

FRENCH THEME PARK USES CROWS TO PICK UP LITTER



A theme park in France has established a novel and environmentally friendly way of keeping its grounds free of litter. It has selected and trained six "intelligent" rooks to pick up rubbish and keep the park clean. Rooks are members of the crow family and are up to 47cm in length. The clever birds will be put to work at the Puy du Fou theme park in the west of France. They have been trained to pick up cigarette ends, paper and other things people throw on the ground. The birds pick up the litter and deposit it into a special trash can, which then delivers some bird feed as a reward. The more litter the birds put in the trash can, the more food they get.

The head of the theme park, Nicolas de Villiers, explained the rationale of using the crows to the AFP news agency. He said there were several reasons for deploying the crows. He said: "The goal is not just to clean up, because the visitors are generally careful to keep things clean, but also to demonstrate that nature itself can teach us to take care of the environment." Crows are highly sociable and intelligent birds. Some biologists say they are as smart as a seven-year-old child. Mr De Villiers said: "In an affectionate, supportive atmosphere, they like to communicate with humans and establish a relationship through play." The crows are speedy workers and can fill a bucket with rubbish in less than 45 minutes.

Read the headlines. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. There is a new novel about crows cleaning a theme park in France. T / F
- b. A theme park trained six crows to pick up litter in its grounds. T / F
- c. The birds have been trained to pick up cigarette ends. T / F
- d. The crows get food in return for collecting litter. T / F
- e. The theme park boss gave seven reasons for using the crows. T / F
- f. Some biologists say crows are as intelligent as 10-year-old children. T / F
- g. The theme park boss said crows like communicating with humans. T / F
- h. The crows filled 45 buckets with rubbish in less than an hour. T / F

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS :

1. What is the theme park keeping free of litter?
2. How many crows will be working on the theme park?
3. How long can rooks grow to be?
4. Where do the crows put the litter?
5. What do the crows get as a reward for collecting litter?
6. How many reasons did the theme park boss give for using the crows?
7. What can nature teach us to take care of?
8. Who did some biologists say crows were as intelligent as?
9. Who did the theme park boss say crows liked to communicate with?
10. How long did it take the crows to fill up a bucket?

Punctuate the following passage so that it makes sense.

The head of the theme park nicolas de villiers explained the rationale of using the crows to the afp news agency he said there were several reasons for deploying the crows he said the clean up because the careful to keep things demonstrate that us to take care of the highly sociable and biologists say they are year old child mr de affectionate supportive to communicate with humans and establish a relationship through play the crows are speedy workers and can fill a bucket with rubbish in less than 45 minutes



Correct the following sentences. One example has been done for you.

Taking a deep breath and she dived into the water.
Taking a deep breath, she dived into the water.

1. After considered the new evidence, the judge dismissing the case.
2. They removed the fragments, carefully having photographing each one first.
3. Driving to work, a tree fell across the road in front of him.
4. Accepted the recommendations of the committee, the principal has now resigned.
5. Foster on checking the figures again, he realized there had been a mistake.

(1) library nearest my flat was only (2) kilometers away. It was (3) large building, but it was hidden behind (4) huge, cream coloured block of flats. (5) man at (6) door asked which department I wanted, and I told him I was looking for (7) Reference Section.

"That's (8) section at the top of the stairs," he said helpfully, pointing the way as well.

I had been reading about (9) history of Singapore (10) day before and had got (11) clear idea of what I needed for (12) project which our teacher had set us. (13) book I wanted was written by (14) Mr Jefferson who had been (15) lecturer at (16) university in England some years ago. I had seen some exhibits in (17) museum of (18) lifestyle of (19) Straits-born Chinese, and I wanted to read (20) chapter in (21) book which explained how (22) culture of (23) Malays had become mixed with the Chinese culture.

(24) librarian – there were several in (25) room – helped me to find (26) place to sit and (27) shelf where the book I wanted was to be found. (28) atmosphere in the room was quiet, and I settled down for (29) good two hours' study.

Before long, however, (30) man entered, asking for (31) Mr Anik. In (32) low voice I told him my name was Anik.

"Good evening," he said. "I'm (33) police detective. Let me have a look at (34) book you are reading, will you?"

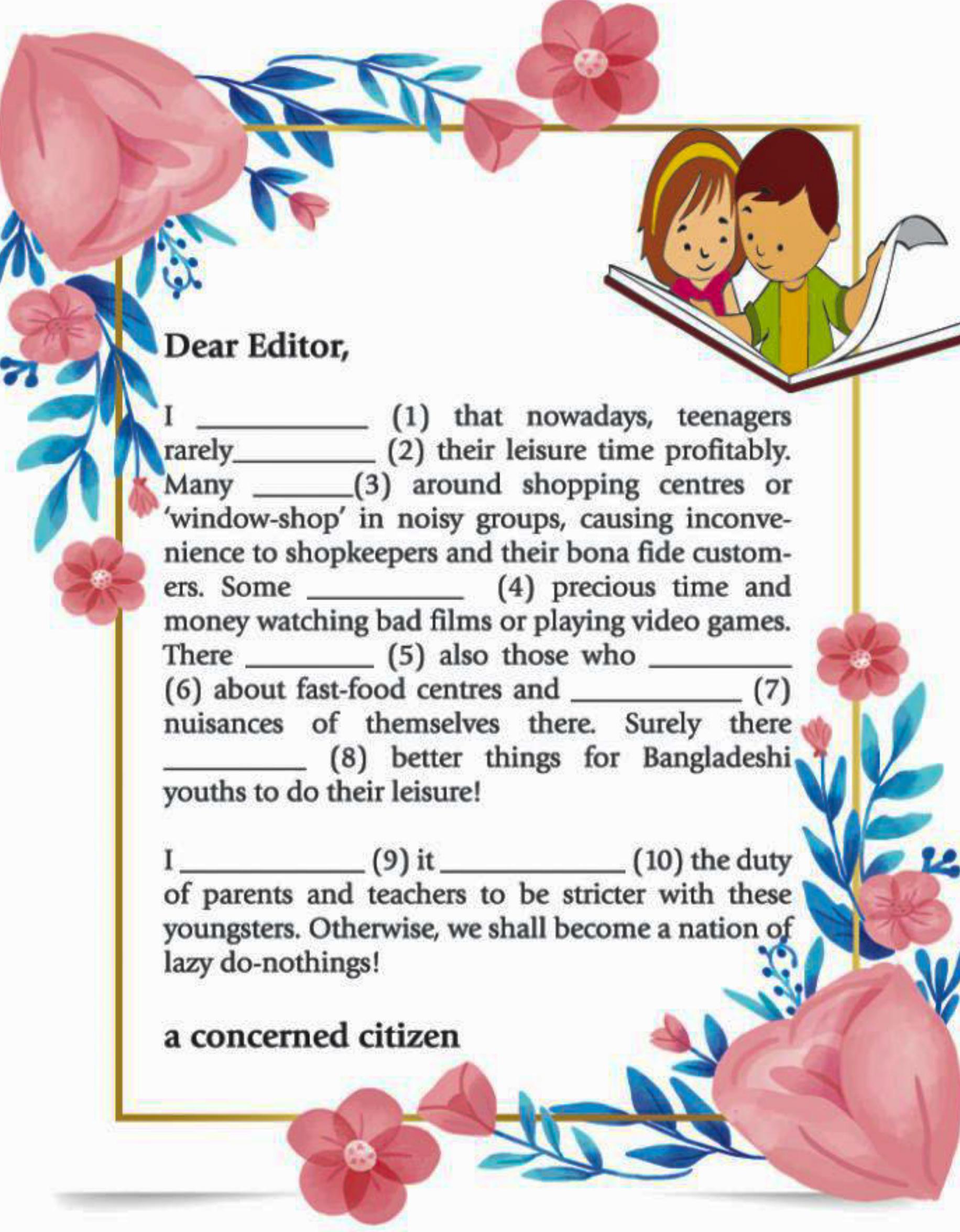
He looked at (35) book cover and then turned to (36) page in (37) middle. "Did you write (38) words in pencil here?" he asked.

"No. This is (39) first time I am reading (40) book in (41) Reference Section."

" (42) anonymous writer has written in it then. But (43) name is yours and (44) mystery is that it is written beside (45) drawing of a house that was burgled last week."

I was so shocked that I was under suspicion of burglary, I did not know what to say to him.

READ THE LETTER TO THE EDITOR AND FILL IN THE BLANKS WITH SUITABLE VERBS:



Dear Editor,

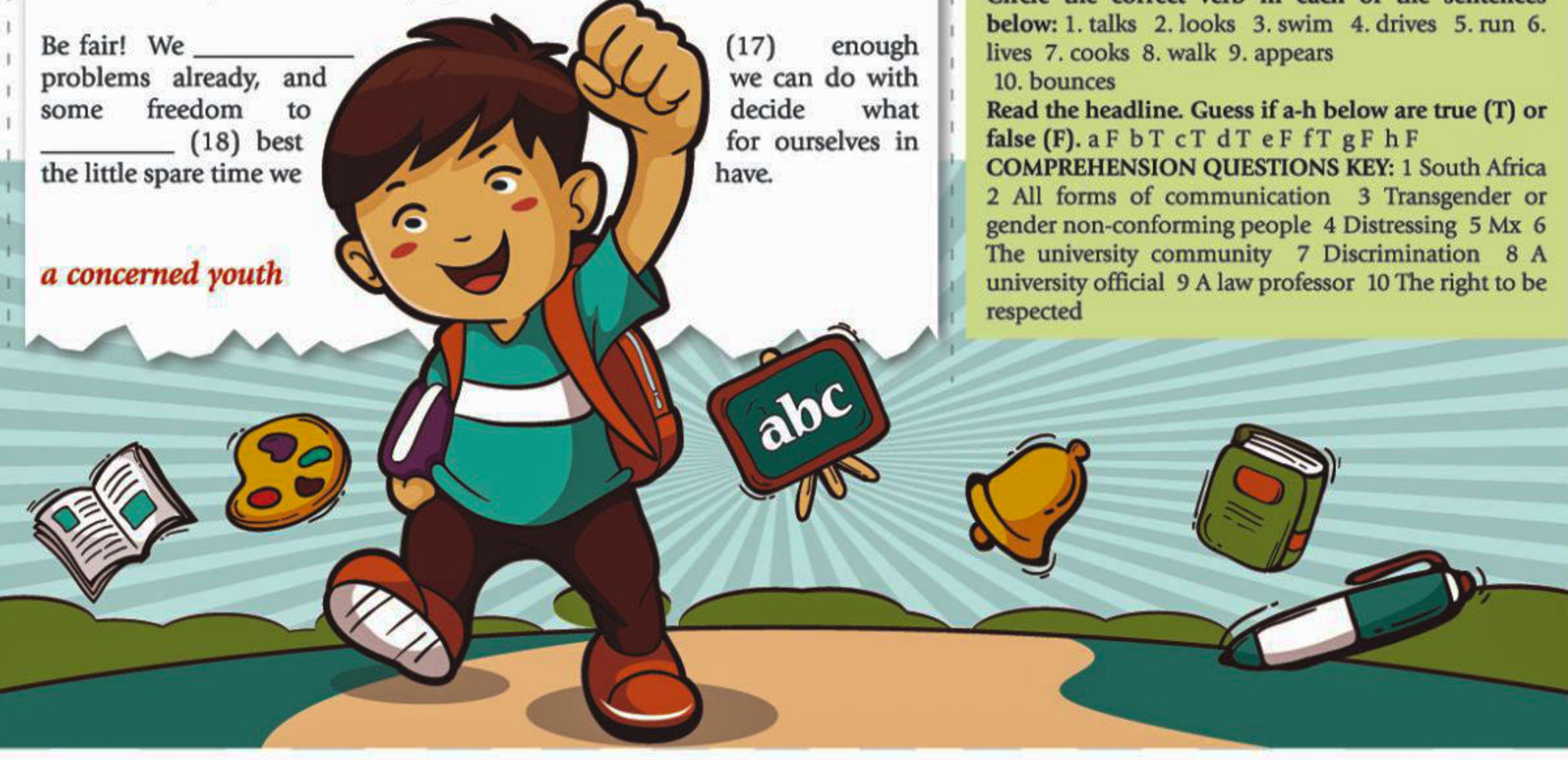
What is wrong with hanging about in shopping centres and fast-food outlets? Many adults (11) that too!

If you were living in a small flat as I (12), you would understand that this (13) the only way to have some peace of mind. I (14) adults would stop trying to control us so much.

As it is, we (15) to obey rules and regulations at home and in school. Now, you (16) to control our leisure too!

Be fair! We (17) enough we can do with decide what for ourselves in have.

a concerned youth



Fill in the gaps using the right form of the verbs:

There (1. be) a serious danger today that many wild animal species (2. die) out in the near future. Mankind (3. cut down) trees at such a rate that the forest habitats (4. disappear) very quickly.

Twenty years ago, tigers, elephants and deer (5. roam) freely throughout Malaysia, and hippos, lions and rhinos (6. frequently see) on the African Plains, just as they (7. be) for thousands of years. But now, with the pressure from ever expanding human populations, the animals (8. push) out of their traditional territories into small pockets of jungle.

If man (9. only stop) to think, he (10. see) where this (11. lead) him. In ten years time, or twenty at the most, he (12. make) it impossible for these animals to live anywhere but in zoos – public or private. Many people (13. say) that man's needs (14. be) more important than those of animals, but surely we (15. need) the wildlife of the world to help us to feel a part of nature.

If we (16. lose) this, we (17. lose) a part of ourselves which can never be recaptured. The forest cutting must be stopped while the animals (18. still have) a chance to survive. Otherwise, our future generations (19. deprive) of something very precious that we (20. carelessly throw) away.

Do you care enough to do something about it?

Find the answers in next MONDAY issue

ANSWER KEY TO THE LAST EIS PAGE ACTIVITIES (DATED AUGUST 27, 2018)

Circle the correct verb in each of the sentences below: 1. talks 2. looks 3. swim 4. drives 5. run 6. lives 7. cooks 8. walk 9. appears 10. bounces

Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F). a F b T c T d T e F f T g F h F

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS KEY: 1 South Africa

2 All forms of communication 3 Transgender or

gender non-conforming people 4 Distressing 5 Mx 6

The university community 7 Discrimination 8 A

university official 9 A law professor 10 The right to be

respected