

1.

Raised in a motherless home, my father was extremely tightfisted towards us children. His attitude didn't soften as I grew into adulthood and went to college. I had to ride the bus whenever I came home. Though the bus stopped about two miles from home, Dad never met me, even in severe weather. If I grumbled, he'd say in his loudest father-voice, "That's what your legs are for!"

The walk didn't bother me as much as the fear of walking alone along the highway and country roads. I also felt less than valued that my father didn't seem concerned about my safety. But that feeling was gone one spring evening.

It had been a particularly difficult week at college after long hours in labs. I longed for home. When the bus reached the stop, I stepped off and dragged my suitcase to begin the long journey home.

A row of hedge (树篱) edged the driveway that climbed the hill to our house. Once I had turned off the highway to start the last part of my journey, I always had a sense of relief to see the hedge because it meant that I was almost home. On that particular evening, the hedge had just come into view when I saw something gray moving along the top of the hedge, moving toward the house. Upon closer observation, I realized it was the top of my father's head. Then I knew, each time I'd come home, he had stood behind the hedge, watching, until he knew I had arrived safely. I swallowed hard against the tears. He did care, after all.

On later visits, that spot of gray became my watchtower. I could hardly wait until I was close enough to watch for its secret movement above the greenery. Upon reaching home, I would find my father sitting innocently (天真地) in his chair. "So! My son, it's you!" he'd say, his face lengthening into pretended surprise.

I replied, "Yes, Dad, it's me. I'm home."

1. What does the underlined word "grumbled" in Paragraph 1 probably mean?

- A. accepted happily.      B. explained clearly.  
C. agreed willingly.      D. spoke unhappily.

2. What made the author feel upset at first was \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. the tiredness after long hours in labs  
B. the fear of seeing something moving  
C. the feeling of being less than valued  
D. the loneliness of riding the bus home

3. The author's father watched behind the hedge because \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. he didn't want to meet his son at the doorway  
B. he was concerned about his son's safety  
C. he wanted to help his son build up courage  
D. he didn't think his son was old enough to walk alone

4. Which of the following can be the best title for the text?

- A. My Father's Secret.      B. My College Life.  
C. Terrible Journey Home.      D. Riding Bus Alone.

2.

Wanted, Someone for a Kiss

We're looking for producers to join us in the second of London 100FM. You'll work on the station's music programmes. Music production experience in radio is necessary, along with rich knowledge of modern dance music. Please apply in writing to Producer Vacancies, Kiss 100.

Father Christmas

We're looking for a very special person preferably over 40, to fill our Father Christmas suit.

Working days: Every Saturday from November 24 to December 15 and every day from December 17 to December 24 except Sunday, 10:30—16:00

Excellent pay.

Please contact the Enterprise Shopping Center, Station Parade, Eastbourne.

Accountants Assistant

When you join them in our Revenue Administration Unit, you will be providing assistance within all parts of the Revenue Division, dealing with post and other general duties. If you are educated to GCSE grade C level we would like to talk to you. This job is equally suitable for a school leaver or for somebody who has office experience.

Wealden District Council.