

Name _____

Read the poem. Check your understanding by asking yourself what message the author wants to share.

Why I Run

6 The first marathon I ever saw
 was years ago with my grandma.
 12 We stood out on the Boston streets
 19 and marveled at the number of feet
 26 and marveled at the number of feet.

 33 The runners were a rumbling herd,
 39 except for a few—like the swiftest birds
 47 who shot out alone to run their races
 55 with determination carved into their faces
 61 with determination carved into their faces.

 67 Motorboats speeding over gray water,
 72 these runners would inspire anyone’s daughter.
 78 That was the day I made the decision—
 86 the bounce in my steps clarified my vision
 94 the bounce in my steps clarified my vision.

 102 I went home that day and laced up my shoes
 112 and although my feet started out as one big bruise
 122 I’ve run in every Boston Marathon since
 129 and now I’m so strong I don’t even wince
 138 and now I’m so strong I don’t *ever* wince.

