COURSE: Cultural IV
TEACHER: Florencia

INSTITUTE OF LONGFELLOW ENGLISH

READING

1) Listen and read the following text about superstitions around the world.

SUPERSTITIONS – DO THEY INFLUENCE YOUR LIFE?

Do you wear the same shirt to the stadium during the football season? Do you carry or wear a lucky charm when you must take an exam? If you do, you are not the only one! A lot of people believe that certain habits can bring them good or bad luck.

There are a lot of superstitions around the world. People think that if they find a four-leaf clover, they will have some good luck but if they break a mirror, they will have seven years of bad luck. They don't walk under ladders because it brings bad luck. They throw rice over a newly-married couple because they think that it will help them make more money and live a happier life.

Superstitions vary from place to place. Black cats can be a symbol of good or bad luck depending on the place you are. 13 is an unlucky number in many western countries. In the United States, very few buildings have floor number 13. They use 14 instead. Friday the 13th is considered an unlucky day and people don't usually get married or start a business on that day. In China, however, the unlucky number is 4 because the word for this number sounds like the word "death". The Beijing Olympics began at 8:00 p.m. on 8th August (8th month of the year) in 2008. Can you guess why? I'm sure you guessed right. For the Chinese, 8 is a lucky number because it sounds like the expression "make money". The Chinese pay a lot of money for license plates and telephone numbers that use many 8s. And, as you probably imagine, nobody wants things that use number 4, but they can choose to buy them if they don't want to pay more!

Why are we superstitious? Psychologists believe that superstitious habits give us a sense of control over difficult situations. They make us feel more confident. When we have our lucky charm with us during an exam, we feel more confident and this improves our performance. So do our lucky charms bring us good luck? In a way they do, but not because of their supernatural powers. They simply help us do better.

2) Read the text again and decide whether the following events bring **GOOD** or **BAD LUCK**.

Good Luck:

Bad Luck:

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3) Read the text again and choose **TRUE** or **FALSE** for each of the statements below.

1) A lot of people believe in superstitions. .....
2) Superstitions are the same all over the world. .....
3) Everyone believes black cats bring bad luck. .....
4) Psychologists believe that lucky charms can help people to improve their performance. .....
5) Experts believe that lucky charms have supernatural powers. .....