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This story is about Duc, a Vietnamese elephant who likes to race.

Elephant Racing

My name is Duc, and I am an elephant. I live in the Central Highlands of Vietnam. Vietnam is a country in Asia. In fact, my name means “good” in Vietnamese.

My favorite time of the year is March because that is when I get to race in the Elephant Racing Festival. People come from all over the world just to watch me and my friends run.

Before the race, we get a vacation. Some elephants in Vietnam have to work. But racing elephants get to go into the jungle. In the jungle, we eat and rest. My favorite foods are bananas and sugar cane.

Then it's race day! All the racing elephants leave the jungle and go to Buon Don. Buon Don is the town where the people watch us race.

We race on a flat field wide enough for 10 elephants to run at one time. People line the field to watch. They wear bright colored clothes and shout for us.



I carry two riders when I run. One man makes sure I run fast. The other makes sure I run straight. I wouldn't want to turn and hit all the people watching me.

This year, I ran really fast. I won the race! All the people cheered for me and gave me a big stack of sugar cane. They gave flowers and a pig to the men who rode me. I think I like my sugar cane better.

Tonight, there is going to be a big party at the community house. There will be music and dancing. The party will last all night. But I will be dreaming of next year's race. Maybe I will win again.



Understanding the Story

Here are some questions about the story that you just read. Read each one. Then fill in the circle beside the best answer. If you are not sure, go back and look at the story again.

1. What is Duc's favorite month?

- (A) January
- (B) February
- (C) March
- (D) April

Factual

2. How does Duc feel about the race?

- (A) nervous
- (B) excited
- (C) scared
- (D) angry

Inference

3. What is one of Duc's favorite foods?

- (A) peanuts
- (B) pig
- (C) bananas
- (D) apples

Factual

4. Why did the people give Duc a big stack of sugar cane?

- (A) Duc likes sugar cane.
- (B) The people had too much sugar cane.
- (C) The people didn't like sugar cane.
- (D) Duc won the elephant race.

Inference

5. Where does Duc live?

- (A) in Vietnam
- (B) in a zoo
- (C) in a park
- (D) in Africa

Factual

6. What do you think Duc will do next?

- (A) go live in a zoo
- (B) start working in a field
- (C) wait for next year's race
- (D) eat the men's flowers

Critical Reasoning

SAMPLE



Summing Up

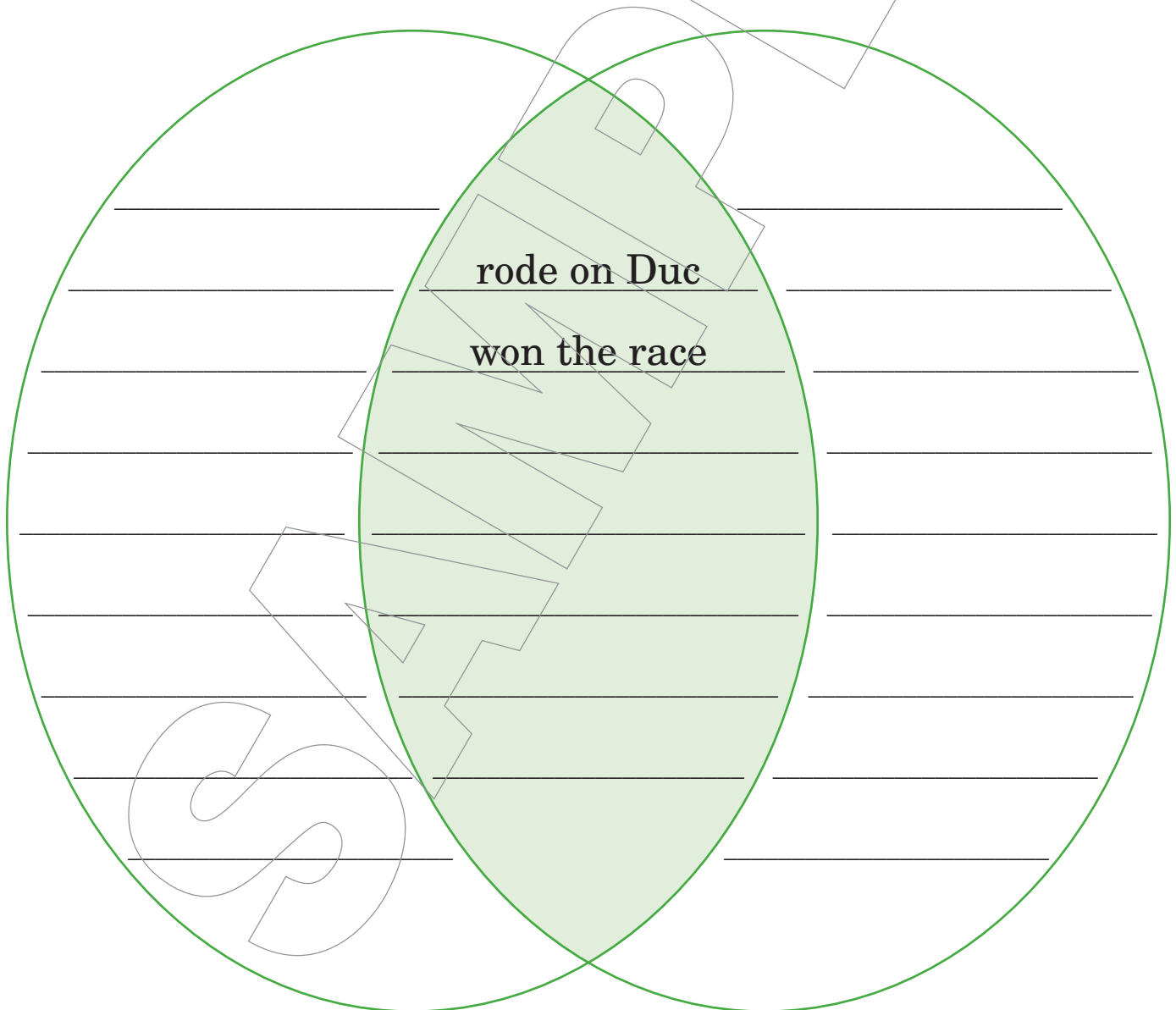


Look at the circles. They are used to compare the two men who sit on Duc. One tells things about the first rider. The other tells about the second rider. The colored part shows how they are **alike**. The white parts show how they are **different**. Fill in some facts in the white parts.



Man 1

Man 2





Write About It

Writers tell the reader how things look. They tell you what color things are. They tell you what size and shape things are. They also tell you what things do.

On the lines below, write three sentences to tell about the elephant in the story. Use some of the words in the box or think of your own. Don't forget to begin each sentence with a capital letter and end it with a period.

fast
run

race
jungle

sugar cane
riders

1.

2.

3.
