

Name: _____ Class: _____

The Rose That Grew from Concrete

By Tupac Shakur
1999

Tupac Shakur (1971-1996) was an American rapper, producer, poet, and activist. Shakur continues to be considered an influential rapper today and has been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. In this poem, the speaker describes a rose that grew in an unlikely place. As you read, take notes on how the speaker describes the rose.

- [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.



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Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: Which of the following identifies the theme of the text? [RL.2]
 - A. All living things need support to grow.
 - B. We learn from our failures.
 - C. People can overcome difficulties and succeed.
 - D. Nature can overcome problems better than people.

2. PART B: Which detail from the poem best supports the answer to Part A? [RL.1]
 - A. "Did you hear about the rose that grew / from a crack in the concrete?" (Lines 1-2)
 - B. "Proving nature's laws wrong it / learned to walk without having feet." (Lines 3-4)
 - C. "Funny it seems, but by keeping its dreams," (Line 5)
 - D. "when no one else ever cared." (Line 8)

3. PART A: Which of the following describes how the speaker views the rose? [RL.6]
 - A. The speaker is jealous of the rose.
 - B. The speaker thinks the rose is not real.
 - C. The speaker feels sad for the rose.
 - D. The speaker is impressed by the rose.

4. PART B: Which quote from the poem best supports the answer to Part A? [RL.1]
 - A. "Proving nature's law is wrong" (Line 3)
 - B. "learned to walk without having feet." (Line 4)
 - C. "Long live the rose that grew from concrete" (Line 7)
 - D. "when no one else ever cared." (Line 8)

5. Reread the first two lines. What do the words "rose" and "concrete" represent as used in this poem? [RL.4]

Discussion Questions

Directions: *Brainstorm your answers to the following questions in the space provided. Be prepared to share your original ideas in a class discussion.*

1. Describe a time when you succeeded despite difficult circumstances. How did it make you feel?
2. In the context of the poem, how does a person overcome adversity?
3. In the context of the poem, can we control our fate?
4. Is the rose in control of its future or controlled by something bigger? What do you think will happen to the rose?