

The Number He Can Sign

Eight activities

Activity 1: The only witness

From the story, who can check what "read" means in a read-a-thon? List every party - teacher, sponsors, rival - and what each one can and cannot verify. What is left when everyone's verification runs out?

Activity 2: The two arithmetics

Lipa does the money arithmetic and the chart arithmetic. Lay out both from the story. Why is the good cause - the fund - the strongest temptation rather than a defense? What does he notice about the true thing he reaches for?

Activity 3: The picture that settles it

Lipa settles the question by picturing his uncle asking one friendly question about the chapter. Why does a friendly question do what no rule could? What does the silence inside the picture tell him?

Activity 4: Counting arithmetic (all numbers made up for practice)

A reader turns 200 pages in a week: 160 read with attention, 40 skimmed at midnight. Sponsors pledge 25 cents per page. What does the fund receive if all 200 are claimed? If only the read pages are claimed? What is the price of the standard, in dollars, and what does the arithmetic NOT capture? Show your steps.

Activity 5: "Standards travel"

In Chapter 7, the read-a-thon standard reappears on a history quiz. From the story, what does it mean that standards travel? Why might the uncaught quiz error go unnoticed, and why does that not matter?

Activity 6: Draw the tally sheet

Draw Lipa's tally sheet: the weeks, the numbers, the forty with one line through it. Only what can be seen - no labels for feelings. Caption with one line from the story.

Activity 7: Masha's steps - a fictional case

A teen named Masha logs miles for a charity walk challenge; sponsors pledge per mile, counted on her own handwritten log. One rainy evening she marks a full loop she only half finished. Write: the moment she notices no one can check, the picture question she could ask herself (who could she not answer?), and the correction she makes on the log. One sentence each, with names.



Activity 8: Word grid

Find eight words left to right. Row/column numbering begins at 1.

The eight words: LIPA, PAGES, CHART, COUNT, HONEST, POSTED, STANDARD, NUMBER.

L	I	P	A	K	V	W	B	F	Y
P	A	G	E	S	M	N	O	R	S
C	H	A	R	T	I	Q	Z	X	J
C	O	U	N	T	Y	G	H	U	P
H	O	N	E	S	T	T	C	D	E
P	O	S	T	E	D	K	V	W	B
S	T	A	N	D	A	R	D	N	O
N	U	M	B	E	R	A	I	Q	Z
X	J	K	V	W	B	F	Y	G	H
U	P	L	M	N	O	R	S	T	C