

英语视听大全

American Memorandum

美国 备忘录



- 1000部美国原版短片
- 260小时纯正美语
- 100年美国社会全纪录

3



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美国备忘录

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前 言

英语视听大全《美国备忘录》(American Memorandum)共包含1000部美国原版电影短片,大部分片长在10-30分钟,每部均独立成篇,总播放时间约260小时,堪称一部美国100年的百科全书式备忘录。内容涵盖教育文化、科学技术、工农百业、日常生活、战争和平、政治经济等方方面面。

它是一座颇具规模的英语视听教学及教学参考的资料库。纵观全库,不仅可以大致把握上个世纪美国社会发展变化的脉搏,还可以欣赏美洲大陆的湖光山色、旖旎风光及多姿多彩的人文景观。整个资料库包罗万象的主题,以及丰富多彩的影片表现形式(比如新闻记录片、专题片、教学片、情节片、风光片、动画片、广告片等)可以让使用者在接触到各种各样的语言知识的同时,也能提高了解西方文化的兴趣。每部短片均有完整的主题,可作为课堂的补充材料,便于教学时选用。量变达到质变,见多自然识广;潜移默化,日积月累,一幕幕真实场景,对教与学都将大有裨益。

本资料库的另一大特点是,所含每一部短片均为美国上世纪拍摄的“本土电影”。所谓“本土”,是指它们都不是拍给外国人看的(即所谓“English as the second language”),而是当时各教育机构、政府机关、民间团体、大型企业财团等拍给美国本国人民看的,因此所用语言具备真实地道的特点;所谓“电影”,是指它们都是精心策划制作的电影短片,较之目前大量的快餐式电视片,更具文化含量,而且题材广泛、情节紧凑、语言规范、生动活泼。其中大部分的片子都有一个叙述者(Narrator),大多是当时的著名播音员——他(她)们嗓音优美,语言规范而丰富。影片中出现的各种角色的大量对话,更提供给使用者丰富而典型的语言环境,对适应不同的语音语速,提高辨音能力,大有帮助。

需要特别指出的是,《美国备忘录》“原汁原味”的特点也决定了它的内容在很大程度上反映的是美国价值观,希望使用者本着“去其糟粕,取其精华”的态度来看待这一问题。另外,制作如此大型的视听产品,工作中难免百密一疏,还望广大使用者批评指正。

编 者
2005年9月

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Darkness before the Dawn: The "Pride of Judea"

Story

To be alone is to live in a grey world, a place where common everyday activities seem narrow and meaningless, at times even intolerable. To be alone and to be a boy is to live in a frightening world, a place where fears and insecurities can eat away like acid at the confused mind of vulnerable emotions. There are many such young people today, the forgotten ones, youngsters that have been deprived of normal parental relationships. Sometimes the situation seems unavoidable.

This is Ronnie, age 12, his parents both work. And, Ronnie is often alone, too much alone. He's closed a wall about himself, refused to seek friends; he's become quiet and withdrawn because at 12 he's afraid. There are agonies that are not shown, scars that are not seen. But other things can be seen. Grim and squallered things that contribute to the nationwide black harvests of violence and human waste; these are other forgotten ones, other after thoughts of broken homes and selfish unthinking parents. The young can grow like seeking roots in tortured, twisted ways. Juvenile delinquency is spreading throughout the land like a great malignant growth feeding on the young, greedy, vicious and out of control. Its sickening growth almost succeeds through default. All too often the problem is fought with old and inadequate ideas. But, not always, there are new and increasingly successful techniques being brought to bear.

This is the summer camp of the Pride of Judea children's services which for the past 40 years has pioneered in the field of childcare as a residence home for orphans and underprivileged children, an institution devoted to the care of needy children — children who come from all walks of life, from all conditions, children from troubled homes, children from families that are well-off, from families that are poor. It is here in the control laboratory of the Pride of Judea Summer Camp that their troubles are found out before they become community problems. It is here that the young who need help can get help, can learn and experience the potential joy of life.

Ronnie who otherwise would make an unhealthy adjustment might come to like too much the dull, comforting four walls of his apartment, can here learn the necessary experience of participation. A wide range of activities provided: not just the healthy, body building competition of outdoor sports, but instruction in various arts and crafts, a program comprising of wide choice of media enabling each child to select the one that best fits his individual skill: metal, wood, clay, leather, paints, linoleum and even plastics.

There is for the embryo journalist if not the roar of the presses, at least the purr of the mimeograph. The *Summer Camp Gazette* prints all of the news that's fit to print, or rather, all the news that fits. It has only four pages. There is the opportunity to participate in dramatics, an opportunity that tempts even those who are shy and reticent; it a pleasurable and satisfying activity, a means of providing fun and friendship, a means also of bringing out a child's personality. Dramatics can be the most wonderful therapy in the world for a child even when the show is to borrow an occupational phrase, "a turkey".

And, there is another means of expression in this unique summer camp. More important than any other and just a little surprising in this vary secular age — religion. The Pride of Judea believes that in order to train a child in the way he should go, a child should first be provided with a strength which only faith and knowledge can bring you. Religion is not a tagged-down thought here, but rather an integral part in meshed in the fabrics of each day's activities, transmitting to the children all the wealth and strength of their Jewish cultural and religious heritage. The old prayers of their faith in the language of their heritage, *Baruch Atah Hashem* — Blessed art thou, our Lord and God, King of the Universe who bring it forth bread from the earth.

And, so the forgotten ones, the children of broken homes, the underprivileged, the dependent, can here experience for a few brief months along with those who are more fortunate the full life they are entitled to. There is complete provision made for their basic needs. There is care of the spirit, care of the body, there is especially care of the personality. The interworkings of a child are more complex and amazing than those of a miniature watch. If they are handled properly they will function smoothly, they'll play, shout, have water fights, will be at times unruly, but children are also as delicate as a miniature watch. A jolt, a psychological jolt can do great damage — damage that at first can't be seen. Like the outside of a watch, a child may appear to be in normal condition, but the appearance can be deceiving, for not all children respond in the same way, not all children take part in the games, not all children join in with the others. These are the ones that often need extra help, the quiet ones who never fully participate, who don't respond, who sit aside, boys like Ronnie who are afraid, who withdraw from life. And it is precisely in cases such as these that the Pride of Judea staff becomes most alert.

A counselor may observe the condition during a story-telling period. Ronnie not listening, not caring, his thoughts elsewhere, his feelings hidden, but tormented. In this situation, a sharp command to pay attention would not be in order. It might even aggravate any emotionally disturbed condition. Instead, there is a thoughtful, step-by-step procedure. The social worker in charge is immediately told of the boy in question. Ronnie's keeping to himself too much, keeping a high wall around his personality, keeping everybody away. What can it mean? The social worker is a highly trained specialist. A young man, but one who has already done years of postgraduate study, who has a practical working knowledge of psychology. It is his job now to learn as much about Ronnie as he possibly can. And, the job is not one that can be put off. Time is crucial in the case of the young. The quicker a boy can be reached, the better.

The inner fears that torment Ronnie, that mold him in an unfriendly attitude, that force him to hostile acts, the inner fears will not wait. They're working silently in the ways of acid — silently and without pause, urging Ronnie to keep to himself, to avoid the rough companionship of sports, to run away, to be alone, to brood.

The social worker knows what this means, knows that he can't afford to defer action. That he must act, must follow Ronnie at once, unless the social worker can intervene, unless he can get through to the boy, Ronnie will slide deeper into his condition, so deep, perhaps, that he may never be whole again. This is what's at stake. This is what the social worker must fight for — the psychologic life of a child.

Now the struggle begins; a struggle for a human personality, an unseen thing, but precious none the less. It can become harmed, can become a defective lens, through which an individual sees life in distortion. It can be helped, can be the means of a full and natural life. And so, since so much is involved, the process begins slowly with patience and observation. The social worker will try first to earn Ronnie's confidence. Once contact has been made, once communication is established, the social worker can learn about the boy's problem, can note its symptoms.

The information is then passed on to a case worker in the Child Guidance Center of the Proud of Judea in Brooklyn, for this is only a beginning. An interview is then arranged. Ronnie is in need of help, he will come here often for his injury is of a kind that can not be cured with a pill or an injection. His wound must be probed for, must be skillfully felt out, the search may take a long time. If he needs it, Ronnie will receive the full range of psychiatric treatment. His hidden life will be explored, his insecurities will be washed away. A life that might have been wasted is thus restored. A boy who was afraid will now learn to deal with his fears, but Ronnie is only one among many. Surveys indicate that 25% of the public school children in New York City are emotionally disturbed, and like Ronnie, need guidance. That 265,000 children between the ages of 7 and 17 are brought into Juvenile Court each year.

Some are already hardened criminals, some are like Bobby, a boy of 11 with above-average intelligence and a flare for acting tough. Here too, psychiatry can be a great help. What compels Bobby to pose in this way? What makes him act like a hoodlum and tend increasingly toward a behavior pattern suggestive of juvenile delinquency? The answer may be found through a number of ways. The Rorschach test, the ink blots that have different means for different people. Bobby in telling what he sees in the odd ink shapes also tells something else, he tells about himself. He tells without his even knowing it, the nature and the intensity of his problem. A child's problems can usually be related to the parents. This is Bobby's father — angry, bitter, unable to understand what is happening to his son. He, too, is interviewed. In this instance, by a social worker in order to more completely fill out the picture. The Pride of Judea insists that parents must be willing to submit themselves to psychiatric treatment if it is necessary for very often the problem of a child when

it is traced back turns out to be the problem of a parent. Group therapy sessions for parents are frequently held enabling them to discuss their problems, enabling them to learn about their children and themselves too.

When all of the information about Bobby has been gathered, a planning conference is held where the skills of the psychologist, the psychiatrist and social worker all come together. They must try to fit the pieces together, try to read the pattern. They must make a diagnosis and then they must plan a treatment. The facts about Bobby are clear, he is mentally and emotionally healthy, but he is beginning to get into trouble, beginning to rebel. The report made by the social worker indicates that Bobby's mother is ill and has been hospitalized for over six months. There are three other children and Bobby is the oldest, he is during the day when the father is at work, nominally in-charge, the one who must see to it that the younger ones are looked after, that they are fed. And, Bobby is only 11 years of age. This is the thing that he is rebelling against — this premature responsibility which has been thrust upon him. The situation is one that requires other approaches besides that of psychiatry.

And, so another service of the Pride of Judea is brought into the picture. This is Mrs. Mathews, a homemaker sent by the Pride of Judea to fill the vacuum created by the illness of Bobby's mother. Mrs. Mathews fulfills two purposes: she physically cares for and supervises the children during the day when the father is at his job and she serves as a substitute mother, preserves the family atmosphere so necessary to the young. The homemaker service is a means of continuing the normal household routine in the face of a family emergency and this situation involving four young children and a father who is under great strain, definitely qualifies as an emergency. The father, after all, is not to be blamed. He loves his children, he is not indifferent to his responsibilities, he simply can't deal with what is admittedly a difficult situation. The homemaker, arriving promptly every morning and handling the household in his absence, provides him with reassurance. The children are in good hands and Bobby is being looked after. Bobby too is reassured, reassured about his place in his family where children need to have their world defined, need to be told their place, they look to others to tell them who they are, what they are to do. They need this certainty before they can begin to develop in their own individual ways. By taking over the chores and the responsibilities so prematurely thrust upon Bobby, the homemaker restores to him his psychological balance, defines him once again as an 11 year old boy, intelligent, stable and not at all a sneering, young tough guy who must act as if he knows it all. The homemaker has restored to Bobby something else, his natural smile, an extra little bonus thrown in courtesy of the homemaker service, certainly one of the most valuable techniques ever devised to help families that have been disrupted, to help children from being twisted in their growth. It is important to keep the child at home, to keep the home intact. A child whose mother is hospitalized temporarily or incapacitated undergoes great stress. If the child is put under further stress and uprooted from home, it very often could result in a trauma in which neither the child nor the parent would recover.

The Pride of Judea has set up even more services, has even more weapons at its command. It is concerned with children of all ages, even those who are in the pre-school category. Since many of these young ones have mothers that work, the Pride of Judea arranges to have pre-school aged children driven daily to an affiliated nursery school, the Hendrick's Street Day Nursery. As the mothers work at their jobs to overcome financial and other difficulties, the children get the benefit of professional supervision and a day of planned fun and growth, a program for these pre-school children that will also aid them in their identification as students. Their time is spent profitably, often developing copies that will be useful and feeling in later life. Here they learn to do many things, for instance, the basic relationships of color, the discipline of making a straight line, a symmetrical curve. They also learn the messy art of finger painting. These are potential architects, very potential. And these are...well, what are they? Oh, yes, this is the fun that only marionettes can give, that most ancient of art forms, that peculiarly belongs to children. And the other games, why, for children of this age, there's no such form of separation of activities, the children make their own judgments, they make their own games. But, some do not. Some children even at this age act unaccountably, show streaks of hostility in the actual manner in which they play. Here again, the skills of the psychiatrist and the counselor is needed and provided for and another determined and patient struggle for the soul of a child begins.

The Child Guidance Center takes on one more problem and continues to look for others. Here is just one new situation that Pride of Judea is working on. The bitter one of a handicapped child whose problem is a heavy one, who must learn from the Pride of Judea how to compensate for a cruel infirmity. There are many such situations which must be dealt with. The Planning Committee of the Pride of Judea Children's Services knows this and has acted accordingly, has planned to prevent the plight of today's forgotten ones. Out of all this planning has come a new development in the field of childcare. A radical departure from the past, the Pride of Judea has changed itself into a multi-service institution dedicated to the welfare of children. An institution with five major services dovetailed to answer most of the problems of the child, or so to speak, under one roof, one central intake office with joint planning between all services without delay, and without waiting, or going from institution to another, an institution that works at prevention while it works at cure which keeps the family together and strengthens it whenever possible. The results are the most gratifying the human heart could experience. A boy who is beginning to slide into trouble, now smiling adjusting, enjoying a normal, healthy family relationship headed for a normal, healthy life. A boy once afraid to seek friends, who tried to close himself off from life, now a participant open to the joys that all children need, prevented from falling into the darkness of fear and loneliness, now living in the dawn of a new life.

These are the results of the Pride of Judea, these and the 9,000 others who've gone before them. The alumni of the Pride of Judea, people who could have had wasted lives, but didn't. People who with scholarships and incentive grants contributed by the Pride of Judea, learned to use their potential became engineers, draftsmen, become life-giving surgeons. People who even today if

they need assistance can apply to the Pride of Judea Alumni and Scholarship Department, for the Pride of Judea is a stand-in, a stand-in for parents. A great and unique private institution made possible by the thousands of devoted women who comprise the Pride of Judea Auxiliaries, only by the generosity of the people of America.

A Date with Your Family

This boy and girl, coming home from school, look quite content with life. And, why not? They're looking forward to a important date, dinner at home with the family. What's the matter, does that sound exciting to you? Well, to them, it's a special occasion as it has been ever since they sat down to dinner in high chairs. Why should they feel that way about something that you take so completely for granted? Well, let's see if we can found out.

First of all, Daughter has changed from school clothes to something more festive. Dressing a little makes her feel and consequently look, more charming. Even the table takes on a special air. Mother too changes from her daytime clothes. The women of this family seem to feel that they owe it to the men of the family to look relaxed, rested and attractive at dinner time.

Brother is spending an hour before dinner catching up on his homework. He has plans for the evening. Perhaps that explains the telephone call. But, he won't spend a lot of time on the phone either. When there are several members of the family to be considered, it is not a good idea for one member to monopolize the phone, and it is never good to allow telephone conversations to interfere with studies.

Mmm, is it that late? Dad will be here any minute. Better tell Mother she is needed in the kitchen. Brother notices the time and realizes that he must put things in order and clean himself up in time for dinner.

Hello there, Junior is always in a hurry, particularly for dinner, but first, there is a clean-up job to do on this young man. Brother takes it upon himself to help share Junior's responsibility for keeping their room in good order and keeping Junior in good order too. Punctuality is stressed in this household, by that I mean, hair is combed and faces and hands scrubbed before the boys come to the table, so they won't delay the meal.

Now, Mother and Daughter put the finishing touches on the dinner. Father too, looks forward to this date with the family. He has had a hard day at the office and in his brief case are some contracts which must be looked over tonight. But, in the meantime, he will relax at dinner with those he loves.

A simple centerpiece made from some flowers which grow in the backyard is another of Daughter's contributions to the dinner. But, it takes up a little too much room, so she moves it to the sideboard.

These boys greet their dad as though they are genuinely glad to see him, as though they had really missed being away from him during the day and they are anxious to talk to him. This is the time for pleasant discussion in a thoroughly relaxed mood. They don't pick this time of the day to spring unpleasant surprises on Dad. If they have disagreeable news, they'll postpone the discussion until another time, and this is no time to dun Father for a raise in your allowance, new clothes or argue about other financial matters.

Ah, dinner time. Yes, Mother, Junior remembered to clean up. Brother seats Junior, then helps mother to her chair as he would his best girl. Well, the dinner date has begun and they're all happy about it. Many families throughout the country observe the custom of saying grace at meal time. It is always treated with reverence and respect.

Napkins on the lap, the family awaits service. They converse pleasantly while Dad serves. I said "pleasantly", for that is the keynote at dinner time. It is not only good manners, but good sense. Pleasant, unemotional conversation helps digestion. Father serves Mother first, then, Daughter, then the boys. Don't worry, boys, you won't get left.

Help cut your meat, Junior? Of course, by example, elder children can teach younger ones good table manners. No one starts eating until Father has served himself. Always wait for the hostess, in this case, Mother, to begin eating before you start. Let Father and Mother guide the conversational trend if they desire. After all, they made all of these possible and may want to talk over their day with each other. Tell Mother how good the food is. Maybe sis rates a compliment too. It makes them want to continue pleasing you.

Well, all of this is good general advice, but there are some specific don'ts maybe the family will demonstrate for us. Don't monopolize the conversation and go on and on without stopping. Nothing destroys the charm of a meal more quickly. To say that the rest of the group is bored would be a gross understatement. Don't discuss unpleasant topics such as gruesome sights or sounds, or unpleasant occurrences. This is a time of pleasure, of charm and relaxation, remember. Don't make unkind comparisons about your standard of living. The dinner table is no place for discontent. It makes Dad and Mother uncomfortable and unhappy. Don't insult your brother or sister with offensive remarks about friends. Arguments, harsh words mean tension and distress for everyone. Do remember simply this: treat the other members of your family with the same respect and cordiality you would show your most treasured friend outside the family circle. This does not mean you should be stiff or formal with your own family, you can relax. Be yourself. Just be sure it's your best self.

This is better, now things are on an even keel again. Now, we are ready for dessert. Most families don't have maids so Mother needs help with the serving from the kitchen. Son says Mother has done enough. Watch him play butler. The removal of dishes from the main course and the serving of dessert set the stage for the conclusion of a thoroughly pleasant meal.