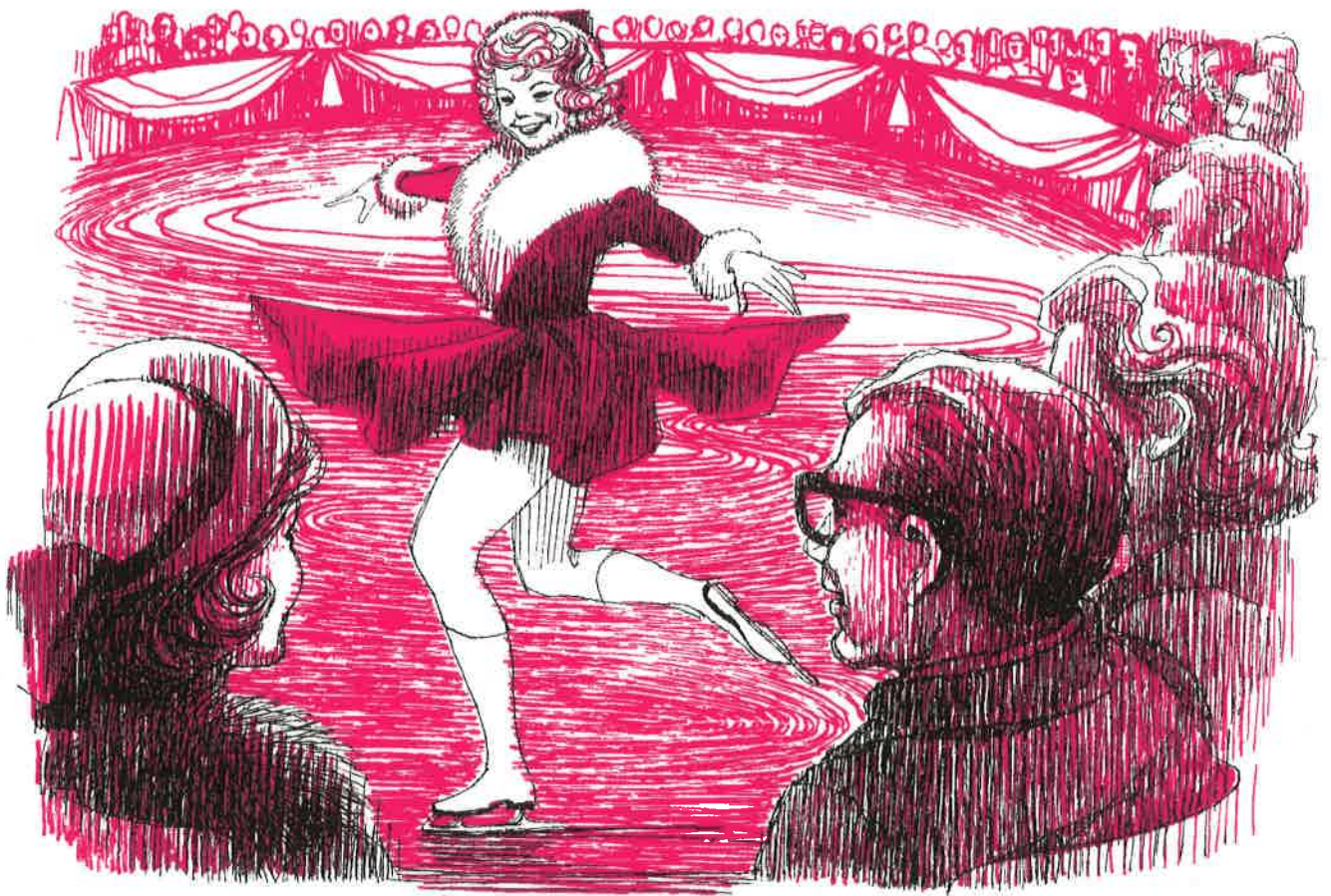


Sonja's First Skates

by Rosalie Koskimaki



1 Sonja Henie knew what she wanted for Christmas. Sonja lived in Norway. There were many lakes and rivers near her home. In the winter they froze. And all the older children went ice-skating. Sonja wanted to ice-skate too. But she didn't have any skates.

2 Sonja went to her father. "I know what I'd like to have for Christmas," she told him. "A pair of ice skates."

3 "But you're only six years old," her father said. "You don't need ice skates."

4 "I do! I do!" said Sonja. "Please let me have a pair of ice skates!"

5 So Sonja's father bought her ice skates for Christmas. Sonja went skating every day. She skated and skated and skated. One week after Christmas, Sonja went to her father.

6 "Look at my skates," she said. "They're all worn out."

7 "What?" said her father. "You wore out your skates in *one week!* Well, I'd better get you another pair in that case."

8 So Sonja kept on skating. She skated for hours and hours. She skated for days and days. She became a very good ice skater. She liked figure skating best.

9 Figure skating is almost like dancing. The skaters go around in circles. They jump in the air. They kick their legs. They skate on one foot. They skate on their toes. They spin around.

10 Sonja was a better figure skater than anyone else. She won many skating contests. Then she won a very important contest. It was the figure-skating contest of Norway. Sonja was the best figure skater in all Norway. And she was only ten years old!

11 Later, Sonja became the best figure skater in the world. No one could skate better than she. For many years she won all the figure-skating contests.

12 Sonja Henie wore out many pairs of ice skates. But she never forgot her very first pair!

How Well Did You Understand?

- A** Choose the best ending for each sentence. Write *a* or *b*.
- 1 Sonja Henie showed that
 - a you can win contests if you have a good pair of skates
 - b you can become the best if you work very hard at something
 - 2 Sonja's father thought that ice-skating
 - a was for older children
 - b was a silly thing to do
 - 3 Sonja's first skates wore out quickly because
 - a she won so many contests
 - b she used them so much
 - 4 When Sonja skated it was most like
 - a running in a race
 - b dancing on ice
 - 5 Sonja Henie is still remembered today because
 - a she wore out so many pairs of skates
 - b she was the world's best skater for many years

Learn about Words

- B** Often you can find out the meaning of a word by seeing how it is used in a story. The other words in the story give you clues.

Directions: Find the word in the story that best fits each meaning below. (A paragraph number tells you where to look.) Write the word.

- 1 turned into ice (1)
 - 2 set of two; two things that go together (2)
 - 3 whirl; turn around quickly (9)
 - 4 tests of skill to see who is best; competitions (10)
 - 5 big; special; mattering a lot (10)
- C** Read each sentence. Which word that you found in *B* makes sense in the blank? Write the word.
- 6 Sonja got her first ____ of ice skates when she was six years old.
 - 7 In winter the rivers near Sonja's home ____ solid.
 - 8 Sonja learned to ____ in a circle.
 - 9 For Sonja, skating was more ____ than anything else.
 - 10 Sonja worked hard to win many figure-skating ____.

Think about It

- D** What happened first in the story? What happened second? What happened third, fourth, and last?

Directions: Read the sentences. They tell what happened in the story. But they are not in the right order. Which word in the box tells when each sentence happened? Write the word.

first second third
fourth last

- 1 Sonja won a skating contest in Norway.
- 2 Sonja got her first pair of ice skates.
- 3 Sonja learned how to ice-skate.
- 4 Sonja saw people ice-skating and wanted to try it.
- 5 Sonja became the best figure skater in the whole world.

- E** the skater's pond
 the skaters' pond

Add an 's to *skater* to show that she owns something. The mark (') is an **apostrophe**. Add only an ' to *skaters* to show that more than one skater owns something.

Directions: Read the sentences. Make the underlined word show ownership to complete the second sentence. Write the word.

- 6 Sonja went to her father. She got her ____ word that he would buy her ice skates.
- 7 Sonja skated every day. Her father was pleased with ____ skating.
- 8 Norway had many good skaters. ____ best skaters won many contests.
- 9 The skaters could spin around in circles. It was hard to see the ____ faces.
- 10 Sonja's friends were skaters too. She liked to watch her ____ spins and jumps.

Find Out More

Find books about children who have been very good at a sport. Find the names of two children who won many contests. How old were they? Tell your class what you found out.