

# The Rose that Grew

by Tupac Shakur

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 how to walk without having feet.

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



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following two-part questions, choose the best answer.

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?
  - 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. PART A: Re-read the first two lines. What does the word "rose" represent as used in this poem? [RL.4]

- A. an ordinary flower
- B. a person who does not give up
- C. a person who is neglected
- D. a difficult situation

6. Part B: Which line from the poem best supports your answer to part A?

- A. "Funny it seems, but by keeping its dream," (line 5)
- B. "It learned to breathe fresh air" (line 6)
- C. "grew from concrete/when no one else cared" (lines 7-8)
- D. "from a crack in the concrete" (line 2)

**Extension Activity:** Describe a time when you succeeded despite difficult circumstances. How did it make you feel?

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