

THEME 5 BACK TO THE PAST READING SKILL (SPICE UP)

A. Read Grandpa Tom's letter to his grandson and underline the sentences that describe a wish, a regret or an unreal potential in the past.

My precious grandchild Noah,

You have no idea how deeply I wanted to be there with you at your college graduation. Sadly, I won't be able to make it. Still, I'm sending you this letter with your mother, so you can feel like I'm there with you on this beautiful day.

My dearest child, today, as you begin a new chapter in your life, let me share some of my regrets with you so that you don't make the same mistakes. I hope this will help you in the future. There are many choices to make in life, and most of them are questionable. Decisions that seem right at the time may turn out to be wrong later.

First of all, my dearest, please always keep a healthy work-life balance. You know, I've spent my entire life working nonstop.

When your mother was a little girl, for example, I missed all the special moments in her life because I was too busy working.

Birthday parties, school plays ... It still burns me up today. I wish I had worked less and spent more time with my family.

It's a changing world, son. Make bold moves. I was always afraid of losing, so I played it safe. If I had taken some risks, I could have had a more fulfilling life. Please take the chance when available!

Every day, take a walk in the woods, nap, exercise and pray. Make self-care a higher priority. Be thankful for what you have every single day! I wish I had taken better care of myself when I was younger. I never cared. I would have been in a better condition today if I had paid more attention to my well-being.

I'm grateful for everything life has taught me, good and bad. I love myself enough to embrace all of my regrets, I'm sure you will too! Oh my god, how I ramble! My beloved kid, whether you plan to use my advice right away or not, there's a good chance you'll find it useful.

Your adoring grandpa,

Tom Peterson

B. Read the letter again and choose the correct option.

1. What is the purpose of Tom's letter?

- a) Giving life advice by expressing his own regrets.
- b) Confirming that he will be there to see his grandson graduate.
- c) Asking about how his grandson's life is going.

2. Which of the following is not one of the themes of the letter?

- a) anger
- b) regret
- c) remembrance

3. What other word from paragraph 2 means "option"?

- a) chapter
- b) choice
- c) sure

4. What does Tom mean by saying "It still burns me up today." in paragraph 3?

- a) He has an injury that still hurts.
- b) He feels bad when he thinks about it.
- c) He smiles when he remembers it.

5. In paragraph 4, how does the phrase "play safe" explain Tom's behaviour?

- a) He was definitely a risk-taker when he was younger.
- b) He was always careful while playing games.
- c) He never took risks in the past.

6. What three words can describe Tom based on his letter?

- a) careless, confused, selfish
- b) wise, thoughtful, self-loving
- c) mean, illogical, unrealistic

C. Read Riley's story and write his four mistakes.

Riley was at home alone last weekend because his parents were out of town visiting his grandparents. Before leaving the house, his mum warned him not to eat out or invite his friends over. Riley's Friday night was really boring. He ate the meals that his mother had prepared and watched movies until he fell asleep. On Saturday, he went roller-skating in the park where he ran into some of his friends. When he told them he was alone at home, they got really excited and suggested having a barbecue party at Riley's. After a short period of hesitation, Riley thought he'd have a good time with his friends and agreed to do it. He told them that he could accept only a few friends. He went shopping before returning home because he didn't tell his friends to bring food or beverages. Soon after he arrived home, the doorbell rang, and a large group of people came in. Riley was a bit annoyed, but he didn't say anything. The food wasn't enough for them, so he decided to order some more with his dad's credit card. He couldn't imagine it would cost a fortune and make his parents angry. After eating their meals, they danced joyfully in the garden. They were having a great time until he suddenly saw his parents standing in the doorway with furious faces

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____

D. Read the story again and write Yes or No.

- 1. If Riley's mum had told him not to invite people over, he wouldn't have had a party. _____
- 2. Riley would have refused his friends' offer if he hadn't felt bored. _____
- 3. If there had been a few people at home, Riley wouldn't have ordered extra food. _____
- 4. If Riley's parents had known about the party, he would have left more money. _____
- 5. If his parents had enjoyed the party, everybody would have continued to have fun. _____