

1.

What to watch with your kids

WONDER PARK (PG)

“Wonder Park” is an animated cartoon about an imaginative girl named June (voiced by Brianna Denski), who’s spent years dreaming up a magical amusement park named Wonderland with her mom (Jennifer Garner). Their fancies become reality when June manages to protect the park from getting broken apart and sucked into scary purple clouds of darkness. The film underlines the importance of not letting fear stop you from being yourself and doing what you love. (93 minutes)

NANCY DREW AND THE HIDDEN STAIRCASE (PG)

“Nancy Drew and the Hidden Staircase” is based on a classic 1930 Nancy Drew mystery book. After her mother’s death, 16-year-old Nancy Drew (Sophia Living) and her family move from Chicago to rural River Heights. Following a number of incidents, they meet various characters. The scariest moment in the film turns out to be a dream sequence (序列). (89 minutes)

CAPTIVE STATE (PG-13)

“Captive State” is an alien-attack movie set in a future Chicago. Some humans try to support the conquering aliens, while others try to fight against them. The movie is more about its own big ideas than about characters or emotions, but it’s smart enough that it should please most teen and adult sci-fi fans. John Goodman and Vera Farmiga co-star. (109 minutes)

FIVE FEET APART (PG-13)

“Five Feet Apart” is based on the best-selling novel about Will (Cole Sprouse) and Stella (Haley Lu Richardson), two hospitalized 17-year-olds with cystic fibrosis (囊性纤维化) who fall in love. Since the guideline for CF patients is that they should stay a minimum of six feet apart from each other due to the danger of cross-infection, the title refers to the one foot the pair “take back” to be a tiny bit closer as their love story develops. (115 minutes)

【1】Which film attracts more sci-fi lovers?

- A. Captive State. B. Five Feet Apart.
C. Wonder Park. D. Nancy Drew and the Hidden Staircase.

【2】What does the title “Five Feet Apart” suggest?

- A. A discouraging illness. B. A moving love story.
C. A strict hospital rule. D. A best-selling novel.

【3】What’s the theme of the cartoon film?

- A. Strong action saving a sorrowful romance.
B. Scary movements having great characters.
C. Imaginative adventure dealing with worry and fear.
D. Violent but smart alien attack appealing to audience.

2.

On a mid-September day, scientists Chris Rimmer and Bill DeLuca drive to the top of the highest mountain in Vermont. They lower themselves down a steep rocky path and hike through a forest until they find a good spot. Then they pull out nets and old ski racing poles, hoping to catch the blackpoll warbler to measure, tag (贴标签), and then release them in Mount Mansfield. It is on an open space in the woods that the nets are set.

The blackpoll warbler is a first-size bird with an unusually high-pitched song. They have a black cap, white cheeks and white wing bars. In the fall, thousands of these songbirds travel from their mountaintop summer homes in Canada, Alaska and New England to the northeast coast of the United States to prepare for a dangerous journey. For weeks, they fill their bellies with food until their bodies can hold no more. And one fall day, when the sky is clear and the wind is calm, they begin to fly. They fly east to catch the tail winds, then fly south.

The blackpolls’ numbers are dropping so fast that they are in danger. Thus, tracking their migration (迁徙) helps determine why that is. DeLuca and Rimmer work until dark placing nets and then sleep on the floor of a nearby hut. They return before sunrise and find dozens of blackpolls in the nets.

Rimmer holds a blackpoll, and closes a tiny aluminum band around its leg. Each band has a nine-digit number for tracking. They need to understand what’s hurting them to protect them. When Rimmer is done, he opens his hand, and the songbird flies farther up the mountain and lands on a branch, facing south. This blackpoll’s long journey will begin soon but not today.

【1】Where do scientists set nets?

- A. At mountain foot. B. Beside a rocky road.
C. In a forest clearing. D. Around the tree branches.

【2】What do we know about the blackpoll warbler?

- A. They are small birds with soft voice.
B. They are black songbirds with white wings.
C. They travel to the US Northeast Coast for winter.
D. They fly east with the winds before heading south.

【3】Why are blackpolls tagged a small metal band?

- A. To figure how they become fewer. B. To warn people not to hurt them.
C. To remind them to return on time. D. To help them to find the direction.

【4】What’s the text mainly about?

- A. A long migration of blackpolls.
B. An outdoor birdwatching activity.
C. A rescue of an endangered bird.
D. The achievements of two scientists.

3.

In the first days after a team of 25 delivery robots landed on George Mason University’s campus in January, they appeared to cause curious glances and many photos but not much else.

It was clear, officials said, that more time and more data would be necessary to understand whether the robots would change the campus culture or become forgettable. Two months later, an extra 1,500 breakfast orders have been delivered autonomously, according to the technologists of Sodexo, a company that manages food service for GMU and works closely with the robots.

Research has shown that up to 88 percent of college students skip breakfast, primarily because of lack of time, but that number is starting to turn around when delivery robots arrive on campus. They’re constantly seen making the 15 minute trip from campus restaurant to a handful of nearby dorms, as well as to other buildings across