

*COOL RIDES*

# ***RACE CARS***

Susan Blackaby



high noon books

# Cool Rides: *Race Cars*

## Sound Out Level 5

Sound Out books are chapter books written to give students extra practice with their decoding skills. Level 5 focuses on contractions, nondecodable spelling patterns, inflectional endings, and compound words.

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Book Design: Book Buddy Media

High Noon Books  
*a division of Academic Therapy Publications*  
20 Leveroni Court  
Novato, CA 94949

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Wikimedia Commons: pp. 8 (Collection Jules Beau: Photographie sportive), 9 (Michel Bauchet), 10 (Bibliothèque nationale de France), 12–13 (Agence Rol), 14 (DatBot), 15 (Lothar Spurzem), 16 (Edwin Van Nes from IJsselstein), 24 (Morio)

International Standard Book Number: 978-1-63402-239-2

27 26 25 24 23 22 21 20 19 18  
10 09 08 07 06 05 04 03 02 01

HighNoonBooks.com  
Set Order #SP-2237-8

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# GO, TEAM, GO!



A race car zooms into the pit.  
The pit crew moves in.

Engines roar. Tires squeal. The driver zips into the pit. The clock is ticking!

Jack the car up! Change the tires! Check the air flow! Fix it! Switch it! A bad car part? Put in a new one!

In a flash, the car is back on the track!



Each person on the pit crew has a job to do, fast!

Think of team sports. Is car racing on your list? It should be. Winning a race takes more than a skilled driver. It takes more than a fast car. It takes a trained team, working at top speed. The team is called the pit crew.

Each car has a pit crew. There are 20 people on a pit crew. Each one has a job to do. There are three people on each wheel. They can change all four tires in three seconds.

Two people run the jacks. Six more work on the body. One controls the pit light. The pit light tells the driver when to go back on the track.

Drivers make one or two pit stops in a race. They stop when they need new tires.



People at both ends of the car work the jacks.

# HOW THE SPORT STARTED



This car raced from Paris, France,  
to Madrid, Spain, in 1903.



Car racing started almost as soon as there were cars. The first cars went on the road in the 1880s. In 1894, 21 drivers raced in France. They went 78 miles on a main road.

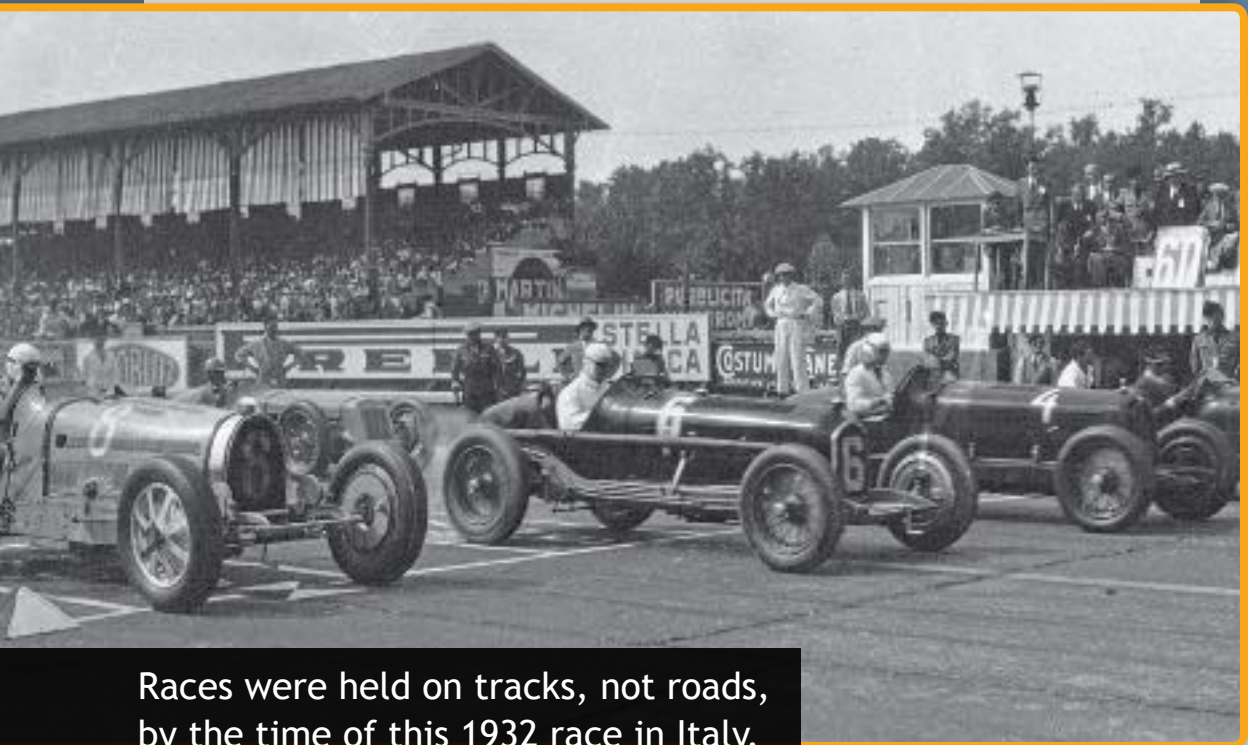
The top speed was 10½ miles an hour. A farm tractor came in first. Even so, the tractor didn't win the grand prize. It wasn't a car!



This is a French farm tractor from around the time of the 1894 race.

By 1901, cars could race at 50 miles an hour. That seemed very fast!

But speeding from town to town was not very safe. It was not safe to drive on the roads. It was not safe to watch. Drivers and fans both got hurt. Soon, car races moved from the road to the track.



Races were held on tracks, not roads, by the time of this 1932 race in Italy.



This is a Formula One, or F1, race car. There are about 21 F1 races worldwide each year.

Today there are races for all types of cars. All the cars in a race are the same type, or class. Cars in each class are made using the same rules.

The set of rules is called a formula (FOR-myoo-luh). The highest class of race car is Formula One. It is called F1 for short.