

# Fast as Lightning



Genre	Build Background	Access Content	Extend Language
Biography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual Development</li> <li>• Olympic Games</li> <li>• Women's Sports</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Definitions</li> <li>• Historical Photographs</li> <li>• Captions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suffix <i>-er</i></li> </ul>

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by Rani Patel  
Illustrated by Mara Levin





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Betty Robinson's speed often helped her get home on time.



Betty Robinson was late again. She knew that the train would not wait. The train station was five blocks from her high school in Harvey, Illinois. She ran as fast as she could, and she made it to the train just in time.

She did not know that someone had been watching her run. From inside the train that Betty was trying to catch, Charles Price watched Betty run at an amazing speed. Mr. Price was one of Betty's teachers. He was amazed to see his sixteen-year-old student running **as fast as lightning**.

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**as fast as lightning:** very fast



The school track coach wanted to know how fast Betty could run.



Mr. Price knew he was watching something special. He was the boys' track coach, and he was sure Betty was running faster than any of the boys on the team that year, 1928.

Mr. Price wanted to know how fast Betty could run. He asked Betty to meet him after school the next day. He told her to wear her **gym shoes** and a gym uniform. He measured fifty yards on the hallway floor. He told Betty to run as fast as she could. Mr. Price timed her fifty-yard **sprint**.

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**gym shoes:** shoes that are used in a gymnasium, a place for physical exercise and indoor sports

**sprint:** a short running race, such as the 100-meter race











