Deep in the woods is a secret tree. Only one boy knows about it. It’s a wishing tree.

One day, the boy followed his dog into the woods. They stopped at the tree.

“I wish I could climb this tree!” the boy said.

POOF! His wish was granted. He was in the tree!

The leaves began to giggle.

“Hello!” they said. “Pleased to meet you!”
“My name is Noah,” the boy said. “What’s yours?”

All the leaves started to talk at once.

“We are the Wishing Tree.” the leaves said. “We see good children and give them gifts.”

“I wish I had one million dollars!” said Noah. But nothing happened.

“I said I wish I had a million dollars!” Noah said, louder.

“We heard you the first time,” said the leaves.

“What good are you, anyway?”

“Very good,” said the leaves. “This is a very good tree.”

“Then give me money!” Noah demanded.

“We can only give you good things. Things that will make you a better person.”

Well, that didn’t sound like much fun. He thought of a new wish.

“I wish I could fight a dragon!” he said.

“Do you honestly think we would conjure a dragon?” asked the leaves.
“I guess not,” said Noah. “Well, then, I wish I were brave enough to fight a dragon!”

Suddenly, Noah was standing at the bottom of the tree.

“Wish granted!” said the leaves.

“Arooo!” said Peanuts the dog.

“Let’s go!” said Noah. He and Peanuts ran out of the woods. But Noah didn’t feel very brave.

“Some wishing tree that was! No money! No dragons! What a waste!”

Crack! Suddenly, something hit him in the back of his head.

“Hey, No-Brains!” someone was shouting.

“Oh no!” Noah said to Peanuts. “It’s Mitch the bully!”

Mitch was throwing peanuts at Noah.

“Here are some peanuts for your dumb dog!” Mitch said.

That was the last straw! Noah couldn’t take it any more.
“Go away, bully!” he yelled. “You never hurt dogs!”

“Aroo!” howled Peanuts the dog.

“Whatever!” said Mitch. “You’re not worth my time.”

Mitch left.

“Yay! He left!” Noah said. “Thank you, wishing tree!”

Noah had never told Mitch to go away before. But on that day, he was very brave. Being brave was just like fighting a dragon. Being brave was better than having a million dollars.

You see, Noah thought his bravery came from the wishing tree. But the truth is, the tree didn’t grant any wishes. Noah did it all himself. Being brave came from inside.

If you could make a wish like Noah, what would you wish for?
1. What does Noah find in the woods?
   A a wishing tree  
   B his dog, Peanuts  
   C Mitch the bully

2. Mitch throws peanuts at Noah. How does Noah deal with this problem?
   A Noah runs away from Mitch.  
   B Noah tells him to go away.  
   C Noah tells his dog to attack Mitch.

3. Noah thinks that the wishing tree made him brave. What evidence from the story supports this conclusion?
   A “Being brave came from inside.”  
   B “POOF! His wish was granted. He was in the tree!”  
   C “‘Yay! He left!’ Noah said. ‘Thank you, wishing tree!’”

4. When Noah asks for money, the wishing tree says it can only give good things that will make you a better person. Based on this information, what does the wishing tree think about money?
   A Money is good for some people.  
   B Having money will not make you a better person.  
   C Having money will make you a better person.
5. What is the main message of the story?

A  Bravery comes from the inside.
B  Money will make you a bad person.
C  You should always make wishes on trees.

6. Read the following sentences: “Some wishing tree that was! No money! No dragons! **What a waste**!”

What does Noah mean by the phrase, “what a waste”?

A  Noah thinks that you shouldn’t waste money or dragons.
B  Noah does not think the wishing tree grants good wishes.
C  Noah thinks that money and dragons are not good wishes.

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

Noah believed that the wishing tree made him brave, _____ the tree did not really grant him that wish. Noah stood up to the bully all on his own.

A  but  
B  so  
C  and

8. Who is bullying Noah and Peanuts?

__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________
9. What does Noah do that he has never done before?

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10. The passage states that “Being brave comes from the inside.” Explain how Noah shows this is true. Use evidence from the passage to support your answer.

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What does Noah mean by the phrase, “what a waste”? 

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- **B** **Noah does not think the wishing tree grants good wishes.**
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- **A** but
- **B** so
- **C** and

8. Who is bullying Noah and Peanuts? 

**Suggested answer:** Mitch is bullying Noah and Peanuts.

9. What does Noah do that he has never done before? 

**Suggested answer:** Noah tells Mitch to go away.

10. The passage states that “Being brave comes from the inside.” Explain how Noah shows this is true. Use evidence from the passage to support your answer.

**Suggested answer:** Students should explain that Noah shows bravery when he tells Mitch to go away. He is able to be brave all on his own, as the wishing tree did not grant him the wish of being brave. Noah is able to muster the willpower to stand up to Mitch all by himself. Thus, being brave comes from the inside. Bravery is not something that is given to you.