

1.

It was the end of my first day as a waitress in a busy New York restaurant. My cap had gone away, and my feet hurt. The loaded plates I carried seemed to be heavier and heavier. Tired and discouraged, I didn't seem able to do anything right. As I made out a check for a family with several children who had changed their ice-cream order a dozen times, I was ready to stop. Then the father smiled at me as he handed me my tip. "Well done," he said, "you've looked after us really well." Suddenly my tiredness disappeared. I smiled back, and later, when the manager asked me how I'd liked my first day, I said, "Fine!" Those few words of praise had changed everything.

Praise is like sunlight to human spirit; we cannot flower and grow without it. And yet, most of us are only too ready to apply to others the cold criticism, but are unwilling to give out fellows the warm sunshine of praise. Perhaps that is why one word of praise can bring such pleasure.

It's strange how chary (谨慎的) we are about praising. Perhaps it's because few of us know how to accept it. It's especially rewarding to give praise in areas in which effort generally goes unnoticed. An artist gets admired for a glorious picture, a cook for a perfect meal. But do you ever tell your laundry manager how pleased you are when the shirts are done just right? In fact, to give praise costs the giver nothing but a moment's thought and a moment's effort.

1. Which of the following can't describe the writer's situation before she got her tip?

- A. She was confident B. She was busy. C. She was sorry. D. She was tired.

2. According to the passage, which of the following is least likely to be given praise?

- A. An artist B. A cook C. A laundry manager D. A waitress

3. What is the best title of the passage?

- A. Why Do You Praise Others? B. Why do You Criticize Others?
C. Don't Criticize Others! D. Be Generous to Give Others Praise

2.

The cost of raising a child from birth to age 18 is about \$160, 140! That doesn't even touch college tuition. For those with kids, this figure might lead them thinking how much they could have banked. For others, that number might confirm the decision to remain childless.

But \$160, 140 isn't so bad if you break it down. It translates into \$896.66 a year, \$741.38 a month, or \$171.08 a week. That's a mere \$24. 44 a day! Just over a dollar an hour.

Still, you might think the best financial advice says don't have children if you ever want to be "rich". It is not.

What do you get for your \$160, 140?

- Naming rights.
- Giggles under the covers every night.
- More love than your heart can hold.
- Kisses and hugs.
- Endless wonder over rocks, ants, clouds, and warm cookies.
- A hand to hold usually covered with jam.
- A partner for blowing bubbles, flying kites, and building sandcastles.

For \$160, 140, you never have to grow up! You get to finger-paint, carve pumpkins, play hide-and-seek, and never stop believing in Santa Claus. You have an excuse to keep reading the Adventures of Piglet and Pooh, watching cartoons, going to Disney movies, and wishing on stars.

For \$160, 140, you get to be a hero just for taking the training wheels off the bike, and coaching a baseball team that never wins but always gets treated to ice cream regardless.

You get a front row seat to history; to witness the first step, first word, first date, and first time behind the wheel.

You get to be immortal (不朽的).

You get another branch added to your family tree.

You get an education in nursing, criminal justice and communications that no college can match.

In the eyes of a child, you rank right up there with God.

You have all the power to correct a mistake, scare away the monsters under the bed, patch a broken heart, police a party, and love them without limits, so one day they will, like you, love without counting the cost.

1. Which of the following is NOT true after you have a child?

- A. You enjoy the right to name your children. B. You never seem to get old.
C. You still need to learn. D. You get admiration as a parent.