

1.

An eight-year-old child heard her parents talking about her little brother. All she knew was that he was very sick and only a very expensive operation could save him now. They were a poor family and no one would lend them the money.

When she heard her daddy say to her tearful mother, "Only a miracle can save him now," the little girl went to her bedroom and pulled her money from its hiding place and counted it carefully. Then, she hurried to a drugstore with the money in her hand.

"And what do you want?" asked the salesman. "It's for my little brother," the girl answered. "He's really, really sick and I want to buy a miracle." "Pardon?" said the salesman. "My brother Andrew has something bad growing inside his head and my daddy says only a miracle can save him. So how much does a miracle cost?" "We don't sell a miracle here, child. I'm sorry," the salesman said with a smile. "Listen, if it isn't enough, I can try and get some more. Just tell me how much it costs."

A well-dressed man heard it and asked, "What kind of a miracle does your brother need?" "I don't know," she answered with her eyes full of tears. "He's really sick and mum says he needs an operation. But my daddy can't pay for it, so I have brought all my money." "How much do you have?" asked the man. "\$1.11, but I can try and get some more," she answered. "Well, what luck," smiled the man. "\$1.11, the price of a miracle for your little brother."

He took up the girl's hand and said, "Take me to where you live. I want to see your brother and meet your parents. Let's see if I have the kind of miracle you need."

That Well-dressed man was Dr Carlton Armstrong, a famous doctor. The operation was successful and it wasn't long before Andrew was home again.

How much did the miracle cost?

21. What was the trouble in the little girl's family?

- A. They had no money to live on. B. Her brother was seriously ill.
C. Nothing could save her brother. D. They borrowed too much money.

22. In the eyes of the little girl, a miracle might be _____.

- A. some good medicine B. something interesting
B. something beautiful D. some delicious food

23. The little girl said again and again "...I can try and get some more." That shows _____.

- A. she still kept some more money B. there was no need to worry about money
C. she hoped not to be refused D. she thought money was difficult to get

24. From the passage we can infer that _____.

- A. the doctor didn't ask for any pay B. the little girl was very clever
C. the salesman was cold-hearted D. Andrew became a famous doctor

2.

Yosemite National Park, California

Hardy hikers can conquer Half Dome. The rock rises 4,000 feet above Yosemite Valley. The 17-mile round-trip trail passes two waterfalls and includes a 60-degree up a slope. "It takes more mental strength than physical strength," Kaiser says. Although it's possible to do as a day hike, most hikers camp and take two days. Hiking permits are required.

(209-372-0200; nps.gov/yose)

Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, Hawaii

Even if Kilauea, the world's most active volcano, isn't erupting when you visit the Big Island, you can still see the frightening lava (熔岩) -carved landscape. The 3-mile round-trip hike crosses former lava flows and passes lava trees, formed when the 1,200-degree lava enveloped the tree.

(808-985-6000; nps.gov/havo)

Acadia National Park, Maine

For a different perspective, tour this popular oceanfront park by sea kayak. Water routes pass clean shoreline, lighthouses and wildlife. "There are locations sheltered by offshore island, so the seas aren't as rough. Level of ability is really no problem," Kaiser says.

(207-288-3338; nps.gov/acad)

Yellow National Park, Wyoming and Montana

"One of the best ways to experience the nation's first national park is on two wheels," Kaiser says. Although traffic's heavy during peak summer season, there are several areas reserved just for summer cyclists. Kaiser recommends coming in the early spring, though, when the park is closed to cars, giving cyclists free rein.

(307-344-7381; nps.gov/yell)

25. We can infer that travelers to Yosemite National Park should _____.