

What is your impression of the two boys and Gordon's Father?

I don't know what I'm supposed to give my impression on, so I'm just going to list notable features:

Main Character

- Rather innocent: not thinking domestic abusive to be a possibility even upon Gordon's father's threats
- Kindhearted: coming up with the idea of losing to avoid Gordon being punished
- Short-sighted: not realizing that this will continue to be an issue for Gordon, not even thinking about notifying anyone in a position to do something about it

Gordon

- Passive: Did not consider asking for help when the M.C. was already addressing his issue
- Athletic: Promising, but not quite good enough to hit his father's expectations (not as if that would ever be possible)

Gordon's Father

- Insecure: His son's victory is his victory, which is why he is so...
- ...Ambitious: He pushes his son's boundaries, threatening violence to achieve victory-by-proxy at all costs
- Abusive: Pushes his own desires onto his son, then builds pressure to engrain them into him

Describe the boys' mixed feelings after the race

Main Character

Regrets letting Gordon win ↔ Glad that Gordon is not going to get punished

Gordon

Glad he won the race and won't get punished ↔ Afraid of the stakes he'll have to overcome the next race

Characterize the character of your choice

Character of choice: Gordon

General features

- Tall
- Muscular
- Attractive all round
- Very promising athlete
- Under high competitive pressure

Overview

Gordon takes a decisive advantage of the situation with his father, acting out his role as a victim to gain sympathy from the narrator. He succeeds with flying colors, winning the race. Although considered cruel by societal standards, his method evidently worked, gaining him an advantage in the competitive field.

Gordon does not shy away from social manipulation to achieve his goals, in line with his fathers' highly competitive attitude; this probably runs in the family. However, he forgets to clean up after himself, revealing his plot to the narrator. Sure, this might be meant as exposition to the audience, but it could have been handled another way.

In short, Gordon likes to play unfair, although not very well. In these leagues it will still help him, but higher up, playing alongside more mature competitors, this strategy might just be the end of his career.