

## THEME 3 LEGENDARY FIGURE READING SKILL (COUNT ME IN)

### A. Read the first part of the text and answer the following questions.

#### THE CONQUEST OF CONSTANTINOPLE

The city of Constantinople was of great importance due to its strategically important location and religious reasons. Like his ancestors Sultan Bayezid and Sultan Murad II, conquering the city was the biggest dream of the seventh Ottoman Sultan, Mehmed II. He was only 21 years old when he dared to besiege the city. There were a lot of challenges ahead. The most difficult one was psychological barriers. The Byzantine Armies were unbeaten and Mehmed's Army had to be the first to defeat them. The city walls were incredibly strong and there was a defensive chain across the mouth of the Golden Horn (Haliç). The Sultan had plans for all. The siege began, so did the bloody battles. The Ottoman Army hit and destroyed the city walls with the largest and best cannons of the time. However, his fleet was unable to enter the city because of the defensive chain in the waters of the Bosphorus. Then, he ordered ships to roll overland into the sea and reached the heart of the city. At the end of 53 days full of memorable, heart-stopping, emotional, anxious, difficult moments, Byzantine soldiers finally surrendered. Mehmed II was now triumphant and people call him Fatih, the Conqueror and later the city was called İstanbul.

1. Why was the city of Constantinople so important?
2. What were the serious challenges for Mehmed II?
3. How did the fleet enter the Bosphorus?
4. How long did the siege last?
5. Who was the winner?

### B. Read the second part of the text below and fill in the table about Mehmed II. Then, make sentences as in the example.

The conquest is still subject to many researches today. According to most historians, it was beyond a powerful army. They agree and focus on Sultan Mehmed's genius and personal qualities, and believe these played a key role in planning everything for the conquest. We can find some clues about his personal qualities when we look at some of his actions and approaches. First of all, he was an intellectual. He could speak six languages and he had the habit of reading a lot. He read about various topics; from religion to history, from physics to Greek mythology. He was excellent at physics and maths. He made the largest and strongest cannons himself using his knowledge of physics and complicated calculations. He paid great attention to education. Sahn-ı Seman Madrasahs of his time served as higher education institutions and he invited well-known scholars such as Ali Kuşçu to his country. He also invited Bellini, an Italian Renaissance artist, to draw his portrait. He was a respectful leader. He respected other beliefs and religions. Freedom of belief across the empire was very important to him. He was a very determined leader. There were a lot of difficulties during the siege, but he never gave up. He managed to keep his armies motivated.

Personal Skill : Intellectual                      Evidence : He could speak 6 languages

Mehmed II was an intellectual man because he could speak six languages and he had the habit of reading.

Personal Skill : Respectful                      Evidence : \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Skill : Determined                      Evidence : \_\_\_\_\_

**C. Take a quick look at the text and jot down five of the characteristics that are mentioned about Atatürk in the text.**

A close friend may praise you. Sometimes a teacher, your parents or a family member may do the same. How many heroes or heroines have been praised by his enemies in history? There are few. One of them is Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. According to American leader John F. Kennedy, he was one of the greatest figures of our century. Winston Churchill of the UK called him a great hero, and former French President Charles de Gaulle said he was the greatest achiever among all the World leaders.

What made Mustafa Kemal different from other leaders? How did he become a legendary figure? Why did his enemies respect him so much? It's not only winning wars, of course. There are a lot of other achievements in his life. When his father died, they moved to Uncle Huseyin's farm. While he was helping with the farm work there, he decided to make a change and secretly sat for the military school exams, and passed. He was an outstanding cadet, military school student. When he graduated from Academy of War in 1905, things were getting worse. His first duty was in Damascus. While he was working there, the Ottoman Administration sent him to different places for new duties. He was a division commander during the Battle of Gallipoli in 1915. The Allied Forces were dreaming of the partition of Anatolia and İstanbul when Mustafa Kemal's armies woke them up. On April 23, 1920, he established Turkish Grand National Assembly. He went on fighting against enemies and all enemies left the country completely on September 9, 1922.

Things were not over. It was just a beginning. His duty as a commander was over. Now, it was time to become a statesman, an economist, and a teacher. While his friends were discussing the new regime, he suddenly said, 'We are going to declare the Republic, tomorrow.' He managed it. It was October 29, 1923. Then, he went on to introduce his revolutions in many fields such as introducing the Latin Alphabet on November 1, 1928, establishing the Central Bank of the Turkish Republic on June 5, 1931, giving women the right to vote on December 5, 1934 . While he was making the revolutions, he worked day and night. Soon, the poor country of war turned into a strong, modern, and independent state. He had only a short time to enjoy his new state before he passed away on November 10, 1938. While his coffin was passing by, millions were crying. Some of them were the commanders of the Allied Forces.

**D. Read the text again and fill in the time line. One has been done for you.**

<u>Achievements or Events</u>	<u>Dates</u>
established the TGNA	23rd April, 1920
_____	9th September, 1922
_____	29th October, 1923
introduced Latin alphabet	_____
established the Central Bank	_____
_____	5th December, 1934

**E. Read the text and answer the questions.**

**The Flea, Lionel Messi**

Luis Lionel Andres Messi was born on June 24, 1987, in Rosario, Argentina. At the age of 8, he joined the youth system of Newell's Old Boys Club. He was recognizably smaller than most of the kids in his age group. He was suffering from a hormone deficiency and this was restricting his growth. Messi's parents, Jorge and Cecilia, found his cure but it was impossible for them to afford this medication. At the age of 13, FC Barcelona's Youth Academy offered him a chance to train at soccer powerhouse and cover his all medical bills. So, Messi's family picked up and moved across the Atlantic to make a new home in Spain with no money, no jobs. They only followed the dream that these treatments would help him and become big enough to be a good soccer player. Eventually, Messi grew to 5 feet and 7 inches (1.7 m), and at the age of 16, he made his first appearance for Barcelona. In 2005, when he was 17, Messi put himself in the record books as the youngest player ever to score a goal for the franchise, Barcelona. Messi became a star in his new country, leading his club to championships. In 2012, he set a record for most goals in a calendar year, and in 2016, he got the name Europe's Ballon d'Or winner for the fifth time. In 2013, Messi signed a contract extension through 2018 with Barcelona worth 30 million dollars. According to the sports magazines, he is the highest paid soccer player in the world.

Messi is considered to be the best soccer player in the world without question right now. Some people call him "the flea" because he is so little but for many he is the flea because the other players can't catch him. With his short height, speed and pitiless attacking style, people often compare him to another famous Argentinean footballer: Armando Diego Maradona. And even the great Maradona boasted about his countryman. "I see him as very similar to me," the retired player said. "He's a leader and is offering lessons in beautiful football. He has something different than any other player in the world."

1. When was Luis Lionel Messi born? \_\_\_\_\_
2. When did he join the Newell's Old Boys Club? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Why was he smaller than his friends in his age group? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Why did Messi and his parents move to Spain? \_\_\_\_\_
5. When did he first appear for Barcelona? \_\_\_\_\_
6. How old was he when he put himself in the record books? \_\_\_\_\_