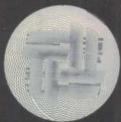


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WONDERFUL WORLD
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People

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WONDERFUL WORLD
空中美语世界博览系列丛书

People

人物

江苏工业学院图书馆
藏书章

中国出版集团
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前 言

如果你希望读到地道的英语,在享受英语阅读乐趣的同时又能增长知识、开拓视野,这套“空中美语世界博览系列丛书”正是你的选择。

“空中美语世界博览系列丛书”共有7个分册,它们分别是《动物》、《旅游》、《健康》、《体育》、《科学》、《建筑》和《人物》。该套丛书的内容是从风靡台湾二十余载的《空中美语》杂志中精选而来,秉承杂志图文并茂的特色,书中配有大量精美的图片,文字通俗易懂,深入浅出,将科学性和趣味性完美结合,称得上是一套精致的小百科。而且本系列丛书的版式设计不同于以往的书籍,绝对让你一饱眼福——贯穿全书的精美图片、别具一格的栏目设置,加上精良的印刷技术,定会让你感叹:原来读书也能如此惬意!

本丛书内容兼顾知识性与趣味性,因此,可作为广大英语学习爱好者的精读或泛读材料。为了帮助读者培养英文思维能力,本丛书的文章全部不设中文翻译,但是为难词和重点词汇做了详尽的注解。此外,编者在每篇文章的最后还精心准备了一个资讯加油站,里面是对文章的背景知识介绍或补充知识点,体贴的设计能让读者从阅读中获取更多的知识。

总之,一套“空中美语世界博览系列丛书”在手,世界万象尽收眼底。本套丛书是适合大学以上英语水平读者以及英语爱好者的知识读物。

由于编写时间有限,难免出现漏洞,有不足之处敬请各位读者指正。

编者

2004年9月

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The Cartoon King
of Japan





The Edison Effect

大发明家——爱迪生



There are many people who say Thomas Edison **single-handedly**¹ invented the twentieth century. Although there are those who may disagree, one thing cannot be denied: Edison was a genius, and his inventions greatly affected the development of modern society.

Born in 1847 in Ohio, Thomas Edison attended school for only three months. After his teacher claimed that he could not learn, Edison's mother decided to teach him at home. There he was allowed to explore the subjects that most interested him. By age ten, Edison had built a science laboratory in the basement of his family's home and had become an **avid**² experimenter.

Edison got his first job at age twelve on the railway selling candy and newspapers. Three years later, he suffered an ear **injury**³ from a

train accident and lost much of his hearing. He could have had an operation, but he refused. He insisted that being deaf helped him concentrate on his experiments.

Thomas Edison's first invention was the **automatic**⁴ telegraph repeater. He was already an expert on the telegraph before he came up with a gadget that sent telegraph signals between **unmanned**⁵ stations. Thanks to Edison, people were then able to send several telegraph messages **simultaneously**⁶.

Next came the electric vote recorder. It made voting quicker and more accurate, yet no one wanted to buy it. Edison then moved on to **tackle**⁷ the stock market ticker, the machine that gave information about stock market prices. Edison improved it, and sold the rights for US\$40,000.

In his late twenties, Edison built an "invention factory" where he and his business partners could dedicate all their time to inventing. After



improving upon the telephone, Edison created the phonograph, his favorite and most **lucrative**⁸ invention. Although Edison did not actually invent the light bulb, he did create an electric lighting system which led to its widespread use.

A tireless achiever, Edison established the first central electric power station in 1882, enabling New York to be the first city in the world to have electric lights. This was the beginning of the modern world in which electricity became a way of life.

The following year, one of Edison's engineers discovered electrons, which eventually led to electronics, the branch of science dealing with electricity. This discovery was patented as the "Edison effect". Without electronics, we might not have radio, TV, computers, or space travel. The rest of Edison's life

was spent making and improving inventions including the motion picture camera, the alkaline battery, the copy machine, and the microphone.

Thomas Edison died at the age of eighty-four in 1931. Three days later, much of America dimmed its lights **in honor of**⁹ the inventor—man who had more impact on the development of present-day **civilization**¹⁰ than anyone else in

history.

Vocabulary

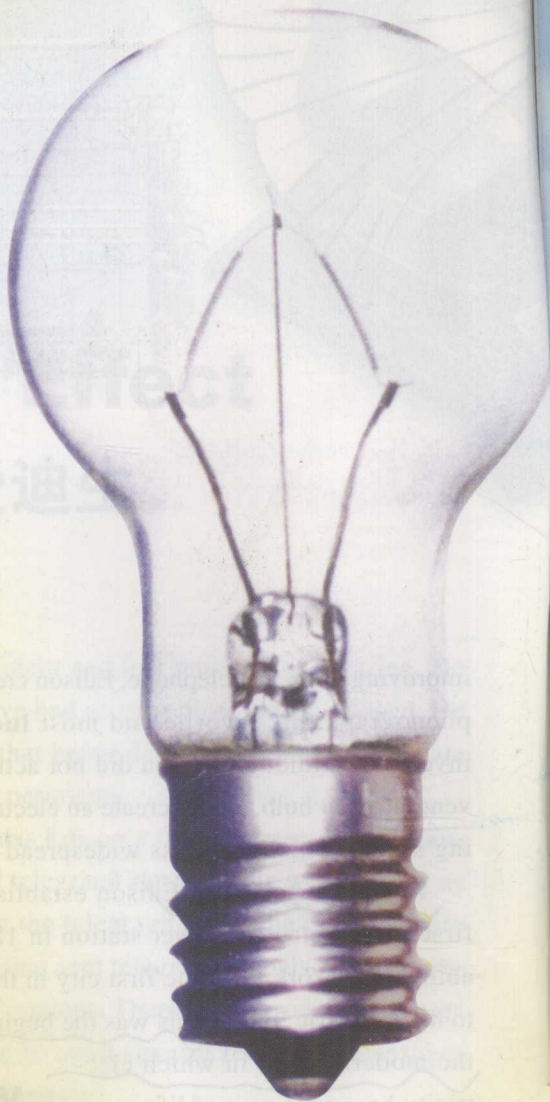
1. single-handedly		<i>adv.</i>	独立无援地, 独自一人地
2. avid	['ævid]	<i>adj.</i>	热衷的, 冲劲十足的
3. injury	['ɪndʒəri]	<i>n.</i>	(身体或名声的) 伤害
4. automatic	[,ɔ:tə'mætɪk]	<i>adj.</i>	自动的
5. unmanned	[ʌn'mænd]	<i>adj.</i>	无人的, 无人操纵的
6. simultaneously	[,sɪməl'teɪnjəsli]	<i>adv.</i>	同时的, 同时发生的
7. tackle	['tæk(ə)l]	<i>v.</i>	着手处理
8. lucrative	['lu:kretɪv]	<i>adj.</i>	有利润的, 赚钱的
9. in honor of		<i>phr.</i>	向……表示敬意, 纪念
10. civilization	[,sɪvɪlaɪ'zeɪʃən]	<i>n.</i>	文明, 文明世界

托马斯·阿尔瓦·爱迪生 (Thomas Alva Edison)简介

托马斯·阿尔瓦·爱迪生：举世闻名的美国电气学家和发明家，他除了在留声机、电灯、电话、电报、电影等方面拥有很多发明和贡献，在矿业、建筑业、化工等领域也有不少著名的创造和真知灼见。爱迪生一生共有约两千项创造发明，为人类的文明和进步做出了巨大的贡献。

爱迪生发明创造年表：

- 1868年10月11日发明“投票计数器”，获得生平第一项专利权。
- 1877年在门罗公园改进了早期由贝尔发明的电话，并使之投入了实际使用。获得三项专利：穿孔笔、气动铁笔和普通铁笔。
- 8月20日发明了爱迪生心爱的一个项目——留声机。
- 1878年爱迪生宣称要解决电照明的问题。9月开始进行电灯的研究。10月5日提出一份关于铂丝“电灯”的专利申请。
- 1879—1880年历经数千次的挫折，发明高阻力白炽灯。改良发电机。设计电流新分布法，电路的调准和算法。发明电灯座和开关。发明磁力析矿法。
- 1879年8月30日爱迪生和贝尔分别演示了电话装置，结果爱迪生的电话比贝尔的清晰。10月21日发明高阻力白炽灯，它连续点燃了40个小时。11月1日申请碳丝灯专利。12月21日《纽约快报》报道了爱迪生的白炽电灯。
- 1880年研究直升机。获得电灯发明专利权。制成磁力筛矿器。1月28日提出“电力输配系统”专利书。2月18日《斯克立柏月刊》发表了《爱迪生的电灯》一文，正式公布了电灯的发明。5月第一艘由电灯照明的“哥伦比亚号”轮船试航成功。12月成立纽约爱迪生电力照明公司。
- 1888年发明唱筒型留声机。
- 1894年4月14日在纽约开辟第一家活动电影放映机影院。
- 1902年使用新型蓄电池做车辆动力的试验，行程为5000英里，每充一次电，可走100英里，获得成功。1910—1914年完成圆盘式留声机，不损唱片和金刚石唱片。完成有声电影机。



The Wright Stuff

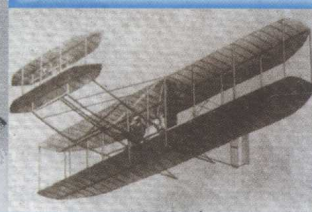
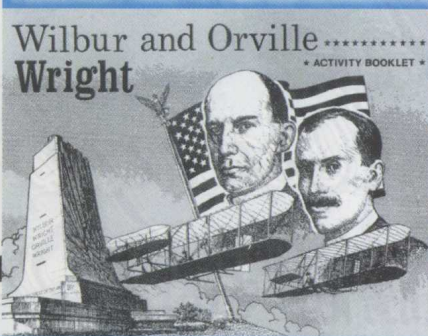
乘着梦想翅膀起飞的 莱特兄弟



Since the **dawn**¹ of time, man has dreamed of flying like the birds. But, though some of the greatest thinkers in history had put their minds to creating machines that would make this dream possible, by the twentieth century we were still stuck on the ground. All man could do was float in hard-to-control balloons or difficult-to-manage gliders. It wasn't until 1903 that mankind's dream became a reality, after two young men **tossed**² a coin to see who would be the first to test their latest invention: an airplane. These dreamers were Orville and Wilbur Wright. Though the brothers were high school **dropouts**³, they were **innovative**. With **self-taught**⁴ me-

chanical know-how, they ran a bicycle shop, making everything they sold there themselves. It was there one day that Wilbur read about the death of a German glider pilot. To his amazement, he learned that men still couldn't fly, and thought that he and his brother might have a chance at doing it successfully. *So they thought they*

Though the story of the German pilot inspired the Wright brothers to **take action**⁵, it was a toy that initially sparked their interest in flight. One day, when the brothers were children, their father brought home a working helicopter powered by a rubber band. **Fascinated**⁶ by the flying toy, the brothers played with it constantly. But



when it **inevitably**⁷ broke, it wasn't forgotten: The young inventors built new ones by copying the toy's design.

When Wilbur and Orville's interest in flight resumed in adulthood, they picked up where their childhood flying toys had left off, and began making their own kites. Local people thought the brothers strange for spending their days flying kites instead of doing real work. However, Wilbur and Orville were hardly engaged in child's play. They made the kites in order to study how the shape and size of an object affected how it moved through the air. It was knowledge which would be **indispensable**⁸ to them later.

After testing their theories of flight on kites, Wilbur and Orville built gliders to see if their ideas would work on a larger scale. With the glider perfected, they then built an engine to power it. At each step they encountered problems, but instead of giving up as everyone had before them, the brothers treated the work as a challenge and pushed through.

On a rainy December day, Wilbur and Orville decided to **put their strange-looking device to the test**⁹. Locals were invited to watch, and a

few curious people came to see what the crazy brothers were up to. As Wilbur nervously crawled into the airplane, Orville approached the crowd and asked them to **cheer Wilbur on**¹⁰ with words of encouragement. But such instructions weren't necessary. Everyone shouted with excitement the moment the Wright's airplane lifted off the ground. They knew that the high school dropouts had done the impossible: They had given man the gift of flight.

Vocabulary

1. dawn	[dɔːn]	n.	开端, 开始
2. toss	[tɒs]	v.	抛, 掷
3. dropout	[drɒpaut]	n.	退学者, 辍学者
4. self-taught	[self'tɔ:t]	adj.	无师自通的
5. take action		idiom	采取行动
6. fascinate	['fæsineɪt]	v.	迷住, 使神魂颠倒
7. inevitably	[ɪn'evɪtəbli]	adv.	不可避免地, 必然地
8. indispensable	[ɪndɪs'pensəbl]	adj.	不可或缺的
9. put sb./sth. to the test		idiom	考验, 检验
10. cheer sb. on		v. phr.	鼓舞某人



莱特兄弟 (the Wright brothers) 简介

- 1867年4月16日，威尔伯·莱特 (Wilbur Wright) 出生于美国印第安纳州。
- 1871年8月1日，奥维尔·莱特 (Orville Wright) 出生于美国俄亥俄州。
- 1878年 莱特兄弟第一次收到父亲送的飞行玩具，开启他们的飞行梦想。
- 1892年 莱特兄弟自行创业开设自行车公司，展现出他们在机械方面的才能。
- 1899年 威尔伯为研究飞行，写信给史密森协会，并获得一些资料，研究之后就开始了他们的飞行生涯。
- 1899年 莱特兄弟制作一架1.5公尺翼宽，类似风筝的双翼滑翔机，并像放风筝一样进行试飞。后来发明了翘曲的翼尖，用来改变机翼的角度，就像现代的副翼一样，稳定调节飞行。
- 1900年 莱特兄弟制作第一架大型的滑翔机，翼长约五公尺，并加装前翼升降舵，以控制飞机上下，并首次进行有飞行员驾驶的试飞。
- 1901年 莱特兄弟建造第二架大型的滑翔机，翼长约七公尺，并提升机翼的面积，是第一架的两倍，但第二次试飞时失败。
- 1901年 莱特兄弟为研究飞机及得到正确的飞行资料，发明了风洞隧道进行机翼测试。
- 1902年 莱特兄弟以风洞隧道的测试与前两架滑翔机的经验，建造第三架滑翔机，为当时最大的双翼滑翔机，并在机尾加装垂直尾翼，以防止转向时发生翻转，并进行上千次的试飞。
- 1903年 建造“飞行者1号”飞机。12月17日的飞行，创造出历史上第一次配带有动力装置的飞行器，由飞行员操作控制、自行起飞且成功持久的飞行纪录。
- 1904-05年 莱特兄弟相继制造“飞行者2号”及“飞行者3号”飞机，其中“飞行者3号”创下连续飞行38分钟，航程达38公里的新纪录。
- 1909年 莱特兄弟建立并一起经营“莱特飞机公司”，测试飞机，训练飞行员，参加飞行展示，激发并延续人们对飞行的狂热。
- 1910年 莱特飞机公司的飞行员受雇俄亥俄州百货公司，从事世界上第一次航空快递。
- 1912年 威尔伯死于伤寒，享年45岁。奥维尔继续经营他们的飞机公司。
- 1948年 奥维尔于一月逝世，享年76岁。在他去世前，历经了两次世界大战，目睹飞机成为杀人武器，更成为载运原子弹的帮凶。





动画大师宫崎骏

The Cartoon King of Japan

Television cartoons are big business in Japan, where around 40 new animated TV series are produced every week. One of the country's most popular **animators**¹, Hayao Miyazaki, has produced some of the great classics of Japanese TV animation. Nevertheless, he finds television too restrictive, and prefers to make full-length animated movies.

Though he is not well-known outside Asia, Hayao Miyazaki is a household name in his homeland. His amazing drawing skills, entertaining plots, and **well-rounded**² characters have made timeless **masterpieces**³ out of films such as *Princess Mononoke* and *My Neighbor Totoro*. He is widely respected by Japanese of all ages, and has won the admiration of animators and filmmakers around the world.

Hayao Miyazaki was born in Tokyo in 1941. His family owned a factory that built airplanes, and he fell in love with planes and flying at an early age. Anyone familiar with his films has seen the often breathtaking flying scenes that are his personal **trademark**⁴.

Miyazaki's career as an animator began in 1963 when he joined Toei Animation to work on a TV series called *Wolf Boy Ken*. While there, he fell in love with a fellow animator, Akemi Ota, who later became his wife.

At Toei, he also **teamed up with**⁵ Isao Takahata, beginning a partnership that would last many years and lead to some of the great success stories of Japanese animated film. Miyazaki and Takahata changed studios several times and worked on a number of successful TV series in the 60s and 70s. Both men were, however, more interested in the challenge of producing feature-length animated movies.

In 1984, Miyazaki released a film based on his own manga series, *Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind*. It was a huge success, enabling





Miyazaki and Takahata to **set up**⁶ their own company, Studio Ghibli. They were finally free to concentrate on doing what they liked best: making high-quality animated feature films.

Studio Ghibli got its name from an Italian word meaning “a hot wind that blows through the Sahara Desert.” It was used by Italian pilots during World War II in reference to their planes, and Miyazaki, who loves both flying and Italy, felt the name captured the spirit of his work.

Since it opened in 1985, Studio Ghibli has **gone from strength to strength**⁷. *Princess Mononoke* is the second-biggest box-office hit in Japanese movie history, and *My Neighbor Totoro*, as well as attracting huge audiences, was successful in another way. Sales of stuffed toys based on its odd central character helped the studio build a sound **financial**⁸ base.

Throughout his career, Miyazaki has traveled widely in search of **inspiration**⁹. Now, he is firmly established as a figure who provides inspiration to others. Skilled animators at the Disney Corporation, with whom Ghibli recently

set up a partnership, have **acknowledged their debt to**¹⁰ Hayao Miyazaki. He has, without a doubt, earned his place in the animators’ hall of fame.

Vocabulary

1. animator	[ˈænimeɪtə(r)]	n.	漫画家
2. well-rounded	[ˈwelˈraʊndɪd]	adj.	全面发展的， 多才多艺的
3. masterpiece	[ˈmɑːstəpiːs]	n.	杰作
4. trademark	[ˈtreɪdmɑːk]	n.	特点，商标
5. team up with		v. phr.	与……合作
6. set up		v. phr.	设立，创立
7. go from strength to strength		v. phr.	蒸蒸日上， 越来越好
8. financial	[faɪˈnænsjəl]	adj.	财政上的， 金钱上的
9. inspiration	[ˌɪnspəˈreɪʃən]	n.	灵感
10. acknowledge one's debt to sb.		v. phr.	对……感激不已



宫崎骏

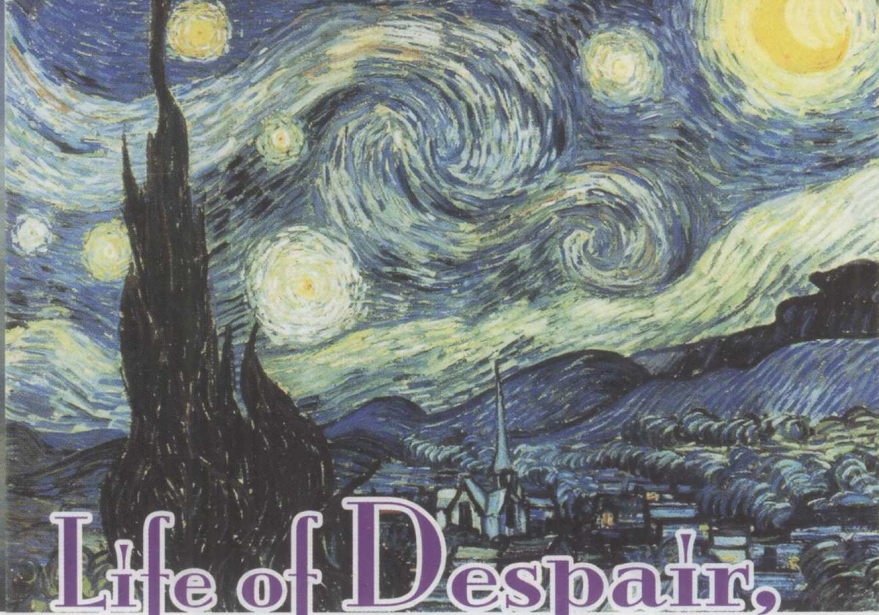
(Hayao Miyazaki) 简介 ——

宫崎骏生于1941年1月5日，四兄弟中排行第二。1958年，日本电影史上第一部长篇彩色电影动画片《白蛇传》(东映动画制作)上映了。还是高三学生的宫崎骏迷上了这部片子，原本就喜爱漫画的他开始对动画产生兴趣。1963年，宫崎骏大学毕业后进入东映动画工作。第一部参与制作的作品是东映在同年12月推出的剧场动画《Wanwan 忠臣藏》。紧接着宫崎骏参加了东映首次制作的第一部TV动画——《狼少年ken》。

当时他提出的一些企划常常不被采用，但是宫崎骏还是坚持他的理想。看了俄国动画片《雪之女王》之后，宫崎骏心中的创作火焰更为旺盛了。他后来这样回忆道：“我看到了动画的制作是何其慎重且值得珍惜的事业……动画是一个如此纯粹、朴素，又可让我们贯穿想像力来表现的艺术……它的力量不会输给诗、小说或戏剧等其他艺术形式。”

- 1964年，宫崎骏当上东映动画劳工协会的秘书长。
- 1978年，第一部全程由宫崎骏监制的作品——《未来少年科男》在NHK播出，颇受好评。宫崎骏的思想与风格在本片中充分展现。
- 1979年他进入东京 movie 新社。
- 1980年执导《鲁邦三世Calioostro 城》(剧场版)，再度展现《未来少年》的冒险电影风格。
- 1982年长篇漫画《风之谷》在德间书店的Animage杂志上开始连载。这部漫画一直连载到1994年才完结。
- 1982年11月，他退出东京 movie 新社，当自由作家。
- 1983年，宫崎骏导演的动画版《风之谷》开始筹划。
- 1984年三月剧场动画《风之谷》上映，其丰富的想像力及深沉的内容，震撼了观众和整个电影界。
- 1985年，Studio Ghibli 创立，开始制作《天空之城》。从《天空之城》以后，宫崎骏就一直在Studio Ghibli工作，到现在为止一共陆续制作了《龙猫》、《魔女宅急便》、《红猪》、《心之谷》、《On Your Mark》、《幽灵公主》，以及《千与千寻》等动画电影。





Life of Despair, Life of Joy

看梵高画，尝尽人间悲喜

“Sold!” cries a man as his hammer falls, and a Vincent van Gogh painting has been **auctioned**¹ for millions of dollars. It’s hard to imagine that van Gogh himself sold only a single painting during his lifetime. This spring is his 150th birthday, and it seems that the same art world that ignored him during his life now considers him an extraordinary artist.

Before taking up art, van Gogh **preached**² to poor coal miners in rural Belgium. He felt tremendous compassion for the miners’ hardships, and often gave them his own food and clothing, even if it meant going cold and hungry himself. In his earliest drawings, he tried to **capture**³ their suffering, and their misery concerned him throughout his career.

Van Gogh **transferred**⁴ his expressions of

empathy from preaching to paintings. His paintings often reflected his extreme mood swings, as demonstrated by his two favorite subject **self-portraits**⁵ and sunflowers — which seemed to express his emotional poles of despair and joy.

Van Gogh’s wild emotions seemed to turn with the seasons. He was at his happiest and most productive in spring. He loved taking long walks through the countryside, stopping with his paints and brushes to capture the radiant yellow beauty of the sunflower.

Van Gogh believed the use of the color yellow elicited a sense of belonging, happiness, and brightness that exists in every person’s soul. Van Gogh painted an entire series of bright sunflower paintings to greet his friend and fellow artist, Paul Gauguin, when they became roommates.



However, Gauguin and van Gogh's relationship raged as unpredictably as the fall weather. One day, when Gauguin took off from the house in anger, van Gogh cut off half of his left ear with a razor blade. While recovering in hospital, van Gogh continued painting, and added several pictures to his series of self-portraits, which **vividly**⁶ show his changing self-**perceptions**⁷: staring darkly at the viewer, a **bandage wrapped** around his head.

Following Gauguin's **departure**⁸, van Gogh's paintings reached an artistic peak — seen in such works as *The Starry Night* — as his internal struggle between joy and despair **intensified**⁹. In his last days, van Gogh worked at a fever pitch, producing at least one painting a day, as if he could paint himself out of his madness and despair.

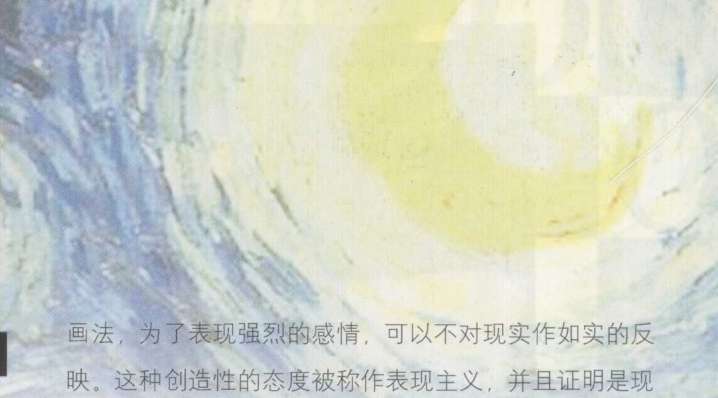
In July of 1890, one of van Gogh's usual walks in the countryside ended when he shot himself in the chest with a **revolver**. It seemed despair had finally **triumphed**¹⁰. The coffin

which would carry him into the next world was covered with the yellow flowers he so loved.

Van Gogh's greatest legacy is his desire to use paintings to express the artist's soul rather than concern himself with the mere appearance of objects. Though his **brushes** have hardened and his paints have long **dried out**, the expressions of van Gogh's troubled mind seem now to bring us nothing but pleasure.

Vocabulary

1. auction	['ɔ:kʃən]	v. 拍卖
2. preach	[pri:tʃ]	v. 传道
3. capture	['kæptʃə]	v. 捕捉
4. transfer	[træns'fə:]	v. 转变, 转换
5. portrait	['pɔ:trɪt]	n. 肖像
6. vividly	['vɪvɪdli]	adv. 生动地
7. perception	[pə'sepʃən]	n. 知觉, 感觉
8. departure	[di'pɑ:tʃə]	n. 离开
9. intensify	[in'tensɪfaɪ]	v. 增强, 变激烈
10. triumph	['traɪəmf]	v. 获胜



资讯加油站

文森特·梵高 (Vincent van Gogh) 简介

文森特·梵高 (1853—1890): 后期印象画派代表人物梵高很晚才作为一位极具个性化的画家而崭露头角, 距他去世时只有八年。梵高几乎没有受过什么正规的绘画训练。为弄到画布、油彩和画具而日复一日地奔波劳碌, 精神上也不断处于矛盾的状态, 为追求艺术的完美而承受着压力。这些即使不是他后来罹病的直接原因, 也给他的生活悲剧埋下了种子。

梵高着意于真实情感的再现。也就是说, 他要表现的是他对事物的感受, 而不是他所看到的视觉形象。梵高把他的作品列为与印象主义画家的作品不同的另一类。他说: “为了更有力地表现自我, 我在色彩的运用上更为随心所欲。”其实, 不仅是色彩, 连透视、形体和比例也都变了形, 以此来表现与世界之间的一种极度痛苦但又非常真实的关系。

梵高自杀时年仅37岁, 作为一位艺术家, 直到死前不久他才以其震撼人心而富于想象力的绘画赢得评论界的赞扬。梵高死后不出几年, 一些画家就开始模仿他的

画法, 为了表现强烈的感情, 可以不对现实作如实的反映。这种创造性的态度被称作表现主义, 并且证明是现代绘画中一种历久不衰的倾向。

梵高在巴黎结识了印象主义画家之后, 他的调色板就变亮了。他发现, 他惟一深爱的东西就是色彩, 辉煌的、未经调和的色彩。他手中的色彩特征, 与印象主义者们的色彩根本不同。即使他运用印象主义者的技法, 但由于他对于人和自然特有的观察能力, 因而得出的结论也具有非凡的个性。

梵高的激情, 来自他所生活在其中的那个世界, 来自他所认识的人们所做的按捺不住的强烈反应。这绝不是一个原始人或小孩子所做的那种简单的反应。他敏锐地意识到, 自己正在获得效果, 这种效果是通过黄色或蓝色来取得的。虽然他的大部分色彩观念用来表达对于人物和自然的爱, 及其表现过程中的愉快, 但他对较深的色彩十分敏感。

梵高继承了肖像画的伟大传统, 这在他那一代的艺术家里是鲜见的。他对人充满了激情的爱, 使他不可避免地要画人像。他研究人就像研究自然一样, 从一开始的素描小品, 一直到1890年他自杀前的几个月里所画的最后自画像都是如此。它如实地表现出疯人凝视的可怕和紧张的眼神。一个疯人, 或者一个不能控制自己行为的人, 无论如何也不能画出这么有分寸、技法娴熟的画来。不同层次的蓝色里, 一些节奏颤动的线条, 映衬出美丽的雕塑般的头部和具有结实造型感的躯干。画面的一切都呈蓝色或蓝绿色, 深色衬衣和带红胡子的头部除外。从头部到躯干, 再到背景的所有的色彩与节奏的组合, 以及所强调部位的微妙变化, 都表明这是一个极好地掌握了造型手段的艺术家。