

I

次の英文を読み、後につづく設問A、Bに答えなさい。

My three-year-old son has very recently become fascinated with toy guns, swords and knives, and this has compelled me to make clear my views about little boys' toys and violence. Before he was born, I never gave much thought to these kinds of toys. I suppose my ideas would have been mildly negative. As a psychologist I believe in resolving conflict peaceably. As an adult, I would never own a gun.

Yet I behold my son's joy, his sheer pleasure when holding a sword, a gun, a knife. And I find myself wondering what could be wrong with something that gives him such a thrill, that makes him feel so alive?
(1)
There's got to be a difference here, between the joy of a small boy at play, and, say, the criminal's cold disregard for human life as he goes
(2)
about his brutal business.

At an early stage of development, children often show aggressive behaviors such as physical attack, talking loudly and intruding into other people's space. They are actually asserting themselves. "Intrusive" play is the imagination at work and needs to be fostered. It is important to guide their "intrusive" play so that it is kept safe, kept within boundaries so that no one is hurt or frightened.

Many parents of infants are horrified about the idea of children playing with weapon toys. They believe that an inevitable, continuous line exists between the play of childhood and the tendencies of an adult. Today a plastic sword, tomorrow a semi-automatic gun. I think such an attitude confuses play with reality and prohibits an important kind of play that kids need at this stage.

We need to distinguish between the innocent play of healthy children and the dark deeds of warped and twisted souls. The former, properly guided, leads to healthy attitudes about one's capacity to be assertive,

(3)

about one's power to act on the world. And this stage is followed in turn by many other stages, and a great deal of further learning about how to get along with others. The latter type of behavior is a tragic tale of development gone terribly wrong, of minds haunted and tormented. Perhaps an ⁽⁴⁾analogy illustrates the point. Many girls go through a period when they are crazy about dolls. All day long they feed them, change them, fuss with them. Yet no one becomes alarmed, fearing that the phase will lead to teenage pregnancy and a life of poverty. No one snatches these dolls out of their arms, trying to protect them from feared future consequences.

Why? What's the difference? Why is it that we understand little girls' play to be play, yet get so confused about little boys' play?

Those of us in the mental-health profession know what kinds of childhood experiences lead to violence. A violent adult has been exposed to violence as a child — not plastic swords and toy guns, but real, actual violence. Emotional needs have been ignored and neglected. Bodies have been horribly beaten. Loved ones have been abused or killed by others. These kinds of experiences ⁽⁵⁾sow the seeds of violence. Is there any chance that an infant playing safely with toy weapons is being encouraged to violence? No. Let's not confuse the cares of the adult world with the ways children need to be. Let's not rob them of the important imaginative play that they need.

A. 下線部(1)~(5)の語(句)について、本文中の意味に最も近いものを、
下記のA~Dの中から選び、記号で答えなさい。

(1) gives him such a thrill

A. makes him excited

B. makes him scared

C. makes him nervous

D. makes him shocked

(2) disregard for

A. looking up to

B. looking down on

C. thinking much of

D. thinking nothing of

(3) assertive

A. positive

B. dependent

C. violent

D. passive

(4) analogy

A. comparison

B. quotation

C. argument

D. agreement

(5) sow the seeds of

A. plant

B. cause

C. harvest

D. influence

B. 本文の内容と照らし合わせて、次の英文につづく最も適切なものを、
下記のA～Dの中から選び、記号で答えなさい。

- (1) The writer tries to make his opinions clear because
- A. he is afraid his son is getting very dangerous.
 - B. some people have a confused idea about children's play.
 - C. he wants to resolve conflict without violence.
 - D. he thinks it is wrong to play with weapon toys.
- (2) "Intrusive" play is
- A. too dangerous to be children's play.
 - B. unhelpful for developing children's imagination.
 - C. indispensable to children's spiritual growth.
 - D. so safe as to be encouraged.
- (3) Some brutal criminals have the experience of
- A. being told to play with safe toys.
 - B. being urged to play with dangerous toys.
 - C. physically bullying their playmates.
 - D. actually being raised in a violent environment.
- (4) The writer believes that
- A. there is a direct link between children's play and their future life.
 - B. children who have been guided to play with safe toys become friendly.
 - C. toys are tools with which children learn how to live with others.
 - D. violent children are likely to become criminals.
- (5) The most suitable title for this article would be
- A. "Weapon toys don't make killers."
 - B. "Boys play differently from girls."
 - C. "Weapon toys are not good for children."
 - D. "Dangerous toys are exciting."

Ⅱ 次の文が自然な英文になるように、(1)から(15)の中に入れるべき最も適切な語(句)をA～Dの中から選び、記号で答えなさい。

If you (1) your friends why they use the phone to communicate with their friends or why they turn to the television (2) entertainment or breaking news, they would look at you kind of funny. If you questioned your friends (3) they had adopted “the electricity life-style,” (4) you were very odd. People in developed countries take their electrical devices for (5) ; we just use them. But people who are now (6) their fifties can remember when just a few families had TVs. Our grandparents can remember when much of rural America was (7) electricity. A few people (8) today were born (9) the widespread use of electricity in cities. It has taken more than a hundred years for the “electricity lifestyle” (10) civilization.

(11) streets and houses were first wired, the only use for electricity was for lighting. Electricity’s potential to reshape (12) lifestyle was unforeseen. Once the *infrastructure was in place, (13) , innovative new products were created that took advantage of electricity. Electric refrigerators, phonographs, and air conditioners were applications of the new technology to existing needs. The most revolutionary applications of electricity (14) the phone, the radio, and the television reshaped our economies and our lifestyles. People (15) of these devices before the infrastructure was available.

*infrastructure: basic facilities such as power supplies, transport.

III 次の質問に英語で答えなさい。

Japanese seem to avoid an immediate and clear answer of yes or no.
What is your opinion? Give three reasons to support your ideas.