

# Skate Champs



by Janice Marriott  
photographs by Diana Dobson

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to Read*

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**koro** (**koh**-roh – roll the r slightly): granddad or great uncle

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Ministry of Education



Today is the day  
of the Skateboarding Championships.  
Luka is in the under 13 section.

Luka and his dad arrive  
before most of the other skaters.  
Luka is all set to go,  
but he's a little bit nervous.



He practises for the heats.

The heats are in the morning,  
and only the best skaters  
will be chosen for the finals.



In the heats, the skaters line up at the top of a long ramp. They skate down at full speed and then do as many tricks as they can. They do moves on the fun box\* too.



\* A fun box has lots of flat surfaces and edges for skaters to use when they are doing their moves.



Luka watches the other skaters and notices Dylan. He's 12 years old – twice as old as Luka! Dylan has great moves. Luka knows he will have to give his very best.





No one knows who will be in the final.  
At last, the announcement comes over the speakers.  
Dylan and Luka have both got through.  
**Yay!**

After lunch, Luka puts on his lucky T-shirt.  
His dad talks to him.  
He tells Luka to concentrate and to do his best.  
Then he wishes him luck.





Luka sees that his koro has arrived.  
Mum makes sure Koro gets a good seat.



It's time for the finals.  
The hooter blows, and Luka goes first.  
Luka does all his best moves.  
When he's finished, his legs are tired.







He watches Dylan have his turn.  
Luka cheers him on.  
Luka's round was perfect.  
Dylan's round is, too.



The competition is close.  
Who is going to win?

They have to skate again.

For four minutes, each boy  
does awesome tricks.

Luka flies through the air.

It looks like he's going to be the winner –  
but Dylan finishes with a magnificent jump.

Who will the judges choose?



Then comes the announcement –  
the winner is Dylan  
and Luka is second.





# Go, Luka!



## ***Interview with Luka***

### **When did you start skating?**

When I was two.

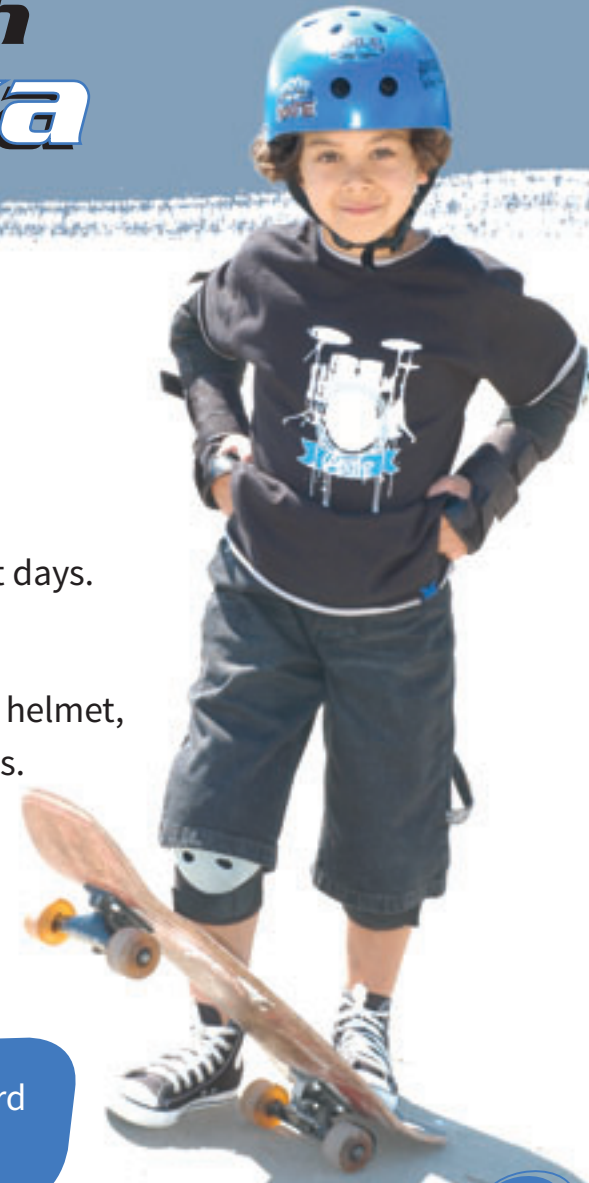
I started with a small deck,<sup>\*</sup>  
just skating around at home.

Now I use a full-size deck,  
and I practise after school most days.

### **What do you need for skating?**

A deck, strong shoes, a padded helmet,  
and knee, elbow, and wrist pads.

<sup>\*</sup> A deck is the part of the skateboard  
that you stand on.



### **Have you ever hurt yourself?**

No. I wear my safety gear,  
and my mum showed me  
how to spread my fingers when I fall.

### **Are you famous?**

I'm just me!  
I've been in a magazine,  
on a website,  
and on TV.







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