

1.

I was about 30 years old and was working as a firefighter in the South Bronx's Engine Co. 82. It was a restful Sunday and between alarms I rushed to the office to read a copy of the the New York Times. I read an article on the Book Review section which openly stated what I took to be a calumny—that William Butler Yeats had gone beyond his Irishness and was forever to be known as a universal poet. As I read it, my blood began to boil.

I grabbed a piece of paper and wrote out a letter of anger to the editor. Yeats had lived his life and written his poetry through the very essence of his Irish sensibility. It was offensive to think Irishness was something to be transcended. I don't know why I felt it my duty to safeguard the reputation of the world's greatest poet. I just knew that I had to write that letter.

After my letter got published, I received a letter from The New Yorker, asking for an interview. When my article Fireman Smith appeared in that magazine, the editor of a large publishing firm called me, asking if I was interested in writing a book about my life. I had little confidence to write a whole book, though the subject was worthy. I wrote Report From Engine Co. 82 in six months, and it sold really well. In the years that followed, I wrote three more best—sellers.

Being a writer had been far from my expectations. How had it happened? I often found myself thinking about it, and my thoughts always came back to that letter to the New York Times. For me, the writing was a natural consequence of the passion I felt and the subjects represented the great values burning within me as I wrote.

Your education and your experience will guide you toward making a right decision, but your passion will enable you to make a difference in whatever you do. That's what I learned the day I stood up for Ireland's greatest poet.

【1】What does the underlined sentence in paragraph one imply?

- A.I felt awkward when I read the article. B.I felt angry at the statement in the article.
C.I became excited when I read about Yeats. D.I was very proud of Yeats being a universal author.

【2】According to the author, what is the key to his success in writing?

- A.His skills in arguing. B.His educational background.
C.His passion for writing. D.His experience as a firefighter.

【3】What's the best title of the passage?

- A.My Journey to Be a Writer. B.A Letter that Changed My Life.
C.How to Become a Great Author. D.My Defense of Ireland's Greatest Poet.

2.

"The music will not vanish!" said Zhang Yadong, a famous Chinese music producer, in an interview with CGTN, expressing his strong belief in the power of today's young musicians.

China's new popular variety show "The Big Band," debuted in May, is bringing some incredibly talented Chinese rock hands into the mainstream. As one of the judges, or "Super Fans", Zhang has grabbed the spotlight for his professional remarks on the show. Zhang, who started his career as a music producer in the early 1990s, has composed, recorded and produced several hit songs and albums for notable Chinese singers and bands.

Although Zhang admitted the importance of having a unique style and innovative music, he emphasized the necessity of hard work. He said he respects talent, but he doesn't think it is reliable. "Music is my profession, which cannot just rely on talent," he said. "I have to work hard to keep myself sharp all the time."

According to a 2018 report by the Communication University of China, nearly 30 percent of Chinese musicians earn nothing from their music and 70 percent have to find part-time jobs. "The cost is quite high for today's music producers, who need the support of expensive equipment," said Zhang. "It is convenient for users to download unauthorized content, but musicians may lose their motivation to create new content because their efforts seem to have.

I gone in vain." Luckily, music copyrights have been strengthened as numerous policies to crack down on pirated music on the Internet have come into effect. Zhang agrees that these measures are helpful, and that record companies should not sign unequal contracts with musicians by taking advantage of their desire to be famous.

Decades have passed since Zhang came to Beijing to pursue his dream. Chinese popular music, meanwhile, has continued to transform and develop. Zhang said today's young musicians are more stressed due to fiercer competition. However, he thinks they are hopeful and should not be underestimated. "I believe the changes are from quantity to quality," said Zhang. "I hope more people can write songs and fall in love with music." For more: click here.

【1】What's the meaning of the underlined word "vanish" in paragraph one?

- A.Disappear. B.Boom. C.Survive. D.Exist.

【2】Which of the following statements is true according to the passage?

- A.Zhang started his career as a band singer.
B.Diligence is very important according to Zhang.
C.The show "The Big Band" was debuted in March.
D.Music copyrights haven't been strengthened so far.

【3】According to Zhang, today's young musicians can be described as _____.

- A.talented but pessimistic B.stressed and negative
C.passionate but unsocial D.promising and hopeful

【4】Where can we find this article?

- A.On a poster B.In a magazine. C.On the Internet. D.In a traveling guide.

3.

Social media brings endless concerns for parents, with worries that it weakens their children's confidence and attention spans. But others counter that it could also be broadening their horizons.

The latest round of worry was sparked by a study of the impact of social media use on 8-12-year-olds published by Anne Longfield, Children's Commissioner for England. The report focused on 132 children, who described pressures from constant contact, online comments that weaken their self-esteem, and the need to shape offline activities to make them shareable.

"You see your friends going ice skating, partying or talking about how much revision they have done, and it can make you feel inadequate," says "Bea, a junior school student from Bristol, UK. "It's just so hard to get away from."

Children have to take risks on their journeys to adulthood, and desires to fit in and be popular existed before Mark Zuckerberg came along with Facebook. However, in previous generations these pressures came largely from people they knew, and they mostly stayed outside the home. Now the pressures could come from any one of the nearly 3 billion people online, and follow them from school to home, and can even continue through the night.

The pressures do get on parents' nerves, among which the utmost concern is how their children can be protected from harm, given that social media is a necessary way of interaction for many young people. According to Longfield's study, children should be taught about online safety from an early age, better before secondary school. There is growing evidence that efforts need to be extended to provide earlier guidance on less extreme but more common risks, including over-sharing, low self-esteem, addiction and insomnia. The evidence suggests she is right. However, approaches that focus merely on the potential negatives are unlikely to work.