Horse Race

I like horse races very much, because I like riding horses. In my hometown a horse race festival is held every year on the seventeenth day of the third month. Local women milk the yaks and the men make offerings to mountain deities in the early morning. People dress in Tibetan robes, and wear decorations of gold and silver necklaces, coral, and flint. Afterwards, they drive their livestock to the mountains to graze.

They ride their motorbikes and horses to the race ground on a large grassland. The grassland is covered by millions of flowers. Thousands of people enjoy everything themselves on the day of the horse race. People are happiest in my hometown that day because many family members gather. They have a picnic and talk to each other all day.

People make offerings to mountain deities for good luck. Leaders announce, "The first race will start at one o'clock. We hope this will be a peaceful festival. We also hope you will be successful in the horse race." Then they make groups. Five horses are in one group. The fastest two horses are chosen in a group.

Villagers walk up a hill near the race ground and watch. Some groups of young women laugh loudly and happily. Meanwhile, boys look for women to talk to. During the race, people are interested and enjoy everything.

There are different villages. Each villager looks for their own village's horses. Most people are very interested in how well the horses race. They talk about this horse and that horse. Elders seem to know everything about horses. They know whom they belong to, and so on. Sometimes I am very surprised, because most horses look very similar. I don't know how the elders remember so many things about each horse.

Finally, village leaders rank horses from first place to fifth place and give prizes.

New Words

1. festival བོད་ཆེན་
2. coral རུ་
3. flint ར་
4. afterwards གཞན
5. picnic རྒྱལ་
6. prize རྣམ་
7. announce གང་གི་བཞིན
8. peaceful རྩོམ་མི་ཡིན
9. hill མང་
10. remember ཡོང་

Phrases

1. held every year བོད་ཀྱི་འབུམ་
2. seventeenth day of the third month བོད་ཀྱི་ཕྱི་རྗེ་འབུམ་
3. local women milk the yaks བོད་ཀྱི་དེའི་བདེན་ཅུག་མཐོང༌།
4. men make offerings to mountain deities བོད་ཀྱི་མཆོད་པ།
5. gold and silver necklaces བོད་ཀྱི་དོན་སྤེར་རྡོ་རྨ་
6. drive their livestock to the mountains to graze བོད་ཀྱི་དོན་སྤེར་རྡོ་རྨ་
7. covered by millions of flowers བོད་ཀྱི་དོན་སྤེར་རྡོ་རྨ་
8. people are happiest...that day བོད་ཀྱི་དོན་སྤེར་རྡོ་རྨ་
9. many family members gather བོད་ཀྱི་དོན་སྤེར་རྡོ་རྨ་
1. In my hometown a horse race festival is held every year.
2. People dress in Tibetan robes, gold and silver necklaces.
3. Villagers walk up a hill near the race and watch.
4. They have a picnic and talk to each other all day.
5. Some groups of young women laugh loudly and happily.
6. The fastest two horses are chosen in a group.
7. During the race, people are interested and enjoy everything.
8. They know whom they belong to.

Match the English phrases with their Tibetan equivalents.

1. held every year  
   a) ལོག་པ་བོད་སྟེོན་པ་མཁྱེན་པ་
2. seventeenth day of the third month  
   b) རྩོམ་པའི་སོ་གཞི་ཐོག་ཕྲོད་པ་
3. local women milk the yaks  
   c) བོད་སྟེོན་པ་མཁྱེན་པ་
4. men make offerings to mountain deities  
   d) སྟོན་པ་མཁྱེན་པ་
5. gold and silver necklaces  
   e) སྟོན་པ་མཁྱེན་པ་
6. drive their livestock to the mountains to graze  
   f) བོད་སྟེོན་པ་མཁྱེན་པ་
7. covered by millions of flowers  
   g) སྟོན་པ་མཁྱེན་པ་
8. people are happiest...that day  
   h) སྟོན་པ་མཁྱེན་པ་
9. many family members gather  
   i) སྟོན་པ་མཁྱེན་པ་
10. villagers walk up a hill  
    j) སྟོན་པ་མཁྱེན་པ་
11. meanwhile  
    k) སྟོན་པ་མཁྱེན་པ་
12. enjoy everything  
    l) སྟོན་པ་མཁྱེན་པ་
13. very interested in how well the horses race  
    m) སྟོན་པ་མཁྱེན་པ་
14. talk about this horse and that horse  
    n) སྟོན་པ་མཁྱེན་པ་
15. elders seem to know everything  
    o) སྟོན་པ་མཁྱེན་པ་
16. whom they belong to  
    p) སྟོན་པ་མཁྱེན་པ་
17. and so on  
    q) སྟོན་པ་མཁྱེན་པ་
18. rank horses from first place to fifth place  
    r) སྟོན་པ་མཁྱེན་པ་
19. give prizes  
    s) སྟོན་པ་མཁྱེན་པ་

Put these sentences in the proper order.

_In my hometown a horse race festival is held every year on the seventeenth day of the third month._
_village leaders rank horses from first place to fifth place and give prizes._
_Then they make groups. Five horses are in one group._
_They talk about this horse and that horse._
_Meanwhile, boys look for women to talk to._
_During the race, people are interested and enjoy everything._
_Some groups of young women laugh loudly and happily._
_People dress in Tibetan robes, and decorate themselves with gold and silver necklaces._
Choose the correct words from the words that are underlined below.

1. In my hometown a horse race festival is/was held every year.
2. Women milk the yaks and the men make offerings/offering to mountain deities in the early morning.
3. They drive their/there livestock to/for the mountains to graze.
4. People make offerings to mountain deities for/to good luck.
5. Meanwhile, boys look for women to talk to/too.
6. Each villager looks for their owner/own village's horses.
7. Elders seem/seeming to know everything about horses.
8. Sometimes I am/was very surprised, because most horses look very similar/simlars.

Put these words in the blanks below: a, to, in, of, on, inside.

I like horse races very much, because I like riding horses. __ my hometown __ horse race festival is held every year __ the seventeenth day __ the third month. Local women milk the yaks and the men make offerings__ mountain deities __ the early morning. People dress __ Tibetan robes, gold and silver necklaces, coral, and flint. Afterwards, they drive their livestock__ the mountains __ graze. They ride their motorbikes and horses__ the race ground __ a large grassland. The grassland is covered by millions__ flowers. Thousands__ people enjoy everything themselves __ the day __ the horse race.

Mark these sentences true(T) or false (F). If a sentence is false, change it so that it is true.

1. Local women milk the yaks. T/F
2. They ride their yaks and horses to the race ground. T/F
3. Seven horses are in one group. T/F
4. During the race, people are interested and enjoy everything. T/F
5. They have a picnic and talk all day. T/F
6. Villagers walk down the hill near the race ground to watch. T/F
7. There are different villages. T/F

Scrambled sentences. Put the words into the correct order.

1. walk a near watch and ground race the hill a up Villagers. ________________________________

2. women the Local milk yaks offerings men and make mountain deities to the. ________________________________

3. mountains to They livestock drive their to the graze. ________________________________

4. The millions is by flowers of grassland covered. ________________________________

5. horses looks villager their for own village’s Each. ________________________________

6. fastest The two group chosen in are a horses. ________________________________
Write answers to these questions.

1. Describe a horse race festival that you went to.

_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________

2. Do you like to see horse races? Why or Why not?

_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________

3. Describe a Tibetan festival you enjoy.

_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________

5. What two things did you like least about this text?

_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________

6. Do you think a horse race is a good thing? Why?

_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________

7. How many festivals does your hometown have in a year? Explain.

_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________

9. What do you think of offerings to mountain deities?

_______________________________________________________________________

This text was prepared by Lhun 'grub.