

UNIT 8 LITERATURE(二)

I .阅读理解

A

Aasritha Duriseti recently noticed her grandmother's difficulty opening a bottle cap. Fortunately, she found a solution in her eighth-grade engineering class at Carson Middle School in Herndon, Virginia, whose assignment was to adapt existing products to make daily life easier for people with challenges.

Aasritha's creativity kicked in as she researched existing bottle-opening devices. She used a piece of wood shaped like a cellphone and put three holes on it, each in different size and lined with a layer of dried, sticky hot glue, which provided firm grips(防滑力) for common bottle caps. With a simple twisting(拧) motion, her grandmother could open bottles without assistance.

“Students in the class used more than their math, physics and tool skills. They also learned to look at problems from another’s point of view,” said Teacher Mark Bolt. “Engineers need to put themselves in their product users’ shoes to build effective solutions.”

Other students in the class also showed sensitivity as they watched friends and family struggle with daily tasks.

Michael Kuwashima noticed how dyslexia—a reading disorder that the brain tends to confuse the order of numbers, letters and other images—made it difficult for a friend to follow along on pages full of text. Therefore, Michael created a small adjustable window-blind-style device. “My friend could isolate (分离) small sections of text while reading,” he said.

Arjan Garg focused on a different problem. Sometimes putting on clothes can be hard for people with a limited range of motion. Arjan created a “dressing stick” using four wood sticks of different sizes to fit different clothing.

The students tried different versions of their products along the way to make the best one to show the class.

Rather than requiring step-by-step directions for creating their projects, Bolt preferred to leave students' creative paths open. "If we want to do better, we have to have a chance to fail," he said.

【语篇解读】 本文是一篇说明文。文章主要介绍了在Carson Middle School八年级的机械工程课上,学生们不仅学会了通过对现有设备进行改造使周围人的生活更加便利,而且还学会了站在他人的角度思考问题,关心他人的需求。

1. Why did Aasritha create a new bottle-opening device?

A. She hoped to get a higher score.

B. She was interested in engineering.

C. She had difficulty opening bottle caps.

D. She wanted to help her grandmother.

推理判断题。由第一段内容可知,Aasritha要发明一种新的开瓶装置是因为她想帮助她的祖母。故选D项。

2. What did students learn from the class?

A. Working with others.

B. Conducting field experiments.

C. Understanding others' feelings.

D. Communicating with product users.

细节理解题。由文章第三段中的“**They also learned to look at problems from another's point of view**”可知,该课程教会学生们理解他人的感受,故选C项。

3.How did students finish their assignment?

A.With the aid of a guidebook.

B.Through trial and error.

C.With the help of classmates.

D.Under the detailed instruction.

推理判断题。由文章最后一段中的“Rather than requiring step-by-step directions for creating their projects,Bolt preferred to leave students’ creative paths open.”可知,学生是通过自主探索、试验来完成创造的,故选B项。

4. What is the text mainly about?

- A. An inspiring class.
- B. An excellent teacher.
- C. Some scientific methods.
- D. Some talented students.

主旨大意题。根据全文内容,尤其是第一段内容和第三段中的“Students in the class used more than their math, physics and tool skills. They also learned to look at problems from another’s point of view”可知,文章主要讲述Carson Middle School八年级的机械工程课帮助学生们创造了一些设备,同时教会学生从他人角度思考问题,因此文章主要讲述了一堂有启发性的课。故选A项。

B

You drink diet soda enjoying the sweet taste without the guilt of calories. But scientists have long suspected a link between artificial sweeteners(甜味剂) and obesity in humans. A new study suggests that artificial sweeteners may not be as harmless as once thought. They may not only disturb the microbes(微生物) living in the bodies of humans, but some may even increase the risk of weight gain.

Every human hosts a unique group of microbes. The number of cells that make up this vast community, called microbiome(微生物群), is extremely large in the human body. It not only helps digestion but also protects against diseases. The disturbance to the microbiome occurs because artificial sweeteners, although zero calories for humans, serve as nutrients for some microbes, which then increase rapidly. This causes an imbalance in microbial populations that can lead to diseases.

In the study, scientists first chose 1,375 volunteers to see if they consumed artificial sweeteners in their daily lives. Then, they identified 120 volunteers who were not previously exposed to artificial sweeteners and gave them one of the four commonly used sweeteners—saccharin, sucralose, aspartame, and stevia for two weeks. After that, to test how artificial sweeteners affect the body's ability to control the sudden increase of blood sugar after consuming sugar as part of meals, volunteers were monitored for blood glucose(血糖) levels after a test glucose drink.

The study showed that sucralose and saccharin pushed the body towards glucose intolerance, which, if sustained, can cause weight gain. However, aspartame and stevia did not affect glucose tolerance at the tested levels. “The study is the first to show that the human microbiome responds to artificial sweeteners. It’s also a convincing study to show how these sweeteners really are affecting the human body,” says Michael Goran, a professor at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles.

“This study provides evidence of both short-term harmful effects and long-term negative effects caused by artificial sweeteners,” David Katz, a nutrition specialist, says. “That does not mean artificial sweeteners should be replaced with sugar. Rather, alternative approaches to reducing sugar intake should be considered.”

【语篇解读】 本文是一篇说明文。文章介绍了人工甜味剂并非像人们曾经以为的那样无害。

5.What does the new study reveal?

A.Diet soda contains more calories than sugary drinks.

B.Exercise can help people reduce the risk of diseases.

C.Artificial sweeteners have negative effects on humans.

D.Obesity is the most common health problem among adults.

细节理解题。根据第一段中的“A new study suggests that artificial sweeteners may not be as harmless as once thought.”可知,之前人们认为喝无糖饮料无害健康,而这项新的研究表明,其中的人造甜味剂是有害健康的。故选C项。

6.How do sweeteners disturb the microbiome?

A.It probably destroys the function of digestion.

B.It usually causes a rapid loss of healthy cells.

C.It sometimes feeds harmful bacteria in the body.

✓D.It often leads to a sharp growth of certain microbes.

细节理解题。由第二段中的“The disturbance to the microbiome occurs because artificial sweeteners,although zero calories for humans,serve as nutrients for some microbes,which then increase rapidly.”可知,甜味剂为某种微生物提供营养,使它数量猛增,影响菌群平衡。故选D项。

7. Which aspect of the experiment is talked about in paragraph 3?

A. Its results.

B. Its process.

C. Its background.

D. Its subjects.

细节理解题。由第三段中的“**In the study, scientists first chose... Then, they identified... and gave them... After that, to test...**”可知,本段主要说了实验的过程。故选B项。

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