1. TEKSTIN LUKEMINEN

SET I

A. Read the text aloud and then present the questions to your partner.

Eco-friendly Straw Bale Houses

Building your house out of straw might seem to contradict the advice contained in the popular fairy tale *The Three Little Pigs*. However, there are a number of environmental considerations that make this a natural eco-friendly choice of material for many practical house builders, as well as for keen conservationists and environmentalists. With the correct building techniques, the structure will be sturdy and straw bale houses can last over 100 years if properly maintained. At the same time straw is fully biodegradable at the end of the building’s lifespan.

Well-insulated straw bale houses contribute less to global warming than conventional new build houses, as they need less energy for heating. Also, very little energy has been used to manufacture the product as sunlight was the main energy source for growing the crop in the first place.

**Questions:**

**1. Would you consider living in a house made of straws?**

**2. What would your dream house look like?**

B. Read the text aloud and then present the questions to your partner.

A Sixteen-Year-Old Girl’s

Solo Sail Around the World

In 2012 Dutch teenager Laura Dekker, then fourteen, set out to become the youngest person to single-handedly circumnavigate the world. She successfully completed her remarkable 518-day journey, aged sixteen, in a 12.3 metre sailboat named ’Guppy’ and today still holds the record.

“I was born on a boat in New Zealand,” Dekker explains. “I lived my first five years at sea,” she continues, “and ever since, all I’ve wanted is to return to that life.” Initially when Dekker had outlined her plan, the Dutch Council for Child Protection had become involved and she had to fight a ten-month court battle.

“I love being alone,” declares Laura. “I feel that freedom is when you’re not attached to anything.” “Of course there are people who say that I was crazy,” adds the teenage sailor, “but it’s a dream, a great, great dream.”

**Questions:**

**1. What are your experiences of sailing or being on a boat or ship of some kind?**

**2. How would you feel if your friend decided to sail around the world alone?**

SET II

**A. Read the text aloud and then present the questions to your partner.**

Geocaching

Geocaching is a a high-tech treasure hunt which uses the Global Positioning System (GPS) and other navigation techniques to locate a hidden ’cache’, which could be secreted anywhere in the world. Physical hiding places for the geocache could be under a boulder in a national park, buried in the sand on a beach or somewhere in an urban setting. Typically, caches will incorporate a logbook for ’finders’ to record their visits and a few small gifts, all contained snugly in a waterproof container.

For those film-making geocachers and geocaching filmmakers, there is even the Geocaching International Film Festival (GIFF). Previous entries, which will make geocachers smile, roll their eyes or groan in sympathy, have included ‘Geocaching Is Free’ (2017), ’A Cacher’s Worst Nightmare’ (2016) and the international hit ’How to Geocache Like a Ballerina’ (2015), by a Californian cacher.

**Questions:**

**1. Have you tried geocaching yourself or have you heard of it?**

**2. If you were to start a new hobby, what would it be?**

**B.** **Read the text aloud and then present the questions to your partner.**

Robot Pets

Scientific studies have shown that pets can help combat loneliness amongst elderly people. The downside of this is that caring for a dog or cat can often be too much for some older potential owners. One company has tried to solve this with the invention of ’the perfect pet’ which is more or less maintenance-free. This robotic golden retriever, covered in realistic soft fur, doesn’t require walking, feeding or bathing. It has six built-in sensors in different parts of its body tuned to distinguish human touch. These sensors activate different actions when touched. It nuzzles the elderly person’s hand if it has either of its cheeks patted. ’BarkBack technology’ means that the robot pup will look towards its owner whenever they speak to it. For cat lovers they have also developed a companion robotic pet cat, with similar mechanics, that also gently starts to vibrate as it purrs.

**Questions:**

**1. Do you have or have you ever had pets?**

**2. Would you take a robot dog as your pet? Why or why not?**

SET III

**A. Read the text aloud and then present the questions to your partner.**

Jacob Collier, Musical Prodigy

The 23-year-old vocalist, multi-instrumentalist and YouTube star Jacob Collier has some very famous fans indeed. Music industry legend Quincy Jones has referred to him as ‘an absolute genius’ and invited him to work with him. From an early age Jacob has made music in his bedroom in Finchley, North London. He comes from a family of violinists and his mother Susie teaches at London’s Royal Academy of Music. He made his first two albums for charity aged seven at Primary School and then at ten starred in a major film, playing Tiny Tim in the 2004 adaption of ‘A Christmas Carol’.

His own version of Stevie Wonder’s ‘Isn’t she lovely’ went viral on YouTube. Since this he has successfully produced his first (solo) album ‘In my Room’ and scooped two Grammy awards. In July 2018 he even performed his own Prom at the famous Royal Albert Hall in London.

**Questions:**

**1. Which bands or artists do you like and why?**

**2. Do you play an instrument or is there an instrument you would like to play?**

**B. Read the text aloud and then present the questions to your partner.**

Cable Wakeboarding

Here’s one for all you skateboarders and snowboarders out there to try. Called cable wakeboarding, it’s like a cross between snowboarding and waterskiing, and involves being pulled across the water by a cable attached to a fixed point rather than behind a moving speedboat, similar to a ’poma’ or ’button’ lift at a ski resort.

Soon you may be good enough to try out some wakeboarding tricks, performed over jumps and rails that look similar to those used by snowboarders. First of all you need to decide if you are ‘regular’ or ‘goofy’, standing on the board left-foot forward or right-foot forward. Basic tricks include a basic Raley, the boarder taking off high into the air and raising their legs higher than their head, before landing gracefully back on the water. Then you could try a ‘90210’, a toeside Raley with a frontside 360 degree turn, or a ‘313’, the heelside version, or even a ‘Batwing’, a toeside Raley combined with ‘an Indy grab’, where simultaneously one hand grips the board, while the other grips the cable!

**Questions:**

**1. Have you ever tried cable wakeboarding? Would you like to try it?**

**2. What is your favorite extreme sport?**