

英语阅读文库·人生世界

丛书主编 马瑞香 王正元

Testing Your Perseverance

考验
你的耐力

编著 © 于丽艳 孟晖 周洁

华中科技大学出版社
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主编寄语

有人追求中流击水，浪遏飞舟
有人追求金戈铁马，千里觅封侯
有人追求平静中的快乐
有人追求喧嚣中的风流

黑暗中的人都期盼温暖的黎明
大漠中的跋涉者都渴望绿洲
追求者总是高举理想的火炬
用不懈去刻写梦寐以求

尘埃滚滚，人生路上挤满追求的人流
历史的长河吞没了多少岁月春秋
追求写下了多少人生奋斗
还有无法找到的海市蜃楼

不要谴责你的朋友，花前月下过于浪漫
不要抱怨痛苦时的一醉方休
每个人都有体味人生的感受：
成功和追求连在一起
放弃只能在还没出发的时候



总 序

大学生的精神世界是活跃的、丰富多彩的，有着许多动人的美丽、憧憬和色彩光亮的梦想。大学生的心态很天真，很阳光。但是在成长的道路上，总会有快乐和迷茫，面对五彩缤纷的世界、求职的拥挤和失意，他们开始严肃地审视世界，认真地思考自己，什么是幸福、爱情、奋斗、经历、追求、创业等，这些话题悄然走进大学生们的生活。正是基于这些，我们为大学生编写了这套英语阅读文库《人生世界》。

这套书共十本，包括奋斗、爱情、创业、经历、幸福、梦想等十个大学生关心的话题。所选的英语原文词汇量和难度与大学生的英语阅读水平相适应，每篇文章前有导读，文中的疑难词语配有注释，并附有赏析和阅读思考题，每本书前主编还写了一首诗歌作为主编寄语，这一切，希望广大读者能够喜欢。

在编写这套书时，我们给读者提供的文章不仅是地道的英语表达，而且读来耐人寻味，从而使这套书更具有语言性和知识性、阅读性和思考性相结合的特点。在这套书出版之前，我们曾将部分书稿交给学生阅读，请他们谈谈阅读感想。有的说：“好像喝了杯热咖啡，有点苦，也有点甜。”有的说：“好像嚼槟榔，爽！”一个美丽的女孩悄悄地说：“我的爱情彩球飞得太高了，无法着陆。”

……我们感受到了写书的快乐。

北京外国语大学、辽宁大学、哈尔滨工程大学、燕山大学等十几所知名大学的英语教师参加了这套书的编写工作，给读者献上了文字优美的短文，感人的英文故事。华中科技大学出版社的梅欣君老师和诸位相关的编辑耐心、细致地把这套书做得如此漂亮，作为主编，我们实在应该感谢他们。这次推出了英语阅读文库的《人生世界》，也许很快就能陆续推出《文化世界》、《文学世界》、《商务世界》，与大学生朋友共享行走在英语世界中的快乐。

丛书主编

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The Last Lecture: A Love Story for Your Life

最后的一课：生命的爱之歌



当得知自己已是癌症晚期，生命之烛即将熄灭时，兰迪·波许教授依然用他幽默、风趣的语言给学生们奉献了励志的最后一课，也给世人演绎了一曲生命的爱之歌。这位卡耐基·梅隆大学的普通计算机教授，用他的乐观和顽强向我们诠释了生命的真谛。2008年7月25日，波许教授因胰腺癌并发症病逝，享年47岁。

What would you say if you knew you were going to die and had a chance to sum up everything that was most important to you?

One of Randy Pausch's unfulfilled childhood dreams was to play for the NFL. He got the opportunity to practice with the Pittsburgh Steelers recently, and he kicked a field goal on his first try.



That's the hypothetical question posed to the annual speaker of a lecture series commonly known as "The Last Lecture"¹. But for Randy Pausch, the **charismatic**² young professor of computer science at Carnegie Mellon University, the question wasn't hypothetical.

The 47-year-old father of three small children had been diagnosed with **pancreatic cancer**³ — and given six months to live.

Friends and colleagues flew in from all around the country to attend his last lecture. And — almost as an afterthought — the



lecture was videotaped and put on the Internet for the few people who couldn't get there that day.

That was all it took.

Somehow amid the vast clamor of the Web and the bling-bling of million-dollar budgets, savvy marketing campaigns and millions of strange and bizarre videos, **the voice of one earnest professor standing at a podium and talking about his childhood dreams cut through the noise**⁴.

The lecture was so uplifting, so funny, so inspirational that it went viral. So far, 10 million people have downloaded it.

And thousands have written in to say that his lecture changed their lives.

If you had only six months to live, what would you do? How would you live your life? And how can all of us take heart from Pausch's inspiring message to live each day to its fullest?

Pausch's answers to these questions, both in the lecture and in three separate interviews over a series of months with Diane Sawyer, are moving, funny, thought-provoking and extraordinary.

According to PanCAN, an advocacy organization for the pancreatic cancer community, approximately 37 170 Americans will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in 2008 and 33 370 will die from it.

It is the fourth leading cause of cancer death in the United States, and unlike other cancers, during the last 30 years the medical community has seen very little advancement in prolonging the lives of pancreatic cancer patients.

But instead of focusing on his death, Pausch spoke about his childhood dreams. "You may not agree with the list but I was there... Being in zero gravity, playing in the National Football League, authoring an article in the *World Book Encyclopedia* — I guess you



can tell the nerds early... I wanted to be one of the guys who won the big stuffed animals in the amusement park.” He went on to attain almost all of those dreams, but they didn’t all come easy.

In the lecture, he speaks of overcoming the obstacles that may seem insurmountable. **Although he graduated magna cum laude from Brown University, he nearly didn’t get in to Brown in the first place**⁵ — he was wait listed. It was a brick wall that some might have walked away from. But Pausch has a novel way of looking at obstacles.

“The brick walls are there for a reason,” he said during his lecture. “The brick walls are not there to keep us out. The brick walls are there to give us a chance to show how badly we want something.”

He kept calling the college until it let him in.

Pausch maintains his most formidable brick wall was a beautiful graduate student named Jai Glasgow. Pausch was 37, with a reputation as something of a ladies’ man, when he met her at a lecture. Pausch was **smitten**⁶, but she resisted. However, he refused to give up, and they eventually married and had three children.

Pausch speaks movingly of how he is now trying to create memories for his three kids, Dylan, 6, Logan, 3, and Chloe, 18 months, and why he can’t allow himself to wallow in self pity.

“I mean, the metaphor I’ve used is... somebody’s going to push my family off a cliff pretty soon, and I won’t be there to catch them. And that breaks my heart. But I have some time to sew some nets to cushion the fall. So, I can curl up in a ball and cry, or I can get to work on the nets.”

Pausch was already a popular professor, and one of the foremost teachers in the field of virtual reality, when he proposed a class that would become legendary at CMU. It was called Building



Virtual Worlds, a high-wire act that brought together students from many different disciplines, writers and computer programmers and artists who were forced to work together intensively in small groups.

Pausch told Sawyer that while the course was ostensibly about designing virtual reality worlds, there was a stealth message as well: "How do you behave with integrity? How do you behave in a way that other people will respect you and want to keep working with you?"

The result was so popular that it eventually spawned an entire program at the university. Together with drama professor Don Marinelli, Pausch started the Entertainment Technology Center, which over the years has become the go-to school for video gaming and Hollywood high tech.

At the ETC, students were encouraged to try the unconventional and the risky.

As former student Phil Light said, "We went to him and said, 'We have these ideas, we have a couple of ideas. This idea here is very safe. This idea here is risky.' He said, 'Go for the risk. It's better to fail spectacularly than to pass along and do something which is mediocre.'"

Pausch says that over the years, he went from attaining his own childhood dreams to learning to enable the dreams of his students, which he maintains is every bit as satisfying.

To enable dreams on a grand scale, Pausch began his latest venture, called Alice. Alice is a free computer application that teaches kids to program, while giving them the impression that they are simply creating animated stories.

Created by a Carnegie Mellon team including Wanda Dann, Dennis Cosgrove and Caitlin Kelleher, Alice has already been downloaded more than a million times. The new version of Alice will feature characters from the popular computer game "The Sims".



Since his diagnosis, Pausch has devoted almost all of his time to his family, moving to a location near his wife's family, so that she will have some emotional support, and spending a lot of time with his three kids.

He has tried to approach what he calls his "engineering problem" as a scientist. He interviewed people who'd lost their parents and asked them what they would have wanted to have as keepsakes; what they wished their parents had told them before they died. Pausch says he wants to make sure he gives his wife and children what they will need to remember him, and to know that he loved them.

He and his wife, Jai, consulted psychotherapist Michele Reiss and other experts to help them grapple with such issues as when to tell the children. Reiss says very young children "have no particular time orientation yet. So you can talk to a young child in terms of breakfast time, or lunchtime, or dinnertime, or nap time, but you can't talk about the day after tomorrow, or next week, or next month, much less three to six months from now."

Therefore, the decision was made not to tell the children until their father is much sicker. The Pausch family asks any viewers who might run into them to respect the experts' opinion and say nothing.

One of the things Pausch is leaving behind for his kids: the lecture. He calls it a message in a bottle. The lecture, along with private videos he is making for their eyes alone, and a book he has written called *The Last Lecture* will help give his children — at least one of whom is too young now to be able to have distinct memories of her father — a sense of how much he loved them.

Sawyer asked Pausch about his children, in particular Chloe, the youngest. "I hope that her passion will take her to wherever she goes. And the same for Dylan and Logan. I just hope that they have



passion for things, and I'm sure they will. I'm sure their mother will instill that in them. And whatever they see of me in direct memories and indirect memories, uh, will send that signal. Because if they have passion for things, then I'm happy for whatever they have passion for.”

But if the lecture was written for an audience of only three, it has touched millions of others as well. People around the country told ABC News about the many ways his lecture had helped bring magic into their lives.

Alfred Nicolosi of Salem, N.J., said the night he watched Pausch's lecture was the “same night when Randy's life turned mine around”. Battling depression, cancer surgery and facing heart problems, Nicolosi cleaned up his life, literally.

“I had never been very organized person, but this was exceptional. I'd allowed piles of boxes, groceries, laundry, books scattered everywhere. There was absolutely no order to my life, no way to find things, it was just lost. So immediately after seeing the lecture, I began to organize my house, and I felt like I was rediscovering my life in the process.”

Peter Riebling, a lawyer from Vienna, Va., handed his 10-year-old daughter, Kimberly, a pencil and gave her free reign on her bedroom walls. “He told me to go draw on my walls, so at first I honestly thought he had gone crazy, because most parents wouldn't let their children draw on the walls, especially when they are brand new and painted and stuff. So I did start drawing on my walls — and then I actually found it was extremely fun so I kept doing it,” said Kimberly.

Diane Gregory from Las Vegas encouraged her teenage son Matt to express himself by hanging every piece of sports memorabilia⁷ he had collected on his walls. Matt jumped at the



opportunity and with the tacks and double-sided tape went to work. Harry Wooten, a choir minister from Dallas, uses Pausch's message to touch his **congregants**⁸ through prayer and song.

After battling breast cancer, Kaje Lane of Los Angeles says Pausch has inspired her to pursue singing — a passion she had put aside for many years.

"I think so many people relate to Randy because every one of us has some sort of dream they want to make real, or some sort of passion that they want to tap into if they're not already thinking that way... I think people are just drawn to that. It's very magnetic to see someone positive not just about the big things but the little things."

But even though he had enabled the dreams of so many others, we couldn't help but notice that there was one dream Pausch had never been able to fulfill — playing in the NFL.

So we made a couple of phone calls, and in October, Pausch took the field with the Pittsburgh Steelers. He was wearing the **jersey**⁹ of his favorite player: wide receiver Heinz Ward.

Moments later he was catching balls thrown by Ward.

He caught every pass — and even kicked a field goal, on his first attempt.

"There was a definite sense," Pausch told Sawyer, "when I put that talk together, to use another football expression, you know, I wanted to leave it all on the field... If I thought it was important, it's in there. I played in football games where you walk off the field and the scoreboard didn't end up the way you wanted. But you knew that you really did give it all. And the other team was too strong. Yeah, I'm not going to beat the cancer. I tried really hard... but sometimes you're just not going to beat the thing... I wanted to walk off the stage and say anything I thought was important, I had my hour."

After a recent **bout**¹⁰ in the hospital to overcome kidney and



congestive heart failure — side effects of his chemotherapy — Pausch returned home to his family.

“His fate is, is our fate, but it’s just sped up,” said co-author Jeff Zaslow. “He’s, you know, 47, and, and we don’t know when we’re gonna go, but we all have the same fate. We’re all dying, just like Randy is... when we can see him, how he’s, how he’s traveling, it makes us think about how we’re going to travel.”

Millions of people around the globe have been touched by his message of optimism.

Sawyer recently asked Pausch what was the best thing that had happened to him that day. He replied, “Well, first off, I’d say the day’s not over yet. So there’s always a chance that there will be a new best.”

注释

1. The Last Lecture 其实在美国的很多大学都有类似的“last lecture”系列讲座，比如说斯坦福大学、阿拉巴马大学，通常是让学校的著名的教授来假设这是他们最后的演讲，也就是，在最后的时刻，把他们最希望分享给这个世界的东西告诉所有的观众。当你看着一位健康的教授站在讲台上假设着他们即将离去，反复思考讲解对于他们来说最重要的东西时，是非常吸引人的。但是对于兰迪·波许来说，这不再是一个学术活动，他确实实实在在几个月之后就会离开这个世界，他真正面对自己的最后的一课。他原本希望，把演讲录下来留给3名年幼的孩子日后观看，作为他们人生的指引。没想到演讲录像被登在网上，吸引了大批人浏览。目前为止，单单是YouTube视频的点击率就有320万人次。卡耐基·梅隆大学发言人说，目前已有好几千万人在网上观看了波许的演讲。
2. charismatic [ˌkærɪz'mætɪk] *adj.* 有魅力的
3. pancreatic cancer 胰腺癌



4. 站在讲台上的教授真诚地讲述着童年的梦想，穿透着凡世的喧嚣。
5. 尽管他是布朗大学的优秀毕业生，但他当初并没有被布朗大学首批录取。
6. smitten smite 的过去分词，smite [smaɪt] v. 彻底击败，爱恋
7. memorabilia [memə'reɪbɪliə] n. 值得纪念的事，大事记
8. congregant ['kɒŋgrɪgənt] n. 聚会人，召集人
9. jersey ['dʒɜ:zi] n. 毛线衫，运动衫
10. bout [baʊt] n. 来回(一次)

赏析



这篇文章引领读者回忆了兰迪·波许教授在 76 分钟的演讲中的精华部分。他用独特、积极的语调和幽默的言语谈到了自己童年时的梦想：撰写《世界百科全书》中的条目、体验没有地心引力的环境、成为国际美式橄榄球联盟的球员。这些梦想有的实现了，有的还没有实现。不过，没有实现的梦想让他学到了更多。波许教授离开了我们，他的演讲却激励着、感动着、启发教育着全世界的人们——“继续前进，去做伟大的事”。

思考



1. What are your childhood dreams? Are you determined to realize them?
2. If you had only a few months left in your life, what would you do?
3. What legacy has Prof. Pausch left to the world?
4. What's the most touching point in Prof. Pausch's last lecture?
5. How do you think one can conquer fear in face of death?

Oprah Changes Course of Her Life

改变生活的航线



天命之年、长相平平、肤色黝黑、身材欠佳，笑起来大嘴一咧、略失优雅的奥普拉·温弗瑞，竟在新出炉的《福布斯》百位名人权力榜上荣登榜首，让泰格·伍兹、梅尔·吉布森、乔治·卢卡斯、史蒂文·斯皮尔伯格、约翰尼·戴普、麦当娜、汤姆·克鲁斯……这一大串耀眼的明星望其项背。身为黑人、南方人、非婚生子女的“边缘人”奥普拉，却是“脱口秀女皇”，平均每周吸引3300万名观众，并连续16年获得同类节目的最高收视率，拥有超过10亿美元的个人财富，还获得奥斯卡最佳女配角提名，这一切看起来简直就是一部传奇。喜欢奥普拉的人甚至认为如果她去竞选美国总统，获胜的把握也很大。美国伊利诺斯大学还开设了一门课程，专门研究奥普拉。



After two decades of searching for her authentic self — exploring New Age theories, giving away cars, trotting out fat, recommending good books and tackling countless issues from serious to frivolous — Oprah Winfrey has risen to a new level of **guru**¹.

She's no longer just a successful talk-show host worth \$1.4 billion, according to Forbes' most recent estimate. Over the past year, Winfrey, 52, has emerged as a spiritual leader for the new millennium, a moral voice of authority for the nation.