

1. 阅读理解

Curious about what books will be published in the months ahead so you can pre - order or reserve them? Please note we have not included every book that is coming out, but rather some that caught our eyes - and that we thought should catch yours as well.

The Big, Brave Adventurous Life of Lavinia Warren by Elizabeth Raum

Lavinia Warren never let her height prevent her from leading a full and adventurous life. Although she never grew three feet tall, she became a beloved teacher, a world traveller, an entertainer and the friend of many powerful figures. Lavinia faced several tragedies (悲剧) but always found the strength to go on. Lavinia's extraordinary story also provides a social history of one of the most difficult periods in American history.

The Dollhouse Murders by Betty Ren Wright

Amy is terrified. She hears noises coming from the dollhouse in the attic (阁楼), and the dolls she was playing with aren't where she left them. Every night when Amy goes up to check on the dollhouse? the dolls have moved again! Secrets become clear as Amy gets closer to showing the mystery (谜) of the dolls in this novel that combines complicated family relationships with a mystery.

The Girl in the Locked Room by Mary Downing Hahn

A family moves into an old, abandoned house. Jules' parents love the house, but Jules is frightened and feels a sense of warning. When she sees a pale face in an upstairs window, though, she can't help wondering about the presence on the top floor. Then Jules is determined to contact the mysterious figure and help unlock the door. Past and present intersect (交叉) as she and her ghostly friend discover the secret of the family who lived in the house all those many years ago.

【1】What makes Lavinia Warren imperfect?

- A. Her height.
- B. Her shape.
- C. Her strength.
- D. Her character.

【2】What can we learn from The Dollhouse Murders?

- A. Amy is frightened when hearing noises in the attic.
- B. Amy cares more for dolls than anything she ever has.
- C. Amy finds it tough to sleep without dolls' company.
- D. Amy will know little about her family relationships.

【3】What happens when Jules sees a pale face?

- A. She dare not tell her parents all that she sees.
- B. She reminds her parents of the danger at once.
- C. She makes up her mind to help her friend out.
- D. She wants to know what exists on the top floor.

2. 阅读理解

The siesta competition took place in a supermarket, with plenty of shoppers, screaming babies, talking voices, and footsteps to take the competitors' attention away from their after lunch sleeps.

Five bright blue sofas were laid out, and five competitors at a time were allowed to take a 20-minute sleep. A doctor measured their pulse to time how long they actually spent on asleep. Competitors earned extra points for snoring (打鼾), sleeping in strange positions, or wearing silly pajamas (睡衣). The winners of each round advance to the next stage in the competition.

It's amazing that any of those people would fall asleep in the middle of such a busy place, while on couches that they are not used to. Yet, many of them did. They hugged pillows or soft toy bears. They covered their eyes with sleep masks, too. Whatever it took to help them fall asleep fast and stay asleep.

The siesta is a tradition in Spain that many feel is becoming forgotten. It used to be that people would take a brief nap after lunch every day. This would energize them, and keep them going for the rest of the day. Not to mention the health benefits of a good nap. But, that's all changing. People are too busy making money or watching gossip shows on TV after lunch to care about taking a nap.

The National Association of Friends of the Siesta wants to bring Spain back to their traditional roots. They are doing this by having the siesta competition. They set up the competition to reward the best sleepers with money. Actually, they were paid to sleep.

There are really health benefits to a midday nap. We could all learn from this tradition. It's a much better way to get more energy than drinking a cup of coffee. It is also believed that a nap, and in fact a good night's sleep, can help reduce heart disease. The more rested we are, the less stress we feel with day-to-day life.

【1】The underlined word "siesta" here probably means "_____".

- A. oversleep B. night sleep
- C. a short sleep after supper D. a short sleep after lunch

【2】In what situation did the competition take place?

- A. In a noisy place. B. In a quiet place.
- C. In a comfortable place. D. In a familiar place.

【3】When the competitors went to sleep, they could _____.

- A. have their own beds B. use nothing to cover their eyes
- C. have doctors to help them D. use something to help them sleep

【4】The competition is held because the Association wants to _____.

- A. know if people still know the traditional habit
- B. call on people to have their traditional habit
- C. do some research on how people sleep
- D. give people money in this way

3. 阅读理解

Looking at Rosa Ferrigno's new suit, you could swear it was knitted (织) with regular yarn (毛线). It's only when you touch it and hear the characteristic rustling (沙沙声) of plastic that you realize there's something special about it. In fact, the suit is made out of over 300 plastic grocery bags.

Ferrigno, who once worked as a tailor before starting a family, got the idea for her unique hand-made suit last August. She was at a family picnic and saw one of the other guests carrying a purse made from re-purposed plastic bags. It attracted her, so she and her daughter searched for instructions on how to make one on YouTube. The 75-year-old ended up making a purse from colorful plastic bags. But that was only the beginning. After finishing her second plastic bag purse, Ferrigno realized she needed something to match it with, so last November she told her daughter she was going to make a skirt and jacket suit out of plastic bags, as a winter project.