

1.

The World's Greatest Bookstores

Cafebreria El Pendulo, Mexico City, Mexico

Cafebreria El Pendulo is located in Mexico City. Books line the shelves from the ceiling to the floor, and live plants add lots of green. The store is noted for a huge pendulum hanging from its ceiling.

Stanfords, London and Bristol, England

Established in 1853, Stanfords boasts that it offers the world's largest selection of travel books and maps. It also sells travel accessories. Look for the enormous National Geographic Map of the World in the flagship store in London. It was created in 2003 to celebrate the store's 150th birthday.

Rizzoli, New York City, US

For almost a half century, Rizzoli has been considered as one of the best independent bookstores in the US. It specializes in illustrated books about the way people work and live, such as fashion photography, decoration design, cooking and architecture. Take a master class in flower design. Attend a lecture and book signing. Or drop in for a cooking show or a book launch party.

El Ateneo Grand Splendid, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Often described as one of the world's most beautiful bookstores, El Ateneo is housed in a historic theater much as it was when the theater opened in 1919. After customers browse the shelves, they can drink coffee and listen to music from a stage hidden in red curtains where tango dancers once performed. While most of the store's books are in Spanish, they are available in a range of subjects.

【1】What is Cafebreria El Pendulo famous for?

- A. The larger shelves. B. Its unique symbol.  
C. The tasty coffee. D. Its interesting location.

【2】Which is the prettiest bookstore for reading and relaxation among the four mentioned?

- A. Rizzoli. B. Stanfords.  
C. El Ateneo Grand Splendid. D. Cafebreria El Pendulo.

【3】What subject are books in Rizzoli about?

- A. Music. B. Geography. C. Lifestyle. D. Literature.

2.

I was typing papers for new school students when Mama called. We talked about some senseless things for a while before she finally told me about it. "Well, Donner, there's this class up at the high school this summer," she said. "They say they can teach me to read and write. I'm trying to decide whether"

"Of course, you should do it! That would be so wonderful. I'd be so proud of you." I answered. She was 63 and had survived two alcoholic husbands and was an expert at buying and selling garage sale junk to keep food on her own table and buy Christmas presents for me and my brother's kids. She used food stamps to buy food and other goods. Mama laughed, seemingly with relief. "Well, you know, I'd about gotten used to being the silliest old lady in town," she said.

It turned out that her neighbor had found the class for her. The young woman had been doing Mama's "business" for a while in my absence, helping to allay my guilt over leaving Mississippi. The friend was a little crazy, but Mama liked her. She was real and, by then, I hated pretension as much as Mama did. When I was little she would tell me: "Remember, Donner Kay, nobody's better than anybody else."

Three months into the class, Mama left a message on my answering machine: "Donner, I taught a class tonight!" She was almost singing the words. "The teacher let me teach the class!" She soon wrote me a letter in a careful, boxy print I had never seen, instead of the strange way she had long written family names she had memorized.

The next time I flew home to visit, we both laughed like 12-year-olds as she read words from billboards on the way from the airport. Her grammar was getting better. She kept talking about her classes and the other students.

【1】Why did Donner's mother phone her according to Paragraph 1?

- A. To advise Donner to take a course. B. To show her support for Donner.  
C. To tell Donner her decision. D. To ask Donner for advice.

【2】Which can replace the underlined word "allay" in Paragraph 3?

- A. admit B. forget C. punish D. reduce

【3】How did Donner's mother feel when she left a message for Donner?

- A. Astonished. B. Delighted. C. Puzzled. D. Worried.

【4】What does the author want to tell us in the last two paragraphs?

- A. What progress Donner's mother made.  
B. The difficulty Donner's mother had in learning.  
C. How Donner's mother learned to read and write.  
D. The effects other students had on Donner's mother.

3.

Richard Branson has had great global success. He is best known as the founder of Virgin Group, which consists of more than 400 companies.

So what, I asked, is his most important secret to success? His answer was simple: Look for the best in other people. Throughout his life he's never thought ill of other people. He looks for the best and praises them. Branson at times seems almost not human. He's too good at what he does. No, great, Nearly perfect. When he starts something, he is very likely to succeed. He has fallen out with others though, like anyone else. He is only human. He told me, "Life is short and the world is much smaller than one realizes. You are going to come across people time and time again in the most surprising places. As a leader it's even more important to be out there praising and encouraging people. If you do fall out with somebody in life, even if you think it was their mistake, give them a call. Befriend them. Go out to lunch with them."

The greatest leaders in the world have taught forgiveness. Perhaps the most extreme example is Nelson Mandela, who invited his former prison guard to his inauguration(就职典礼)and even had lunch with a man who in the past wanted him to be sentenced to death.

Life is too short. We are humans and sometimes we make mistakes and anger people. What defines us is not those who are able to avoid confrontation(对抗), but those who are able to deal with it. The human body is able to self-heal(自愈)when we are cut. In that same manner, we must heal our past relationships.

Branson wins respect from those around him. A natural-born leader, he is always deep in thought and hungry for more; always one step ahead. And it was Richard Branson who taught me about forgiveness.

【1】Richard Branson's success lies in his .

- A. of forts B. generosity  
C. judgement D. determination

【2】The example of Nelson Mandela is mentioned to show .