Раздел 2. ЧТЕНИЕ

10

Установите соответствие между заголовками 1—8 и текстами A—G. Занесите свои ответы в таблицу. Используйте каждую цифру только один раз. В задании один заголовок лишний.

1. Unsolved Mystery
2. Meteorological Phenomenon
3. Curious Conclusion
4. Group Builders
5. Clever Camouflage
6. Friendly but Dangerous
7. Animal Diseases
8. Feeding to Death

A. Tree squirrels are quite used to humans and many will come close to people hoping they will be fed. However, squirrels deserve our respectful distance. They have very sharp teeth and sharp claws and defend themselves by biting and scratching if they are startled. However, they are fun to observe. So treat them with gentle respect... and they can be wonderful 'wild friends'.

B. Elephants display 'right-handedness', not in their limbs, but in the tusks. Close examination of an elephant's tusks will reveal that one tusk has a blunter tip and is thicker than its less favoured counterpart. The reason for this difference is that in their natural habitat elephants use their tusks for gathering food, and digging for water. Consequently the tusk on their favourite side becomes more developed, but blunter.

C. In October 1987, an attempt to find a famous Loch Ness monster was made with 20 cruisers that swept the loch using sonar equipment, electronically recording all contacts. While the cruisers caught enough salmon to feed an army, there was no sign of Nessie. Most scientists would bet that there is no monster, yet they do seem to hedge themselves and keep an open mind as they await conclusive proof in the form of skeletal evidence or the capture of the monster.

D. Birds used for the production of Foie Gras are trapped in tiny cages, where they hardly have any place to move or flap their wings. Mechanized feeders come at regular intervals to feed them and metal pipes are forced down their gullets several times a day. The overfed birds have difficulty breathing and acquire a range of diseases. Once these birds have reached a point of near-death, they are slaughtered, and their livers end up in restaurants!

E. Animals adapt over time to their environments, some so much so that they begin to look like their surroundings — a helpful evolutionary advantage in the face of potential predators (or while stalking prey). There are octopi that blend in perfectly with sandy ocean floors, insects that look just like leaves and fish that resemble oceanic plants. There is even an octopus that can mimic nearly twenty other oceanic species to scare off.

F. Humans work together all the time to build incredible structures we could never have dreamed up, let alone construct, on our own — but some animal architecture is arguably even more impressive. There is a spider web built by a variety of species working together that spans much of a public park, an ant colony that extends for thousands of miles and birds nests built by entire flocks living together under one thatched roof.

G. Raining animals... it sounds ridiculous, right? Nonetheless, it happens — although rarely. Fish, frogs and birds are the most common forms of animal rain. Sometimes the creatures land relatively unscathed but in other cases they are frozen or shredded to pieces. Theories vary in their details but generally it is assumed that certain kinds of strong winds lift up the animals with a volume of water (fish and frogs from ponds, for example) or sweep them out of the sky in the case of birds and then deposit them, often right before a major storm.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G

11

Прочитайте текст и заполните пропуски A—F частями предложений, обозначенными цифрами 1—7. Одна из частей в списке 1—7 лишняя. Занесите цифру, обозначающую соответствующую часть предложения, в таблицу.

Walls and wall building have played a very important role in Chinese culture. From the Neolithic period to the Communist Revolution, walls were an essential part of any village and town. Not only towns and villages but the houses and the temples within them were somehow walled, and the houses also had no windows overlooking the street, **A**_____. The

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name for 'city' in Chinese (ch'eng) means 'a wall', and over these walled cities, villages, houses and temples presides the god of walls and mounts, whose duties were, and still are, **B**_____. Thus a great and extremely laborious task such as constructing a wall, **C**_____, must not have seemed such an absurdity.

However, it is indeed a common mistake to perceive the Great Wall as a single architectural structure, and it would also be erroneous to assume that it was built during a single dynasty. The building of the wall spanned the various dynasties, and each of these dynasties somehow contributed to the construction of the Great Wall, **D**_____.

The role that the Great Wall played in the growth of Chinese economy was an important one. Throughout the centuries many settlements were established along the new border. The garrison troops were instructed to reclaim wasteland and to plant crops on it, roads and canals were built, **E**_____. All these undertakings greatly helped to increase the country's trade and cultural exchange with many remote areas. Builders, garrisons, artisans, farmers and peasants left behind a trail of objects, including inscribed tablets, household articles, and written work, which have become extremely valuable archaeological evidence to the study of defence institutions of the Great Wall and the everyday life of those people **F**_____.

1. whose foundations had been laid many centuries ago
2. which was supposed to run throughout the country
3. thus giving the feeling of wandering around a huge maze
4. which constructed the Great Wall
5. to mention just a few of the works carried out
6. to protect and be responsible for the welfare of the inhabitants
7. who lived and died along the wall

A	B	C	D	E	F

Прочитайте текст и выполните задания 12—18. В каждом задании запишите в поле ответа цифру 1, 2, 3 или 4, соответствующую выбранному Вами варианту ответа.

Restless, shifting, fugacious as time itself is a certain vast bulk of the population of the red brick district of the lower West Side. Homeless, they have a hundred homes. They flit from furnished room to furnished room, transients forever — transients in abode, transients in heart and mind. Hence the houses of this district, having had a thousand dwellers, should have a thousand tales to tell, mostly dull ones, no doubt; but it would be strange if there could not be found a ghost or two in the wake of all these vagrant guests.

One evening after dark a young man prowled among these crumbling red mansions, ringing their bells. At the twelfth he rested his lean hand baggage upon the step and wiped the dust from his hatband and forehead. The bell sounded faint and far away in some remote, hollow depths. To the door of the twelfth house, whose bell he had rung, came a housekeeper, who made him think of an unwholesome, surfeited worm that had eaten its nut to a hollow shell and now sought to fill the vacancy with edible lodgers. He asked if there was a room to let. 'Come in,' said the housekeeper. Her voice came from her throat; her throat seemed lined with fur. 'I have the third-floor-back, vacant since a week back. Should you wish to look at it?'

The young man followed her up the stairs. A faint light from no particular source mitigated the shadows of the halls. They trod noiselessly upon a stair carpet that seemed to have become vegetable; to have degenerated in that rank, sunless air to lush lichen or spreading moss that grew in patches to the staircase. At each turn of the stairs were vacant niches in the wall. Perhaps plants had once been set within them. If so, they had died in that foul and tainted air. It may be that statues of the saints had stood there, but it was not difficult to conceive that imps and devils had dragged them forth in the darkness and down to the unholy depths of some furnished pit below.

'This is the room,' said the housekeeper, from her furry throat. 'It's a nice room. I had some most elegant people in it last summer — no trouble at all, and paid in advance to the minute. The water's at the end of the hall. Sprowls and Mooney kept it for three months. They did a vaudeville sketch. Miss Bretta Sprowls — you may have heard of her — right there over the dresser is where the marriage certificate hung, framed. The gas is here, and you see there is plenty of closet room. It's a room everybody likes. I never rent it to

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'Do you have many theatrical people rooming here?' asked the young man. 'They come and go. A good proportion of my lodgers is connected with theatres. Yes, sir, this is the theatrical district. Actor people never stay long anywhere. I get my share. Yes, they come and they go.'

He engaged the room, paying for a week in advance. He was tired, he said, and would take possession at once. The room had been made ready, she said. As the housekeeper moved away he put, for the thousandth time, the question that he carried at the end of his tongue.

'A young girl — Miss Eloise Vashner — do you remember such a one among your lodgers? She would be singing on the stage, most likely. A fair girl, of medium height and slender, with reddish gold hair and a dark mole near her left eyebrow.'

'No, I don't remember the name. These stage people have names they change as often as their rooms. No, I don't call that one to mind.'

No. Always no. Five months of **ceaseless** interrogation and the inevitable negative. So much time spent by day in questioning managers, agents, schools and choruses; by night among the audiences of theaters from all-star casts down to music halls so low that he dreaded to find what he most hoped for. He who had loved her best had tried to find her. He was sure that since her disappearance from home this great, water-girt city held her somewhere, but it was like a monstrous quicksand, shifting its particles constantly, with no foundation, its upper granules of today buried tomorrow in ooze and slime.

(*Adapted from 'The Furnished Room' by O. Henry*)

12 The houses of the lower West Side

1) had some mystery in their history.
2) had lots of exciting stories to tell.
3) had permanent dwellers.
4) were mostly wooden.

Ответ: _____.

13 The young man

1) had heavy hand baggage.
2) looked clean and respectable.
3) was in a hurry.
4) was looking for a room to rent.

Ответ: _____.

14 The housekeeper

1) looked healthy.
2) was very hungry.
3) seemed to be looking for new victims.
4) was wearing fur round her throat.

Ответ: _____.

15 In the hall of the house

1) it was completely dark.
2) there was moss instead of a stair carpet
3) the air had a disgusting smell.
4) there were plants and statues within the niches in the wall.

Ответ: _____.

16 The housekeeper told the young man that

1) the room was often vacant for a long time.
2) there was gas and water in the room
3) her lodgers were seldom connected with the theatres.
4) her previous lodgers had paid for the room beforehand.

Ответ: _____.

17 The girl who the young man was looking for

1) was tall and slim.
2) had a distinguishing feature.
3) was his bride.
4) was absent for three months.

Ответ: _____.

18 In the last paragraph '**ceaseless**' means

1) hopeless. 2) meaningless. 3) useless. 4) endless.

Ответ: _____.

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