



Self-Reliance and Potential

Part 1

- What did Alexander forget to take to school? (*his self- portrait*)
- Why did he need it? (*so he could go to the fair with his class*)
- Who did Alexander blame for not bringing his assignment? (*his mom*)
- Was that fair?
- What does it mean to be self-reliant?

Part 2

- What were the Erodians trying to do? (*kill the Singing Forest*)
- Why were the Erodians trying to kill the Singing Forest? (*the trees remembered the values*)
- What is potential?
- What do you think you have the potential to do in your life?
- How can you nurture and protect that potential?
- Let's say you've taken piano lessons for a couple years and started to be pretty good on the piano, but you don't really like to practice and you don't like your teacher very much. You have the potential to be a good piano player. What should you do?

Part 3

- What was Alexander's quest? (*sail the boat to the island tower and find the one on whom he could rely to save the trees*)
- Was Alexander prepared to sail the boat? Why? (*no, he did not get the boat ready*)
- What happened because he was not prepared? (*he forgot the oars and the anchor and ended up stranded on the rocks*)
- Who did Alexander blame for his problems? (*Theo and the Lightkeeper*)
- Let's say you got a bad grade on a test at school. Your teacher didn't really explain things very well and the test was confusing. Whose fault is it that you got a bad grade? What could you have done to get a better grade?

Part 4

- Did Alexander finally take responsibility for his actions? (*yes, he finally acknowledged that it was his responsibility to get the boat ready*)
- Who did Alexander meet on the island? (*Hobart*)
- What did Hobart offer Alexander? (*a turnip*)
- What was Hobart supposed to do? (*operate the tower*)
- What did he do instead? (*sat and waited for someone to tell him what to do, planted a garden*)
- Let's say you're feeling like you're not good at anything. You just got a bad grade on your book report. Math is getting really hard this year. And you never make any goals in soccer. How can you figure out what your potential is? Whose fault is it that you're feeling bad about yourself?

Part 5

- Who was Alexander supposed to rely on? (*himself*)
- What did Alexander do to save the trees? (*made the light tower operational*)
- Why should we be self-reliant?
- What can we do to feel self-reliant?

Part 6

- What did Alexander write in his red book? (*self-reliance and potential*)
- What did Alexander learn about self-reliance and potential? (*relying on yourself helps you realize your potential; when you realize your potential it's easier to rely on yourself*)
- What is initiative?
- Let's say you really like drawing and you heard about an art class that will be offered in your community. What can you do?
- Let's say you like basketball and you played on a team last year. This year, it won't work out to be on a basketball team. How can you take care of your potential to be good at basketball?

Self-Reliance and Potential Activity and Discussion

Try this activity and discuss the values self-reliance and potential. Think about and discuss what makes a person self-reliant and able to realize their potential.

Individual Goals:

Have every student choose something they want to accomplish before the end of the month (learn a new song on the piano, get 20 baskets in a row while practicing basketball, finish a book, get a certain score on a test, finish a project, accomplish something new, etc.). Write up everyone's goals and post them where everyone can see them. Encourage each other throughout the month. Congratulate students as they achieve their goals.