My hobby

Fifteen-year-old Zoe Cabello talks about snowboarding

I first tried snowboarding when I was seven, on a family holiday. My older brother was already a really good snowboarder, and at that age, I always wanted to do everything he did. My dad paid for a lesson, but I didn't enjoy it at all, and decided never to do it again.

After that, I started doing gymnastics, and I got really good at it. Then, when I was nine, one of my friends had a snowboarding party at an indoor snow centre for her birthday. I wanted to say no because I was scared of hurting myself. However, she really wanted me to go, so I decided to be brave, and said yes.

And actually, this time, I thought snowboarding was amazing! Because of all the gymnastics, I was strong and fit and it wasn't difficult for me. In just a couple of hours I was able to stay on my feet from the top of the slope to the bottom.

When I was 11, we moved to Italy for nine months because of my father's job. We lived in the north of the country, near the mountains, and I was able to go snowboarding a lot. When we returned home, my friends couldn't believe how good I was.

These days all our family holidays are spent snowboarding. I love everything about it – the fresh air, the views, even the clothes. But more than anything, I love the fact that there's always something new to learn. That's what keeps it interesting for me.

14 Why did Zoe want to try snowboarding when she was seven?

A to find out if she liked it

B to be like her brother

C to make her dad happy

15 When Zoe was invited to her friend's birthday party she felt

A excited.

B surprised.

C worried.

16 What is Zoe explaining in the third paragraph?

A how gymnastics helped her learn to snowboard

B how important it is to have more than one hobby

C how long it takes for most people to learn to snowboard

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17 What does Zoe say about living in Italy?

A Her snowboarding improved a lot.

B She missed snowboarding with her friends.

C She met a lot of excellent snowboarders there.

18 What does Zoe say about snowboarding in the final paragraph?

A She would like to go without her family next time.

B She's sorry she can't go more often.

C She never gets bored of going.

Living on a small island

My name is Ben and I'm 17. I live on a small island near Ireland. It's 5 km long with only 200 people. When I was a child, life was great. On small islands, everybody knows everybody, so I always had someone to be with. I played in the fields and on the beach. I went swimming. I even learned to drive on my uncle's farm when I was 11.

I've always enjoyed going to school here. There are only three in my class so we each get lots of time with the teacher. She doesn't live on the island. Sometimes, if the weather is bad, she can't get here, but we still have lessons online. The internet is great for us. We can have friends all over the world and chat and play computer games with them.

I had some difficult times when I first became a teenager. I felt that there wasn't enough for me to do. I even thought about leaving the island because I wanted to have interesting experiences and meet new people. But I decided to stay and now I'm planning to live here when I grow up.

Unfortunately, there aren't many jobs for young people. When I was little, most men were fishermen, like Dad, or farmers, like my uncle. Now there are just a few fishermen. It can be difficult. I've been fishing with Dad sometimes, but I always feel sick on a boat, so I might prefer farming.

14 What does Ben say in the first paragraph about living on an island?

A He was never lonely.

B He never went anywhere by car.

C His favourite place was the beach.

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15 What do we learn about the school on Ben's island?

A The classes are usually online.

B The lessons are very long.

C There are not many students.

16 When Ben became a teenager, he started to

A get bored with island life.

B look for a different place to live.

C make new friends in other places.

17 Why does Ben think he might become a farmer?

A He thinks being a fisherman is dangerous.

B He didn't enjoy helping his father to fish.

C He has always preferred farming to fishing.

18 What is the writer doing in this article?

A explaining why an island is the best place for teenagers to live

B describing the good and the bad things about living on an island

C giving advice to people who might want to move to an island

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