By Gabriel Tu

Mark: Even before the marathon, I worked tirelessly to do this and I would work everyday 1 month before the day making it a routine to help me run 42 kilometres through the desert. Thankfully I had the courage and effort to pull through the hard work and improve. Even when I got to the starting line I could feel the heat but I saw my parents watching me as I crossed the finish line in my head. As soon as we started I took off at a steady pace but little did I know what was coming for me next.

1 hour in my legs were starting to give in, they were stiff, sore, and tired from the long haul. But I was determined as a bear hunting some tuna. i was starting to have a stitch and I couldn’t breathe well causing me to slow my pace. I felt as if something was tugging me back. Though running was hard, I enjoyed the scenery and beauty of the desert. Something that I will always remember. Halfway in, I felt dehydrated and hot though, I kept on running without stop.

By the time we had passed the 2hours 30-minute mark, I was exhausted and wanted to give up, but I remembered how hard I worked for this. I knew I had to do this. Through my resilience and hard work, I was able to succeed keep myself going.

I was starting to crumble and I was feeling very sick and slow. I couldn’t tell if I had been running for 3 hours or 4. Along the way I encountered various animals and creatures that I loved. Seeing them in their natural habitat was fun and kept me going I was nauseous, very sick and slow. All of those things were starting to lay down on me. That’s when I saw the finish line.

I summoned all of my strength and pushed through, kept on running. The finish line was near, maybe 1 kilometre away. Everyone was cheering for me but I hardly noticed. As soon as I pushed through the ribbon, the crowd burst with a huge cheer. I had finally done it I had done a full marathon through the Sahara desert. I looked at my time. 4 hours and 23 minutes, not bad.

All in all I learned a lot from this wonderful, hard, achieving experience. I saw lots of animals, the beautiful desert and the feeling so exhausted you could collapse and go to sleep. I had fulfilled my journey. Overall I would definitely do this again as it would help me learn more, be more fit, and be more knowledgeable.

Some memories I had while doing this is seeing the nature and the feeling of no humans impacting the area the wonderful animals I saw like foxes or snakes and the heat that exhausted even the best of runners. The journey and experience was the thing that would help me get to the end of the finish line.