

## THEME 9 MODERN HEROES AND HEROINES READING SKILL (COUNT ME IN)

### **A. Why did these people become heroes/heroines? Match the names to the reasons.**

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|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Elon Musk        | a. scientific innovations        |
| 2. Ömer Halisdemir  | b. investments and mega projects |
| 3. Canan Dağdeviren | c. martyrdom                     |

Albert Einstein, one of the scientific heroes for humanity, once said “Imagination is more important than knowledge.” because the path to success and happiness in reality starts by dreaming or imagining. This is so if one goes after dreams or things in their imaginations. Most ordinary people fail here. They just dream of something, but do not go after them because of the fear of failure. If you pursue your dreams, you may fail or you may become a hero. However, if you do not even try to fulfill them, there is only one result; failure. Then, things in your imagination become only imaginary things or situations. Heroes and other noted people make their differences here. They work hard for their dreams. Some may even dedicate their lives to their dreams.

Most people talk about imaginary things or situations often in everyday life and they utter sentences like “If I had money, I would buy a villa, a sports car, etc.” A modern hero, Elon Musk, has them all. He did not inherit a fortune to get what he has. He just pursued his dreams. Even when he was a child, in 1984, he wrote and sold a video game. Each time he earned money, he invested in new projects and now he is the owner of a fortune. However, this doesn’t stop him. Most ordinary people say “If I had the chance, I would make the Earth a green place.” Musk thinks so, but unlike most, he makes effort to do it. He doesn’t let the river run. He works day and night and he has his environment-friendly project, the electric car, for the sake of this. He also has other mega projects with eco-friendly purposes.

Another hero is Ömer Halisdemir. Most people claim that they are patriots, people who love their countries. They say “If the country were in danger, I would fight for freedom.” He didn’t just believe in this. When it was the time, he didn’t think for a moment to try to stop terrorists of 15th July, when Turkey was attacked by terrorists in a coup attempt. He lost his life and became a martyr as he died for his country. Thanks to heroes like him, the enemy was defeated. Canan Dağdeviren can be seen as a young heroine, as well. Most people of her age keep saying “If my parents sent me to better schools, I could achieve big success.” However, when it comes to studying for exams or doing academic work, they may feel lazy and postpone doing things. Canan still pursues her dreams. For now, she is one of the scholars who was named to the ‘Top 35 Innovators Under 35’ by MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology).

### **B. Read the text again and answer the questions.**

1. Do ordinary people usually go after their dreams according to the author?
2. What do heroes/heroines and successful people have in common?
3. How do heroes/heroines make a difference?

**C. Read the letter and find out which of the following the writer is sharing in her letter.**

**WISHES      PLANS      ARRANGEMENTS**

Dear Susan,

It's only two weeks since I moved to this city but I need some more time to get adapted. I don't have a close friend, yet. I wish you were here. I'm afraid I need to make changes in my lifestyle. I should learn to be patient with things and people. The worst things are traffic and weather here. It's terrible when I get stuck in traffic in rush hours. At those times, I say, I wish I could fly. It's often rainy here. If only it didn't rain this often. It's better than lack of rain, though. I do not go out in the evening. I do housework, read books and watch the news or movies. Unfortunately, sad items of news are more than good ones these days. There is a lot of violence all around the world. Like anyone who has common sense, I wish all wars came to an end. I'm optimistic, though. Things will get better. As the saying by Leo Tolstoy goes, "The two most powerful warriors are patience and time", I have to show endurance. I must be part of this city and a new lifestyle for a better career. I wish hard times passed quickly and I lived together with my beloved ones in my hometown again. I'll write again soon. I feel lucky to have you as my best friend.

Hugs,

Mary.

**D. Below is a grid with problematic situations or difficulties for the writer and her wishes. Read the text and fill in it.**

**Problematic Situations or Difficulties**

**Wishes**

Not having a close friend

Having her close friend with her

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