

### THEME 3 HARD TIMES READING SKILL (SPICE UP)

#### **A. Read the story and fill in the blanks with the correct option. One is extra.**

- a. After several attempts, he finally found a ticket
- b. Before getting his own place
- c. Although they were happy in the village
- d. While my grandpa was writing his first book
- e. He was dreaming of becoming a writer
- f. The captain asked for a volunteer

#### **A JOURNEY TO THE BRIGHT NEW FUTURE**

This is the real story of a legend, my great grandfather George. He was born into a happy family in a small village in 1912. His father was a farmer, and his mother was a housewife, like most families in those days. (1)\_\_\_\_\_, but he knew it would be impossible in such a small village. (2)\_\_\_\_\_, the family started to consider moving to another country for their son's education. Unfortunately, travel expenses were too high, and it was impossible for the entire family to immigrate. Therefore, young George had to leave the country on his own in the late 1920s. (3)\_\_\_\_\_ for a ship to cross the Atlantic. He was shocked when he saw a large number of people standing on the deck. While they were in the middle of the ocean, one of the ship's engines stopped; apparently, there was a problem with it. Although the passengers tossed everything into the sea, it wasn't enough to move the ship. (4)\_\_\_\_\_ to take one of the boats to the nearest island to get help.

As a last resort, Grandpa George accepted to row in the burning sun until he reached one of the islands. He managed to get the necessary help, and they fixed the engine to continue their long journey. Even after arriving at his new hometown's harbour, he had to keep struggling. He didn't have some of the necessary documents, so he was transferred to a different town. (5)\_\_\_\_\_, he had to share a small flat with two other immigrants for over a year. He never stopped dreaming of being a writer and wrote every touching moment of his journey.

As soon as he had a steady life, he enrolled in his dream school, where he met an inspiring teacher. They worked together to edit his survival memories into a book, which later became a best-seller. This was the beginning of his career as a well-known author. His story has taught me to keep working hard to make my dreams come true.

#### **B. Read the story again and take notes**

Characters (Who were the characters?): \_\_\_\_\_

Setting (Where and when did the story take place?): \_\_\_\_\_

Plot (What happened?): \_\_\_\_\_

Climax (What was the most exciting part of the story?): \_\_\_\_\_

Theme (What was the message of the story?): \_\_\_\_\_

#### **C. Read the text below and answer the questions about Tom's childhood habits.**

##### **Good Old Childhood**

When I look back on my childhood, I feel great. My friends and I spent most of our time playing marbles or hide-and-seek. Weekday evenings were reserved for sports. I used to play basketball every evening after school. I keep the tradition going, but I play tennis now. I used to listen to rock music all the time. My routines were very important to me as I was a creature of habit. Every morning, I would eat two eggs and would not leave the house without drinking my honey milk. My parents were very strict about the whole family sharing the chores on Saturday mornings. We did the dusting with my sister while my brother and

dad mopped the kitchen floor and vacuumed the rooms. We used to watch cartoons with my sister after we finished cleaning. Old habits die hard; at the age of 17, I still like watching cartoons with my sister.

1. What did Tom and his friends use to do?
2. What did Tom use to do on weekday evenings?
3. What was his favourite music genre?
4. What was his morning routine like?
5. What chores did Tom use to do?
6. What did they use to do once they finished their chores?