LISTENING COMPPREHENSION TEXT

THE 9TH FORM

Toys have formed part of human culture since the earliest times. Every society has provided its children with imitation of human beings or animals and dolls are probably the oldest form of toy. No dolls have been found in prehistoric graves, but this may be because they were made of materials like wood or cloth that have perished. Nevertheless, a doll with movable arms has been found in a Babylonian grave, and there were certainly dolls in Egypt over six thousand years ago. Other ancient toys include balls and sticks, and it is clear that most games requiring physical action were originally introduced to train boys in warfare. Sometimes the result went beyond the inventors’ intension. Football was banned in England in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I because it became too violent. But boys continued to play with toy soldiers and weapons. We have examples dating from the Middle Ages. Moving toys also have a long history. The Chinese developed explosive toy weapons from the use of fireworks, and many early toys employ wheels .Children need toys because many adult skills are developed from playing with them. Above all, children’s imagination is stimulated from playing with objects. But it is not clear that giving children particular toys changes the nature of their games, or that the most expensive toys will be the ones they like most. Many parents are upset to find that two or three days after Christmas or a child’s birthday, the expensive presents they bought have been broken or are lying in a corner of the room, and the child is once again happily building an imaginary castle with a few pieces of wood or playing with an old teddy bear the parents think is ugly and should be thrown away.

grave- могила

warfare –война, боевые действия

to ban - запрещать

LISTENING COMREHENSION TEXT.

THE 8TH FORM

*A DIFFICULT DECISION.*

Once, a long time ago I had to take a very difficult decision. It was during the war, the Second World War, of course. I was very young and I was working in London. One evening I was waiting for a bus. A young soldier was standing next to me in the queue. He started a conversation. I didn’t want to talk at first but when we got on the bus he sat down next to me. That was how it all began. He had only ten days before he had to go back to the army. We spent them together. Things like that often happened during the war. War — time of romances… A few days before he went back he asked me to marry him. He wanted to do it the next day. It was a difficult decision, very difficult indeed. I think I loved him. And I think he loved me, too. But I said “No”. I just wasn’t sure. We had a terrible argument. I felt very bad about it afterwards. I felt it was all my fault. I remember the last time I saw him. We stood on the platform without saying a word. He got on the train and it pulled slowly. He was waving sadly and he looked very unhappy. I’ll never forget it. That was the last time I saw him. He went to Italy a few days afterwards. That’s where he was killed in November 1944. He was only twenty –two. It’s a pity he was so young. And it’s a pity we didn’t have more time together. I’m sorry we had that terrible argument before he left. It ruined our last few days. Perhaps, I shouldn’t have said “No”. I mean, perhaps I should have married him. I often think about it even now, all these years later. What should I have done? I often ask myself that question. But I still can’t find the answer.

LISTENING COMPPREHENSION TEXT

THE 6TH FORM

Once there lived a poor woodcutter. He worked very hard with his axe to earn his living. One day the woodcutter was very tired. So he came to the river to have some rest and to drink some water. But when he bent over the water his old axe fell into the river. The woodcutter was very unhappy and he began to сry. At that moment a stranger came up to him and asked: “Why are you crying?” The wood cutter told him that he had lost his axe, and his family would soon die of hunger. The stranger was a magician. He jumped into the river and brought a golden axe. “Is it yours?” he asked. “No, this is not mine,” answered the woodcutter. The magician then gave him his axe, the golden axe, and a whole bag of gold. When the woodcutter came home he told everything to his rich neighbour who was a very greedy man. The next day his neighbour ran to the river and threw his axe into the water and started to cry. When the magician came and gave him the golden axe, the greedy man said that it was his own. The magician got very angry. He took away the golden from the greedy neighbour and didn’t give his own axe back. When the liar came home he saw that his house had burnt. That’s how the magician punished the liar.

LISTENING COMPPREHENSION TEXT

THE 7TH FORM

About a hundred years ago there was a hotel owner in Wales. At that time his business was very bad. Hardly anyone came to stay at his hotel. Then, one day, he had an idea. He knew that people living in the country liked stories about brave animals very much. So, the hotel owner decided to make up a story about a brave and faithful dog who had been killed by its ungrateful master. He understood that people would only believe the story if there was something they could see .Then the hotel owner made up a kind of a plan. He went to the top of a high hill and built a sort of monument from the stones lying about. After that the hotel owner told everybody a story about his brave dog that faithfully defended his baby son against a pack of wolves and saved the baby’s life. He also told everybody that one of his servants killed the dog by mistake and he decided to put up a monument in its honour. The legend soon spread throughout the country and a great many people came to look at the monument, Of course, they all stayed at his hotel as there was no other hotel nearby. So the business became very good for the hotel owner. Since then all people in the country have been telling the story to their friends and relatives. Only the hotel owner and his family know that the whole story is a pack of lies.

LISTENING COMPPREHENSION TEXT

THE 5TH FORM

decide - решить

Let's All Do It

One day we all sat down to decide who was going to do the housework. There were six of us: Mum, Dad, Granny, Timmy-the-Cat, Boom-the-Dog and me. But we were all busy. So who could do the housework? "Well, I can't", said Dad. "I have much work in my office". "I can't," said Mum. "I'm busy all day at the hospital". "I make your dinner, don't I?' Granny said. "I can't do all". "I must do my homework", I cried. "I can't do it". "I go shopping with Granny and carry her bag", said Boom. And Timmy said, "I catch mice. I'm busy".

But then we decided: let's all do it. We began to do the first that came into our heads. Nothing was done well. Mum and Dad were late for work and I was late for school.

In the evening we had another talk. "Everybody must have his own work and do it", said Granny.

So now Dad and I do the washing up, Mum cleans the rooms, Timmy and Boom do their own work. Nobody is late for work.

In the evening we have time to watch TV. When our friends come to see us, they say: "You keep your home well. We don't know how you do it".

But we know!