

Language Corner

**Humble:** showing you do not think that you are as important as other people

**to and fro:** moving forwards and backwards

**mutter:** to speak in a quiet voice

"No, never! The wind cannot defeat me!" shouted the oak tree. Swoosh! The strong wind blew, and down fell the oak tree into the river.

The reed bent and survived. "Poor tree, I told you to bend," he whispered. The oak tree was uprooted, lying helplessly next to the river. "This is why it's better to bend a little than to break," the reed muttered to himself.

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Understanding the fable

Answer the following questions.

1. Why did the oak tree write the poem?

- ☐ A. He wanted to show his strength.
- ☐ B. He wanted to laugh at the reed.
- ☐ C. He wanted to write about the storm.
- ☐ D. He loved the beauty of nature.

2. Read line 18. What does "It" refer to?

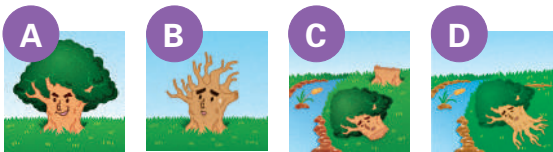
- ☐ A. the river
- ☐ B. the typhoon
- ☐ C. the wind
- ☐ D. the reed

3. What made the sound "Swoosh" (line 22)?

- ☐ A. the oak tree
- ☐ B. the rain
- ☐ C. the reed
- ☐ D. the wind

4. Which of the following shows the oak tree in the end?

- ☐ A
- ☐ B
- ☐ C
- ☐ D

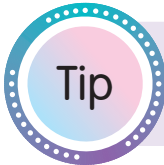


5. Find the three pairs of rhyming words in the poem.

- (i) \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
- (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
- (iii) \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

6. Find the synonyms (words with similar meaning) of these words from the story.

- (i) big
- (ii) thin
- (iii) whispered



Replace the word in the story. If it makes sense, it may be the answer.

7. What suggestion did the reed give to the oak tree?

\_\_\_\_\_

Values and Attitudes

8. What does the story tell you? (Circle the correct answers)

It is better to bend / break than to bend / break. When we face difficulties, it is better to be humble and flexible / stubborn than proud and flexible / stubborn.

9. Would you like to be the oak tree or the reed? Why?

\_\_\_\_\_

Answer Key

- 1. A
- 2. B
- 3. D
- 4. D
- 5. (i) roars and shores  
(ii) I away and stay  
(iii) wide and pride
- 6. (i) giant  
(ii) slender  
(iii) muttered

- 7. The reed told the oak tree to bend a little.
- 8. It is better to bend than to break. When we face difficulties, it is better to be humble and flexible than proud and stubborn
- 9. I would like to be the reed because it was flexible and humble. (Answer may vary)