

Date: Friday 5th February 2021

Title:

WILF: All Reading GEMS

Hands-free

Trainers

Self-
Assessment



Teacher
assessment

SA:

Summary support: Choose key words and details to create a summary about what you have read so far

Question support: can you ask a character a question? Does your question require inference or deduction skills?

Question:

Hands-free trainers designed for people with disabilities

4 February 2021

Have the adults in your life ever told you off for forcing your foot into lace-tied trainers?

Well it could be a thing of the past thanks to a new slip-on shoe that has a hinge on the heel.



Nike has released a hands-free trainer that means wearers will never have to tie or untie the footwear or bend down to put them on either.

But there's an important reason for the design. The step-in, step-out shoe, is designed to help

people who have mobility issues or other disabilities.

The trainer was developed when then-teenager Matthew Walzer, wrote to Nike eight years ago asking them to design a shoe for people who might have problems with shoelaces.

"My dream is to go to the college of my choice without having to worry about someone coming to tie my shoes every day," Walzer, who has cerebral palsy, wrote.

"I've worn Nike basketball shoes all my life. I can only wear this type of shoe, because I need ankle support to walk. At 16 years old, I am able to completely dress myself, but my parents still have to tie my shoes."

Nike delivered a design to Walzer to test out. Eight years and several versions of the trainer later, the new slip-on shoe has been made.

Called the Nike GO FlyEase, the trainer has a band that stretches around the shoe and appears bent in the middle but flattens to become a normal shoe shape when the wearer puts their foot inside. To take them off involves a push of the heel with the other foot. "To be quite honest I had very low expectations. I was expecting a very polite letter back in recognition of my request. There are not enough 'thank yous' in the world to express my undying gratitude," reads a quote by Matthew Walzer on Nike's official website.

Costing \$120 (£87) in the US, some people on Twitter noted that Nike shoes are expensive and some commented to say they are worried that the shoes might be too expensive to buy for those that need them most.



Questions:

1. What is special about the heel on this trainer? (2b retrieve 1 mark)
2. Which word best describes 'shoving your foot into the shoe': (2a define 1 mark)
 - a. pressing
 - b. shoving
 - c. pushing
3. Explain why you chose your answer for Q3 (2d infer 1 mark)
4. Who is the shoe designed to help? (2b retrieve 1 mark)
5. How might the shoe help Walzer? (2c summarise 1 mark)
6. Why might there have been several versions of this shoe? (2d infer 1 mark)
7. Explain why some people have criticised the shoe (2d infer 1 mark)