Reading 01

**Puppy Love**

 Why doesn’t she pay any attention to me? Doesn’t she know I love her? Oh, that lovely girl doesn’t even know I exist. Have you ever had thoughts like this? If you have, then you have probably experienced puppy love.

 Puppy love is a feeling of love and caring for another person. It’s usually first experienced as a teenager. It’s called “puppy love” because it is similar to the way a puppy loves its owner. A puppy loves its owner completely. But the owner does not feel the same kind of love for the puppy.

 People in puppy love might love a classmate. Sometimes they might be attracted to a teacher, uncle, or rock star. But the person that is loved usually does not feel the same way.

 People in puppy love often cannot concentrate on school or their homework. They daydream a lot or write secret love letters. At other times, they cannot eat or sleep because they keep thinking about their special person. Since the love is rarely returned, puppy love can lead to heartbreak.

 If you are feeling the heartbreak of puppy love now, do not worry. You will survive. Remember that rejection is common for people in puppy love. Everybody has a special type that he or she prefers. Maybe you are not the type your special person prefers. But you are definitely someone else’s type. Be patient. You will meet someone special soon.

Reading 02

**Bollywood Movies**

 If you’ve seen movies like *Spiderman* and *Pirates of the Caribbean*, you certainly know about a place in the U.S. called Hollywood. Many movies are made there. But have you ever heard of Bollywood? In the 1930’s, movie directors in Bombay, India, started making lots of movies, so the city got the nickname “Bollywood” — from the words “Bombay” and “Hollywood.” Hollywood is more famous, but more movies are made in Bollywood than anywhere else in the world.

 There are three things that almost all Bollywood movies have in common. First, they are at least three hours long. There is usually a short break in the middle so audiences can take a rest. Second, Bollywood movies are usually about the same thing: a man and a woman who fall in love. Their sad problem is that their parents do not want them to be together. Finally, Bollywood movies are mostly musicals. Music and dance are just as important as the movie’s story, and they are a big reason why people come to see these movies in the first place. Audiences often sing and dance while they are watching the movie.

 More than 1,000 movies are made in Bollywood every year. Many of them are very successful in India, but they are not very popular in other parts of the world yet. Maybe that’s because people need time to get used to movies that are a little bit different.

Reading 03

**The Best-known Song in the World**

 In 1893, two sisters, Mildred and Patty Hill, wrote a song for their kindergarten class in Louisville, Kentucky. They called it “Good Morning to All.” And it went like this: Good morning to you, Good morning to you, Good morning dear children, Good morning to all. “Good Morning to All” was published in a songbook called *Song Stories for Kindergarten* and became a big success.

 When the songbook was reprinted in 1924, someone changed the words “Good morning” to “Happy birthday.” The result was surprising. The new version became a favorite at birthday parties all over America. The Hill sisters didn’t mind that very few people knew they had written the song. They were just happy to know that people everywhere enjoyed it. But then it began to appear in popular movies and plays. In addition, singers recorded the song and made a lot of money. So in 1935, the sisters went to court to get the copyright to “Happy Birthday to You.” Of course, they won the case easily.

 Since then, every time “Happy Birthday to You” is sung in a movie, on radio, or on TV, a sum of money — called a royalty — has to be paid to the owners of the song. Don’t worry, though. You don’t have to pay a royalty when you sing it at a birthday party. That’s free.

 Although the Hill sisters died, their song lives on and is still protected by copyright. It earns more than $2 million every year. That’s an amazing amount of money for a simple song with only six different words!

Reading 04

**The Big, Bad Komodo Dragon**

Can you eat 320 hamburgers in 20 minutes? A lizard can. If you think that’s not possible, you haven’t heard of the Komodo dragon. Komodo dragons are the largest lizards in the world. A Komodo dragon can eat a whole pig in just 20 minutes. How does it put so much food into its mouth so fast?

Komodo dragons are dangerous animals that live on a small island called Komodo, in Indonesia. They can weigh as much as 90 kilograms and grow up to three meters long. They live in rainforests and grassland. They like to spend time in water, cooling off, but they do most of their hunting on land.

Komodo dragons are patient hunters. They will often sit in one place for hours, waiting for large birds, deer or wild pigs. When their prey arrives, they attack very quickly with their giant jaws and sharp teeth. Their teeth are so sharp that they can even bite through metal.

Komodo dragons have lots of bad bacteria in their mouths. Even if one bite doesn’t kill their prey right away, it will die later. Why? Because once a Komodo dragon bites an animal, the bad bacteria get into the animal’s cuts. The cuts become infected. Then the animal dies from the infection. Later the Komodo dragon finds the dead animal and eats it.

Reading 05

**Adidas and Puma: Two Great Companies, One Big Fight!**

 In the old German town of Herzogenaurach, people still argue about one family’s fight. Although the fight started before World War II, it continues to divide people even today. Early in the 1920s, two brothers named Rudolf and Adolf Dassler worked together to make the first comfortable running shoes, or sneakers. The brothers shared the same goals, but they had very different personalities. Sometimes the brothers argued because of their differences.

 When World War II broke out, the brothers argued more and more. They argued so much, especially about politics, that they finally stopped talking to each other. Adolf, who people called Adi, kept his business on the small town’s hill. He gave his company a new name, using the letters of his nickname, Adi, together with the letters of his last name, Das. So the new company name was Adidas. Adi’s brother, Rudolf, put his business on the opposite side of town, across the river. He named his business Puma. Although both companies made sneakers, the brothers never talked to each other.

 After World War II there were not many jobs for Germans. People in the town chose between working for Adidas or Puma. They were the only successful businesses in town. For years each company had its own market, restaurants and hotel. Workers from Puma never ate at Adidas restaurants and workers from Adidas never ate at Puma restaurants.

 When Adolf and Rudolf died, they were buried as far apart as possible. But their fight continued even after their deaths. After so many years and so many successes for both companies, the town of Herzogenaurach is still divided by the old family fight.

Reading 06

**Mistaken Names**

James Cook was an 18th-century English sea captain who explored much of the South Pacific. According to legend, Cook was exploring Australia when he saw a funny-looking animal. It was hopping, and it had a pouch and a big tail. When he asked one of the locals what the animal was, the man replied, “Kangaroo.” This was a native phrase meaning, “I don’t know.” Cook mistook this for the name of the animal, and his error has been with us ever since.

There is a similar story about the Spanish explorer, Francisco Fernandez de Cordoba. He explored Mexico in the 16th century. He asked a native to tell him the name of the place where he was. The native said, “Yucatan.” In the native language, that meant, “I don’t understand you.” Cordoba mistook it for a place name, and that part of Southern Mexico has been called Yucatan ever since. People tell the same kind of story about the town of Nome, in Alaska. They say that it comes from the local phrase, “Ka No Me,” meaning, “I don’t know.”

All these stories are interesting, but are they really true? Although the stories might not be true, everyone enjoys funny stories about the “I don’t know” phrases.

Reading 07

**Dating Tips for Guys**

You’re interested in a girl, and you think she likes you, too. She may be a friend or you may have just met her. You think she’s great, but there is a problem. How do you get to know her better? If you don’t know what to do, here are some tips to help you.

When you ask her out, don’t say, “Will you go out with me?” Instead, say, “Let’s do something fun!” This way, she will feel more comfortable with you. Also, even if she says no, you will save face. If you are lucky and she says yes, next you must choose the day. Be careful not to ask her out on a Saturday or Sunday. She may be busy on the weekend already. Besides, asking her out on a weekday may give you another good advantage! She may think you have plans for the weekend with other girls. This will make her think you’re very popular, so she will be envious.

Now is the hardest part. You must decide where to meet. Going to the movies is a great choice. First dates are hard when you don’t know what to talk about. If it is too quiet during the date, she will think you are boring. But if you watch a movie, you can talk about what you saw together.

Lastly, spend most of your date listening to her. Girls usually like guys who pay attention to them. If you enjoyed the date and want to win her heart, buy her flowers! Most girls love flowers.

Reading 08

**Albert Einstein & His Driver**

 Albert Einstein is one of the most famous scientists of all time. He changed the way we understand the world with his bright ideas. But few people know that Einstein had a driver with a fine sense of humor. Here’s an amusing story about him.

 Albert Einstein was on a lecture tour across the United States. He was traveling by car from one university to the next. During the long tour, he became very friendly with his driver, Harry. One day while they were on their way to a university, Harry said, “Dr. Einstein, I’ve heard you give that lecture about 30 times. I know it by heart, and I’m sure I could give it myself.” “Well, I’ll give you the chance,” said Einstein. “We’re stopping at a small country college. I don’t think anybody knows me there. So, when we get there I’ll put on your cap, and you introduce yourself as Einstein and give the lecture.”

 Harry gave Einstein’s lecture without a single mistake. When he finished, one of the professors asked him a very long and difficult question. Harry stared at the man for a moment, then he smiled and said: “The answer to that question is very simple. In fact, I’m surprised you have to ask me. To show you just how simple it is, I’m going to ask my driver to come up here and answer it for you.”

Reading 09

**Teen Text Messaging**

 Twenty years ago, no one sent text messages. Now, it seems like everyone does. And the people who send the most text messages are teenagers. Many teenagers in the United States send up to 2,000 text messages every month.

 Text messaging can be a wonderful thing. One good thing about text messaging is that it helps shy young people. Often it is easier to text a new friend than to talk face to face. Having more friends makes shy people feel better about themselves. Text messaging can also help families. Many teenagers are not comfortable talking to their parents face to face. But teenagers are very comfortable using text messaging, so they can easily tell their parents important secrets that way.

 But there are also some problems with this new tool. Teachers do not like to see cell phones in class because text messaging is very distracting. Also, students who text each other late at night do not sleep as much. As a result, they do worse in school. Another problem is that young people use a new way of writing when they text. They use many shortcuts and don’t spend time making their writing perfect. These bad habits can keep them from learning to write correctly.

 Some people say that text messaging is just like spending time with friends. Other people say that text messaging is bad for friendships because teens spend less time talking face to face with friends. What do you think? Has text messaging made your friendships better, or worse?

Reading 10

**Secrets of Fast-Food Restaurants**

Fast-food restaurants want customers to leave quickly after they eat in order to make room for more people. But how can they make customers go away without being rude? They use special tricks.

For one thing, the colors of the restaurant make customers want to leave. Most fast-food restaurants use red and orange. You see these colors on the walls, the seats, and even on the hamburger wrapping paper. They use these colors for two reasons. Red and orange make people hungrier. But when people look at orange too long, their eyes get tired quickly.

Restaurants have other ways to make us leave. For example, they make the chairs uncomfortable and the noise unpleasant. The chairs in fast-food restaurants are always hard. They do not move, so it is hard to get comfortable. Also, fast-food restaurants are very noisy. The workers call out loudly to each other and to the customers. The sound bounces off the hard chairs, tables and walls, and makes the restaurant too loud.

Of course, fast-food restaurants do want you to come in. That is why they make the front of the restaurant with very big windows. When you walk by, you will see people eating. It will make you hungry.

So the next time you go to a fast-food restaurant, take your watch with you. Most likely, you will see that you do not stay for very long.

Reading 11

**Kissing Under the Mistletoe**

 Have you heard of a plant named mistletoe? It has white berries and is often used as a Christmas decoration. In Europe, mistletoe stands for peace and love. When people stand under this plant, they cannot fight or refuse a request. So at Christmas time, a young lady who walks under this plant cannot refuse a kiss. For this reason, many people call mistletoe the “kiss me” plant.

 According to an ancient Viking story, there once was a goddess of love named Frigga. She had a special son whom she loved very much. One day she dreamed that her enemy killed him. Frigga was shocked at this dream. In order to save her son, she visited everywhere on earth and told the animals and plants not to help her enemy. But she made one mistake. She forgot to tell the mistletoe. Because mistletoe has no roots and grows on tall trees, it is not easily seen among the many leaves of the forest. Soon Frigga’s enemy found out about her mistake. He made an arrow with mistletoe and shot her son to death.

 When Frigga heard the sad news, she cried for three days under the mistletoe. Her tears did a wonderful thing! The red mistletoe berries turned white, and her son came back to life. Frigga was so happy that she kissed everyone who stood under the mistletoe. For Frigga, the mistletoe changed from a terrible killing weapon to a great friend that brought her son back to life. And that’s how mistletoe became a symbol of peace and love. So if you happen to find someone you like under the mistletoe, don’t miss the good chance.

Reading 12

**Supercontinent**

If you look at a map of the world, you will see that the continents look like pieces of a big puzzle. For example, if you push South America next to Africa, the two continents join together. The same thing happens if you push North America next to Europe.

For a long time, scientists wondered about this giant puzzle. They studied many fossils, and finally they found the answer. The fossils showed that a long time ago, the same kinds of plants and animals lived on the east coast of South America and the west coast of Africa. It was the same with North America and Europe. So the scientists asked themselves, “Were the continents connected together at one time long ago?” The answer is yes. Many scientists now think that about 200 million years ago there was just one supercontinent. They call it “Pangaea.” Over time, this supercontinent broke into seven pieces, and they slowly moved away from each other. This is why we have seven different continents today.

The continents are still moving away from each other, about 10 cm every year. Can you guess what the world will look like a million years from now?

Reading 13

**Water Festival in Thailand**

 If you visit Thailand in the spring, don’t miss the “Songkran Festival.” It starts on April 13th every year and lasts three days. The word “Songkran” means the beginning of a new year. It is the traditional New Year holiday in Thailand.

 Spring is the best season to have a festival in Thailand. The farmers have finished gathering all the rice from their fields, and the next planting season is far away. So they can take a break from their work. Also, it is a good time for cleaning. Thai people believe that everything old should be thrown away in the spring. Otherwise, bad luck will come. That’s why they celebrate the New Year holiday by cleaning. They clean their houses and all the statues of Buddha.

 The Songkran Festival is also known as the “Water Festival” because everyone celebrates the holiday with water. People carry water guns and buckets of water and enjoy spraying water at one another on the streets. At the festival, it is not a rude thing to do. On the contrary, it is a way of showing respect. They also pour clean water into the hands of old people. Spring is the hottest time of the year in Thailand, so it feels good to celebrate it with water.

 Songkran is a festival that has been celebrated in Thailand for many years. Many people in Thailand do not even understand why they throw water at each other. But they still have a lot of fun doing it!

Reading 14

**How Do Animals Catch Their Zzz's?**

Where does a lion sleep? Anywhere it wants to! It’s an old joke, but still true. When a lion wants to sleep, it can just lie down on the ground or even hang out in a tree. Other animals have more to worry about, so they have some interesting ways to sleep.

Some animals are afraid to be eaten while they are asleep. So ducks sleep with one eye closed and one eye open. This way, they can see if an enemy is coming to eat them. The basilisk lizard sleeps on the end of a small branch hanging over a pond. If a snake moves up the branch to eat the lizard, the branch shakes. Then the lizard safely falls off into the water.

Some animals that live in the water need to swim and sleep at the same time. Dolphins live under water, but they must come to the surface to breathe. So only half of their brain sleeps at a time. The other half stays awake to keep them safe and breathing. Seals also breathe air when they sleep in the water. They lie on their sides so their noses poke out of the water.

Sleeping is hard for animals with big stomachs and lungs. It is hard for them to be comfortable when they lie down. So horses, cows and elephants mostly sleep standing up. Do you think you would feel very well rested if you slept on a branch, under water, or standing up?

Reading 15

**Monkey Boy**

 In 1991, a woman was gathering fire wood in the forest when she saw a naked boy in a tree. He was with a family of monkeys, and it seemed that he was one of them. When she went back to the village, she told people about the boy. They tried to catch him, but he climbed up a tree and threw sticks at them. Though his monkey parents fought very hard for him, the boy was finally caught. Paul and Molly Wasswa brought him to their home.

 They found out that the boy’s name was John Ssebunya. He was lost in the thick jungle of Uganda when he was only three years old. He was almost dead. But luckily, some monkeys found him and adopted him! He joined a monkey family and became just like a monkey. He learned to climb trees and gather fruits, nuts and berries.

 After John was adopted by human parents, it took him nine years to speak and stand up straight like a human. He still walks strangely on one side. When he smiles, he pulls his lips back and shows all his teeth just like a monkey. If John wants to say hello, he gives a powerful hug like monkeys do. When he sees monkeys in the zoo, he avoids eye contact and walks to them from the side. He opens his palms to them, like his monkey parents taught him.

 A long time has passed. John still speaks a little slowly, but he has a lovely singing voice. You can hear him singing in the Pearl of Africa Children’s Choir.

Reading 16

**Teens’ Sleepiness**

If you have ever felt sleepy at school, you are not alone. Many teenagers in the USA have the same problem. It happens because teenagers don’t go to bed at regular hours and don’t get enough sleep. It is common knowledge that they need about 9 hours of sleep. However, most teenagers go to sleep at around 11:00 p.m. and wake up as early as 6:00 a.m. because most schools start at 7:00 or 7:30 a.m. That’s why it is hard for them to wake up on school days. It’s also why they have trouble staying awake and paying attention in class.

Schools are starting to look for answers to this problem. One school in Connecticut, USA, decided to start school later in the day. Very soon, teachers noticed a change. Students were more awake, more ready to study, and more pleasant to work with in class. Parents also said that when their children got more sleep, they got along better at home. After the change in schedule, more than half the students reported that they didn’t feel sleepy in class.

It sounds like a good idea to change school times. But it isn’t easy to do. Many teachers like the old way. They want to start early so they can go home early and spend more time with their families. Another problem is that some students work after school, or play sports. If school finishes later, they may not be able to do those activities.

So what do you think? Do you agree or disagree that schools should start later in the day?

Reading 17

**The Potato**

 Potatoes are popular around the world. But they were not always well known. People in Europe began eating them only 200 years ago. In the 1500s, Spanish explorers went to South America and saw people eat potatoes. The South Americans had been eating them for 7,000 years! The Spanish brought potatoes back to Europe.

 At first, people in Europe did not like the new vegetable. Some people thought that eating potatoes would make their own skin look like the skin of a potato. Other people could not believe that the good part of the potato grows under the ground. So they ate the leaves, which are poisonous, and got very sick.

 Unlike other Europeans, the Irish quickly saw the benefits of growing potatoes. The potatoes they planted grew well on poor soil and even in the cold and rainy weather of Ireland. They produced more food than any other plant. Each farmer only needed a small bit of land to grow enough potatoes to feed a whole family. Potatoes soon became the main food in Ireland.

 But other people in Europe were still not ready to change their food habits. Some died of hunger instead of eating potatoes. In 1774, King Frederick of Germany told his hungry people to eat potatoes. He told them that if they did not, his soldiers would cut off their noses! Today, people in parts of Germany eat more potatoes than anyone else in the world.

 There are still many poor countries in the world that don’t have enough food. Scientists think that potatoes may be one good answer for them. Potatoes grow well wherever they are planted, so they can be an excellent solution for the world’s food problems.

Reading 18

**The Wise Warrior: Alexander the Great**

One day, over two thousand years ago, the famous Greek philosopher Aristotle was invited to Macedonia, a small country near Greece. The king of Macedonia asked Aristotle to teach his young son. The great teacher taught the prince well. Thanks to his lessons, the boy grew up to be a great leader. In his youth, only the people of Macedonia knew him. But when he died, he was the most famous man in the world. People called him Alexander the Great.

When he was just 17, his father died and Alexander became king. He led the army of Macedonia in many wars and conquered many countries. His kingdom reached from India to Egypt.

Alexander always tried to understand his soldiers and share all difficulties with them. When the soldiers had to go without food, he went without food too. When they had to walk, Alexander got off his horse and walked with them. He earned the soldiers’ respect. He also treated his enemies well. After a battle, Alexander took time to talk with the defeated soldiers. He asked them to join his army. Many gladly agreed to do just that.

Alexander was only 33 years old when he died. He did not live long enough to rule his vast kingdom. Today, thousands of years later, people around the world still remember him as a great leader and king.

Reading 19

**The Father of Video Games**

 About 50 years ago, there was a young boy living in Japan who did not do well in his school studies. He was spending too much time drawing cartoon characters and creating adventures for them.

 When he was a young adult, he got a job as a game designer at a company that was not very well known. A few years passed and he and his company became very famous. He is Shigeru Miyamoto, the father of video games, and the company is Nintendo!

 Miyamoto’s first game wasn’t very successful. It seemed like he would not be a very good game designer. But Miyamoto tried again. He knew a man named Mario who was living near his house. Mario was fat and had a big black mustache. He put Mario into his new game, called “Donkey Kong,” and it was an amazing success. Everyone loved Mario. Over the years, Mario has appeared in over 100 games. More than 200 million copies of those games have been sold.

 Miyamoto also used his personal life when he was designing another popular game. When he was a child, there were many forests, mountains, rivers, and caves near his home. He loved to hike and visit secret places. When he was older, his memories of those places gave him the idea for the game, “The Legend of Zelda.’’

 More recently, Miyamoto created the Nintendo DS system and the Wii, the most popular game machine in the world. The young boy who did not do very well in school has certainly done very well in his work.

Reading 20

**The Griots: African Traditional Storytellers**

When the big bright yellow moon came up, the village people in many parts of ancient Africa heard the sound of a drum and a voice, “Come hear, come hear!” These were the sounds of the storyteller, called a griot. When they heard the call, the children and adults knew they were going to hear a wonderful story with music, dances and songs!

There were many stories the people loved to hear again and again from the griot. Some stories were about great wars of victory or defeat. A griot knew who fought each war and how the war began and ended. He told how tribe warriors took over the land. Some were about families and everyday life. For example, a griot might have remembered and told people that a girl’s grandfather’s grandfather was the first person to have seen the ocean.

The griots told about the history of Africa. Because there was no written language in ancient Africa, they were like history books. By telling stories, the griots passed down their culture and history. There was usually only one storyteller, or a griot, per tribe. If one tribe tried to steal a storyteller from another, it was a cause for war! The griots were that important. Thanks to the storytelling of the griots, we can still learn and read many facts about African history and culture.

Reading 21

**Chirping Crickets**

 Crickets are common insects. However, their loud chirping sound is unusual. That may be why people in different cultures have their own ideas about crickets.

 For example, in China people have believed for thousands of years that crickets bring good luck. Many Chinese buy small bamboo cages and keep crickets in them. Some people even tie the small cages to their waists and carry the crickets with them. For the Chinese, killing a cricket is a very bad thing to do.

 On the other side of the world, in Brazil, people also have interesting ideas about crickets. When a cricket chirps, they believe that it can have two meanings. It can mean that it’s going to rain soon. Or it can mean that one’s family will soon earn more money. It is not so strange that people expect rain when they hear crickets chirping, because crickets really do chirp more when it’s about to rain. But that does not explain why people believe a cricket’s singing means that money is coming.

 In the U.S., people talk about crickets very differently. They use crickets to describe jokes that are not funny. When a comedian tells a joke and no one laughs, the room becomes very quiet. In English, this moment is said to be a time of “crickets chirping.”

 As we have seen, crickets mean different things in different cultures. But mainly they are thought to be lucky insects. So next time you hear a cricket chirping, think what good luck it could bring to you.

Reading 22

**A Story About Emoticon**

 Many languages are dying out around the world. According to the National Geographic Society, one language disappears every two weeks. On the other hand, there is one language that is spreading like fire: Emoticons. People use emoticons to express feelings when they send emails or write messages on online boards. They also use emoticons when sending text messages by cell phone.

 The first emoticon was invented by an American professor named Scott Fahlman on September 19, 1982. He wrote a funny message on his university’s online board and put :-) at the end. He wanted to show a “smiley” face so that people could read his feelings. Everyone loved his idea, and started making more and more emoticons. Over the years, emoticons have become like a real language.

 You may be surprised to know that there are actually two styles of emoticons. One is the Western style, and the other is the Asian style. Dr. Masaki Yuki, of Japan, first discovered this interesting difference. He noticed that the Japanese focus more on the eyes, but Americans focus more on the mouth. For example, the Japanese use ^^ and Americans use :-) to show a smiling face.

 Professor Yuki believes that this is because of cultural differences. The Japanese do not openly express their feelings, so they look at a person’s eyes to know his or her real emotions. Nowadays, many Americans are beginning to use the Asian style too. This is because you don’t have to turn your head sideways to read it!

Reading 23

**Cockroach Robots**

 Most people try to kill cockroaches whenever they see them. But the cockroaches quickly run away and crawl into tiny places where no one can reach them. This makes people angry. They think that cockroaches are not good for anything. However, a few scientists disagree. They find this insect useful because it can be an excellent model for making robots.

 Recently, scientists have been trying to make tiny robots that look and move like cockroaches. Thanks to their many legs and sensitive parts, cockroaches can travel along small, narrow, and difficult paths. They can move fast over rough ground. They can even walk on the ceiling and up and down the walls. Because they are small, they can easily hide in very small places.

 If cockroach robots are made, what sort of things will they do? First of all, they will be able to enter places that are too dangerous for humans. For example, cockroach robots could crawl under fallen buildings after an earthquake and help save human lives. They wouldn’t be damaged because they are quick and small enough to avoid danger. They could easily climb up a steep wall or quickly escape from rocks falling down from above.

 NASA scientists think that cockroach robots can be useful in exploring the universe. So far, they have sent other robots to Mars for research, but these robots have several disadvantages. They have wheels that are not very good for traveling on rough ground. And they are too large to enter small places or narrow cracks. NASA scientists expect that cockroach robots will solve these problems in the near future. They will be able to go everywhere on Mars, moving over even the most rough and difficult ground.

Reading 24

**Kopi Luwak: 100% Pure Cat Poop Coffee**

Have you ever heard of a cat that likes coffee? There’s a strange kind of cat called the luwak. This cat is a member of the civet cat family. It is found in Southeast Asia and is a bit larger than a regular house cat. Its favorite food is coffee fruit.

In the past, coffee growers used to get very mad at the luwaks because these cats ate the best fruit from the coffee trees. Then one day, the coffee growers looked carefully at the poop left behind by the luwaks. They discovered that the cats only digested the outer part of the coffee fruit. But the coffee beans inside the fruit were still there. So the coffee growers decided to collect the poop and take out all the beans. These beans were washed, roasted and made into coffee. Later, people named the coffee “Kopi Luwak.”

Kopi Luwak is one of the world’s most delicious coffees. It seems that during the digestion process inside the cat’s stomach, the beans take on a special flavor. People say Kopi Luwak tastes a little like chocolate and caramel. Kopi Luwak is also one of the most expensive coffees in the world. Only about 225 kilograms of the special beans are produced each year. One cup of Kopi Luwak can cost as much as US$15.00 (fifteen US dollars). Still, many coffee lovers think it’s worth the price!