**McFarland, USA**

# Character Reference Chart

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  Danny Diaz  | Jim White  |   |  Damacio Diaz  |
|  Thomas Valles  |  |   |  David Diaz  |
|  | Johnny Sameniego |
|  Cheryl White  | Victor Puentes  |   |  Julie White  |

**Instructions: As you watch the video, please answer each question. The answers are in chronological order.**

1. What did Coach White throw at the football player inside the locker room?

1. What is the name of the high school Coach White gets hired to teach at?

1. When Johnny Sameniego meets Coach White he tells him that he plays football. What number does Johnny wear?
2. What does Coach White’s neighbor give him as a welcoming gift?

1. What sport does Coach White want to coach?

1. Who does Coach White put in charge of recruiting students for the cross-country team?

1. Who is the “anchor” of the cross-country team?

1. What score does the McFarland cross-country team get at the Palo Alto Invitational?

1. What does Cheryl White want Coach White to pick up for Julie’s birthday?

1. Who does Coach White see sitting at the edge of the bridge?

1. The second dual meet is between McFarland vs.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

1. **Making inferences:** Why do you think it was important for Coach White to work out in the fields with his runners?

1. List the two things that the McFarland cross-country team did in order to fundraise for new uniforms and shoes?
2. Thomas Valles’ father tells him: “Nobody ever needed a

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”

1. At the Stallion Oak State Qualifier, a coach approached Coach White to tell him that they are interested in him. What school is this coach from?

1. What place did McFarland get at the Stallion Oak State Qualifier?

1. What word is misspelled on the uniforms?

1. What kind of party does Coach White throw for his daughter Julie (hint: the answer is in Spanish)?

1. What school does Coach White interview with?

1. What happened to Jose during the race at the CIF State Cross Country Championship?

1. Which runner gets 5th place at the CIF State Cross Country Championship?

1. Which team wins 1st place at the CIF State Cross Country Championship?

1. How many state titles has McFarland High won in the span of 14 years?

1. From what university did Danny Diaz graduate from?

**Critical Thinking: Hollywood versus Real Life**



The following facts were changed in the movie:

* The real Jim White started coaching at McFarland HS in 1980 instead of 1987 as stated by the movie.
* The rise of the cross-country team took place over several years and not just one year as portrayed in the movie.
* Coach White did not create the cross-country team at McFarland HS (he resurrected the team).
* Jim White was never fired from a previous school for losing his temper. In fact, he taught in the *McFarland School District* since 1964. He did not arrive at McFarland on his last leg after being fired.
* Jim White and Cheryl White have three daughters.
* McFarland HS is not located across the street from a prison.
* Coach White did help the boys work in the fields various times (not just once).
* Most of their opponents were not snobby rich kids as portrayed in the movie.
* Danny Diaz was not overweight.