

Women of Nigerian bobsled team get ready for the Winter Olympics (Third and Fourth Periods)

Required Annotations		Student-Created Annotations		Summary / Questions / Reflection	
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It was November 15, 2017, and Seun Adigun was about to qualify for the Olympics. She crouched slightly as she stared down the bobsled track. Perhaps she was **envisioning** the twisting and turning course she was about to sled down at an average speed of about 90 miles per hour. Or maybe she was thinking about the history she was about to make.

She flipped her face guard down and waited for the starting signal. And with that, she was off.

That night, Adigun and her teammates completed the fifth and final qualifying race for the 2018 Olympics in PyeongChang, South Korea, becoming Nigeria's first women's bobsled team to compete at the Olympics. In fact, they will be the first-ever Olympic bobsled team from the entire continent of Africa.

"This is a huge milestone for sports in Nigeria," Adigun told KweséESPN two days after completing the final qualifying race in Calgary, Canada.

"Nothing makes me prouder than to know that I can play a small role in creating opportunities for winter sports to take place in Nigeria.

"Our objective now is to be the best representation of Africa that the Winter Olympics have ever witnessed," she added.

Starting From The Sled Up

Qualifying for the Olympics was no easy task, especially since Adigun is a newcomer to the sport of bobsledding. The U.S.-based sprinter competed for Nigeria in the 2012 Summer Olympics in London. She started her transition to bobsledding from scratch last year, and recruited two other Nigerian sprinters, Ngozi Onwumere and Akuoma Omeoga, to join her. Like Adigun, Onwumere and Omeoga also live in the United States.

With little funding or equipment, the trio began practicing. Like the famous men's Jamaican bobsled team that made history at the Olympics in 1988, they started with a **makeshift** wooden sled. Adigun had built it herself.

"I just went for two or three days straight, just hammering and drilling and sawing this wooden sled together," Adigun said last year, calling comparisons to the Jamaican team that competed at the 1988 Olympics in Calgary "honorable."

Much Hard Work, Discipline And Sacrifice

Adigun's team ended up funding much of their efforts through an online crowdfunding campaign, which raised \$75,000, including \$50,000 from one donor who did not reveal his or her name. The money was enough to convince the Nigerian government to start a governing federation for bobsledding, and it allowed the team to start practicing in a real bobsled on ice.

The trio eventually was able to fund their way through the five qualifying races necessary to become Winter Olympians. With Adigun always in the driver's seat and backed up by either Onwumere or Omeoga, the various two-woman combinations completed races in Utah, Whistler and Calgary. Their final race was on November 15, 2017.

"I **commend** the personal dedication and commitment of these women,"

Nigerian Bobsled and Skeleton Federation President Solomon Ogba told ESPN. "Their hard work was inspiring and I hope Nigerians can appreciate what it took for them to achieve this – the work, the discipline, and the personal sacrifices. They were amazing throughout this journey."

Hoping To Make The Podium

It would be a major if not slightly miraculous feat for the Nigerian women, who have since found sponsors with Under Armour and Visa, to finish in the top three at the 2018 Olympics and win medals. No African **contender** in any Winter Olympics event has ever made the podium, although more than a handful have tried.

Morocco and Algeria, for example, have entered skiers in multiple Olympic Games. South Africa, Cameroon, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Senegal, Togo and Zimbabwe have entered athletes in several past Winter Olympic events, although never in bobsled.

A Ugandan snowboarder, 24-year-old Brolin Mawejje, was hoping to make history this year, as well. He has been trying to qualify as the first snowboarder to represent any African country in the Olympics but faced a devastating setback. He was diagnosed with a heart condition last spring, forcing him to end the pursuit his 2018 Olympic dream.

Questions

1. Read the analysis of how the central idea was introduced. *The central idea was introduced with a description of Adigun's perspective before and after the qualifying race for the Winter Olympics, exploring the historic nature of this event.* Which of the following BEST explains how the central idea was developed further?
 - a) It was developed further by exploring the similarities between running and bobsledding that helped the transition.
 - b) It was developed further by outlining the other races the women had to win in order to qualify to compete.
 - c) It was developed further by providing information about the hard work the women's team dedicated to this goal.
 - d) It was developed further by comparing the Nigerian women's team to other Winter Olympians from Africa.
2. Which sentence from the article BEST develops a central idea?
 - a) It was November 15, 2017, and Seun Adigun was about to qualify for the Olympics.
 - b) In fact, they will be the first-ever Olympic bobsled team from the entire continent of Africa.
 - c) She started her transition to bobsledding from scratch last year, and recruited two other Nigerian sprinters, Ngozi Onwumere and Akuoma Omeoga, to join her.
 - d) Adigun's team ended up funding much of their efforts through an online crowdfunding campaign, which raised \$75,000, including \$50,000 from one donor who did not reveal his or her name.
3. Read the sentence from the section "Starting From The Sled Up." *Like the famous men's Jamaican bobsled team that made history at the Olympics in 1988, they started with a makeshift wooden sled.* Which of the following explains how this sentence uses rhetoric to construct the overall argument?
 - a) It uses a contrast with a men's team to show the strength of the women.
 - b) It uses a comparison to another well-known team from an unlikely country.
 - c) It uses exaggeration to suggest the women's team will win a medal.
 - d) It uses emotional references to compel the reader to feel empathy.
4. Complete the sentence. According to the article, Seun Adigun is MOST concerned with _____.
 - a) representing and inspiring African athletes
 - b) winning the gold medal at the Olympics
 - c) raising money to get better bobsled equipment
 - d) being the most well-known member of the bobsled team