**阅读理解—记叙文课后作业**

1

She was walking home from work one evening when she got the idea. Rosa didn’t like her job at the factory, but it was better than no job at all. So, while she was trying not to think about work, she saw the pots in an alley. They were cheap plastic pots, but there were dozens of them piled up behind the flower shop. Such a waste, she thought. When the pots were still there three days later, Rosa went in and asked if she could take some. The flower shop lady said she didn’t mind, so Rosa carried home a tower of pots, pretending she was a circus performer on the way.

At home, Rosa set them on the fire escape outside her tiny apartment. And there they sat. Once a gust of wind sent them slipping to the street three floors below, and she had to go to run after and catch them before the gathering storm.

Every day, Rosa went to work and thought about her pots. She was waiting for something, but she had patience.

At last, the newspaper brought good news. A hardware store had a sale on potting soil. Rosa carefully counted her money, then walked six blocks to the store. She bought six bags and carried them home. She bought seeds, too. Rosa slept well that night and dreamed of masses of flowers and fat, glowing fruits.

Sundays were always good days. Rosa didn’t have to work on Sundays. But Rosa couldn’t remember when she had had such a good Sunday. She got up early and ate her breakfast on the fire escape with her pots. Then, she began to put dirt into the pots. She sang a little song until all six of her bags of soil were empty. Then, she laid her precious seed packets out and planned her garden. Tomatoes for the biggest pots, and peppers for the next-biggest ones. Flowers in all the rest.

At the end of the day, Rosa sat in her garden and watched the sunset. Soon, she thought, there will be masses of flowers and fat, glowing fruits.

1. Why did Rosa wait 3 days before she asked about the pots?

  A. She didn’t like the pots at first.

  B. She had been waiting for a discount.

  C. She had no idea how to make use of them.

D. She needed to make sure they were unwanted.

2. What can we learn about Rosa?

A. She was a workaholic. B. She liked taking walks.

  C. She was poor. D. She liked the sunset.

3. How did Rosa feel when planting her garden?

A. Hopeful. B. Proud. C. Anxious. D. Lonely.

2

Two graduates from Cambridge University in the United Kingdom found themselves about to graduate, yet with loans to pay off. The pair decided to begin a strange, year-long project to battle their debt.

The men, Ross Harper and Edward Moyse, set up the website *BuyMyFace.com* last October as a way to get rid of the £50,000 they shared as student loans. The idea behind the project was to earn money by selling their faces as advertising space every day for a year. Each day, they advertise a different business by painting the brand’s name or logo onto their faces and upload the pictures to the homepage of *BuyMyFace.com*, adding a link to the advertiser’s website and including a short piece of text about it. After they paint their faces and publish them on the website, Harper and Moyse go out to highly populated areas such as music festivals and theme parks to maximize their faces’ exposure. They hope more people will pay attention to the advertisements on their faces.

At this time, Harper and Moyse have advertised their faces for over four months without skipping a day and they’re more than halfway to their goal. Though they first started charging a minimum of about £1.60 per company, the prices have risen as their popularity increases. For advertising space during the rest of April, they range between £250 and £750.

Terri L. Rittenburg, associate professor of marketing at the University of Wyoming, said that she had heard of people tattooing (纹身) logos on themselves before, but this idea is much better. According to her, at first the idea would be new and unusual and attract attention. People are interested in this particular style of advertisement and would like to try what they advertise. But she is unsure how long it would last.

At least for now, companies that have bought Harper and Moyse’s faces have written positive comments on the pair’s website. “We had a three percent increase in website traffic on the very day and for two days more afterwards,” said one of the companies.

 1. At *BuyMyFace.com*, you can \_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. enjoy a good chat with your friends       B. buy everything you want to have

C. share experiences in doing business       D. get information on certain goods

2. Harper and Moyse go to highly populated areas to \_\_\_\_\_\_ .

A. offer their help         B. make more friends

C. show their faces         D. raise more money

3. We can infer from the passage that the two young men \_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. get on well with their project        B. work hard except on holidays

C. plan to open their own company        D. may close their website in future

4. Why does the men’s idea of advertising prove to work?

A. Because an expert has highly praised them.

B. Because people find it unique and appealing.

C. Because the products they advertise are reliable.

D. Because they receive great help from businesses.

3

“I wish we hadn’t come on this trip!” Jeff’s voice echoed across the narrow canyon. His father stopped, breathing heavily. “This is hard on you, but you’ve got to come through with courage!” He gently placed his hand on the boy’s shoulder. “Now, I don’t know if I can make it without stopping every so often. You’re young, but you’re strong and fast. Do you remember the way back from here to the road, if you had to go alone?”

Jeff flashed back to the painful scene of Mark, his seventeen-year-old brother at their campsite. He was bitten by a snake yesterday. This morning he couldn’t move, and the pain got worse. He needed medical attention right away. They had left their phone in the car, and it must have been out of power by then. Leaving Mark at the campsite and seeking help was their only choice.

“Jeff, could you do it?”

Jeff looked to the end of the canyon, several miles away. He nodded and a plan began to take hold in his mind. “What is the name of that little town we stopped, Dad?” There must be a hospital there.

“Flint. We parked at the side of the road a few miles out of Flint.”

Jeff nodded. Then they continued climbing. Stone by stone, they made their way up the canyon. Gradually, Jeff’s father grew smaller and smaller in the distance. Jeff waved to him and then climbed toward the road. Two hours later, he finally reached the road and struggled toward the town, almost exhausted.

“Can’t stop,” he thought. “Mark’s in big trouble. Keep going.” Suddenly, he saw a truck heading toward him. “Hey, mister!” he shouted, waving both arms. He began to jog toward the truck, and then broke into a full-speed run.

His chest was burning with every breath when the truck driver stopped by him. Jeff explained breathlessly. The driver reached for his cellphone as soon as he heard about Mark. “Better get the helicopter in there,” he said immediately. But Jeff wasn’t sure about that because everything got unclear and then went black and quiet.

Hours later, Jeff opened his eyes to find his father on a chair nearby. “You’re a hero, son,” his father said with a smile. “You had the helicopter sent into the canyon after Mark. I can’t tell you how happy I was when I saw it overhead. They got him to the hospital. He’s going to be fine soon. I’m so proud of you!”

1. Why did Jeff and his father climb up the canyon?

A. They were going for rescue. B. They were doing physical exercise.

C. They were meeting Jeff’s brother. D. They were searching for their campsite.

2. What happened to Mark?

A. He lost his way. B. He lost his phone.

C. He was hit by a truck. D. He was bitten by a snake.

3. Why did Jeff’s father let him go alone?

A. Jeff was faster than him. B. Jeff knew the way better.

C. Jeff needed more exercise. D. Jeff preferred going by himself.

4. What can be the best words to describe Jeff?

A. Humorous and ambitious. B. Determined and caring.

C. Cautious and sensitive. D. Generous and kind

4

Traveling on an airplane can be a very tiring task even in the best of circumstances, which is why when Sophie Murphy boarded a recent flight from Sydney to Melbourne and noticed an “awful tension” in the cabin, she first thought **it was caused by** typical bad-tempered passengers. But as the flight neared its end, it became obvious that something was very wrong.

A teenage boy with Down syndrome who was traveling with his family had become upset and would not return to his seat, **regardless of** the cabin crew’s warnings over the loudspeaker that it was almost time to land. The pilot was forced to circle above the airport, delaying the landing—and angering people on the already tense flight.

“If it was a cartoon,” remembered Murphy, “there would have been smoke coming out of people’s ears.”

As the boy’s elderly parents and adult brothers and sisters tried **to persuade him to get** off the floor and back into his seat, but in vain, Murphy, 42—who had been a teacher for more than 20 years—stood up and quickly headed to the back of the plane.

She found the boy in the passage between rows of seats, lying on his belly, and lay down on her stomach to face him. She began chatting calmly with him, asking his name, his favorite book, and his favorite characters. He told her he felt sick and she tried to comfort him.

Minutes later, he allowed her to hold his hand—and then together they got properly back into airplane seats. Murphy asked for sick bags, and held them as the boy threw up several times, including on her. As she helped him clean up, she repeatedly told him everything would be okay and that they’d get through it together.

After the plane was finally able to land, no one was impatient to step off the flight as one might expect. Instead, calmed passengers—obviously following Murphy’s amazing example—allowed the boy and his family to depart first, smiling at them as they passed. His parents tearfully thanked Murphy for what she had done, and a doctor sitting nearby also let her know he had even taken notes on her expert way of handling the situation.

**1. The landing was delayed because \_\_\_\_\_.**

A. a family ignored the warnings

B. **a boy refused to sit in his seat**

**C. smoke was coming out of the engine**

D. the pilot was forced to change the **destination**

2. Murphy successfully handled the “awful tension” by \_\_\_\_\_.

A. fighting against unfair treatment B. calling on other passengers to join her

**C. communicating with** the boy D. asking **an experienced doctor to help**

**3. What changed the angry passengers’ attitude at last?**

 **A. The boy’s improvement. B. The** plane’s safe **landing.**

 **C. The crew’s** behavior. **D. The teacher’s** efforts.

4. Which of the following words can best describe Murphy?

A. Generous and cautious. B. Patient and enthusiastic.

C. Wise and cooperative. D. Kind and **cool-headed.**

5

Sweat rolled off my forehead as my younger brother and I sat under the tree.

“Hi, Jason,” said my brother, Chad. “Do you hear the train?” I listened, but I heard only thunder in the distance. It was still miles away, but I heard it. It grew stronger and louder as it gained speed and got closer. How could that be? I wondered.

We were about to grab our bikes to see what it actually was when we stopped. What looked like a flock of birds darkened the sky overhead. When I looked at it closer, I realized it wasn’t birds. It was a tornado. The hairs on the back of my neck stood up as the air turned green and heavy. The sun disappeared. The wind strengthened and roared. I grabbed Chad’s arm and pulled him toward the house.

 I tried to open the door, but it was as if an invisible force pushed against me. The door refused to open. When we finally managed to get inside, we found it was as dark as night. Our family had practiced a tornado safety plan many times. But I had never imagined that it would be just Chad and me at home the first time we needed to use it.

“Inside the closet!” I yelled. It was small and crowded, but we got in it anyway. Chad began to cry. “It’s going to be all right.” I told him. But I was worried about Mom. I hope she’d found a safe place to wait out the storm.

The storm continued to rage. I heard a thud on the roof. The whole house creaked and groaned. Then it was quiet. I opened the door and we inched our way out of the closet. Rain had got in through the open window and wet the carpets. A kitchen window had shattered, its screen blown away. I looked at the backyard. The tree was uprooted, and broken branches lay on the ground.

“Jason, I can’t get service,” Chad said as he held the phone in his hand. We had no electricity, either. I glanced at the wall clock. Had it been only 20 minutes since we’d first heard the thunder?

Then I heard footsteps toward the house. Mom had made it home safely. “Boys!” she yelled. “Are you all right?”

We ran out and hugged her. The sun came out, and this time it shone bright and clear.

1. When the tornado **struck**, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

 A. the boys felt terrified and asked for help

 B. a flock of birds darkened the sky overhead

 C. the boys protected themselves in a safe place

 D. the sound of the train grew stronger and louder

2. What can we learn from the passage?

 A. Mom had trouble in finding the boys.

 B. Jason knew how to deal with a tornado.

 C. The tornado lasted for **over** half an hour.

 D. Their house was flooded by the heavy rain.

3. Which of the following words can best describe Jason?

 A. Calm and thoughtful. B. Cautious and curious.

 C. Dependent and sensitive. D. Creative and active.

6

It probably won’t surprise you that teens are texting more than ever before. Experts show great concern for teen texting. Students might not learn correct grammar and spelling if they write a lot of text messages. Also all that texting takes away from hours that could be spent studying, exercising, pursuing hobbies, or talking with others face to face. Some kids even sleep with their phones beneath their pillows and wake up several times during the night to text.

Dr. Elizabeth Dowdell points out teens need to learn that they can—and should—turn off their phones sometimes. She and her team had two teenagers, Kenny and Franchesca, carry out an experiment. They should obey the rules: No phone for 48 hours. No computer or Internet either, unless it was for schoolwork. Would these two teenagers be able to do it?

“I think I’m going to feel really alone,” Kenny worried. Franchesca was nervous but brave. “I’m excited for the challenge,” she said. “I don’t know what’s going to happen.” They handed their phones to their mothers for safekeeping. The challenge was on.

The team caught up with Kenny and Franchesca after 48 phone-free hours. “Wow, it was pure suffering,” Kenny joked. “Though life with no phone wasn’t easy,” he admitted, “it had benefits. I felt less stressed because I didn’t have to be involved.” Sure, Kenny missed his friends, and he was sad at times. But he also felt relief from the constant texting. Instead of texting, Kenny went to the gym and caught up on schoolwork. He said that the first night he slept for 10 hours. He also spent time sitting with his family and talking. “I felt closer to my parents,” said Kenny.

Franchesca had an even happier result when she put away her phone. “I loved it!” she said. “I was going to the gym and hanging out with friends and playing basketball. I had a wonderful experience.” She slept better too, and she decided to continue the experiment for a while. “I think I’ll be so much smarter and healthier,” she explained. “Everybody in the world should try it.”

Kenny doesn’t plan to give up his phone again. But he now knows that he can live without it. “It was a reality check,” said the teen.

1. Experts are concerned about teens’ texting because it \_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. leads to learning disabilities

B. takes up their learning time

C. develops the habit of staying up late

D. causes misunderstandings with each other

2. What can be inferred from the passage?

A. Teens will live a healthier life without phones.

B. Expecting teens to live without phones is not realistic.

C. Experimenting with phone use is popular among teens.

D. Teens don’t realize how different their lives are without phones.

3. How were the two teens’ reactions to the 48-hour challenge different?

A. Only Kenny participated in physical activities.

B. Only Kenny spent time talking with his parents.

C. Only Franchesca benefited from a really good sleep.

D. Only Franchesca appreciated the freedom of having no phone.

4. Which is the best title for the passage?

A. Giving up Texting B. Rules for Using Phones

C. Two Days with No Phone D. Problems Caused by Texting