

Alan Marshall is Australia's greatest story-teller. He was born in Noorat, Victoria on May 2nd 1902. Alan Marshall has written fourteen books, many of which have been published around the world.

Marshall has a place in the hearts of all Australians, for he writes about his fellow countrymen with a rare wit, humour compassion¹ and deep understanding.

He has spent his lifetime living among them in the bush² and the cities. He has travelled throughout the countryside, writing about them, talking with them, amusing them, loving them. All his stories - sad stories, funny stories, warm stories, tragic stories - are really remarkable.

1. **wit...**, **compassion** — остроумие..., со страдание
2. **the bush** — буш (пространства некультивированной земли, покрытые кустарником, в Австралии)

Read the words and guess their meaning. Pay attention to the suffixes:

- ful: doubt — doubtful;
- ion: express — expression; react — reaction; admire — admiration;
- ship: champion — championship;
- ant: triumph — triumphant;
- ive: imagine — imaginative; impress — impressive; express - expressive;
- ly: normal - normally; natural - naturally; doubtful -doubtfully; triumphant - - triumphantly; particular -particularly.

Read the word combinations and translate them:

to be particularly fond of running; imaginative children; to listen to something with a bored expression; to see somebody's reaction to words; the running championship of the world; to shout triumphantly; to become enthusiastic over somebody or something; to look with admiration at somebody or something.

Read the story **How's Andy Going?** and say how Andy surprised his elder brother and his friend.

How's Andy Going?

Joe was not particularly fond of running. He preferred sitting down more than running. He liked to sit on a log with his elbows³ on his knees, watching out dogs sniffing through the bush for rabbits.

Maybe I trained him that way. An attack of polio⁴ had forced me to walk on crutches⁵, and Joe was the sort of fellow who naturally adjusted himself⁶ to those he liked. He made our walks through the bush a series of journeys from one resting place to another.

"You can't just sit down and look," he sometimes said when he felt I needed a rest. Joe looked at everything with great curiosity. An ant was just as interesting to Joe as an elephant to less imaginative schoolmates.

Each year a sports meeting was held in our small town. On that day the area around the track⁷ was full of spectators. Everyone attended the sports meeting. Not to attend was surprising.

When the first poster appeared on the post-office wall the schoolchildren gathered round it in an excited group. From then on till sports-day their activities were coloured by the events it described; the manner of those who could run or ride bicycles was more important, the position of those who couldn't, was less pleasant.

Those boys who had bicycles began talking only about racing and rode to school as fast as they could.

The runners of the school stood on mark⁸ with their finger-tips touching the grounds, jumping away at the shout of "Bang!" and

3) **elbow** — локоть

4) **an attack of polio** — приступ полиомиелита

5) **crutches** — костыли

- 6) **to adjust oneself** — приспособиться
7) **track** — спорт, беговая дорожка
8) **to stand on mark** — стоять на старте

running in a style they never showed at other times. They slowed down, and looked to see if the girls were watching them.

Joe and I ignored the excitement in our schoolmates. We certainly could not boast we were good at sports but we pretended we were persons with long sporting experience. We listened with bored expressions to talks of school runners and bike-riders, but after a day of strain¹ Joe began to run round the schoolyard.

Joe explained his sudden interest in sport by the influence² of his grandfather, a well-known runner of his day.

"It's coming out in me," Joe explained. "I've never been fond of running, but it's in my blood all right."

Running kept Joe busy. In the evenings he took off his boots and jumped and ran in wide circles³ round the yard.

He shouted instructions to himself, praised himself and cried something angry at imaginary runners attempting to prevent him from winning.

I sat on the grass and watched him, sometimes giving advice or shouting encouragement.

"Take your time: there's no one near you," I cried when Joe went past me.

Joe never went far away: he wanted an audience.

"I'll run anyone in the world,"⁴ he shouted. At that moment Andy appeared.

Andy was Joe's younger brother. He had not yet started school⁵ and it was Joe's job to look after him. Joe was not fond of looking after Andy, though Andy was always eager to stay with Joe.

"What do you want?" Joe asked him.

"Mum said you've got to look after me," said Andy, who was watching us both, waiting to see our reaction to his words.

"All right," said Joe after hesitating⁶ a moment. "You stop here with us and don't go away." "I'll race anyone in the world," Joe cried again.

1. **strain** — напряжение

2. **influence** — влияние

3. **in wide circles** — широкими кругами

4. **I'll run anyone in the world** — Я не боюсь бежать на перегонки ни с кем в мире

5. **He had not yet started school** — Он еще не начал ходить в школу

6. **to hesitate** — колебаться

"I'll crawl⁷ anyone in the world," I sang out in answer, determined to be in it. "I'll crawl you or anyone. I'm the champion crawler of the world."

I began crawling, moving quickly on the grass.

Joe became interested. He dropped to his hands and knees and crawled after me, shouting, "Here I come, the greatest crawler who ever lived."

"Listen," I suggested. "How about us holding the crawling-championship of the world, eh?"

The suggestion seemed very doubtful to Joe.

"They never have crawling-championships," he said at last. "It would be good to have the running-championship of the world but not the crawling."

"That's no good to me," I protested. "Where would I get, running?"

Andy, who had been listening to what Joe had been saying, dared to express the opinion that "crawling was better than anything."

"You're too little to know anything about crawling, Andy," Joe told him.

Still we decided to hold the crawling-championship of the world on the sports ground the next evening.

In the centre of the ground a circular grassed track⁸, a quarter of a mile round, was used for cycling and running events and we decided to crawl round this, quite certain⁹ that no one else in the world had crawled this far, a thought that made the race much more exciting and worth having.

When Joe came to the ground next evening Andy was with him.

While I examined the track Joe paraded¹⁰ in circles crying, "Hurry, hurry, hurry! The crawling-championship of the world!" Andy followed Joe around with great interest. Andy admired Joe when Joe was addressing crowds.

"The great race is about to begin," shouted Joe. He sat down and pulled off his boots, then he asked, "What about Andy?"

"Hey, Andy!" I called. "You walk beside us and tell us who is leading."

"I want to crawl in the race with you and Joe."

7. to crawl — ползать, ползти

8. circular grassed track — круговая дорожка, покрытая травой

9. certain — уверенный

10. to parade — шествовать

"If you crawl with us, Andy, we won't wait for you," I warned him.

"I want to crawl with you," Andy said again.

"All right," I said to Andy, "you can come. But we won't count you in the championship. You can run in ahead of us if you like. It doesn't matter."

Andy agreed. Joe accepted. "Now let's all get on the mark."

Joe and I knelt¹ side by side on the track and Andy knelt down just behind us. "All set!" called Joe. "Bang!"

And the crawling-championship of the world began.

It was a race with plenty of time for conversation. We crawled rather quickly, "How's Andy going?" Joe asked me.

"How are you going, Andy?" I asked. "Good," said Andy, who was crawling at our heels².

"The grass is good to crawl on, isn't it?" I said to Joe, "but I think it'll wear holes in the knees of our socks."

"My knees are beginning to feel it," complained Joe. "How are yours?"

"Not bad," I said doubtfully. "I'm going well."

"Andy is suffering now, I'm sure," said Joe after a period of silence. "This crawling-championship will knock hell out of³ him. He's too little for the crawling-championship of the world."

"How are you, Andy?" "Good." "Ar, he'd say that if he was dying⁴. You can't believe anything he says. How far have we gone?" Joe said.

"More than half-way, I think." We crawled some distance in silence. "How're your knees, Andy?" "Good."

"My knees are about done," ⁵ Joe said. "The grass is not as thick here as when we started. I feel sorry for Andy. That kid can't last much longer," Joe decided.

"Anyway, he can't blame us. We told him to keep out."

"I haven't got too much strength left in me," I said at last, "but I'll go the distance."

"I'm suffering hell in the knees," complained Joe.

We were forcing our aching bodies to crawl still faster when, on my left, a little figure came along with quick-moving knees!

"There goes Andy!" I cried. "What's happened?" exclaimed Joe. "Andy..."

Andy passed us with an eager and excited face, looking straight ahead to where my crutches were lying on the grass.

He drew farther and farther away from us until he reached the winning post⁶, where he jumped to his feet and called out triumphantly, "I am the champion crawler of the world!"

"Get home now or I'll beat you when I get you," Joe shouted.

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1. **to kneel (knelt, knelt)** — становиться на колени
 2. **at heels** — по пятам, следом за кем-то
 3. **knock hell out of (зд.)** — измотать
 4. **he'd say that if he was dying** — он бы так сказал, даже если бы умирал
 5. **My knees are about done** — У меня колени почти стерты
 6. **winning post** — финиш

Andy retreated' to a safe distance.

Joe and I reached the post crying out with pain. "Oh, my knees!" Joe cried, then added with sudden strength, "I'll kill Andy when I get home, joining our race and winning like that."

"He must be tough!"² I said, with a new interest in Andy. "I think he's the toughest kid in Australia."

"That's right!" exclaimed Joe, sitting up to look at Andy. "He is; there's no doubt about it. Just look at him, there. There's nothing to him and the little kid goes and wins the crawling-championship of the world."

We suddenly became enthusiastic over Andy. We praised him to each other.

"In all my life," said Joe with admiration, "I've never seen such a crawler as Andy."

"He's better than you or me," I said. "Better than anyone in the world."

We rose to our feet and went over to Andy where he sat alone on the grass. We felt very proud of him. Joe put his arm round Andy's shoulder as we walked home together. We boasted about Andy for weeks.

"He's a marvel,"³ said Joe. "And I'm not just talking."⁴

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1. **to retreat** — отступить, отходить
 2. **tough** — крепкий, сильный
 3. **marvel** — чудо
 4. **And I'm not just talking.** — И это не болтовня. (Я действительно это имею в виду.)

Translate the following sentences:

1 From then on till sports-day their activities were coloured by the events it described; their manner of those who could run or ride bicycles was more important, the position of those who couldn't, was less pleasant.

2 He shouted instructions to himself, praised himself and cried something angry at imaginary runners attempting to prevent him from winning.

3 Andy, who had been listening to what Joe had been saying, dared to express the opinion that "crawling was better than anything".

4 In the centre of the ground a circular grassed track, a quarter of a mile round, was used for cycling and running events and we decided to crawl round this, quite certain that no one else in the world had crawled this far, a thought that made the race much more exciting and worth having.

5 "The grass is good to crawl on, isn't it?" I said to Joe, "but I think it'll wear holes in the knees of our socks."

6 "The grass is not as thick here as when we started. I feel sorry for Andy. That kid can't last much longer," Joe decided.

Answer the questions on the text:

1. Why did Joe prefer a quiet way of life though he was enthusiastic by nature?
2. Was a sports meeting a big event for the small town where Joe and his friend Alan lived? Why?
3. How did all the boys in the town behave to show that they were enthusiastic admirers of sports?
4. Who was Andy? How did Joe speak to him and why?
5. What did Alan suggest one day?
6. How did Joe accept Alan's suggestion at first? Why?
7. Did the boys take Andy seriously when they allowed him to take part in their competition?
8. Was it easy or hard for the boys to compete in the crawling race? How do you know?
9. What was the boys' reaction when they saw Andy passing them and reaching the winning post?
10. What did the boys praise Andy for?

Role Play

"How's Andy Going?"

Part 1.

Imagine you are Alan Marshall, already a well-known story-teller, who is entertaining his children or grandchildren with stories about his boyhood in Noorat, a small town somewhere in Australia.

Use the following words to begin your story:

- an attack of polio
- force one to move on crutches
- need a rest very now and again
- a sports meeting, the most exciting event of the year
- be enthusiastic about sport
- be unable to participate in
- pretend to ignore the excitement
- be full of ideas
- suggest holding a crawling championship
- hesitate, doubt about the idea
- be determined to take part in the first crawling championship of the world
- accepted by the best friend and his younger brother
- look forward to the excitement and fun

Part 2.

Imagine you are Alan and Joe trying to think of an exciting sporting event to have an opportunity to display your energy, enthusiasm and determination to win.

Use the following conversational formulas to make a dialogue:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| - Have you heard about... ? | - Of course I have, only... |
| - How do you like those runners... ? | - It's getting on my nerves. They look ... |
| - How about holding... ? | - Sounds nice to me, but I doubt... |
| - Shall we invite Andy? He's so... | - I guess he'd like it. |

- Where can we possibly compete?
- Do you think we'll have enough...
- Hurry! Hurry! Hurry!
- We could use the grassed track ...
- How do I know? Let's try...
- The great race is about to begin!

Part 3.

Imagine you are Andy and Joe discussing his participation in the crawling championship.

Use the following word combinations for:

Joe:

- Look after
- What do you want?
- You stay here and... , you're too little to..
- All right, you walk beside us and don't..
- You can crawl or ran ...
- How are you, Andy?
- What is happening to you?
- Look at you! How could you... ?
- I'll kill you if...

Andy:

- Mum said...
- Can I... with you?
- May I ... behind you?
- I promise I won't...
- I am the champion crawler ...
- I am OK, why?
- That's not fair. I only wanted to...
- Catch me if you can!

Part 4.

Imagine you are Alan and Joe discussing the results of the first crawling championship of the world.

Use the following word combinations:

- That was something worth remembering!
- Right! My knees are,..
- I am suffering hell ...
- How did you like this kid fooling us like that?
- Well, if you think about it, he displayed...
- That's right! He's the toughest kid...
- In all my life I haven't seen a kid with such...
- He's worthy of.,.
- I guess he's better than...
- I'd like to try it again and don't forget to invite...

Part 5.

Imagine you are common town boys, great enthusiasts of sport, watching the first crawling championship of the world.

Use the following word combinations:

- What do you think they are doing?
- What a sorry sight! They can't even... properly. They are hopeless!
- The girls will never...
- Aren't they crawling like babies? I'll die laughing!
- Well then, they must be suffering from...
- I wouldn't like to hurt my knees with all those...
- Look at the kid! He' s moving...
- I don't think they've got much strength left...
- What a surprise! I have never seen... That championship was worthy of...