

THEME 3 HARD TIMES READING SKILL (YILDIRIM)

A. Use the following sentences to fill in the blanks (1-4) in the text. There is an extra sentence.

- a. She was aggressively trying to rouse Patricia in order to alert her to the danger.
- b. I was lying in bed and there was a group of people by me: my family, my parents, a couple of friends, some doctors and nurses.
- c. I was crying as I was feeling terrible because of my broken wrist.
- d. When the paramedics arrived in less than 8 minutes, they restarted my heart, and then they rushed me to the hospital.
- e. When I told the problem to my wife Patricia, who is a psychiatrist, she said we should arrange to see our family doctor the next day.

Zola, a family pet, was on stage at the ceremony yesterday. Now her owner Matthew tells their amazing story.

“It was in December 2014. I was 55 years old. My family and I used to live in Toronto. I was keen on cycling, and I used to ride my bike in a nearby park very often. That evening, I had a long bike ride, and when I came back home at around 11:40 p.m., my shoulders and elbows were aching badly. That was strange because I usually complained about the pain in my wrists after riding. (1) _____ . Actually, I thought it was not worth considering. Soon afterwards, I went upstairs to the third floor of our house, but my wife stayed in the living room on the ground floor with our daughters, Alice and Olivia (then 23 and 17). While I was walking up the stairs, I aimed to watch TV. I used to watch sports just before bedtime every day. After a short while, things suddenly became awful. The next thing I can remember is more than 20 hours later: I found myself in a hospital room. (2) _____ . All were looking at me anxiously. I later found out that I had a heart attack soon after I went upstairs. When I fell to the floor, Patricia heard the sound and believed I dropped something. She thought about calling up to me, but she knew I wouldn’t hear her if she did as I used to wear headphones when watching telly. So she kept on reading in front of the fireplace, and Zola was resting quietly at her feet. About a minute later, Zola started barking as if she went crazy. (3) _____ . That was not typical of Zola, so Patricia stood up. Next, Zola led her up the stairs to the third floor, and they found me there lying on the floor. When Patricia checked me for vital signs, she found none. I was dead. She immediately began CPR* while my daughters called 911. (4) _____ . After that, I had some operations, and eventually I recovered completely. Fortunately, Zola felt that I needed help at that moment. That’s the only reason I’m alive today. Now she proudly wears a brass name tag engraved with the words: I saved my human’s life.”

B. Tick the question that CANNOT be answered according to the text. Then answer the other ones.

- 1. What did Matthew use to do very often?
- 2. What was the problem when he came home that evening?
- 3. What happened soon after he went upstairs?
- 4. What was Zola doing while Patricia was reading?
- 5. What happened to Zola about a minute later?
- 6. What did Patricia say after that?
- 7. What happened when the paramedics arrived there?

C. Complete the table using the information in Matthew's story.

Plot (the series of events that form the story) :

Setting (the place and time of the story) :

Characters (the people or animals in the story) :

Climax (the most exciting or important event of the story) :

D. Read the story and write a good title for it.

Have you ever done something that made you feel proud? I have. It happened during my summer holiday last year. I was at the swimming pool in our neighborhood. I used to go there every day during my holiday. It was 6:45 p.m. and I was feeling exhausted after spending the whole afternoon diving and swimming, so I decided to go home.

While I was swimming towards the stairs, I looked around and realized that the other swimmers were leaving as well. Next, I got out of the pool and took my towel. As I was drying my hair, I was looking at the pool. It was empty. Just then, a 10-year-old boy jumped into the water, but he didn't come to the surface again. Almost 40 seconds passed, but he was still in the water. I got really anxious.

Soon afterwards, I dived into the water and discovered that the boy was in real trouble. Unfortunately, one of his fingers was caught in the drain at the bottom of the pool, so he couldn't get free. He was trapped, and he was drowning. I got shocked. I swam to the surface and shouted for help. Luckily, there was a young man by the pool, and he immediately ran towards me. He jumped into the water and helped me to set the boy free. Finally, we took him out of the pool together. He coughed a lot of water up, and then he started breathing normally. When I saw that he was fine, I got relieved. In the end, everybody thanked me, and I felt very proud of myself. I was in the right place at the right time. I'll never forget that day.

E. Which question DOES NOT have an answer in the story? Underline it, and then answer the other ones.

1. What did the writer use to do every day during the summer holiday?
2. How was the writer feeling at the beginning of the story?
3. Why did the writer get anxious?
4. What happened when the writer dived into the water?
5. What happened when the writer shouted for help?
6. What did the boy say when he started breathing normally?

F. Use the information in the story and complete the table.

Plot :

Setting :

Characters :

Climax :

G. Read the following text and choose the correct answer.

The text is a(n) - - - - . A) autobiography B) essay C) letter D) story

NEVER GIVE UP YOUR DREAMS

There is no doubt that all of us have some dreams. It is generally not easy to fulfill them, though. We may go through hard times, but we should keep trying and remember that every cloud has a silver lining.

To start with, we may suffer from health problems while trying to attain our goals. For example, German composer Ludwig van Beethoven lost his hearing in his mid-twenties. Despite being deaf, he continued to be productive. He was able to hear the music in his head, and he composed numerous pieces of music, including symphonies and piano concertos. Moreover, he had a serious liver disease and he was in chronic pain. However, the problems couldn't stop him from pursuing his goals. Beethoven is one of the most frequently performed composers in the world.

On our way to success, it is also possible for us to experience a learning disability, but that doesn't mean we cannot succeed. A good example is Agatha Christie, one of the best-selling authors of all time. At school, she used to have problems with writing because she had dyslexia. Can you believe that she often got bad marks for her essays? As she got older, she discovered her hidden talent, and she wrote 66 detective novels and 14 short story collections, which were published in more than 40 languages all over the world.

Another challenge we have to cope with may be financial difficulties. Turkish scientist Aziz Sancar, for instance, was born into a family with 8 children. Furthermore, his parents couldn't read or write. He also grew up in a very small town and had to get his education in or near his hometown until he started the faculty of medicine. Nevertheless, he has always chased his dreams. Now he is extremely successful and has got many awards, including the 2015 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. He currently works as a professor at the University of North Carolina.

To sum up, we shouldn't give up even if we meet obstacles while attempting to achieve our aims. We may fall, but we should rise again because failure is nothing, but the first step towards success. Winners are not those who never fail, but those who never quit.

H. Read the essay and write the thesis statement (the sentence in the first paragraph that summarizes the main point of the essay).

I. Read the essay again and underline the topic sentence in each of the paragraphs 2, 3 and 4.

J. Read the paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 again. Find the supporting points and/ or examples for the topic sentences.

K. Answer the following questions according to the essay.

1. What health problems did Ludwig van Beethoven have?
2. What learning disability did Agatha Christie have when she was at school?
3. What difficulties did Aziz Sancar have when he was very young?