



The Sun Came Back

Yassine Rechachi
Intermediate 3

It was a long day, a day when people were upset, a day when people got tired. Nobody would have liked that day to stay. In fact, it had to be the last day, the last suffering of famine—yes, famine, because nobody could find anything to eat. No water either. If you were lucky, you could find some drops, but they were not enough.

The famine lasted four years, and that day was the last day of the final year. It seemed too long. Even the sun seemed tired. Its light was too hot. Finally, the sun started setting, slowly, as if it were taking away the suffering of those villagers. The sun set and the village was totally quiet. The villagers could breathe and think that night because they had hope that tomorrow would be better.

The next day came when it started to rain while the sun was rising. You could see people smiling, laughing, and crying because of the scene. Yes, the sun came back! It took sadness and brought happiness to everyone still alive in that village. ✿

The Teacher in My Town

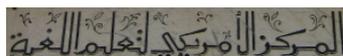
Kaoutar Oubdil
Beginning 5

One day a beautiful girl comes into our town. She is wearing modern clothes and looks nice. Oh! She came alone.

Two days later, I hear from the villager that she's the new teacher of English, and that she will teach at the town's college. Oh, God! She's still young. How will she deal with this hard place that we live in? It's so strange for a girl from the city to live in town. She will live in that room in the school. It's so scary. She has to bring water from the river. I'm sure that she will spend approximately one month, and she will return back to the city, because many teachers are unable to live in this cold and hard weather. But maybe she is different and she is strong enough to deal with our atmosphere.

It's our first day of class. We're waiting for the teacher. She is coming. Her name is Laila, she said. She starts asking us our names and our ambitions in the future. When she asked me, I told

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The Meaning of Success

Ahmed Bennani
Advanced 5

Not all successful people had flourishing and successful starts. There are so many businessmen, inventors, brilliant writers and leaders who were failures in their first initiatives and careers. They frequently experienced failure, but never yielded or surrendered, since they had that immense determination and commitment to thrive.

Take Abraham Lincoln, for example, the American president who was known for his abolition of slavery at that time and was one of the greatest statesmen that human history has ever known. He failed more than eight times. He failed in business at the age of 21. He failed again in the same field at the age of 24. He had a nervous breakdown at the age of 27. He lost a Congressional race at the age of 34, but he never gave up until he became President of the United States.

One of Lincoln's notable quotes about success is, "always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any other." Such an evocative saying is wonderfully relevant to anybody who desires to achieve a better life and a stable career.

According to Lincoln, there are so few people who devote their own specific vision and commitment to success. They are merely searching for success with no schedule or determination, or rather they quit instead of bouncing back when they fail the first time. In conclusion, as American author Og Mandino said, "failure is the highway to success." ✿

FIND YOUR VOICE.

Send your essays, fiction, poetry, and drawings to alcstudentvoice@gmail.com

An Interview with: Si-Jamal Morelli

Ibrahim Chafai
Advanced 4

Student Voice: *Where are you from?*

Si-Jamal Morelli: The United States. Specifically, I was born in Hackensack, New Jersey.

SV: *How long have you been living in Morocco?*

JM: Off and on...16 years.

SV: *When did you first come to Morocco?*

JM: 1998.

SV: *Why did you first come to Morocco?*

JM: Music. I was interested in Andalusian music.

SV: *Have you lived anywhere else (besides the U.S. and Morocco)?*

JM: I've been everywhere else. India. Holland. My family's in Italy, so I've been there, too. I've spent a lot of time in England. I've traveled everywhere.

SV: *Tell me about your "life as a student." Where did you study?*

JM: I was at an excellent public school, Mt. Lebanon, in a suburb of Pittsburgh, in Pennsylvania. It had every possible sports team and an amazing theater and art department.

SV: *Where else did you study?*

JM: Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

SV: *What did you study there?*

JM: My major: music composition. English. Philosophy.

SV: *Have you ever studied Arabic at ALIF?*

JM: No. The street is where I learned all of my Arabic.

SV: *How long have you been a teacher at the ALC?*

JM: 3 years.

SV: *How long have you been a teacher in life?*

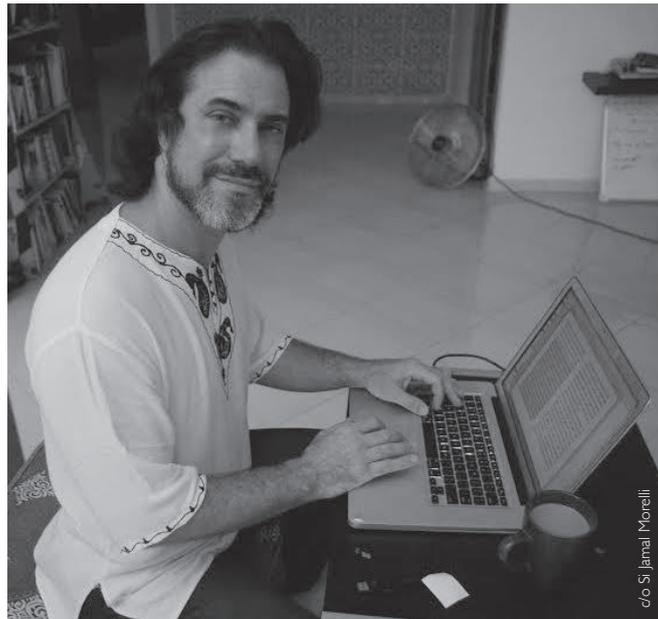
JM: Since I was born, I suppose. First, I taught my mother that it's not a good idea to have kids. So, 44 years.

SV: *What do you teach at ALC?*

JM: English.

SV: *How is teaching at ALC different from teaching at other schools?*

JM: This is the only place that I've taught at in Morocco. A major difference is that we're teaching language classes to students who generally aren't interested in reading. If you were studying in the U.S., culture and self-expression and learning how to



of sarcasm?

SV: *Anything else?*

JM: I like watermelon.

SV: *What qualities do good students have?*

JM: The same thing. It's courage. It's the ability to be comfortable with the fact

that I can't do what I'd like to do. They're really there to take criticism and instruction, not to resist it. So, it's courage on both sides. Students should also have a slightly light blue tint. They're thin and some are from another planet.

SV: *If you weren't teaching English, what would you be doing?*

JM: Composing music for films, because that is what I was doing.

SV: *What's your favorite word in the English language?*

JM: *Mellifluous.* I've always liked that word. It feels like music. It means when words come out of your mouth, they soothe people.

SV: *What's your least favorite word in the English language?*

JM: *Bush.* Whenever he would appear on television, I would spit on my TV. And, actually, I never actually owned a TV, so I would spit on other people's TVs.

SV: *What word do you overuse?*

JM: *Basically.* It was one of the first words my daughter said. My middle name is *Basically*, basically.

SV: *What is your motto?*

JM: *Solvitor ambulando.* It's Latin. It means, "it is solved by walking." Not by thinking. Forget thinking. Get out there and do something. 🌟

appreciate life are things you would pick up. Everyone here is learning English for work. The majority of people studying think that they're going to get a job.

SV: *What qualities do good teachers have?*

JM: A good teacher has to be courageous. See, you could be a terrible student, but you are paying me. So, if I try to teach you and you resist that, you could threaten my job. A courageous teacher knows that you're here for an English education and doesn't give compliments to make unhappy and untalented students feel good about themselves. It's riskier to the job not to do that...And a sense of humor. It's not necessary for the students, but if you can't laugh, you'll go crazy. It's necessary for yourself, not for anyone else.

SV: *So, a good teacher is professional?*

JM: I didn't say professional. I'm quiet and not exciting, and essentially, I just go by the book. That's what people think of me. They think, he's a calm, quiet, very traditional teacher. That's what everyone thinks of me. Did you know that I'm made

find the puzzle on **page 4**

12 better	13 eleventh
11 dozen	12 bucks
9 left	10 degree
8 dressed	8 deep
7 catch	6 picnic
5 five	3 cloud
4 pole	1 fifty
2 thousand	Down
Down	Across

Don't Be Afraid

Meriam Zahouane
Advanced 4

Why do we have to be afraid when there is always hope? If some people aren't happy in their lives, it doesn't mean that life is like this. Life is always full of surprises. It's true that sometimes we face difficult times in our lives, but we shouldn't forget that there are also amazing moments.

Some people choose to stay alone without making friends; it doesn't mean that all friends are cheaters. Some people complain about marriage problems, but it doesn't mean that marriage is a mistake. Among millions of people, you can always find someone who will understand you, or maybe even love you.

Life is a battle. Don't lose it. When people tell stories about their bad experiences, you feel afraid that such problems could happen to you, and you waiver every time you take a step.

But it doesn't mean not to listen to the others when they complain about their problems. On the contrary, listen carefully in order to learn from their mistakes. If some people failed in their life, why don't you succeed? You can do it. Failing is not the end of the world. Keep trying. Don't let fear stop you.

Life is like an exam: if you work hard, you'll succeed. If you fail, you must continue, but without repeating the same mistakes. Your life is a challenge. Remember, life is hope and hope is life. 🌟

The Teacher in My Town
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her, "I want to be a teacher like you." She asked me why, so I answered, "Because I'm from this town, which is hard. Most of the teachers who came left because of the hard atmosphere here, and most of the students stop their education. But if I become a teacher, I can teach here, because it's my town." The teacher smiled and said, "You are right. And, I promise, if you help me, I will not leave." 🌟



The Power of Best Friends

Chaimae Azzaoui
Advanced 3

Sometimes we need help. Sometimes we just need a push. I may not be a psychologist, but I'm certainly a teen! During my trip in the teenage world, I realized that I have never needed help to make the next step.

All that I've needed is one person. A person who made me think that I'm good, who made me feel proud of myself, the one with whom I share everything, who was a shoulder for me to cry on whenever I was sad, even if she wasn't near. I've always felt that she is next to me.

This person in just two words is my best friend. Once she entered my world, she turned it upside down and made it real. Every teenager should be grateful if they have a best friend who is always by his or her side. In addition, no matter what your problem is, if you have a best friend, everything will be just fine! 🌟

Who Am I?

Khaoula M'rabt
Advanced 3

Who am I? Nobody can answer this question. It's only me who knows how I was before and how I am today. It's my personality. Unlike now, I used to be a conformist. I accepted everything without discussing anything. I followed the crowd.

However, I changed my mind and rejected this standpoint. I adopted a new one: I needn't be conventional. I can agree with rules that I find logical and turn down the incredible ones. I am amenable to challenging the status quo and making waves in my own way. I am my own person.

If I compare myself with great people, I only suffice for one person—my best friend. Both of us are ready to face other people and fight for rational things. Furthermore, like me, he stands up for people he likes. In contrast to me, he fits in perfectly. Unlike him, I'm always laughing, even at silly things. He's my best friend, whom I appreciate a lot, even though we have a great deal of differences. 🌟

Suffering

Ilham Akkioui
Intermediate 2

Why are some people suffering while others enjoy happy lives? Everyone asks this question, and some people think it is because of the power of money in the

world.

But in reality, there is nobody, rich or poor, who is without happiness or suffering. We cannot have extreme happiness on this earth. All of the greatness is only for God. 🌟

Untitled

Maha El Youmni

Advanced 3

I'll wrap up my bones,

I'll hide in my tears.

I'll stare while he bemoans.

I'll let him sink in his fear.

He kept crashing down to earth,

While I was standing with seven foot girth.

He looked up, looking for mercy,

His breathing so pursy.

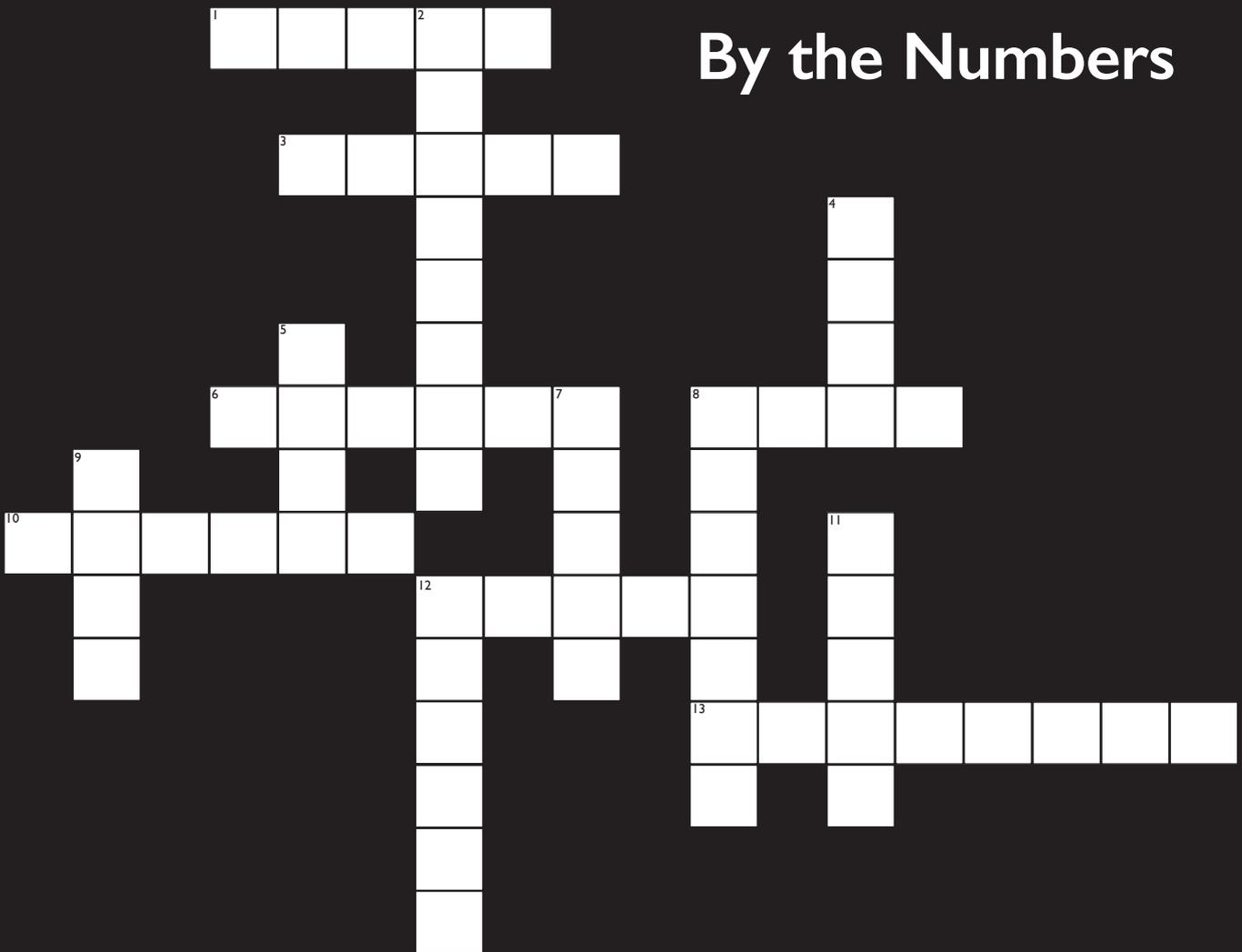
So he fell down tragically,

And all of his agony ended up as magically,

The life in his eyes burned out slowly,

I stayed next to him, unconsciously. 🌸

By the Numbers



Across

- 1 To share something equally means to go fifty-_____.
- 3 When you're very happy about something, you're on _____ nine.
- 6 A way of saying someone is not clever: 'a few sandwiches short of a _____.'
- 8 To '_____six' someone or something is to dispose of him or it.
- 10 When someone asks you too many questions, they give you the third _____.
- 12 When your appearance is especially good, you look like a million _____.
- 13 A last-minute choice is also called an _____-hour decision.

Down

- 2 When you are extremely successful, it is said that you are batting a _____.
- 4 If you really don't want to be involved with someone or something, you wouldn't touch him or it with a ten-foot _____.
- 5 An office job is sometimes called a nine-to-_____ job.
- 7 A situation that you cannot win is a _____-22.
- 8 When you are wearing your nicest clothes, you are _____ to the nines.
- 9 If you can't dance, it is said that you have two _____ feet.
- 11 A saying meaning that there is little or no difference between two things: 'six of one, a half _____ of the other.'
- 12 To do more than another person is 'to do him (or her) one _____.'

Find the answers on page 2