

DIRECTIONS: READ EACH POEM ABOUT PERSEVERANCE AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW.

THE ROSE THAT GREW FROM CONCRETE

by Tupac Shakur

1989^{5th}

Tupac Shakur (1971-1996) was an African American rapper, actor, poet, and activist. Shakur continues to be considered an influential rapper today and has been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

As you read, take notes on how the speaker feels about the rose.



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[1] Did you hear about the rose that grew
from a crack in the concrete?
Proving nature's laws wrong it
learned to walk without having feet.

[5] Funny it seems, but by keeping its dreams,
it learned to breathe fresh air.
Long live the rose that grew from concrete
when no one else ever cared.

"The Rose That Grew from Concrete" from The Rose That Grew from Concrete by Tupac Shakur. Copyright © 1989. Used with permission. All rights reserved.

1) Name 2 reasons it seems impossible for a rose to grow in a crack in concrete.

1.

2.

2) What is the theme (the/**me ssage**)? (write a complete sentence)

THE CROW AND THE PITCHER

by Aesop

620-560 BCE

Aesop was a storyteller who lived in ancient Greece between 620 and 560 BCE. This story is part of his collection of tales known as "Aesop's Fables," which did not survive in writing but were passed down by people retelling them. They have deeply influenced children's literature and modern storytelling culture.

As you read, take notes on the conflict the crow faces and how he solves his problem. Think about the lesson the author is trying to teach the reader.



"The Crow and the Pitcher" by Milo Winter is in the public domain.

[1] In a spell of dry weather, when the Birds could find very little to drink, a thirsty Crow found a pitcher with a little water in it. But the pitcher was high and had a narrow neck, and no matter how he tried, the Crow could not reach the water. The poor thing felt as if he must die of thirst.

Then an idea came to him. Picking up some small pebbles, he dropped them into the pitcher one by one. With each pebble the water rose a little higher until at last it was near enough so he could drink.

"The Crow and the Pitcher" by Aesop is in the public domain.

Notes

1. a container used to hold and pour liquids 2. The "neck" refers to a thin part of an object.

1) Name 2 challenges that would make it seem impossible for the crow to get the water from the pitcher.

1.

2.

2) What is the theme (the/message)? (write a complete sentence)

I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings

Maya Angelou

The free bird leaps
on the back of the wind
and floats downstream
till the current ends
and dips his wings
in the orange sun rays
and dares to claim the sky.

**But a bird that stalks
down his narrow cage
can seldom see through
his bars of rage
his wings are clipped and
his feet are tied
so he opens his throat to sing.**

**The caged bird sings
with fearful trill
of the things unknown
but longed for still
and his tune is heard
on the distant hill for the caged bird
sings of freedom**

The free bird thinks of another breeze
and the trade winds soft through the sighing trees
and the fat worms waiting on a dawn-bright lawn
and he names the sky his own.

**But a caged bird stands on the grave of dreams
his shadow shouts on a nightmare scream
his wings are clipped and his feet are tied
so he opens his throat to sing**

**The caged bird sings
with a fearful trill
of things unknown**

**but longed for still
and his tune is heard
on the distant hill
for the caged bird
sings of freedom.**

1. What is the difference between the two birds?

2. Why does the caged bird sing?

3. What is the theme (the/**me ssage**)? (write a complete sentence)

Compare texts:

In each situation, the protagonist has a conflict with the laws of nature. Despite this, they persevere (do not give up).

1. What is an obstacle that people must overcome today?

2. Give 2 pieces of evidence of people doing something that shows perseverance to overcome this challenge.

a. _____

b. _____

3. Copy your favorite line from one of the poems.

4. Why is it your favorite?
