

Name:

Day One

Rhythmic Gymnastics

Part 1: Silent read

→ Why do some people hate this sport? Read silently.

Five Chinese women walk gracefully to the center of the stadium. They wear makeup and sparkling red and yellow leotards. They hold three hoops and four small clubs. The music starts. The women tumble and twirl. Clubs and hoops fly through the air. The women look like ballet dancers or circus performers. In fact, they are rhythmic gymnasts. They are at the 2008 Olympics, and they are about to win an Olympic silver medal.

In rhythmic gymnastics, gymnasts can compete alone, or in pairs, threes, or fives. They may use clubs, hoops, balls, ribbons, or ropes. They use gymnastics and dance moves. Judges award points. Rhythmic gymnastics is very popular in Eastern Europe. At the Olympics, the stands are full of cheering Russians and fluttering Ukrainian flags.

However, not everyone is a fan. Some people think this sport should be cut from the Olympics. A writer named Hannah Beech felt this way. She wrote an article for *Time* magazine. She complained about “the girly bits” in rhythmic gymnastics. She hated the sparkles and the makeup. She said the women were dancers, not athletes.

Beech had a plan. She wanted to get rid of rhythmic gymnastics at the Olympics and add a new Olympic sport: women’s boxing. In 2012, half of her wish came true. Women’s boxing did indeed become an Olympic sport. Rhythmic gymnastics, however, did not go away. The sparkles, hoops, and ribbons returned in 2012. This was bad news for Hannah Beech and good news for the fans of rhythmic gymnastics.



Day One

// one minute

Rhythmic Gymnastics

Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

Five Chinese women walk gracefully to the center of the stadium. They wear makeup and sparkling red and yellow leotards. They hold three hoops and four small clubs. The music starts. The women tumble and twirl. Clubs and hoops fly through the air. The women look like ballet dancers or circus performers. In fact, they are rhythmic gymnasts. They are at the 2008 Olympics, and they are about to win an Olympic silver medal.

44
58
74

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88
102
115
127

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143
158
171
183

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200
215
228
243
253

Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

Why does Hannah Beech hate rhythmic gymnastics?

What changed with women’s Olympic sports in 2012?

Day One

Rhythmic Gymnastics

Part 4: Phrase-cued reading

- Read the passage **out loud** in phrases to your partner.
- Pause at each / mark for a phrase.
- Also pause at each // mark that shows the end of a sentence.

Five Chinese women walk gracefully / to the center of the stadium. // They wear makeup / and sparkling red and yellow leotards. // They hold three hoops / and four small clubs. // The music starts. // The women tumble and twirl. // Clubs and hoops fly through the air. // The women look like ballet dancers / or circus performers. // In fact, / they are rhythmic gymnasts. // They are at the Olympics, / and they are about to win a medal. //

In rhythmic gymnastics, / gymnasts can compete alone, / or in pairs, / threes, / or fives. // They may use clubs, / hoops, / balls, / ribbons, / or ropes. // They use gymnastics / and dance moves. // Judges award points. // Rhythmic gymnastics is very popular in Eastern Europe. // At the Olympics, / the stands are full of cheering Russians / and fluttering Ukrainian flags. //

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I read the passage in phrases out loud to my partner.