

Visual Analysis

Most of us don't think of reading as a physical activity. After all, most of the time we're sitting (or lying) down as we read; it's hardly a vigorous sport. Not exactly the kind of activity you would think would make an exciting photograph! But look at this picture, and think about how it gives a sense of movement, of excitement. Then answer the following questions:

- Who is doing the reading?
- What is she doing that makes her seem more active than you might expect?
- Now look at her audience. What are they doing that gives a sense of action?

The photographer and editor made decisions about what to include in this image and how to frame it. Those decisions contribute to how the photo looks and to the meaning it conveys. Look at the photo's composition—that is, the placement of different objects (including people) in the frame.

- Where is the reader?
- If the subject of the image is reading, why do you think she is not more centrally located? How much of the photo does she take up?
- If the subject is reading, why is she such a small part of the image? What fills much more of the picture than the reader?
- What message does that give you as someone who is “reading” the image?
- Look at the other photos that accompany the article. What—and how—do they contribute to the message of the article?

Common Core Standard(s) Met:

RI.9-10.7 Analyze various accounts of a subject told in different mediums (e.g., a person's life story in both print and multimedia), determining which details are emphasized in each account.

