

1.

Honey from the African forest is not only a kind of natural sugar, it is also delicious. Most people, and many animals, like eating it. However, the only way for them to get that honey is to find a wild bees' nest and take the honey from it. Often, these nests are high up in trees, and it is difficult to find them. In parts of Africa, though, people and animals looking for honey have a strange and unexpected helper—a little bird called a honey guide.

The honey guide does not actually like honey, but it does like the wax(蜂蜡) in the beehives(蜂房). The little bird cannot reach this wax, which is deep inside the bees' nest. So, when it finds a suitable nest, it looks for someone to help it. The honey guide gives a loud cry that attracts the attention of both passing animals and people. Once it has their attention, it flies through the forest, waiting from time to time for the curious animal or person as it leads them to the nest. When they finally arrive at the nest, the follower reaches in to get at the delicious honey as the bird patiently waits and watches. Some of the honey, and the wax, always falls to the ground, and this is when the honey guide takes its share.

Scientists do not know why the honey guide likes eating the wax, but it is very determined in its efforts to get it. The birds seem to be able to smell wax from a long distance away. They will quickly arrive whenever a beekeeper is taking honey from his beehives, and will even enter churches when beeswax candles are being lit.

21. Why is it difficult to find a wild bees' nest?

- A. It's small in size. B. It's hidden in trees.
C. It's covered with wax. D. It's hard to recognize.

22. What do the words "the follower" in paragraph 2 refer to?

- A. A bee. B. A bird. C. A honey seeker. D. A beekeeper.

23. The honey guide is special in the way _____.

- A. it gets its food B. it goes to church
C. it sings in the forest D. it reaches into bees' nests

24. What can be the best title for the text?

- A. Wild Bees B. Wax and Honey
C. Beekeeping in Africa D. Honey—Lover's Helper

2.

When my students ask me why I live in a tiny house, they ask it in light of all the "sacrifices(牺牲)" I'm making. They know that I have moved from a large apartment in the city to a small custom-built home on wheels in the backyard woods. They know I forego running water, Internet connection, sewage(下水道), and reliable phone reception.

However, it was possible for me to be truly happy while living with very few material things. My body responded well, in health, fitness and mood, to a schedule more consistent(一致的) with the natural day and night cycle. Observing the daily sunset, hosting friends for days at a time, reading, writing letters to my families and friends and exploring natural wonders in my spare time all were free and invaluable experiences.

What was necessary to my survival proved to be a rather short list—healthy food, clean and drinkable water, heat source, weather-protecting shelter, weather-suitable clothing, equally important friends and mental and physical stimulations(刺激).

When I returned to life in the US, I couldn't help but sense a deep and uneasy belief that life suddenly changed. I felt disconnected with many things— the earth, others, my food source, my waste disposal, the natural cycle of my body and the productive interests. These are the things I once cared for but now find myself too busy to enjoy. How was it that I was earning literally 40 times my Peace Corps salary and was less healthy, satisfied and intentional in my daily schedule? I found myself asking—what is it to be rich anyway? Therefore, last August I let go of most of my possessions and moved into a tiny house on wheels because I wanted to see if I could live a more enjoyable lifestyle. So far so good. No inconvenience has made up for the many positive benefits that continue to come from this change in lifestyle. I believe that I have made the right decision.

25. What does the underlined word "forego" in the first paragraph probably mean?

- A. Give away. B. Take along.
C. Care for. D. Go after.

26. What interested the author most when living in the tiny house?

- A. The natural living schedule. B. Busy and invaluable experiences.
C. The happiness of the simple life. D. The very few material possessions.

27. What did the author feel when he returned to the US?

- A. He was behind the times.
B. He wouldn't enjoy the modern life.
C. He was rich enough to enjoy the city life.
D. He was disconnected with the outside world.