

Read the text and do the following activities:

The Oak & the Reeds

A Giant Oak stood near a brook = river **in which** grew some slender Reeds. When the wind blew, the great Oak stood proudly upright with its hundred arms uplifted to the sky. But the Reeds bowed low in the wind and sang a sad and mournful song.

"**You** have reason to complain," said the Oak. "The slightest breeze that ruffles the surface of the water makes you bow your heads, while **I**, the mighty Oak, stand upright and firm before the howling tempest."

"Do not worry about us," replied the Reeds. "The winds do not harm us. **We** bow before them and so we do not break. You, in all your pride and strength, have so far resisted their blows. But the end is coming."

As the Reeds spoke a great hurricane rushed out of the north. The Oak stood proudly and fought against the storm, while the yielding Reeds bowed low. The wind redoubled in fury, and all at once the great tree fell, torn up by the roots, and lay among the pitying Reeds.

Better to yield (= céder) when it is folly to resist, than to resist stubbornly and be destroyed.

From Aesop's Fables

A) Comprehension: 8 pts

1. Choose the right answer

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| a) The text is: | a) A Book Review. | b) A tale. | c) A dialogue |
| b) The exchange is between | a) Two trees | b) two animals | c) two persons |

2. Say whether the following sentences are "true" or "false":

- a) When the wind blew, the great Oak fell humbly down.
- b) The Reeds sang a gloomy and sorrowful song.
- c) The Oak is an immense tree.
- d) It 's better to oppose when it is folly to resist

3 Answer the following questions according to the text:

- b) Who authored The Oak & the Reeds fable ?

.....

- c) Who are the characters of the story?

.....

- d) Where did the story happen?

.....

- d) What is the morality of the story?

.....

4. What or who do the words written in bold refer to in the text?

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| a) in which grew some (§1) | b) while I , (§2) |
| c) You have reason (§2) | d) We bow before (§2) |

B) Text Exploration: 12 pts

1. * Find in the text synonyms of the following words:

- a) Huge /colossal (§1) = b) Criticize (§2) =
c) arrogantly (§3) = d) damaged / (§4) =

* Find in the text opposites of the following words:

- a) slim (§1) ≠ b) After (§2) ≠
a) small (§3) ≠ b) constructed /built (§4) ≠

2. Put While or when

- a) the wind was blowing , the trees were tearing out by the roots.
b). the great hurricane rushed out , the reeds bowed .
c) We were watching a good film the wind opened the window.
d) He came suddenly I was revising.

3. Combine each pair of sentences using the given relative pronouns:

- a) The Giant Oak stood near a brook. The Giant Oak is very resistant. **(Which)**
.....
b) The new movie is about a boy . The boy has lost his parents in a car accident. **(Who)**
.....

4. Classify the words according to the pronunciation of the final /ed/:

Redoubled - Criticised – resist - rushed -

/t/	/d/	/id/

5. Fill in the gaps with words from the list given:

Dreams - princess - ago - balcony - warble

Many years....., in a kingdom far, far away there lived beautiful..... She had long red hair and loved roses so much that everyone called her Princes Rose. Every evening after dusk, Princes Rose went out on the balcony and clapped her hands. A golden bird came flying out of nowhere and alighted on her shoulder. Instantly, the princess's hair began to shine, ablaze with brilliant red light. When the bird started to an enchanting tune, Princess Rose joined it in a song, and everyone in the kingdom fell asleep and had sweetuntil the break of dawn.