

EXPERTS TELL ABOUT LOVE, SWEET LOVE

Psychologists and psychiatrists say love tends to make humans helpless. Researchers claim that if you are in love, you will want to be with the loved one all the time. You will also think of your lover almost constantly and you will feel intense pleasure and happiness. Besides, you will feel omnipotent and capable of doing almost anything. Finally, they say that you will exaggerate your lover's good points and minimise his or her bad points –if you can see any.

There is a certain amount of biochemistry at work, too. Some psychiatrists believe that a substance called phenylethylamine is produced in the brain when people are in love, and it gives them that feeling of hyperactivity. Others say that it is possible to fall in love more than once and even be in love with more than one person at the same time.

Romantic love is an enchanting experience, say three marriage therapists from New York. In their book, *Mating*, they say that love comes in a wide variety of forms and it acts on people in many different ways. The authors say the love experience is quite similar psychologically to being in a high risk situation, such as skydiving or riding in a motorcycle race. “Many people are so happy in that state of excitement that they constantly look for new partners with whom to fall in love”, they said. “They are, in fact, in love with love itself.”

Is it possible to stay in love for a lifetime? Evelyn and Peter Walster, a husband-and-wife research team, say love lasts 18 months to three years. The authors of *Mating*, however, say it is possible for love to grow deeper and more fervent as time goes by. Maybe the time of Romeos and Juliets has not ended yet and romantic love is here to stay.

PART ONE: READING COMPREHENSION

Answer the following questions according to the information in the text “Experts tell about love, sweet love”.

[1 point each correct answer]

1. What are the effects that phenylethylamine produces in people?
2. What other two experiences is love compared to in the text?
3. Who wrote the book *Mating*?
4. Which of the following sentences (a, b or c) summarises the text best?
 - a) Psychiatrists and psychologists believe that romantic love is caused by a substance called phenylethylamine that we produce when we meet someone we like and that makes us exaggerate things.
 - b) It is very difficult to find the ideal partner because we tend not to see the bad points in the people we like and because we produce too much phenylethylamine when we are in love.
 - c) Love is experienced differently by everybody invading our lives and emotions, but most people who are in love do not see things objectively and feel hyperactive, excited and very happy.

PART TWO: WRITING

Choose ONE. Write about either 1 or 2. Write a minimum of 65 words.

[Grammatical accuracy: 3 points. Writing fluency: 3 points]

1. Imagine your ideal boyfriend or girlfriend. What is she or he like? Write down a description of this ideal partner.
2. Your best friend is going out with someone you don't like at all and you want him/her to end that relationship. However, your friend is madly in love with that person. Imagine a conversation with your friend in which you are trying to give him/her some advice about that relationship.

AN OLD AGREEMENT

Tigers, the biggest of all big cats, have always fascinated poets and writers, and many of us remember Shere-Khan, the tiger in the novel *The Jungle Book* by Rudyard Kipling. Also, societies that live near these cats have many legends about them. For instance, according to an old Sumatran legend, tigers are very intelligent and a long time ago humans made an agreement with them: people would leave the tiger alone in his territory and the tiger would stay far from the villages.

In Sumatra today, villages still have rituals to commemorate this agreement. A buffalo is sacrificed from time to time and is left outside the villages for the tiger as a sign of respect. Also, people say that, when a tiger is near a village, it is a sign that someone has broken a law. Then, the villagers punish the suspect and bring meat to the forest to show the tiger that the crime has been punished.

Tigers are solitary creatures who live in big territories and they usually eat small animals. The truth is that there are very few man-eating tigers. However, some years ago, surprisingly, tigers started going near the villages and killing people in India and Bangladesh. Tigers usually attack from behind, so people started wearing a mask of a human face on the backs of their heads. The method worked for several years, but the tigers have started attacking again.

Why are tigers attacking more and more people? Is it simply because they are hungry ? Or is it that they have gotten angry? The tropical forests are getting smaller, many wild animals are being hunted in big numbers and tigers themselves are in danger of becoming extinct. Maybe the tiger is just punishing us: we humans have broken the agreement of mutual respect that we made with the wild beasts a long time ago.

PART ONE: READING COMPREHENSION

Answer the following questions according to the information in the text "An old agreement". [1 point each correct answer]

1. What famous fictional character is mentioned in the text and from which literary work?
2. What method was developed in India and Bangladesh to prevent tiger attacks on humans?
3. The text gives us three reasons why tigers may be angry. Which ones?
4. Which of the following sentences (a, b or c) summarises the text best?
 - a) The great majority of tigers are big, solitary, dangerous animals that usually attack men from behind when they are in the Indian and Sumatran forests.
 - b) According to an old legend, tigers may be attacking more humans now because human beings have lost respect for them and are making their lives difficult.
 - c) Tiger attacks on people are more frequent because tigers are hungry and people do not leave buffaloes for them outside the villages.

PART TWO: WRITING

Choose ONE. Write about either 1 or 2. Write a minimum of 65 words.

[Grammatical accuracy: 3 points. Writing fluency: 3 points]

1. Imagine you arrive at a small village in Sumatra and you meet Konish, an old man who starts telling you stories about tigers and the legends that he believes in. Write down your conversation with him.
2. In all cultures and countries people have legends and tell their children fairy tales about animals. Write down one of the legends or fairy tales with animals that you know, as if you were telling it to a young child.