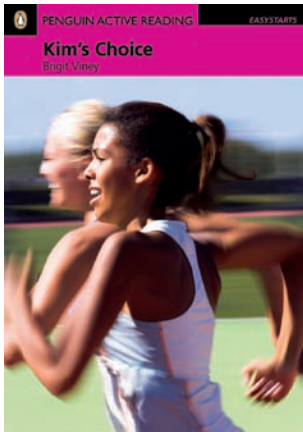




# Kim's Choice

Brigit Viney



## Summary

*Kim's Choice* is the story of a young girl's life between the ages of twelve and sixteen.

Kim wins a running race at school. She joins Allen's Athletic Club and for the next three years she trains hard and wins lots of competitions. Kim's father is very proud of her and he encourages her to train harder and harder. He thinks she can be a famous runner.

But Kim cannot see her friends very often. And when she is sixteen she has important exams at school. She decides to train less often and concentrate on her school work. Her father disagrees, but Kim sticks to her decision.

Curtis is a new boy at school, and Kim wants to know him better. She is happy when Curtis invites her to the school disco. Kim's father tells Kim she cannot go to the disco but she goes anyway.

In the end, Kim leaves home and stops running. The book ends with Kim's father looking at Kim's running prizes and wishing she would come home.

**Pages 1–7:** Kim wins a running competition and joins the club.

**Pages 10–13:** Kim is sixteen. She trains hard and can't study much.

**Pages 16–19:** Kim disobeys her father and goes to a disco. She leaves home and stops running. Her father misses her.

## Background and themes

The story highlights these themes:

**Growing up:** Priorities and interests change. Kim learns to take responsibility for her life and to make difficult decisions.

**Parenting:** Kim's father wants to control Kim's life. Kim resents this more and more as she gets older.

**Effort and reward:** Kim gets better at running because she tries hard and trains regularly. At school she realizes that she has to work hard to get good results in her exams.

## Discussion activities

### Pages 1–7

#### Before reading

- Discuss:** Have students talk about the cover. Discuss these questions.  
*Who's the girl in the cover? How old is she? Where is she from? Is the ending happy or unhappy?*
- Guess:** Have students imagine Kim's family.

#### After reading

- Write:** Get students to complete a chart with information about Kim. They can add more information as they read on.

NAME	
Family	
What does she look like?	
What can she do?	

### Pages 10–13

#### After reading

- Discuss:** Have students make a list of key words in this section.  
Start by asking students if 'school' is an important word in this part. Compare it with 'trophy'. Students can make their list and then share all the lists.

### Pages 16–19

#### After reading

- Role play:** Write the conversation.  
Students write the conversation between Kim and Curtis at the disco. Then they role play the conversation.
- Discuss:** Have students go back to their answers on the cover of the book. Were they right?
- Discuss:** And now?  
*Do you think Kim is going to speak to her father or start running again soon? Is her father going to say he's sorry?*

## Vocabulary activities

For the Word list and vocabulary activities, go to [www.penguinreaders.com](http://www.penguinreaders.com).