

1.

I still remember my first day at school in London and I was half-excited and half-frightened. On my way to school I wondered what sort of questions the other boys would ask me and practiced all the answers: "I am nine years old. I was born here but I haven't lived here since I was two. I was living in Farley. It's about thirty miles away. I came back to London two months ago." I also wondered if it was the custom for boys to fight strangers like me, but I was tall for my age. I hoped they would decide not to risk it.

No one took any notice of me before school. I stood in the center of the playground, expecting someone to say "hello", but no one spoke to me. When a teacher called my name and told me where my classroom was, one or two boys looked at me but that was all.

My teacher was called Mr. Jones. There were 42 boys in the class, so I didn't stand out there, either, until the first lesson of the afternoon. Mr. Jones was very fond of Charles Dickens and he had decided to read aloud to us from David Copperfield, but first he asked several boys if they knew Dickens' birthplace, but no one guessed right. A boy called Brian, the biggest in the class, said: "Timbaktu", and Mr. Jones went red in the face. Then he asked me. I said: "Portsmouth", and everyone stared at me because Mr. Jones said I was right. This didn't make me very popular, of course.

"He thinks he's clever," I heard Brian say.

After that, we went out to the playground to play football. I was in Brian's team, and he obviously had Dickens in mind because he told me to go in goal. No one ever wanted to be the goalkeeper.

"He's big enough and useless enough." Brian said when someone asked him why he had chosen me.

I suppose Mr. Jones, who served as the judge, remembered Dickens, too, because when the game was nearly over, Brian pushed one of the players on the other team, and he gave them a penalty (惩罚). As the boy kicked the ball to my right, I threw myself down instinctively (本能地) and saved it. All my team crowded round me. My bare knees were injured and bleeding. Brian took out a handkerchief and offered it to me.

"Do you want to join my gang (帮派)?" he said.

At the end of the day, I was no longer a stranger.

21. We can learn from the passage that ____.

- A. boys were usually unfriendly to new students
- B. the writer was not greeted as he expected
- C. Brian praised the writer for his cleverness
- D. the writer was glad to be a goalkeeper

22. The underlined part "I didn't stand out" in paragraph 3 means that the writer was not ____.

- A. noticeable
 - B. welcome
 - C. important
 - D. foolish
23. The writer was offered a handkerchief because ____.
- A. he threw himself down and saved the goal
 - B. he pushed a player on the other team
 - C. he was beginning to be accepted
 - D. he was no longer a newcomer

2.

The Museum: The Charles Dickens Museum in London is the world's most important collection of material relating to the great Victorian novelist and social commentator(时事评论员). The only surviving London home of Dickens (from 1837 until 1839) was opened as a museum in 1925 and is still welcoming visitors from all over the world. On four floors, visitors can see paintings, rare editions, manuscripts(手稿), original furniture and many items relating to the life of one of the most popular and beloved personalities of the Victorian age.

Opening Hours

The Museum is open from Mondays to Saturdays 10:00—17:00; Sundays 11:00—17:00.

Last admission is 30 minutes before closing time.

Special opening times can be arranged for groups, who may wish to book a private view.

Admission Charges: Adults: £5.00; Students: £4.00; Seniors: £4.00; Children: £3.00; Families: £14.00

(2 adults & up to five children)

Group Rates: For a group of 10 or more, a special group rate of £4.00 each applies. Children will still be admitted for £3.00 each.

Access: We are constantly working to improve access to the Museum and its collection. Our current projects involve the fitting of a wheelchair ramp (坡道) for better access, a customer care kit and an audio tour for visitors with impaired(受损的) vision. Our Handling Sessions are also suitable for the visually (视觉上) impaired. The Museum has developed an online virtual (虚拟的) tour through the Museum. Click here to visit all the rooms in the Museum online.