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INGELES A INGLÉS

FEW CLUES IN LITTLE MERMAID WHODUNNIT

Danish police have been scratching their heads as they hunt for the vandals who decapitated the Little Mermaid.

Few clues have emerged about the second beheading in 35 years of the famous statue on Copenhagen's waterfront, which has shocked the Danish public and worried tourism officials. Frogmen scouring* the harbour near the statue failed to find the Little Mermaid's bronze head and two youths on roller skates seen near the landmark early on Tuesday morning have not responded yet to police requests to help in the investigation.

"I'm afraid that the latest attack on the Little Mermaid can backfire on our tourism" said Bernhard Jorgensen, director of the *Wonderful Copenhagen* tourism organization. "It is important for a tourist city to have a symbol like the *Eiffel Tower* in Paris or London's *Big Ben*".

Based on the fairytale by Christian Andersen about the Sea King's daughter, who must wait on her rock for 300 years before entering the world of humans and marrying her prince, the Little Mermaid attracts almost one million tourists a year.

The statue was found severed at the neck by a saw or grinding machine after an anonymous call to a local television cameraman before dawn on Tuesday.

Police are working on the theory that the beheading was the work of the same person who sawed off a 19th century galleon figurehead at a naval base in Copenhagen last January. This severed head was found in the ladies' toilets of a department store late on Tuesday, giving rise to police suspicions that a mentally disturbed woman may be behind the two decapitations.

* *scouring*: to search a place thoroughly for something

I.- Answer questions 1-4 according to the information given in the text. **Use your own words** (4 marks)

1. What's wrong with the famous Little Mermaid statue from Copenhagen?
2. How important is the Little Mermaid statue for Copenhagen?
3. What fairy story is the Little Mermaid based on?
4. How far have the police investigations reached in solving the case?

II.- Are these statements **True** or **False**? **Justify** your answers based on information from the text, rewriting the original sentences in your own way or, at least, quoting properly. (2 marks)

1. The vandals threw the mermaid's head into the water.
2. Despite the police requests the skaters haven't turned up.

III.- Find the words or expressions in the text that mean (1 mark)

1. Pieces of evidence that help to reveal the truth in an investigation .
2. An easily recognizable object, construction or work of art
3. Produce an unexpected, undesired result.
4. An image or object that suggests or refers to something else.



IV.- Write a **composition** of about 130 words on **one** of these topics. Specify your option. (3 marks)

1. Describe your visit to one of the national landmarks or symbols you have really enjoyed.
2. Why do vandals take pleasure in destroying public heritage or furniture? What can be done about this foolish behaviour?

SOLUCIONES

I.- Answer questions 1-4 according to the information given in the text. **Use your own words** (4 marks)

1. What's wrong with the famous Little Mermaid statue from Copenhagen?

The famous statue has been beheaded by some vandals.

2. How important is the Little Mermaid statue for Copenhagen?

It's very important for the city's tourist industry since almost one million people visit the statue every year.

3. What fairy story is the Little Mermaid based on?

This character appears in a fairy tale by Christian Andersen. According to the story, the Little Mermaid is the daughter of the Sea King and wants to marry a human prince. But before being able to live on the Earth she will have to wait on a rock for 300 hundred years.

4. How far have the police investigations reached in solving the case?

Although the police haven't caught the criminal yet, they think that it may be the same person who beheaded another statue last January. And this vandal is probably a woman.

II.- Are these statements **True** or **False**? **Justify** your answers based on information from the text, rewriting the original sentences in your own way or, at least, quoting properly. (2 marks)

1. The vandals threw the mermaid's head into the water. FALSE.

Frogmen scouring the harbour near the statue failed to find the Little Mermaid's bronze head.

2. Despite the police requests the skaters haven't turned up. TRUE.

Two youths on roller skates seen near the landmark early on Tuesday morning have not responded yet to police requests to help in the investigation.

III.- Find the words or expressions in the text that mean (1 mark)

1. Pieces of evidence that help to reveal the truth in an investigation. clues

2. An easily recognizable object, construction or work of art. landmark

3. Produce an unexpected, undesired result. backfire

4. An image or object that suggests or refers to something else. symbol.