



Name: _____

Date: _____

DePalma's Big Push

Ralph DePalma had won many races but he was at his best in a race that he lost. The race was the 1912 Indy 500. That's one of the biggest car races in the United States.

DePalma was driving a large German car. As soon as the race started, he pulled out in front. As the race went on, he kept his lead. He made more and more laps around the track. He was far ahead of Joe Dawson, the man in second place.

When the race was almost over, some people got up and left. Why stay? they thought. They were sure they knew who would win but things did not go as they thought. Drops of oil began to fall from DePalma's car. A strange noise came from it. The car slowed down. Something was wrong.

Dawson's friends saw it. They waved him on, "Go!" they yelled.

DePalma knew his car would not go far. His only hope was that he would make it to the finish line. On his last lap, the car stopped. Dawson's car roared by to the finish line.

DePalma saw it go by. He knew he could not win now. He thought he would finish the race. He got out of his car and so did the man who rode with him. They began to push the car to the finish line.

Dawson went by them again and again. He was on his last lap. He was going to win. The people roared. DePalma and his friend did not care. They went on pushing the car. At first all eyes were on Dawson. He crossed the finish line and the race was over. He had won!

Then people saw a car crawling up the track. Voices began to yell and to shout. Hands waved and pointed. DePalma and his friend pushed on. At last the car crossed the finish line. By then, all the people at the track were yelling for them. They shouted more than they had for Dawson. This was a different kind of winner. This was one who would not quit.