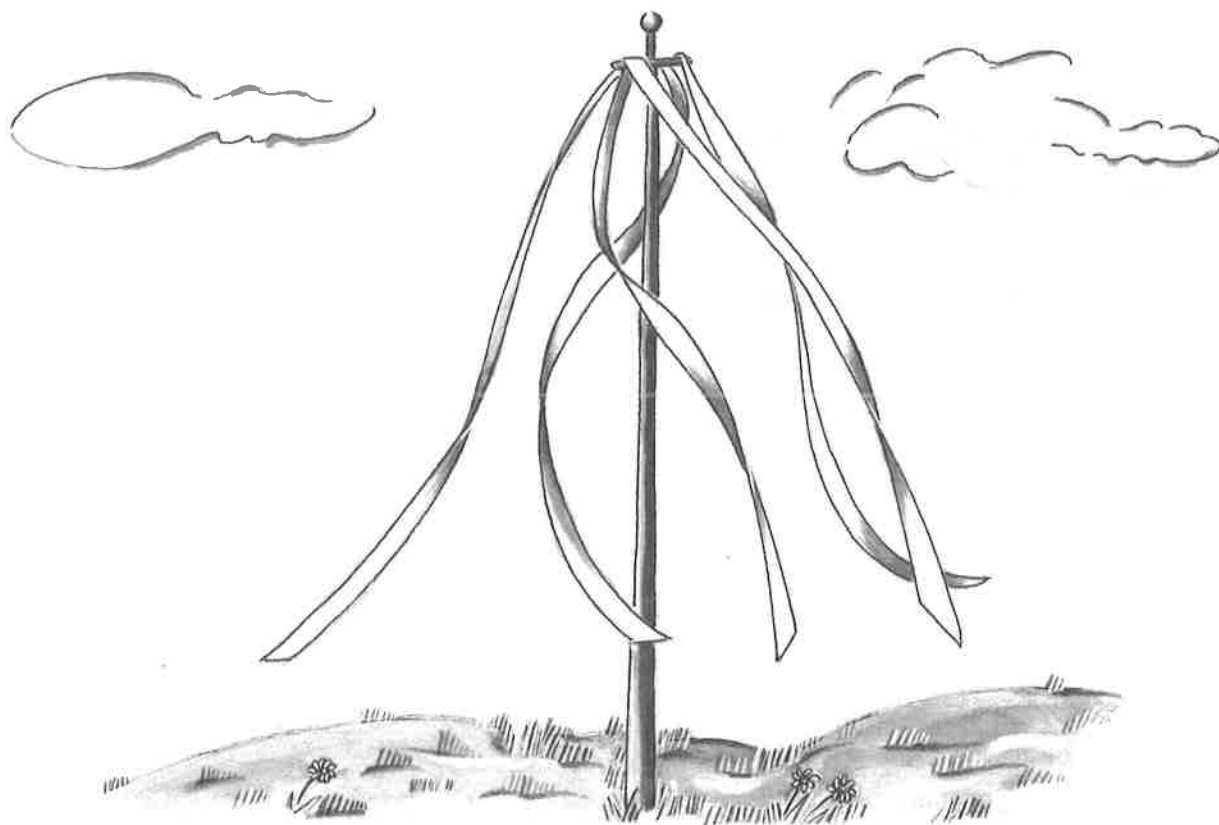
Squeaky **doesn't feel respect** for \_\_\_\_\_

because \_\_\_\_\_

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Now answer this interpretive question:

**Why does Squeaky think that acting like flowers, fairies, or strawberries keeps girls from being worthy of respect?**

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Make notes for a monologue by an opinionated character like Squeaky who speaks out about something stupid or unfair at school.

Why does your character think that this thing is stupid or unfair?

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Why does your character think he or she is an authority on this subject?

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What Your Character Objects To

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What does your character want to say to people who are in favor of this thing?

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What does your character think should be done?

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Make notes for an essay that answers this question:

**Do you agree with Squeaky that girls have trouble being honest in their friendships?**

How would you describe an honest friendship?

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Why might someone think that girls don't practice "real smiling" with each other?

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**Your Opinion**

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How can adults sometimes encourage girls to be nice in ways that aren't honest?

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Is it easier for boys to "be themselves" in their friendships?

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