

THEME 4 WHAT A LIFE READING SKILL (SUNSHINE)

A. Read the biography of Aziz Sancar and put the paragraphs in order.

(.....) a. Aziz Sancar was born in Mardin on September 8, 1946. His parents couldn't go to school; however, they appreciated education much. As all of his teachers received their education in the Village Institutes, they were idealistic. Sancar later mentioned that this was a great inspiration to him. Throughout his school life, he had great academic success. He wanted to study chemistry while he was at high school, but his classmates and teachers persuaded him to study medicine and he got into medicine along with his classmates. He studied medicine at the Faculty of Medicine of Istanbul University.

(.....) b. The National Academy of Sciences elected him as the first Turkish-American member in 2005. Since then, he has been a Professor of Biochemistry at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is married to Gwen Boles Sancar, who is also a Professor of Biochemistry and Biophysics there. They established Carolina Türk Evi, a Turkish Center which serves as a graduate house for Turkish researchers and a center for Turkish-American cultural exchange.

(.....) c. He couldn't complete his PhD at Johns Hopkins University for some reasons. Soon after, he wrote to Stan Rupert, who had been involved in the discovery of DNA repair and was at Johns Hopkins during Sancar's time there. Rupert was at the University of Texas at Dallas; thus, Sancar was accepted and completed his PhD in molecular biology there.

(.....) d. In 2015, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his mechanistic studies of DNA repair in addition to Tomas Lindahl and Paul L. Modrich. With a presidential ceremony, Sancar donated his original Nobel Prize golden medal and certificate to the mausoleum of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk on 19 May 2016.

(.....) e. After completing his PhD, Sancar worked at Yale University for five years. Then, he was accepted as a lecturer at the University of North Carolina, the only university that he got a positive response from out of the 50 he applied to. Once, he stated that his accent of English was detrimental to his career as a lecturer but he explored all avenues to go on his studies in the US.

(.....) f. After graduating from Istanbul University at the age of 24, Sancar returned to Mardin. He wanted to go to the United States, but he couldn't afford it so he became a doctor and he worked as a doctor in the region for 1,5 years. He, then won a scholarship from TÜBİTAK to pursue further education in biochemistry at Johns Hopkins University.

B. Read the text and answer the questions

1. How did his high school teachers affect Aziz Sancar?
2. Why did he choose to study medicine?
3. How did he start Johns Hopkins University?
4. Where did he finish his PhD studies?
5. What was the significance of his accent of English?
6. What did he do with his Nobel Prize?
7. How do you feel about Aziz Sancar's life story? Did he have a simple life? How do you think he became that successful?