



KEY VOCABULARY:

Study the meanings of the words in the table below. They will be used in today's reading passage. Can you fill in the blanks with the correct words?

WORD	MEANING
courage	bravery
treasure	care about; value
spare	give up or give away
argue	disagree
convince	make someone believe
journey	a trip from one place to another
patience	the ability to wait for a long time
benefit	a good outcome
granite	a hard granular igneous rock
brooch	a ornamental clasp or pin
perpetual	continuing for ever

1. My gym teacher says good health is one \_\_\_\_\_ of exercise.
2. The train was late but the people had \_\_\_\_\_.
3. We made the long \_\_\_\_\_ from one state to another.
4. She could not \_\_\_\_\_ her mother to let her stay out late.
5. The fire-fighters showed \_\_\_\_\_ as they put out the fire.
6. Alex will \_\_\_\_\_ his footy cards.
7. Our neighbour asked us if we could \_\_\_\_\_ a cup of sugar.
8. We are best friends but we sometimes \_\_\_\_\_.
9. The building was made of good quality \_\_\_\_\_.
10. The \_\_\_\_\_ was studded with sparkling diamonds.
11. The photograph was a \_\_\_\_\_ reminder of my grandmother.

## Literary Element: Theme

The theme is the message about life in a story or poem. Some texts have a stated theme. The writer tells you what the theme is. Other texts have an implied theme. Readers must find clues or details that tell the theme. As you read, pay attention to the titles of the poems and details that the authors use.

# The Courage that My Mother Had

*By: Edna St. Vincent Millay*

The courage that my mother had  
Went with her, and is with her still:  
Rock from New England quarried;  
Now granite in a granite hill.

The golden brooch my mother wore  
She left behind for me to wear;  
I have no thing I treasure more:  
Yet, it is something I could spare.



Oh, if instead she'd left to me  
The thing she took into the grave!—  
That courage like a rock, which she  
Has no more need of, and I have.

# My Father is a Simple Man

*By: Luis Omar Salinas*

I walk to town with my father  
to buy a newspaper. He walks slower  
than I do so I must slow up.  
The street is filled with children.  
We argue about the price

of pomegranates, I convince  
him it is the fruit of scholars.  
He has taken me on this journey  
and it's been lifelong.  
He's sure I'll be healthy  
so long as I eat more oranges,  
and tells me the orange  
has seeds and so is perpetual;  
and we too will come back  
like the orange trees.  
I ask him what he thinks  
about death and he says  
he will gladly face it when  
it comes but won't jump  
out in front of a car.  
I'd gladly give my life  
for this man with a sixth  
grade education, whose kindness  
and patience are true . . .  
The truth of it is, he's the scholar,  
and when the bitter-hard reality  
comes at me like a punishing  
evil stranger, I can always  
remember that here was a man  
who was a worker and provider,  
who learned the simple facts  
in life and lived by them,  
who held no pretense.  
And when he leaves without  
benefit of fanfare or applause  
I shall have learned what little  
there is about greatness.



Answer the following questions:

1. Check the statement that best describes the poem's theme.
  - ① The speaker's mother left behind a golden brooch.
  - ② The brooch helps the speaker remember her mother's courage.
  - ③ The speaker wishes she had her mother's courage.
  
2. What does the speaker say happened to her mother's courage? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
3. What does the speaker treasure? \_\_\_\_\_
  
4. What can the speaker spare? \_\_\_\_\_
  
5. What does the speaker say she needs? \_\_\_\_\_
  
6. Why can the speaker spare her mother's brooch? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
7. What important message does the speaker's father share about life? Check the correct answer.
  - ① He will be in a car accident later in life.
  - ② Life continues because of children.
  - ③ It's important to eat more fruits and vegetables.
  
8. What do the speaker and his father argue about? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
9. What does the speaker convince his father of? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
10. "*He has taken me on this journey and it's been lifelong.*" How long has the speaker been on a journey with his father? \_\_\_\_\_
  
11. Is the father afraid of death? How do you know? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

12. Does the father want to die? What phrase tells you that?

\_\_\_\_\_

13. Write down one simile from this poem.

\_\_\_\_\_

14. What does the speaker mean when he says his father will leave without the benefit of applause? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

15. Three things the speaker learns from his father are: \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

16. The title of the poem, 'The Courage That My Mother Had' shows that \_\_\_\_\_ is an important \_\_\_\_\_ in the poem.

17. The title of the poem, 'My Father Is a Simple Man' shows that being \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_.

18. Both speakers write about a \_\_\_\_\_.

GRAMMAR: Simple Past Tense Irregular Verbs

Many verbs do not use the *-ed* form. The past tense of these verbs is irregular.

- She went to Africa last year. (The past form of the verb (to go) is *went*.)
- She saw a chimpanzee there. (The past form of the verb (to see) is *saw*.)

Common Irregular Verbs: Base Form Past Form

- ❖ be was/were
- ❖ go went
- ❖ say said



Task 1: Complete the sentences. Use the simple past tense of the regular and irregular verbs in parentheses.

1. My mother \_\_\_\_\_ (have) a lot of courage.
2. She \_\_\_\_\_ (come) from New England.
3. I treasure the golden brooch she \_\_\_\_\_ (leave) me.
4. My mother \_\_\_\_\_ (take) her courage with her.
5. Her courage \_\_\_\_\_ (do) not stay behind.
6. Her courage \_\_\_\_\_ (be) as strong as a rock.
7. My father and I \_\_\_\_\_ (go) into town.
8. He \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) a newspaper.
9. His simple ways \_\_\_\_\_ (teach) me many things.
10. My father \_\_\_\_\_ (take) me on a lifelong journey.

Task 2: Write down the past forms of these verbs.

Present	Past	Present	Past
am		lay	
are		leave	
begin		let	
bite		lie	
break		make	
bring		put	
build		read	



choose		ride	
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## WRITING

Imagine that you are the speaker in 'My Father Is a Simple Man.' Write a letter to your father to let him know how you feel. Complete the letter below.

*Dear Father,*

*This morning when we walked to the market, we argued about*

\_\_\_\_\_.

*You told me that if I eat more \_\_\_\_\_*

*I'll be healthy. After we talked about fruit, I asked you about*

\_\_\_\_\_. *You told me that you would gladly face it.*

*As I listened to you talk I realized \_\_\_\_\_*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Love,*

For Teacher: Answers

VOCABULARY

- 1. benefit
- 2. patience
- 3. journey
- 4. convince
- 5. courage
- 6. treasure
- 7. spare
- 8. argue
- 9. granite
- 10. brooch
- 11. perpetual

COMPREHENSION

- 1. ③ The speaker wishes she had her mother's courage.
- 2. Her mother took it with her when she died.
- 3. Her mother's pin or brooch.
- 4. Her mother's brooch.
- 5. She needs her mother's courage.
- 6. She wants her mother's courage, instead.
- 7. Life continues because of children.
- 8. The price of pomegranates.
- 9. Pomegranates are the fruit of scholars.
- 10. His whole life.
- 11. No. He says he 'will gladly face it.'
- 12. No. The phrase "won't jump in front of a car" tells that.
- 13. People are like orange trees.
- 14. No one is going to thank his father or celebrate his life and hard work.
- 15. How to live life, death is part of life, and how to be a great man.
- 16. courage, theme
- 17. simple, an important theme in the poem.
- 18. parent.

GRAMMAR

Task 2

- 1. had
- 2. came
- 3. left
- 4. took
- 5. did
- 6. was
- 7. went
- 8. bought
- 9. taught
- 10. took

Present	Past	Present	Past
am	was	lay	laid
are	were	leave	left
begin	began	let	let
bite	bit	lie	lay
break	broke	make	made
bring	brought	put	put
build	built	read	read
choose	chose	ride	rode

WRITING (Answers will vary)

the price of pomegranates  
oranges  
death

how much I care about you. You know a lot about life. You are kind and patient. I will always remember how hard you worked to provide for our family even after you are gone.



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