**2b Page 24 READING TEXT**

Pre-Intermediate Student’s Book

Life

Crazy competitions!

Ross McDermott and Andrew Owen travel round the United States going to different festivals and write about their experiences on the blog *The American Festivals Project*. Many of these festivals are also competitions.

**A The Idiotarod**

The Idiotarod is an annual race in New York City. Each team must have ﬁve people and a shopping cart. They can decorate their carts but they can’t change the wheels. All the teams have to start and ﬁnish at the same place but they don’t have to run on the same roads. The teams can choose their route but the members of each team must arrive at the ﬁnish line together. And they mustn’t ﬁnish without the cart!

**B Mud Bowl Championship**

Mud Bowl football is similar to normal American football. The match is shorter but there are two teams and a referee. The winner is the team with the most goals at the end of sixty minutes. The only real difference is that the players have to play in half a metre of mud!

**C Combine Harvester Fight**

Combine harvesters are normally on farms but, for one day every summer, in the small town of Hillsdale in Michigan, farmers compete against each other for a prize of $1,500. For three hours, the giant machines have to ﬁght until only one combine harvester is still moving.