

1.

Several Eye-Opening Facts about Tears

Humans make three different versions of tears. Basal tears help our eyes move smoothly, reflex tears form in response to irritants (刺激物) such as smoke and dirt, and emotional tears flow when we're sad or over-joyed. Onion tears are obviously of the reflex variety-but what's the irritant? It turns out onions produce a chemical to defend themselves. To cut down on its release, freeze the onion before slicing, then use a sharp knife to reduce the damage to the onion and the release of the chemical.

Crying can be good for you. Some studies have shown a good cry can cause the release of certain chemicals that make us feel better. Crying can also improve people's sense of well being by bringing about social support. On the other hand, crying can sometimes make you feel worse than if you haven't cried at all. One study found that people who tend to cry in general more often feel worse after crying during a movie than people who seldom cry.

According to Entertainment Weekly, the biggest Hollywood tearjerker of all time is Terms of Endearment, about how a family deals with a cancer diagnosis. Number 2: Bambi. According to Merriam-Webster, the term tearjerker first appeared in 1912, which happens to be the same year the Titanic sank. (The movie Titanic is 16th on EW's tearjerker list.)

In medieval (中世纪) times, crying was perfectly acceptable, even manly. In the Anglo-Saxon poem Beowulf, when Beowulf was killed by a dragon, his soldiers were extremely sad and cried aloud for his death. King Arthur was also known to turn on the waterworks.

Speaking of war, tear gas was banned on the battlefield via the Chemical Weapons Convention of 1993, which was made to happen by Iraq's use of chemical weapons in Iran in the 1980s. That said, American police can still legally use tear gas for crowd control.

【1】 Why do people have tears while cutting onions?

- A. Because they are sad. B. Because their eyes are affected by a chemical.
C. Because they are over-joyed. D. Because their eyes can't move smoothly.

【2】 The underlined word "tearjerker" in Paragraph 3 probably refers to

- A. a popular newspaper B. a touching movie
C. a deadly disease D. an interesting book

【3】 What can we learn from the passage?

- A. Crying is always beneficial to people.
B. Tear gas is strictly forbidden in any case after 1993.
C. Emotional tears only form in response to negative feelings.
D. It is socially acceptable for men to cry in medieval times.

【4】 Where does the text probably come from?

- A. A guidebook. B. A chemistry paper.
C. A medical report. D. A popular science magazine.

2.

In June 1936, a great novel was published. It gave the world a sense of the Old South, an unforgettable heroine and (in the movie version) the classic phrase, "Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn."

That book is Margaret Mitchell's (1900-1949) *Gone With the Wind*, which sold one million copies in its first six months, won the Pulitzer Prize in 1937 and brought an explosion of unexpected and undesired fame to its author. It is not in reality the second best-selling book of all-time, behind only the Bible, as generations of Atlantans have claimed, but it does stand as one of the most astonishing victories in the history of publishing. To be specific, more than 30 million copies of the novel are in print worldwide nowadays.

Mitchell, a former newspaper reporter who used to listen to Civil War stories, declared herself to be thoroughly puzzled by the popularity her only book met with. She thought it might appeal to a limited readership, or at worst sell a thousand copies to family and friends. Instead, however, the book now has more than 1,000 foreign-language editions.

"It appeals to different cultures on different levels," says Pamela Roberts, who had made a film about the author. "On the one hand, it's a great story that wins over young women's hearts with this charming heroine Scarlett O'Hara who did things her way. The other appeal is the theme of survival. *Gone With the Wind* has inspired people around the world who have lived through war or suffered under cruel governing."

Two years after the book was published, Mitchell was asked if she was writing anything else, or intended to. She said she had been so busy answering the phone, the doorbell and her fan mail that she had not had the time to. She added that "being the author of *Gone With the Wind* is a full-time job, and most days it is an overtime job filling appointments and meeting visitors."

The fame which came with her book brought her around \$1,000,000 in book copyrights, movie rights and other related returns in less than four years, but disturbed her way of living. Asked about her ambitions at the height of the fame of *Gone With the Wind*, for someone who hated publicity, Mitchell said that she hoped to put on weight, become fat and accessible and grow old gracefully.

The comment which greeted her work was not all in praise, although much of it was applauded. Whatever future generations may decide as to its value, Mitchell wrote a book which was the most outstanding bestseller ever written by an unknown author of a first novel.

【1】 Which of the followings statements is true as to the success of the novel?

- A. It's the second best-selling book of all time, behind only the Bible.
B. It's the most astonishing success in the history of publishing.
C. More than 30 million copies of the novel were sold in its first 6 months.
D. The novel brought unexpected and undesired popularity to its author.

【2】 How did Mitchell feel at the popularity of the book?

- A. Delighted. B. Confused.
C. Relieved. D. Embarrassed.

【3】 What contributes to the universal appeal of the book?

- A. The theme of the novel and the charm of the heroine.
B. The fact that the book is set in the Old South.
C. Mitchell's personal popularity as a novelist.
D. Praise from different cultures on different levels.

【4】 We can infer from the text that Margaret Mitchell _____

- A. is an ambitious novelist B. enjoys public attention
C. is very confident of her novel D. desires her usual way of living

【5】 What is the best title of the passage?