

The Race

Before Jan could say another word, several things	8
happened. The horn sounded, calling the racers	15
together. Mr. Cook, from the bank, said over the	24
loudspeaker, "All scooters at the starting line." And	32
Mrs. Hall and Maria's mother and dad were standing	41
nearby.	42
Both girls bent down to retie their shoes. Then	51
Jan's mother noticed that Jan was wearing her own low	61
shoes.	62
"Remember," she said quietly. "You make your	69
own luck."	71
Jan didn't dare look at her mother. She had to win	82
the race. She just had to! But how could she expect to	94
win without the lucky sneakers? She wished she could	103
just slip away and go home.	109