

1.

Best Books for Kids

The Rabbit Listened

Taylor's amazing wood-block tower has been ruined by birds, and he's not sure what to do with his feelings about that. The bear thinks he should get angry; the ostrich thinks he should ignore it; and the hyena thinks he should laugh it off. Then the rabbit comes over and listens to what Taylor thinks, and that helps him figure out what he wants to do next. Ages 3-5.

Auntie Luce's Talking Paintings

Coming to Haiti every December from America to spend time with her Aunt Luce, a little girl drinks in the sights and sounds of a town with excitement: "Buses painted with soccer stars." Aunt Luce is an artist with portraits of Haiti's heroes lining her studio walls, and every year the little girl asks, "Will you paint me this time, please?" Ages 4-8.

Marwan's Journey

Marwan crosses the desert, one of thousands fleeing a war-torn country, with only his "mended clothing, a prayer book, a notebook, a pencil and a photograph of his mommy." He remembers a happy house with a garden, a cat and warm sunlight streaming across his pillow. Those are all gone now and his mother is no longer with him, but Marwan hears her voice telling him to keep walking until he finds a new home. Ages 5-7.

The Old Man

A homeless old man shies away from the rush of the city, searching for a warm and quiet place to rest. He is invisible, noticed only when he's considered to be in the way, and tiredly, cautiously, shuffles (拖着脚走) through the streets. Until a little girl offers him her sandwich, a smile and a kindness that fill him with hope and courage. Ages 13-15.

【1】What helps Taylor finally?

- A. The bear's anger.
- B. The ostrich's advice.
- C. The hyena's laughter.
- D. The rabbit's listen.

【2】What makes Marwan leave his country?

- A. The terrible war.
- B. The low wages.
- C. The bad weather.
- D. The earthquake.

【3】Which of the following is best fit for teenagers?

- A. The Rabbit Listened.
- B. Marwan's Journey.
- C. The Old Man.
- D. Auntie Luce's Talking Paintings.

2.

More than 100 people who met old friends, danced to pop music, ate hot dogs and celebrated Amityville pride Saturday came together. Terry Edwards, president of The North Amityville Old School Association-which hosted the gathering in Belmont Lake State Park-said he had grown up in Amityville with fellow association members David Joyner, John Fields and the late Columbus Poole in the 1960s. For fun, they and other neighborhood youths often played basketball together at Bolden Mack Park on Great Neck Road.

After they graduated in the 1970s, it became more difficult for everyone to stay in touch. They often reunited again only for funerals of loved ones. When Poole-who was fondly remembered as a "really nice guy"-died in 2002, Joyner and other friends began talking about gathering during happier occasions.

The most recent happy occasion was Saturday, the 16th annual Amityville Old School Reunion in West Babylon. While their first reunion at Bellmore in 2004 drew 10 to 15 people, organizers kept hosting the event, watching attendance grow steadily each year. In recent years, more than 1,200 people have attended. "Every year, there's a new story from people you haven't seen in 20 years, 30 years. They have a story to tell," Joyner said, remembering reconnecting with a good friend at one reunion years ago and staying in contact ever since.

Madeline Quintyne-McConney, 66, an Amityville resident and the commissioner of Babylon's Department of Human Services, said the gathering was not only a way for people to meet and reconnect with old friends, but also a way to celebrate Amityville's "rich history" positively. Marilyn Fritz, 70, of Copiague, said her favorite moment was meeting one friend at a previous reunion whom she had not seen in 10 years. Fritz remembered crying tears of joy when the two reconnected. "We can remember the people we lost, but it's also a celebration of life," Fritz said.

【1】What did Terry Edwards and his friends do in the 1960s?

- A. They often danced to music.
- B. They met old friends together.
- C. They always gathered on Saturday.
- D. They often played basketball at a park.

【2】When did the friends reunite after they graduated in the 1970s?

- A. When their loved ones passed away.
- B. When something happy occurred.
- C. When they wanted to meet each other.
- D. When they wanted to play basketball.

【3】What can we know about the first reunion at Bellmore?

- A. Nobody participated in the reunion.
- B. More than 1,200 people were present.
- C. Less than twenty people attended.
- D. Joyner reconnected with his best friend.

【4】What does the author intend to express in paragraph 4?

- A. Most people attending Reunion are very old.
- B. The Reunion are well accepted.
- C. The friendship between old friends is valuable.