

READING COMPREHENSION

WISHES AND REGRETS

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Read and answer the questions below.

A Second Chance at the Market

Lena stood at the corner of the busy farmers' market, staring at the empty spot where her flower stand used to be. She let out a sigh. "I wish I hadn't been so stubborn," she whispered. Last spring, she had argued with her business partner, Maya, over a small misunderstanding. Things snowballed, and they decided to go their separate ways.

"If only I had bitten my tongue," she thought. Maya was the brains behind the numbers, and Lena, the creative force. Now, neither of them was doing well. "I regret burning bridges," Lena admitted to herself. Her new business hadn't taken off, and she missed both the success and the friendship.

As she walked past the fresh produce stalls, a familiar scent of lavender caught her attention. Maya was back — her stand was blooming with color and customers. Lena froze. Part of her wanted to run away. The other part? "Better late than never," she mumbled.

Gathering courage, Lena walked over. Maya looked up and smiled faintly. "Look what the cat dragged in," she joked. That broke the ice. Lena chuckled. "I wish I had reached out sooner."

They spent the next hour talking, laughing, and even sketching new ideas. Maybe, just maybe, they'd turn over a new leaf.

1. Why was Lena feeling regretful at the market?

- A. She had quit her job without warning.
- B. She had ended things badly with Maya.
- C. She couldn't afford to sell flowers anymore.
- D. She had forgotten to bring her products.

2. What does the phrase "bitten my tongue" mean in the story?

- A. She avoided saying something hurtful.
- B. She tried to speak more clearly.
- C. She changed the topic of the conversation.
- D. She apologized for her rude comment.

3. What does the idiom "burning bridges" refer to?

- A. Refusing to move on from the past.
- B. Making decisions without thinking.
- C. Ending a relationship beyond repair.
- D. Starting a business without a plan.

4. What happened when Lena walked up to Maya's stall?

- A. Maya ignored her and turned away.
- B. Maya laughed and asked her to leave.
- C. Maya welcomed her and made a joke.
- D. Maya complained about the past fight.

5. What does the phrase “better late than never” imply?

- A. It's sometimes okay to give up.
- B. It's best to arrive early.
- C. It's fine to avoid old friends.
- D. It's good to do something, even if delayed.

6. What was Maya's main role in the old business?

- A. She created flower arrangements.
- B. She took care of planning and finance.
- C. She managed customer relations.
- D. She handled deliveries and orders.

7. What does “Look what the cat dragged in” mean in this context?

- A. You look like you've been crying.
- B. I'm surprised and amused to see you.
- C. You must be here to apologize.
- D. I didn't expect to see anyone today.

8. Which wish did Lena express directly in the story?

- A. I wish I had spoken to Maya sooner.
- B. I wish I had started a new job.
- C. I wish I had skipped the market.
- D. I wish I had worked alone from the start.

9. What was the outcome of Lena's visit to Maya?

- A. They argued again and walked away.
- B. They avoided discussing the past.
- C. They shared ideas and reconnected.
- D. They made plans to sell separately.

10. What does the idiom “turn over a new leaf” mean here?

- A. Begin a fresh chapter or change behavior.
- B. Give up on something that didn't work.
- C. Forget a problem without solving it.
- D. Return to an old habit or plan.

Decide whether these sentences are True or False.

Lena and Maya stopped working together because of a serious business failure.

Lena regrets not handling the situation with more patience. _____

Maya was the one who designed all the flower arrangements. _____

When Lena approached Maya at the market, Maya welcomed her in a light-hearted way. _____

At the end of the story, Lena and Maya begin talking again and consider working together. _____

Fill in the Blanks with the Correct Idiom

turn over a new leaf better late than never bitten my tongue

look what the cat dragged in burned bridges

1. I shouldn't have shouted during the meeting. I wish I had just _____ instead.

2. When I walked into the party unexpectedly, my friend laughed and said, “_____!”

3. After years of arguing with coworkers, Marcus decided it was time to _____ and start fresh.

4. She regretted the way she quit her job and _____ with her boss.

5. I finally submitted my project, even though it was two days late. Oh well — _____!