

(B) The narrator of Yukio Mishima's *Confessions of a Mask* tells us that he remembers something he saw on the day he was born. This, if it is not a (8) memory, is a very rare occurrence, however. Most people cannot recall anything that happened before the age of two. Autobiographical memory, the memory of events in one's own life, begins to be (9) at around three to four years, when children are often encouraged by adults such as parents and teachers to recall and relate recent events as stories. By the age of five, most children are able to tell (10) stories about their past experience, with setting, character, and plot. As they go through elementary school, their autobiographical memories become more subtle and elaborate.

In adolescence and young adulthood, memories of particular personal events are often (11) into larger, structured life stories. These life stories reflect how people understand their lives as a whole and help to (12) life with meaning and purpose. Moreover, those stories carry out the (13) of explaining to their own narrators how it is that they have become who they are today and what kind of life they expect to have in the future. Through their adult years, life stories keep on developing as people gain new experiences and a new understanding of the past. However, according to one piece of research, people tend to hold an especially large number of vivid memories of events in their late-adolescent and early-adult years, which constitute some very important scenes that (14) their life stories.

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| 8. (a) bitter | (b) false | (c) passing | (d) short |
| 9. (a) accepted | (b) followed | (c) quickened | (d) revealed |
| 10. (a) coherent | (b) emotional | (c) original | (d) plausible |
| 11. (a) complicated | (b) invented | (c) merged | (d) remembered |
| 12. (a) assign | (b) extend | (c) interpret | (d) provide |
| 13. (a) function | (b) intention | (c) possibility | (d) significance |
| 14. (a) characterize | (b) perform | (c) resemble | (d) verify |