

< [Why Lea Of Lebanon Wants To Leave Home: #15Girls](#)

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RACHEL MARTIN, HOST:

Where you grow up plays a huge role in the person you become. For the past few weeks, we've been exploring the lives of 15-year-old girls around the world. NPR's Jason Beaubien brings us the story of a teenage girl in Beirut and a choice that so many young people face, stay at home or build a life somewhere else.

JASON BEAUBIEN, BYLINE: Fifteen-year-old Lea Hatouni lives in the Christian section of the Lebanese capital with her family in a cramped walk-up apartment.

LEA HATOUNI: So there is two rooms, one for my parents and one for their five kids.

BEAUBIEN: In many ways, Lea is like a lot of other teenagers around the world. She likes music and hanging out with her friends and painting her nails dark blue. She fantasizes about getting her own bedroom.

LEA: Yes, I always dream to have my own room (laughter) with big closets full of dresses. And I have my own window and my bathroom (laughter). Yes.

BEAUBIEN: But there's an edge to these adolescent dreams. The war in Syria is raging just 50 miles to the west. Her own city still bears the scars of a civil war that split Beirut along religious lines. Lea sees this fragile world around her and understands that to achieve her goals here, she's got to focus.

LEA: After school, we don't have, like, a lot of time to waste. We need to study.

BEAUBIEN: Lea wants to show us the other major force in her life besides school.

LEA: This is the church, the St. George Church.

BEAUBIEN: St. George's is just a few blocks from her apartment. Lea is part of the youth group here and says she comes here regularly to pray.

LEA: When I come here, it's like a time where I can stay with myself and talk to God. And I tell him I'm sorry if I did something wrong. And it makes me feel better. Yeah.

BEAUBIEN: As she talks, Lea is standing under portraits of the apostles. Saints' faces are painted on a special paper that can be peeled off, rolled up and speared into safety if the church is attacked. This isn't just paranoia. Many churches were desecrated during Lebanon's civil war. That conflict turned Beirut in the 1980s into one of the most dangerous places on Earth. In a way, Lea Hatouni is a product of that war. Her father fled the fighting. He ended up in Brazil, where he fell in love with Lea's mom, Eni.

MICHEL HATOUNI: No, really, really, she was very beautiful, with beautiful hair.

BEAUBIEN: The two of them still joke about who pursued who first.

ENI HATOUNI: You loved me (speaking foreign language).

BEAUBIEN: You loved me, she says.

M. HATOUNI: No, no, no. She - (laughter).

BEAUBIEN: From her mother, Lea learned Portuguese. Like a lot of students in Beirut, Lea also speaks English, French and Arabic. This international city has nurtured her love for languages. After college, Lea's plan is to become a translator, travel the world. Her mom isn't entirely enthusiastic about this.

E. HATOUNI: Lea - a beautiful girl, a beautiful girl. (Speaking foreign language).

BEAUBIEN: Eni says Lea is beautiful but innocent. She doesn't want her daughter going abroad until she's much older, maybe in her late 20s. Lea smiles in a noncommittal way as her mother says this. Later, away from her mom, walking through a small park near her apartment, Lea talks confidently about becoming a translator. In her mind, her career is playing out like a movie that's set outside of Lebanon.

LEA: I think if I go outside Lebanon, it's better. I'll have a better job. Yeah because Lebanon is like, whatever you - you're working in, you don't have a great job. You're not happy about it.

BEAUBIEN: Like her father before her, Lea is preparing to leave here in search of a better life. Jason Beaubien, NPR News, Beirut.

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**STAGE III NATIONAL STUDENTS OLYMPIAD IN THE ENGLISH
LANGUAGE**

Listening Comprehension Test for 9 Form Students

Why Lea of Lebanon Wants to Leave Home

Task 1. Choose whether the statements are True or False.

- ___ 1. Lea lives with her mom and dad and six siblings.
- ___ 2. Lea lives in the Muslim area of Beirut.
- ___ 3. Beirut is now one of the most dangerous places on earth.
- ___ 4. Lea speaks English, French, Arabic and Portuguese.
- ___ 5. Lea is sixteen years old.
- ___ 6. Lea does not want to leave Lebanon.
- ___ 7. St. George's Church is just a few blocks from Lea's apartment.

Task 2. Choose the best answer.

8. The war in Syria is raging _____ miles to the west.
- a) fifty
 - b) sixty
 - c) forty
 - d) thirty
9. "Saints' faces are painted on a special paper that can be peeled off, rolled up and _____ to safety if the church is attacked".
- a) spiced
 - b) speared
 - c) splinted
 - d) spirited
10. The journalist says that the other major force in Lea's life, besides school, is:
- a) War
 - b) Church
 - c) Her parents
 - d) Brazil
11. Lea's mother is from
- a) Brazil
 - b) Portugal
 - c) Lebanon
 - d) Syria

12. Lea's father:

- a) has lived all his life in Lebanon.
- b) immigrated to Lebanon from Portugal.
- c) was a refugee from the war in Lebanon.
- d) was a refugee from the war in Syria.

13. When the journalist says that, "Lea sees this fragile world around her and understands that to achieve her goals here, she's got to focus." Fragile most likely means:

- a) Exciting
- b) Safe
- c) Unstable
- d) Sturdy

14. This recording is mainly about:

- a) The life of fifteen year old Lea and her desire to leave her home country to find meaningful work.
- b) The life of sixteen year old Lea and her desire to leave her home country to find meaningful work
- c) The dangerous lives that many people live in war torn Lebanon
- d) The love story of Lea's parents, who fell in love in Brazil.

15. The journalist says that things that Lea enjoys include:

- a) playing computer games
- b) attending mosque
- c) painting her fingernails dark blue
- d) dancing

**STAGE III NATIONAL STUDENTS OLYMPIAD IN THE ENGLISH
LANGUAGE
Reading Comprehension Test for 9th Form Students**

4 Ways to Predict the Weather Without an App

Crickets can tell you the temperature

A chorus of chirps at night isn't just lovely atmosphere; it's a musical thermometer, too. Studies have shown that crickets regulate the rhythm of their chirps based on the temperature outside. To convert cricket chirps to degrees Celsius, count the number of chirps in 25 seconds, divide by 3 and then add 4 to get the temperature.

Storm heading your way? Count between the lighting and thunder

Light travels much faster than sound (299,806 *kilometers* per second versus 331.6 *mper* second) and the difference between them can give you a fair measure of distance. As soon as you see a flash of lighting, start counting the seconds until you hear the roar of thunder. Divide the number of seconds by three, and you will know how many kilometers away from you lightning just struck. Try this trick a few times in a row, and you'll know whether a storm is coming or going.

Birds fly higher in fair weather

Most birds possess what is called the Vitali organ, a special middle-ear receptor that senses extremely minute changes in air pressure. As atmospheric pressure falls before a storm, birds fly lower or huddle on telephone wires to escape the sudden pressure in their heads. If you see a flock flying high in the sky, chances are it's nice weather, ahoy.

Halo around the moon? Storm's comin' soon

According to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, there is some merit to the old folk saying, "When a halo rings the moon or sun, rain's approaching on the run." A so-called halo forms around the moon when ice crystals from high-altitude cirrus clouds reflect and refract incoming light. Cirrus clouds don't bring rain, but they are a good indication that a low-pressure warm front is a few days away, often with a storm in tow.

Choose the answer that best answers the following questions from the reading above.

1. How can you order the topics of the four paragraphs?
 - A. Insect, Atmospheric, Animal, Astral
 - B. Animal, Astral, Insect, Atmospheric
 - C. Insect, Astral, Animal, Atmospheric
 - D. Animal, Insect, Atmospheric, Astral

2. All these methods are best used for:
 - A. Predicting the weather days in advance
 - B. Discovering the season
 - C. Knowing the weather without using technology
 - D. Finding out if it will rain today

3. Which techniques can be used to predict weather that is approaching?
 - A. 1st
 - B. 2nd and 3rd
 - C. 3rd and 4th
 - D. 2nd, 3rd and 4th

4. Which statement is **not** true about the last method?
 - A. It is the clouds that you are seeing that will produce the rain
 - B. It is the clouds that produce ice crystals for the halo, not the moon
 - C. Storms can be preceded by low-pressure warm fronts
 - D. The old folk saying is not only a myth

5. The last technique would work best under which astral conditions?
 - A. Quarter Moon
 - B. Half Moon
 - C. Full Moon
 - D. No Moon

Excerpt from: **How Teddy Roosevelt Invented Starbucks, and 4 More Surprising Legacies From U.S. Presidents**

Thomas Jefferson

Term: 1801–1809

Unlikely Legacy: Paleontology

A true Renaissance nerd, Jefferson pursued scholarly interests both famous (authoring the Declaration of Independence) and overlooked (rebuilding the burned-down Library of Congress with more than 6,400 books from his own collection). But what was Jefferson's oddest hobby? Bone collecting!

In the early 1800s, paleontology was as rough around the edges as America was. Jefferson, for one, believed it impossible that any species could go extinct. So in 1804, he funded the Lewis and Clark expedition in partial hopes that they would track down a herd of live woolly mammoths alleged to roam the Mississippi River Valley.

The mammoths weren't there, but their bones were. This was incentive enough for Jefferson to finance Clark on an 1807 follow-up mission to Kentucky with the express purpose of collecting fossils. The trip turned up more than 300 bone samples, which Jefferson gleefully spread out across several rooms of the White House for study. Rarities, like the mammoth skull, he kept for America; duplicates, he mailed to France.

Ultimately, Jefferson's nerdy hobby helped legitimize paleontology in America, even as it led critics to call the president Mr. Mammoth. He gifted at least 50 mastodon bones to the American Philosophical Society and was key in identifying a giant, extinct sloth never before seen in America. It was later named *Megalonyx Jeffersonii*.

Choose the answer that best answers the following questions from the reading above.

6. The phrase 'in the early 1800s, paleontology was as rough around the edges as America was' implies what?
 - A. America was very civilized
 - B. America was not very refined
 - C. America was full of bones
 - D. America was not practical

7. By calling Jefferson a “Renaissance nerd” the article means that:
 - A. He had many diverse interests
 - B. He spoke Italian and French
 - C. He was interested in Renaissance art
 - D. He had lots of books

8. What statement demonstrates that President Jefferson’s hobbies were not always well received?
 - A. He had a sloth named after him
 - B. He mailed duplicate bones to France
 - C. His nickname “Mr. Mammoth”
 - D. He funded an excursion by Lewis and Clark

9. According to the article, what was President Jefferson’s most well-known achievement?
 - A. Discovering woolly mammoths
 - B. Writing the Declaration of Independence
 - C. Collecting bones
 - D. His donations to the American Philosophical Society

10. Why couldn’t Lewis and Clark find the live woolly mammoths?
 - A. They were all extinct
 - B. They did not go to Kentucky first
 - C. President Jefferson sent them all to France
 - D. They found the sloth instead

We Can Survive Without Makeup in Space?

Out of the hundreds of men who have explored the cosmos, Russia has sent only four women into space in more than 50 years of interstellar travel. Now, in a move toward gender equality—on and off Earth—the Russian space agency is running experiments for an all-female crew. But the push for equality took a turn as members of the media began asking the group how they’d handle time away from men and what they’d do without cosmetics. “We are doing work,” said cosmonaut Anna Kussmaul. “When you’re doing work, you don’t think about men and women.” Kussmaul is just one of the six female cosmonauts, ages 22 to 34, who climbed into a mock spaceship recently. The eight-day simulated trip is designed to study how women cope physically and psychologically in outer space.

“We consider the future of space belongs equally to men and women, and unfortunately we need to catch up a bit after a period when unfortunately there haven’t been too many women in space,” Sergei Ponomarev said, the project’s director.

But despite Ponomarev’s commitment, other officials were concerned; Igor Ushakov, the director of the institute, worried about fighting. “I’d like to wish you a lack of conflicts, even though they say that in one kitchen, two housewives find it hard to live together,” said Ushakov said. The women participating in the experiment are esteemed researchers and doctors. The experiment will mirror a trip to the moon planned for 2029, with the women conducting a variety of experiments during the voyage.

Women are an underrepresented minority across math and science careers globally, and those who do work in these fields often have their qualifications questioned based on gender. That gender bias also comes in the form of hiring discrimination and salary discrepancies. A 2012 study from Yale University found that male applicants for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) jobs were viewed as more qualified than women, even if they had identical résumés.

The group of Russian cosmonauts handled the questions with ease, assuring the group that gender would have no impact on their ability to perform. As for not being able to take a proper shower or wear cosmetics, that's not a problem either. "We are very beautiful without makeup," said participant Darya Komissarova.

Choose the answer that best answers the following questions from the reading above.

11. Which is **not** a concern that was voiced about the women cosmonauts?
 - A. That they would have a hard time without make-up
 - B. That they would fight
 - C. That they were not qualified
 - D. That they need proper showers

12. What is one challenge that woman do **not** face in the STEM field?
 - A. Having their qualifications questioned
 - B. Having their resumes chosen over men
 - C. Discrimination in hiring
 - D. Being paid less

13. How did the women respond to the media's questions?
 - A. Professionally
 - B. Aggressively
 - C. Hesitantly
 - D. Angrily

14. This article demonstrates:
 - A. That the media has legitimate concerns about women cosmonauts
 - B. That the cosmonauts have full support within their organization
 - C. That women should not be cosmonauts
 - D. That sexism is still prevalent

15. The testing that Russia is doing with their all-female team will:
 - A. Will be put into effect immediately
 - B. Will be used for a mission almost 15 years in the future
 - C. Discourage other minorities
 - D. Will be of limited use to the scientific community

**STAGE III NATIONAL STUDENTS OLYMPIAD IN THE ENGLISH
LANGUAGE**

Speaking Comprehension Test for 9thForm Students

DIRECTIONS: In this test you will select three task slips from those before you. After selecting three, choose the one you feel you are most capable to speak about and return the other two to the table face down. Then take about a minute to collect your thoughts before you begin to speak on the topic. You may refer to the topic as needed. Take a deep breath and begin.

1. Imagine you can choose a superpower: the ability to fly, super speed, or super strength.
 - a. Which superpower would you choose?
 - b. Why would you choose that power?
 - c. Would you use that power to help others or yourself?

2. Smartphones are everywhere now. And they are not just telephones- they are entire small computers, complete with apps, games, navigation, music and even the internet! How have smart phones changed communication?
 - a. Do you have a smartphone? What do you usually do with it?
 - b. Describe some apps that you know. What do they do?
 - c. How do you think communication will be different 20 years from now?

3. Every culture has literature that is important to it, including traditional stories and classic literature.
 - a. Describe the most famous traditional or classical literature in Ukraine.
 - b. Do you read this literature in school? How did you like it?
 - c. What have you learned about your culture or yourself by studying these stories?

4. Describe your favorite fairy tale/folk tale.
 - a. Who are the characters? Where do they live?
 - b. What happens in the story?
 - c. What is the message of the story?

5. Imagine that a genie is willing to teach you one skill or talent perfectly. After you learn it, you will be one of the best in the world at that skill.
 - a. What talent or skill would you learn?
 - b. Why would you learn that skill? Is it something you have always wanted to learn?
 - c. What would you do with your new talent or skill?
6. Describe someone who inspires you.
 - a. How do you know this person? Tell us a little about them.
 - b. What do they do that inspires you?
 - c. What lessons have you learned from them that have changed the way you live your life?
7. If you could spend one hour with someone person from history who would it be?
 - a. What would you talk about with them?
 - b. What would you do with them? Where would you go?
 - c. What is one question you think they might ask you?
8. All systems have their problems, education systems included. Think about your school.
 - a. Why is it important to get an education?
 - b. What do you like about the teaching at your school? What don't you like?
 - c. If you could change one thing about your school, what would it be?
9. "Good actions give strength to ourselves and inspire good actions in others" -Plato
 - a. What does this quote mean to you? Do you agree with it?
 - b. Describe a good action that you saw that inspired you or gave you strength.
 - c. What can you do to try and inspire others?
10. "The greatest wealth is health." –Virgil
 - a. What do you think this quote means? How important is health to you?
 - b. What do you do to stay healthy?
 - c. How does health affect our lives?

11. Describe the plot of your favorite movie.
 - a. Who are the main characters? What are they like?
 - b. What happens to them?
 - c. Why do you like the movie?

12. Everyone has a hobby or something they are interested in.
 - a. What hobbies are most popular with men in your country? With women?
 - b. Do you have the same hobby as anyone in your family? How did you learn this hobby?
 - c. Describe a hobby that you would like to try.

13. 90% of young people in Ukraine use the internet at least once a week. Many of them make friends on the internet.
 - a. Have you ever made any friends on the internet? What are other ways to use the internet?
 - b. Do you think it is safe to meet people on the internet? What are the risks?
 - c. Would you ever meet a friend that you met on the internet in real life?

14. All children are taught to be polite, to say “please” and “thank you”, to ask permission for things, to greet people they know. These things together are referred to as “manners.”
 - a. What are some other examples of good manners? What are some examples of bad manners in Ukraine?
 - b. Are manners important? What difference to manners make in society?
 - c. What do you think when you see someone with very bad manners? Can you give an example?

15. Most people will never need to physically defend themselves, but it is very common for people to practice a martial art, such as boxing, karate, judo, or others.
 - a. Have you ever studied a martial art? Did you know someone who has studied?
 - b. Why do people study martial arts? What benefits does it give them?
 - c. Do martial arts have a role in society today?

16. Fashion changes all the time, from year to year and from decade to decade.
 - a. What clothes are fashionable now? What do people usually wear?
 - b. Is the current fashion practical?
 - c. Do you think it is important to stay fashionable?

17. An English proverb says, “The pen is mightier than the sword”
 - a. What does this proverb mean to you? Do you agree with it?
 - b. Do you believe that an idea or a poem or a book can change the world? Why or why not?
 - c. Describe a time that you used words and ideas to solve a problem instead of violence.

18. Everyone is good at something. Finding and nurturing that skill is one of the healthiest and most rewarding things that a person can do.
 - a. Describe something that you are good at. Did you practice to become good at it?
 - b. How can you work to improve this ability? What motivates you to improve it?
 - c. How have you used this ability?

19. It is common for people to have pets. Sometimes the pets are large, like dogs or cats. Sometimes they are smaller, like fish, or birds. Talk about some pets you know.
 - a. Do you have a pet at home? What kind of a pet?
 - b. What are the good things about owning a pet? Bad things?
 - c. What is the difference between a pet and another animal?

20. Everyone is good at something. Finding and nurturing that skill is one of the healthiest and most rewarding things that a person can do.
 - a. Describe something that you are good at. Did you practice to become good at it?
 - b. How can you work to improve this ability? What motivates you to improve it?
 - c. How have you used this ability?

2016

Stage III National Students Olympiad in the English Language
Writing Comprehension Test for 9th Form Students

1. “Help yourself by helping others.”

Share a personal experience that illustrates this quotation. Describe the situation, including who else was there (if someone else was actually there), what you did and what the other person did.

Explain what you learned from helping another person or other people.

Develop your narrative by using sensory details and events from your own life.

2. “Experience is the best teacher.”

In a personal narrative, share a specific time in your life that illustrates this quotation. Describe the situation that you experienced, where it was and who was there.

Make sure to tell what you learned from the experience.

3. Mark Twain writes: “We find not much in ourselves to admire; we are privately wanting to be like somebody else. If everybody were satisfied with himself, there would be no heroes.”

Explain your own definition of “hero,” using examples of people and their actions that you consider to be heroic.

Be sure to include Twain’s comment that dissatisfaction with ourselves leads us to seek or look for heroes in our lives.