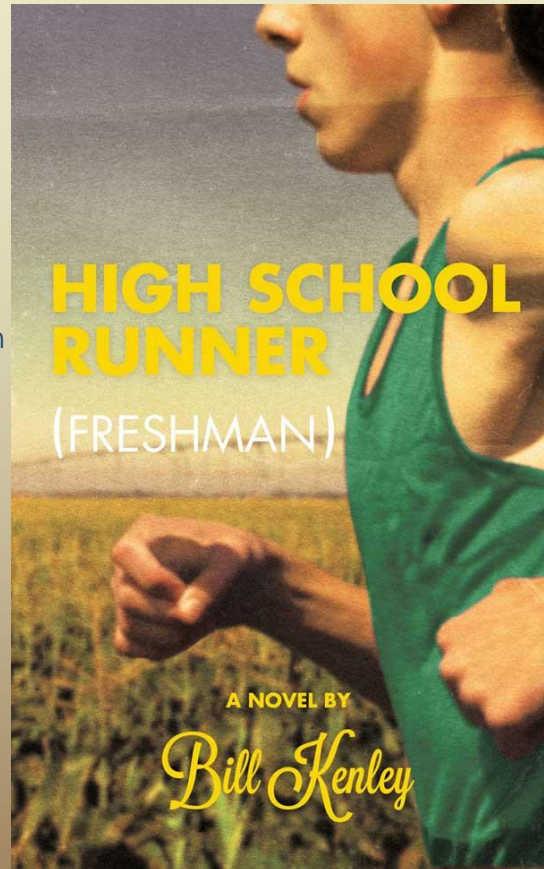


High School Runner (Freshman)

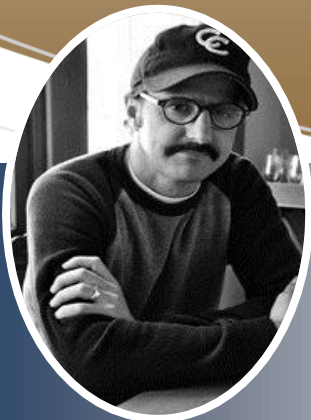
Meet Sherman Leopold Kindle, aka K1, a ninth grader beginning his high school journey as a talented but apprehensive member of the cross-country team. Over the course of the season, he learns to rise to the challenge of the work through self-discipline, teamwork and, most importantly, empathy. Sherman's often hilarious, sometimes pathetic and ultimately inspiring coach mentors all of the runners in a less-than-conventional fashion. Despite his life falling apart, Coach Viddstein molds his team and leads them to their greatest success. *High School Runner (Freshman)* demonstrates that while individual races may be won or lost, the real sense of triumph comes from knowing how to pace oneself in this mad dash we call life.

Book summary adapted from billkenley.com.



Bill Kenley is a high school English teacher. Three times voted by students of his high school as the school's most inspiring and influential teacher, he writes primarily for a young adult audience. A graduate of Miami University with a Master's in English Education from Ohio State, Kenley has taught creative writing at the high school and college levels. *High School Runner (Freshman)* is his first novel. He is also an avid runner with multiple Boston Marathons and a fifty-mile trail run under his belt. Kenley is a 2016 Emerging Author finalist of the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana Authors Award.

Bill
Kenley



Useful Links

Article on “running man” Bill Kenley:
currentnoblesville.com/running-man

High School Runner Band of Runners
online community:
billkenley.com/bandofrunners/

Eugene & Marilyn Glick Indiana
Authors Award:
indianaauthorsaward.org

The Indiana Authors Award

The Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana Authors Award was established when **The Indianapolis Public Library Foundation** received a generous grant from **The Glick Fund, a fund of Central Indiana Community Foundation**. This program seeks to recognize the contributions of Indiana authors to the literary landscape in Indiana and across the nation. The Award is divided into four categories: Emerging, for new writers of one or two books that show great promise; Genre Excellence, for writers who excel in a specific literary genre; Regional, for writers well known and respected especially in Indiana and the Midwest; and National, for writers of widespread acclaim. Each winning author receives a cash prize and a \$2,500 grant for the Indiana public library of his or her choice.

Discussion Questions



1. Kenley wanted to write a story with characters “much smarter, weirder, and more decent than stereotypes might have people believe.” How do the characters in *High School Runner (Freshman)* fit high school stereotypes and in what ways do they break free?
2. How is *High School Runner (Freshman)* like other stories in the coming-of-age genre? How is it unique?
3. *High School Runner (Freshman)* is detail-rich. How does Kenley use descriptive language to create a sense of place and character?
4. Compare the narrative arcs of Sherman Kindle and Coach Viddstein. What do you think will happen next for each of these characters in Kindle's sophomore year?
5. What is Kindle's relationship like with the other runners on his team? Contrast the growth of the team with the individual growth of the main characters.
6. Research shows boys, especially older boys, are less likely to read for pleasure, yet *High School Runner (Freshman)* is frequently read and enjoyed by teenage boys. How can we engage more boys in leisure reading?