一、 閱讀測驗

136 Answer:

West Nile is a tropical disease that begins in birds, which pass it on to mosquitoes that then go on to infect human beings with a bite. Most people who contract West Nile do not experience any symptoms at all, but, if they do, symptoms typically develop between 3 to 14 days after a mosquito bite. About 1 in 5 persons suffers fever, headaches, and body aches, usually lasting a week or so. A far less lucky 1 in 150 experiences high fever, tremors, paralysis, and coma. Some—especially the elderly and those with weak immune systems—die.

That is what made the major outbreaks of West Nile in the U.S. in the summer of 2012 so scary. The situation was particularly bad in Dallas, Texas, where the West Nile virus killed 10 people and sickened more than 200. The city declared a state of emergency and began aerial spraying of a pesticide to kill the mosquitoes, even though residents argued that the pesticide could be more dangerous than the disease.

Why was the summer of 2012 so hospitable to the West Nile virus and the mosquitoes that carry it? Blame the weather. An extremely mild winter allowed more mosquitoes than usual to survive, while the unusually high temperatures in that scorching summer further increased their number by speeding up their life cycle. The economic crisis may have also played a role: Homeowners who were not able to pay their bank loans were forced to abandon their properties, sometimes leaving behind swimming pools that made excellent mosquito breeding grounds.

The severity of tropical diseases is also a matter of whether governments are capable—and willing—to defend their populations against infections. Dallas County was not doing some of the key things to slow the spread of West Nile, such as testing dead birds and setting mosquito traps to test for the presence of the disease. Tropical infections are thus as much related to government inaction as they are to climate.

( ) (1) What is this passage mainly about? (A) West Nile and methods to fight it. (B) West Nile and governmental efficiency. (C) West Nile and the conditions its virus thrives in. (D) West Nile and its relation to tropical diseases.

( ) (2) Which of the following statements is true about West Nile? (A) Its symptoms usually appear within two weeks. (B) It is spread through air and water in tropical areas. (C) Over 20% of people who contract it will suffer severe symptoms. (D) It comes from direct human contact with birds infected with the virus.

( ) (3) What did Dallas County do to fight off West Nile? (A) They sprayed pesticide from the air. (B) They asked citizens to stay away from dead birds. (C) They encouraged citizens to get vaccinations. (D) They drained the swimming pools in the county.

( ) (4) Which of the following is a reason why Dallas was hit most seriously in the U.S. in 2012? (A) The increasing population in Texas raised the risk of contracting the disease. (B) The government did not issue a warning about the disease in time. (C) The residents worried about the county's decision and action. (D) The weather of the previous winter was not as cold as usual.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

137 Answer:

Little Red Riding Hood is one of the most famous fairy tales in the world. The heroine is a young girl who is asked by her mother to take a basket of food and a bottle of wine to her grandmother. She goes into the forest and encounters a wolf. It cheats her, eats her, and disguises itself in Little Red's dress to visit the grandmother. Of course, it also eats the grandmother and lies in her bed. A hunter walks by the house, hearing the wolf snoring. He then cuts its belly open and saves Little Red together with her grandmother. They fill its belly with stones. When the wolf wakes up and tries to run away, its belly is too heavy for it to run. So, it falls and dies.

Many stories have symbolic meanings. For instance, the hood in this tale actually shows that Little Red is not mature. But why is the color of the hood red? According to analysts, the color red represents blood, or family connection. Also, the hood is given to Little Red by her grandmother, so things are passed down through generations.

As for the male roles, both the wolf and the hunter play the roles of a father in this tale. The wolf is the dark side of the father, who abuses, tricks and consumes the daughter. In contrast, the hunter represents the good side that kills the invader and protects the family.

There is another common symbol in this tale, namely the forest. Forests are places where special things often happen, or where heroes or heroines live or go in many fairy or folk tales, for example *Snow White*, *Goldilocks*, and *Hansel and Gretel*. This theme can be traced back to medieval and pre-medieval times, when most people lived in or near forests. A forest can sustain human life by providing food (animals and plants) and water. So, a forest symbolizes fertility. However, it's also a dangerous, unpredictable and wild place. In many stories, heroes and heroines enter the forest and turn into responsible persons. There is a transformation taking place.

Is it interesting to analyze folklore in this way? If so, you could try to decode another classic story.

(　) (1) Which of the following is the main aim of the passage? (A) To tell the story of *Little Red Riding Hood*. (B) To analyze the tale called *Little Red Riding Hood*. (C) To direct the readers' attention to an unusual story. (D) To show how to interpret famous works of literature.

(　) (2) According to the passage, which of the following is true? (A) The hunter in *Little Red Riding Hood* represents the dark side of a father. (B) Forests are places where people can hide and protect themselves from danger. (C) Little Red's cape means she is not a mature woman. (D) The color red implies that Little Red will kill her grandmother.

(　) (3) According to the author, which of the following is NOT a symbolic meaning of a forest? (A) A prison. (B) A place where people change. (C) A source of food. (D) A dangerous place.

(　) (4) According to the author, what does the red hood represent? (A) An old lady. (B) A grown-up. (C) A kind-hearted person. (D) An immature young lady.

(　) (5) What is the author trying to do in this passage? (A) Warn readers not to read fairy tales. (B) Tell us not to take *Little Red Riding Hood* seriously. (C) Show how to read between the lines. (D) Explain the origin of a story.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

二、 文意選填

162 Answer:

Ordinary vending machines can be found everywhere. But when it __(1)__ unusual products, Japan has some of the most interesting vending machines. One example is a T-shirt vending machine. These machines sell basic T-shirts in a variety of colors. You can purchase a new shirt for just a few dollars. Another example is a hamburger vending machine. If you don't think the workers at fast food chains like McDonald's are __(2)__ enough, then you should try this machine, which sells different types of hamburgers. Simply drop in some coins, choose one of the burgers in __(3)__, and start eating. However, what might __(4)__ people most is a machine that sells party decorations! If you are interested in throwing a party, you can get everything you need from this machine within a(n) __(5)__ of minutes. Do these vending machines sound special to you? If you get the chance to visit Japan, don't forget to check out these fascinating machines and buy some __(6)__ products! They could be a memorable part of your trip.

(A) efficient (B) stock (C) unexpected (D) impress (E) comes to (F) couple

163 Answer:

As successful as Sheryl Sandberg has been, she vividly remembers the pain she experienced when being called "bossy." Sandberg strongly __(1)__ the use of the word "bossy" since it stands in the way of leadership for women. She pointed out the fact that the confidence __(2)__ between men and women appears as early as middle school. At that time, young women are more than three times more __(3)__ than men to raise their hands, to give presentations in front of the class, or to lead. Sandberg feels it is important to __(4)__ the stigma that comes with women taking leadership roles. Thus, in 2014, she __(5)__ Ban Bossy, a campaign to help women feel confident and thrive as leaders. However, the campaign has also __(6)__ some criticism. Some critics view the movement as __(7)__. They say successful women should be more __(8)__. Others think that the campaign __(9)__ is bossy since no one should be able to control what others say in the first place. Either way, Ban Bossy does __(10)__ awareness of the difficulties faced by female leadership and encourages women to struggle on. With time, campaigns such as Ban Bossy will hopefully help create a more equitable atmosphere for both women and men in the work environment.

(A) gap (B) itself (C) launched (D) received (E) remove (F) criticizes (G) raise (H) reluctant (I) insignificant (J) open-minded

LIVEWORKSHEETS