

Helping your children choose books they will love



Lovereading4kids.co.uk is a book website
created for parents and children to make
choosing books easy and fun

Opening extract from
Olympic Poems

Written by
Brian Moses
Roger Stevens

Published by
Macmillan Children's Books

All Text is Copyright © of the Author and/or Illustrator

Please print off and read at your leisure.



Other books by Brian Moses and Roger Stevens

Beware! Low Flying Rabbits
Poems by Roger Stevens

Greetings, Earthlings!
Space poems by Brian Moses and James Carter

The Truth About Parents
*Hilarious rhymes by Paul Cookson, David Harmer,
Brian Moses and Roger Stevens*



**Brian Moses
and Roger Stevens**

Illustrated by Nathan Reed

MACMILLAN CHILDREN'S BOOKS

The Olympic Games

'The most important thing is not to win
but to take part'

Bishop of Pennsylvania, 1908



First published 2012 by Macmillan Children's Books
a division of Macmillan Publishers Limited
20 New Wharf Road, London N1 9RR
Basingstoke and Oxford
Associated companies throughout the world
www.panmacmillan.com

ISBN 978-1-4472-0552-4

Text copyright © Brian Moses and Roger Stevens 2012
Illustrations copyright © Nathan Reed 2012

The right of Brian Moses, Roger Stevens and Nathan Reed to be identified
as the authors and illustrator of this work has been asserted by them in
accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be
reproduced, stored in or introduced into a retrieval system, or
transmitted, in any form or by any means (electronic, mechanical,
photocopying, recording or otherwise), without the prior written
permission of the publisher. Any person who does any unauthorized
act in relation to this publication may be liable to criminal
prosecution and civil claims for damages.

1 3 5 7 9 8 6 4 2

A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from
the British Library.

Printed and bound by CPI Group (UK) Ltd, Croydon CR0 4YY

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not,
by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, resold, hired out,
or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent
in any form of binding or cover other than that in which
it is published and without a similar condition including this
condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

Contents

Poetry Marathon 1 of 4	<i>Roger Stevens and Brian Moses</i>	1
Advice for Staging Your Own Olympic Games	<i>Roger Stevens</i>	2
To Be an Olympic Athlete . . .	<i>Brian Moses</i>	4
Athlete	<i>Roger Stevens</i>	6
Sporting Definitions	<i>Roger Stevens</i>	7
The Overtaker	<i>Brian Moses</i>	8
Winning	<i>Brian Moses</i>	10
Slow Motion	<i>Roger Stevens</i>	12
Sprint	<i>Roger Stevens</i>	13
Running the Marathon	<i>Brian Moses</i>	14
I Am the Fastest	<i>Roger Stevens</i>	16
A Sub-two-hour Marathon?	<i>Brian Moses</i>	17
Roger Bannister	<i>Roger Stevens</i>	19
Hercules' Gym	<i>Brian Moses</i>	22
The Real Battle	<i>Roger Stevens</i>	25
Hurdles (1)	<i>Roger Stevens</i>	26
Hurdles (2)	<i>Roger Stevens</i>	27
The Food Obstacle Race	<i>Brian Moses</i>	28
Throwing Things	<i>Roger Stevens</i>	30
Mark Spitz	<i>Brian Moses</i>	31

Synchronization	<i>Roger Stevens</i>	32	Poetry Marathon 3 of 4	<i>Roger Stevens and Brian Moses</i>	62
I Never Learned to Dive Like Dave	<i>Brian Moses</i>	33	Bicycle Polo	<i>Brian Moses</i>	63
Dive	<i>Roger Stevens</i>	35	Looking Up	<i>Roger Stevens</i>	65
Fish Out of Water	<i>Roger Stevens</i>	36	I'm a Canoe	<i>Roger Stevens</i>	66
Trampolining	<i>Brian Moses</i>	38	Archery	<i>Brian Moses</i>	68
Ancient Olympic Sports	<i>Roger Stevens</i>	40	Dead Centre	<i>Roger Stevens</i>	69
Walking Backwards for Britain	<i>Brian Moses</i>	42	White Water	<i>Brian Moses</i>	71
Snail Race	<i>Roger Stevens</i>	43	Super Feats for Super Athletes	<i>Brian Moses</i>	72
The Lazylympics	<i>Brian Moses</i>	44	The Chosen One	<i>Roger Stevens</i>	74
Poetry Marathon 2 of 4	<i>Roger Stevens and Brian Moses</i>	46	It Always Rains on Sports Day	<i>Brian Moses</i>	75
Table Tennis	<i>Roger Stevens</i>	47	Egg and Spoon Race	<i>Roger Stevens</i>	77
Fencing	<i>Roger Stevens</i>	48	My Javelin	<i>Roger Stevens</i>	78
The Never-stop-moving Family	<i>Brian Moses</i>	49	Where's the Shot Put?	<i>Roger Stevens</i>	79
Beach Volleyball	<i>Brian Moses</i>	51	Relay Race	<i>Roger Stevens</i>	80
Bonkers About Bikes	<i>Brian Moses</i>	53	A Sporting Chance	<i>Brian Moses</i>	82
Superlatives	<i>Roger Stevens</i>	55	Disappointment	<i>Roger Stevens</i>	84
The Greatest	<i>Brian Moses</i>	56	Salute	<i>Brian Moses</i>	85
Sky Football	<i>Brian Moses</i>	58	Guess the Country	<i>Roger Stevens</i>	86
Tennis Match	<i>Roger Stevens</i>	59	Poetry Marathon 4 of 4	<i>Roger Stevens and Brian Moses</i>	88

*This poem is nervous to begin with.
All the other poems look fit, confident,
sure they can do it,
sure they can flit through these pages
at lightning speed.
But the sound of a gun signals the off
and words run*

For Lily, Ruby, Merlin and Sam (RS)

hither

and

thither

for a moment until they collect themselves
and fall into a rhythm . . .

*Moving fast
Make no mistake
This marathon's
A piece of cake
I'm proper chipper
Nippy, zippy
I've seams and reams
Of energy
For my next trick
I'm electric
Like a striker
On a hat-trick
Ducking, diving
Through the pages
How I love
These early stages.*

Advice for Staging Your Own Olympic Games

Never play volleyball with a bag of flour
Never use Mum's hairbrush as a baton in the relay race
The flower-bed is not a sandpit for the long jump
And remember – the Olympic Games does not include kiss-chase

Never pole-vault in the vicinity of Grandpa's greenhouse
Never throw the discus using Mum's best plates
The broom handle is not a pole – nor is it a javelin
Never use flowerpots (especially if they have flowers in) for weights

Your dog is a dog, not a horse
Although, at a push, could be used for equestrian events
Do not use the duvet covers in the airing cupboard
To make those big marquee-type tents

Never use the complete set of Delia Smith for the winners' podium
Never bribe the judges with crisps, chocolate, football cards or cash.
And finally when Mum comes home to find her house and garden in a mess
Say, Excuse me, but I'm in the hundred metres – must dash!

Roger Stevens



To Be an Olympic Athlete . . .

You need a lion's heart
and a swift pair of feet,
to be a champion
Olympic athlete.

You need exercise,
so get off the settee,
jog in the park
instead of watching TV.

You need a fire in your eyes
that never goes out,
no room at all
for any moment of doubt.

You need a real hunger
to go out and win,
you need a resolve
to never give in.

You need to break through
that barrier of pain,
and a mantra that tells you to
'train, train, train'.

Then one day, who knows,
to the sound of applause,
you will stand on the steps
and the gold will be yours.

Brian Moses



Athlete

Fast runner
Never give upper
Hard trainer
Careful eater
Stop watcher
Dawn catcher
Muscle stretcher
Dream follower
Team member
Record maker
Gold winner

Roger Stevens



Sporting Definitions

Dressage – how long it takes to get ready
Fencing – building a wooden barrier around
the stadium
Greece – the name of the film where John
Travolta invented Olympic dancing
High Jumper – badly knitted garment by
Granny
Long Jumper – (see High Jumper)
Triple Jump – a visit by three ghosts
Parallel Bars – two pubs exactly opposite one
another on a street
Pole Vault – jumping over someone from
Poland
Rowing – argument
Shuttlecock – male chicken going backwards
and forwards between two hens
Water Polo – small mint dropped in pool



Roger Stevens



The Overtaker

I'm an overtaker,
off down the line.
I don't wait around.
I haven't got time.

I'm an overtaker,
I can't stay back.
I'm out in front
ahead of the pack.

Better keep clear
in the swimming bath.
Everybody
out of my path.

I'm an overtaker,
watch me run.
Every sports day,
sound of the gun.

There I go,
off down the track.
Nothing is going
to hold me back.

Head in the clouds,
I don't look round,
keep my feet
clear of the ground.



Run to school
every day,
any old race,
I'm OK.

Dash home at night,
have lots of fun.
I'm an overtaker,
watch me r un!

Brian Moses

Winning

I once thought it was all about winning,
but it's not.

I once thought I could win easily,
and I could,

till the day I raced with David Fleming.
David who was teased and tormented.
David who had nothing going for him.

David, just behind me,
straining and aching to win . . .

And I could have won so easily,
I could have . . .

But I didn't.

I pretended to be hurt,
slipped, clutched my ankle,
let him win.

Watched the grin spread
over his face.

I let David Fleming
win the race

and it felt
so good.

Brian Moses



Slow Motion

In television
High-definition
Slow motion
The facial muscles pull
Seem to disfigure the jaw
And a bead of sweat
Like a free-falling diamond
In the weightlessness of space
Catches the sun

Roger Stevens

Sprint

The air is hot. The sky is blue. Expect
No favours from the sun. You stand alone.
Survey the stadium, the crowd. Inspect
The track. A moment's doubt. Can it be done?

And then the training – days, months,
years – kicks in
And you are focused on the prize. You know
With certainty what you must do. Begin
With deep breaths. Stretch. Relax. It's time
to go.

A billion eyes are watching. You can't hide.
There's silence. You can hear your beating
heart.
You crouch. Into the starting blocks you slide.
You wait. Time stops. You hope there's no
false start.

Marks. Get set. Kick. Ten seconds and you're
done.
You are the bullet in the starter's gun.

Roger Stevens

Running the Marathon

I'm going to run the marathon,
wearing a diving suit,
strapped to a parachute.
With a cloak and staff like Noah,
pushing a garden mower.
In a ballet dancer's tutu,
cracking a cowboy's lasso.
Yes, I'm going to run the marathon,
inside a suit of armour,
leading a Tibetan llama.
As an ancient prince from Khartoum,
in a Loch Ness Monster costume.
As Adam running from Eve,
or a camel from Tel Aviv.
Yes, I'm going to run the marathon,
As a green and grotty ogre,
in an Imperial Roman toga.
As a bridegroom on his wedding day,
or someone dressed to play croquet.
In a dragon costume from China,
as a luxury ocean liner.

Yes, I'm going to run the marathon
and I want to get myself seen.
Although maybe, just maybe,
I think it might be best
to forget all these wacky ideas
and stick with shorts and vest!

Brian Moses

