

Read the story

I. Choose the best title a, b, c.

- a. The Market in Singapore.      b. A strange Fruit      c. Afraid of New Experiences.



A few years ago, I was working in Singapore. During my first week there, while I was travelling on the underground, I saw a sign saying "NO DURIANS" with a picture of a crossed out fruit. I wondered why they were forbidden. It wasn't until later that I found out that they smell really, really bad but they're very tasty and healthy. For this reason, many people in Southeast Asia eat them. I was very curious and decided to try for himself.

As I was waking through a market place, a very strong smell hit me. It smelt like someone had left some onions and other vegetables to rot. However, I realised that I was standing next to a stall selling durians. 'I'd like to try a bit of durian', I told the merchant and he said with a smile, 'At your own risk!' He then took a durian from a box, cut it in half with a large knife and then cut a piece of the fruit.

When he handed it to me, I started having second thoughts. 'What does it taste like?' I wondered. As I was raising the fruit to my lips, I suddenly felt sick and a bit dizzy, but I began to eat.

The durian was thick and creamy like butter and had a fresh and sweet taste. As soon as I finished eating the piece, the merchant offered me some more. I actually finished the entire fruit. The man looked at me for a response.

'Yummy! That was tasty!' I said, so the merchant put three in a bag for me to take home. Unfortunately, I had to walk all the way, because I wasn't allowed on the underground.

II. Match the words in bold with its meaning according to the reading. Write the letter in the box.

- |             |                                                               |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. merchant | a. to move to a higher position.                              |
| 2. raising  | b. one whose business is buying and selling goods for profit. |
| 3. handed   | c. to deliver or pass with or as if with the hand.            |
| 4. response | d. having all the parts or elements.                          |
| 5. entire   | e. an answer                                                  |

III. Read again and write T for True, F for False or NM not mentioned.

1. The writer saw durians in an advertisement for the first time
2. In Singapore, they sell durians only in markets.
3. The writer thought the strong smell was rotten food.
4. The writer cut the durian, then ate a piece.
5. The merchant served the fruit with some cream and butter.
6. The writer enjoyed the durian and wanted some more.