

25. Mysteries in our Lives

We all know life is full of strange occurrences we don't understand. We are often puzzled about people's different actions and about weird occurrences. Some of these mysteries disappear as we become older, but others become even stranger. These are some of life's greatest conundrums.

Mystery 1

One of the greatest mysteries is why a lawnmower that has been allowed to rest all winter refuses to work in the spring.

1. Can you explain why?
2. Do you think this rule can be applied to people? How?
3. What lessons can we learn from this?

Mystery 2

A woman walked into a shoe store and tried on a dozen pairs of shoes without finding a proper fit. Finally, the bored assistant told her, Madam, we can't find any pair of shoes that fits you because one of your foot is larger than the other. The woman walked out of the store without buying anything.

In the next store, the fitting proved equally difficult. At last, the smiling assistant explained, "Madam, do you know that one of your foot is smaller than the other?"

The woman left the store happily with two new pairs of shoes under her arm.

1. Why didn't she buy anything in the first store?
2. Why did she buy the pair of shoes in the second store?
3. Why did she buy two pairs of shoes instead of one?
4. Do you think the woman's behavior is stereotypical? Is this the way "all" women act? Or is it merely a "human" trait she displays?



Mystery 3

The next time you're in a meeting, look around and identify' the yes-buffers, the not-powers and the why-potters. Whynotters move the world.

1. Who are yes-buffers?
2. Who are not-powers?
3. Who are why-potters?
4. Do you think why-potters are always right?
5. What are the strong points of the not-powers?
6. What are the weak points of the yes-buffers?

Mystery 4

Today everyone is interested in physical fitness due to current fashion. All that stretching, reaching, pulling, bending, sucking in-and that's just to get into the jeans!

1. Is physical fitness socially important?
2. Do you personally care about your physical condition?
3. What attitude supports the fashion industry?

Mystery 5

Happiness is like a cat: if you try to coax it, it will avoid you, but if you pay no attention to it, it will rub against your legs and spring unbidden" into your lap.

Do you agree?

Does love behave the same way as happiness?

How about money?





What about a woman-is she catlike, too? A man?

Mystery 6

Would you want any of the following? Why or why not?

1. Coffee without caffeine.
2. Beer without alcohol.
3. An alarm clock that rings just once.
4. A watch that never runs slow or fast.
5. A wife who never nags.
6. A pill that could prolong your life to 200 years.
7. A marriage without conflict.
8. A friend who never needs your help or advice.
9. A fortune inherited by your parents.
10. The money won by a lottery ticket.

Mystery 7

If you can look back on your life with contentment, you have one of man's most precious gifts-a selective memory.

1. What does "selective memory" mean?
2. What does the writer think about our lives?
3. What is the most frustrating aspect of your own past?

Mystery 8

Usually a husband regards himself as the head of the household, and the pedestrian thinks he has the right of way. And these are usually harmless beliefs, in the abstract. Disillusion sets in only when we try to prove them.

1. What does this mean?
2. Who is the boss in your family?



3. Could you accept your wife being the boss in your family?

Mystery 9

At age 20, we worry about what others think of us. At 40, we don't care what they think. At 60, we find that they haven't paid any mind to us at all.

1. Why are the young so concerned about the opinions of other people?
2. Why are the middle-aged unconcerned?
3. What have the elderly discovered about themselves?
4. Discuss how our spending and dress habits change as we age.

Mystery 10

A rich man once asked a friend, "Why am I criticized for being miserly? Everyone knows I will leave everything to charity when I die."

"Well," said the friend, "let me tell you about the pig and the cow. The pig was lamenting to the cow one day about how unpopular he was. 'People are always talking about your gentleness and your kind eyes,' said the pig. Sure, you give milk and cream, but I give more. I give bacon, ham, bristles. They even pickle my feet! Still nobody likes me. Why is this?" The cow thought a minute and then replied, well, maybe it's because I give while I'm still living."

1. Why is it better to give while we are alive? Who benefits more the giver or the receiver?
2. Should we give to make ourselves feel better, or to make others feel better? Which is better, giving it all away or none of it?