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SUPERSTITION

There is evidence of superstition among ancient civilizations. But this is not something of the past. Superstition is part of our modern world, too.

Some very old beliefs are present among us today: a broken mirror, for example, means seven years of bad luck. A black cat brings you bad luck when it crosses your way. Some people never walk under a ladder because it also means bad luck. There is a very curious belief among New Yorkers: 13 is a sign of bad luck and many buildings have no thirteen floor.

There is also a place for good luck in superstition. Some charms and beliefs are popular because they bring good luck. A horseshoe, for example, or a four-leaf clover are popular good luck charms around the world. In Brazil, it is very difficult to find a ticket of the Federal Lottery with a final 13 – this is not the lucky number. There is another curious belief in Brazil: three kisses on the face of a single girl bring marriage.

Superstition is certainly part of the past, present, and future life of man. For some people, it is ignorance; for other, it is an important part of their lives.

COMPREHENSION

1. Write T for true and F for false according to the text:

1.1 (F) A horseshoe and a black cat are good luck signs.

1.2 (F) There is no superstition in Brazil.

1.3 (F) There are no floors in the buildings in New York.

1.4 (T) There is evidence of superstition in our world.

1.5 (F) Thirteen is a luck number in the Federal Lottery in Brazil.

1.6 (F) Old beliefs are not part of modern life.

1.7 (T) Three kisses on the face of a single girl bring marriage.

1.8 (F) Thirteen is a lucky number among New Yorkers.

1.9 (F) A black cat brings seven years of bad lucky when it crosses your way.

* 1. (F) Superstition is very important for all the people in the world.

2. Choose the correct alternative according to the text:

2.1 Some very old beliefs:

A) Are good luck charms. B) Are part of our world. C) Bring seven years of bad luck.

2.2 A broken mirror:

A) Brings bad luck. B) Brings good luck. C) Is something of the future.

2.3 Thirteen:

A) Is a good luck number in the Brazilian Federal Lottery.

B) Is not a good number in New York.

C) Means seven years of good luck.

2.4 Three kisses on the face of a single girl:

A) Is a good luck charm.

B) Bring bad luck.

C) Bring marriage.

2.5 A horseshoe and

A) A black cat bring good luck.

B) A four-leaf clover bring good luck.

C) A four-leaf clover bring bad luck.

3. Answer the questions according to the text:

3.1 Where is there evidence of superstition?

R: There is evidence of superstition among ancient civilizations.

3.2 What is the old belief about a broken mirror?

R: Means seven years of bad luck

3.3 What is the old belief about a black cat?

R: A black cat brings you bad luck when it crosses your way

3.4 When is a ladder sign of bad luck?

R: Walk under a ladder because it also means bad luck

3.5 Why aren’t there thirteen floor in many buildings in New York?

R: 13 is a sign of bad luck

4. Find the opposites:

(1) Ancient (8) Unpopular

(2) Bad (10) On

(3) Complete (2) Good

(4) Final (3) Incomplete

(5) Ignorance (4) Initial

(6) Never (5) Intelligence

(7) New (9) Often

(8) Popular (6) Always

(9) Seldom (7) Old

(10) Under (1) Modern GOOD LUCK!