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1 Comprehension

Match the phrases in columns A and B to make logical sentences.

A

1. It is sad and ironic that Nostradamus' wife and children died of the plague
2. Many people still study Nostradamus' prophecies
3. Nostradamus called a monk 'Your Highness'
4. Queen Catherine de Medici wanted to meet Nostradamus
5. Each of the books was called a 'century'
6. Nostradamus used words from several different languages in his quatrains
7. He wanted his written prophecies to be difficult to understand
8. Sceptics do not believe his prophecies

B

- a. because he did not want the church to accuse him of being a heretic.
- b. because he knew that he was going to become the pope.
- c. because they think that they can apply to almost any situation.
- d. because they talk about events from his time until the end of the world.
- e. because it contained one hundred quatrains.
- f. because he had saved many people from dying of that disease.
- g. because he was famous all over Europe.
- h. because he wanted his prophecies to be difficult to understand.

PET 3 Nostradamus books

The people below are all looking for a book to buy. On pages 30-1 there are some book reviews. Decide which book (letters A-E) would be the most suitable for each person (1-3).



- 1 Dick loves science fiction books. He especially likes books that give an idea of just how we will live in the future. He does not care if the vision of the future is possible, but it must be entertaining.

- 2 Crystal likes visiting old homes and castles. She loves looking at plates, forks, brushes and other everyday things. She likes the same thing in a book: something that shows her how ordinary people really lived in the past.



- 3 Alice is a professor of mathematics, but she adores reading exaggerated stories about crimes, natural disasters and the supernatural. She does not believe them, but she thinks they are fun, and when she reads a book, she wants it to be the same.

Recommended books

- A** ***Nostradamus – The Secret Manuscript – Melvin R. Ottoman***
If you are one of the many people who visit Mr Ottoman's famous web site every day, you will certainly want to read this book. Mr Ottoman says he found an old manuscript with the real meaning of all of Nostradamus' famous prophecies. So, if you want to know about the next major earthquake, or the next horrible epidemic, this is the book for you.
- B** ***Nostradamus – The Complete Prophecies and Writings – translated by Joseph E. Brown***
This is the most recent translation of Nostradamus' famous prophecies. Dr Brown provides translations of the poems plus historic references within the context of Nostradamus' time. In addition, he explains why some of the translations on the Internet are wrong. This is an excellent book for anyone who wants to see what Nostradamus really said.
- C** ***Our Technological Future – What Nostradamus Has to Say – by Hubert Meriwether***
Nostradamus' prophecies predict every major event of the last five hundred years. But what about the future? Unlike other books on Nostradamus, this one tells us about science and technology in the next fifty years. Will ordinary people fly to Mars and the moon? This book answers this and many other questions about our everyday lives in the future.
- D** ***Nostradamus – Why We Still Believe Him – by Julia J. Bergson***
Dr Bergson has studied Nostradamus and his fans for the last ten years. 'How can anyone believe such nonsense?' she says. In this book she explains how the fears and anxieties of the modern world create a need for something certain. Dr Bergson is a famous psychiatrist, and her analysis will help the reader understand how the modern mind works.
- E** ***Nostradamus and His Times – by Jamila M. MacDonald***
Forget about the wars, disasters and assassinations of our time, Dr MacDonald, a professor of history at Oxford University, tells us nothing about them. But she does tell us a lot about the world in which Nostradamus lived in. She tells us just what prophecies meant to the ordinary people of his time, and why he became so famous.