

A. Write the bold words or phrases from each text next to the definitions below.

Designers introduce a lot of **retro** fashion because people feel **nostalgia** for a time that seemed pleasant and easy. Older people have a **reputation** for taking a lot of naps.

1. a feeling that that the past was better than the present _____
2. something that was new and popular from the past _____
3. many people's opinions because of past behavior _____

Some young people today say they **cope with** a lot of problems, and they **crave** an easier life. However, a few **reckless** individuals will **dare** others to join them in doing dangerous things.

4. want very much _____
5. have to face _____
6. challenge someone to break the rules or take risks _____
7. willing to take risks _____

Generally speaking, the **perception** that life is harder today than it was in the past is true of every **generation**. The important thing is that **peers** help each other become more **mature** adults.

8. able to take on responsibility and make good decisions _____
9. people who spend time with each other and influence each other _____
10. a group of people who are born around the same time _____
11. idea or view _____

B. Choose two words in italic that can go with the bold word.

1. People can change their **perception** of *a color / a person / a city*
2. A lot of my co-workers **cope with** *problems / hardship / fun*.
3. A friend might **dare** you to *climb a tree / wear a seatbelt / talk to a stranger*.
4. It's good to have **mature** *friends / furniture / leaders*.
5. Some people **crave** *excitement / homework / ice cream*.

C. Do you agree or disagree with the following opinions? Discuss.

1. Mature people never crave excitement. _____
2. Today's teens have to cope with more challenges than previous generations. _____
3. More than 50% of the music you hear on playlists is retro, because people feel nostalgia for the past.

4. A girl is more likely to dare a peer to take a reckless physical risk than a boy is. _____

D. 1) Read the story.

People who see me in the media sometimes think my life is perfect, but the truth is I miss the old days. My life used to be simple. My partner Crystal and I would perform at weddings and graduations. Our friends always came, and we would get them dancing and laughing. We were carefree and living our happiest days, but we didn't know it at the time.

Things started to change the night of our first performance in front of a television audience. We weren't used to a big stage or the bright lights. In fact, we almost didn't finish the song, but I guess we did well enough to get some attention.

I remember walking off stage and feeling a tap on my shoulder.

"I'd like to talk to you," said a familiar voice.

I turned and there, standing in front of me, was Pan, lead singer for Pandoria, my favorite band of all time! He was a little shorter than I had expected, but he had the same dark hair, black eyes, and cute grin that smiled out from a thousand posters, websites, and magazines. I nearly fell down.

"Pan," I whispered.

"Yes, and you are Anya."

"You know my name?"

He smiled again. "I saw you perform. Do you have a minute?"

I nodded, and he led me to a quiet corner. Then the smile disappeared, and Pan got straight to the point and offered me a job as a songwriter for Pandoria. He talked about money, parties, television appearances, and other opportunities that a country girl like me had only ever seen on screens. "I can make you famous," he said.

I nodded. "I can't wait to tell Crystal."

A look of impatience crossed Pan's face.

"Don't you know what she's done to you? She's already signed a contract with Wingding."

I shook my head. "She would have told me."

Pan sighed. "I used to be like you. I always trusted people, but in the music business you can't be nostalgic for the past. You have to look to the future. Contracts are more important than friendships, and your bandmate Crystal is now the property of Wingding Productions."

"I don't believe you," I said.

"Look, I'm sorry you had to hear it from me," he said. "But I think her loss is Pandoria's gain. I want you to sign with me, and I'll take care of you."

I was young, and I wasn't used to the music business, but I knew my friend.

"Not so fast," I said. "Crystal would never betray me." And then I made a mistake. I said, "And you can take your stupid contract and wrap a fish in it." I turned and went to look for Crystal. Pan wasn't telling the truth. I was sure of that, but I needed to hear it from her.

2) Choose two words that show the themes of the story.

romance *loyalty* *friendship* *hardship* *fear*

3) Choose the correct option to complete each sentence about the story.

1. When Anya thinks about her early years as a musician, she feels *appreciation* / *nostalgia*.
2. Anya *has* / *doesn't have* a talent for writing songs.
3. Anya's impression of Pan *changes* / *doesn't change*.
4. Pan is used to *getting his way* / *accommodating* other people.
5. Crystal and Anya have been friends for *a short time* / *a long time*.
6. Anya decides that *loyalty* / *money* is the most important thing.