



美文精华必背40篇

编 著/ 北京大学 李 震 审 订/ [美]Stephanie Diamond



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附赠MP3・专家朗诵・字幕同步

Selected English
Articles For Rectation



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编 著/ 北京大学 李 震 河北 师范大学 周 莹 审 订/ [美]Stephanie Diamond



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FOREWORD

→ 序 →

In classes, in bookstores, on trains, anywhere that I meet Chinese people studying English, I am asked the same questions—
"How can I improve my spoken English?" My answer is always the same, "Open your mouth and speak." Your mouth is a muscle and needs to be exercised just as you need to exercise the rest of your body to make it strong. The exercise best suited to helping your mouth feel more relaxed speaking English is to speak it.

There are many ways you can open your mouth and speak, English Corners, foreign friends, conversation classes and recitation are just a few ways. Selected English Articles for Recitation encourages you to use recitation as a way to improve your spoken English. This book provides interesting and useful articles that you can use to practice your spoken English anywhere you are. But there is an additional advantage to this book, the contents of the articles themselves. These articles are thought provoking and challenging. They can encourage you on your life's journey and also cause to stop and think.

I hope that you will find Selected English Articles for Recitation not only a useful way to improve your English but also a way to improve your character.

Stephanie Diamond *

^{*} Stephanie Diamond is from northern New York in the United States. She has her B. S. in Chemistry from Rochester Institute of Technology and her Master of Education from Boston University. Ms Diamond is currently living in Beijing, China and has been teaching English to Chinese college/university students since 1989. She has and continues to encourage her students and other students in China to not only grow in their knowledge of English but also their knowledge of life.

PREFACE

前 ※ 言

Book: A garden carried in a pocket.(书籍:装在口袋里的花园。)

- Arabian proverb(阿拉伯谚语)

由世界知识出版社出版的〈英文诵典〉面世已近四年,深得国内广大读者朋友之信赖与厚爱,使其荣登该类图书畅销书之列。 之后,〈英文诵典〉姐妹篇〈英文诵典 II〉也得以问世,同样得到大家一致青睐和好评。在此向广大读者朋友致以衷心谢意!

如今,为使大家能够读到更多精美绝伦的名篇佳作,我们数名执笔者不分昼夜辛勤劳作,一脉相承的推出《英文诵典——美文精华必背 40 篇》。本书依然延续"经世致用"原则,亦即"理在书中,题目在书外",选材更是精中选精,优中选优,特别遴选名篇佳作四十篇,并配有纯正美语朗诵 MP3,译注也有所拓展,更采取最低定价策略,来回馈广大读者。本书集欣赏、学习于一体,汇文本、有声于一身,堪称同类图书中的精品。成书期间,除得到北京大学外国语学院、教育学院、社会学系、心理学系、欧美文学研究中心和跨文化研究中心资深教授学者的指点,同时采纳北京外国语大学等大学英美文学领域知名教授的中肯建议,在此一并致谢!

*

众所周知,任何一种语言皆非无源之水、无本之木。要想对其 掌握并灵活运用,学习者头脑中势必首先具有相当数量的语言信 息储备。而进行这种信息储备的不可或缺的手段和方式之一无疑 便是朗读和背诵。而英语作为一种世界通用语言,朗读和背诵对

PREFACE

于英语语言能力的形成、巩固和加强更是发挥着不可替代的作用。 〈英文诵典〉系列图书的推出正是为了将"朗读和背诵"这一传统 手段发扬光大。

本系列图书选材范围广泛,内容五花八门,包括沁人肺腑的散文、情愫绵延的书信,朗朗上口的诗歌,激情荡漾的演说,逻辑严密的政论……"好书不厌百回读",希望广大读者能从《英文诵典》系列图书中不断汲取知识和智慧,让自己的英语表达水平突飞猛进,也让自己的精神生活更加精彩美妙!

本书特别适用于各类大专院校公共英语一至六级水平的学生、非英语专业的研究生、英语专业的本科生或研究生、学有余力的高中生以及那些对英语抱有热望的自学者等等。

美国英语学会教导主任 Cassi Fawcett 女士担纲本书的审订工作,对于本书的篇章安排和体例设计等方面提出许多宝贵意见和建议。承蒙协助, 道致谢忱!

编译者 2008 年 12 月于北京大学

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What I Have Lived for *

hree passions, simple but overwhelmingly strong, have governed my life: the longing for love, the search for knowledge, and unbearable pity for the suffering of mankind. These passions, like great winds, have blown me hither and thither, in a wayward course, over a deep ocean of anguish, reaching to the very verge of despair.

I have sought love, first, because it brings ecstasy

^{*} 本文作者伯特兰·罗素(Bertrand Russell,1872—1970),英国哲学家、数学家、社会学家,也是20世纪西方最著名、影响最大的学者和社会活动家之一,其大部分著作都能把理论的深刻性和表达的通俗性结合起来,既有亚里士多德、黑格尔的思辨性,又有伏尔泰、达·芬奇作品的那种文采,其流畅清新的散文在英国文学中享誉甚高。1950年,为了"表彰他所写的捍卫人道主义思想和思想自由的多种多样意义重大的作品",罗素被授予诺贝尔文学奖。

— ecstasy so great that I would often have sacrificed all the rest of my life for a few hours of this joy. I have sought it, next, because it relieves loneliness — that terrible loneliness in which one shivering consciousness looks over the rim of the world into the cold unfathomable lifeless abyss. I have sought it, finally, because in the union of love I have seen, in a mystic miniature, the prefiguring vision of the heaven that saints and poets have imagined. This is what I sought, and though it might seem too good for human life, this is what — at last — I have found.

With equal passion I have sought knowledge. I have wished to understand the hearts of men. I have wished to know why the stars shine. And I have tried to apprehend the Pythagorean power by which number holds away above the flux. A little of this, but not much, I have achieved.

Love and knowledge, so far as they were possible, led upward toward the heavens. But always pity brought me back to earth. Echoes of cries of pain reverberate in my heart. Children in famine, victims tortured by oppressors, helpless old people a hated burden to their sons, and the whole world of loneliness, poverty, and pain make a mockery of what human life should be. I long to alleviate the evil, but I cannot, and I too suffer.

This has been my life. I have found it worth living, and would gladly live it again if the chance were offered

me. 🛠



overwhelmingly /jouvo'welminli/ adv. 压倒性地,不可抵挡地 [例] Odds overwhelmingly in our favor. 极其有利于我们的优势

unbearable /ʌnˈbɛərəbl/ adj. 无法忍受的,难以容忍的 [例] unbearable pain / loneliness 难以忍受的痛苦/孤独 [同] intolerable

hither and thither 到处,各处,四面八方

wayward / weiwəd/ adj. 任性的;反复无常的,难以捉摸的 [例] a wayward child 任性的孩子

anguish /'æŋgwiʃ/ n. 极度痛苦,悲痛 [例] an anguished heart 痛苦的心情[同]affliction, agony

ecstasy /'ekstəsi/ n. 狂喜,欣喜若狂;陶醉,入迷 [例] religious ecstasy 宗教的极乐境界 [同] rapture

relieve /rilli:v/ v. 减轻,缓解,解除(痛苦、忧虑等) [例] The general was relieved of his command. 将军被解除了指挥权。

shivering /ˈʃivəriŋ/ adj. 颤抖的,颤栗的,哆嗦的

consciousness /ˈkənʃəsnis/ n. 意识,知觉,感觉,觉悟 [例] This experience helped to change her social consciousness. 这次经验有助于帮助她改变社会意识。[同] cognizance, perception rim /rim/ n. (圆形物的)边,边缘(of)

unfathomable /ʌnˈfæðəməbl/ adj. 深不可测的; <喻 > 神秘莫测的 [同]impenetrable

abyss /ə'bis/ n. 深渊,深海; <神学 > (创世之前的)混沌,洪荒 mystic /'mistik/ adj. (=mystical)神秘(主义)的,奥秘的,玄秘的 miniature /'minət ʃə/ n. 袖珍画,缩图,缩影

- prefigure /'priː'figə/ v. 预想,预示,预测,预兆 [例] These early paintings clearly prefigure his later work. 这些早期的画清楚地 预示了他后来的工作。
- saint /seint/ n. 圣徒,圣者;虔诚慈善的人
- apprehend / æpri hend/ v. 领悟,领会,理解 [例] He was slow to apprehend danger. 他对危险的感知很慢。[同] compass, conceive
- Pythagorean /pai,θægəˈri(ː)ən/ adj. 毕达哥拉斯的,毕达哥拉斯 学说的(Pythagoras:毕达哥拉斯,公元前6世纪希腊哲学家、数 学家,认为数是万物之本源,证明了毕达哥拉斯定理的广泛有 效性,被认为是世界上第一位真正的数学家。)
- flux /flaks/ n. 持续的运动,不断的变化,变迁
- reverberate /ri'və:bəreit/ v. 使(声音)回响,使回荡 [例] The roar of the train reverberated in the tunnel. 火车的轰隆声在隧道里回荡。[同] rebound, reecho
- famine /ˈfæmin/ n. <古>饥饿;饥荒,饥馑
- torture /'tɔxtʃə/ v. 折磨,虐待,使痛苦 [例] The use of torture must disgust any civilized person. 施用酷刑必为文明社会的人所不齿。[同] afflict, excruciate, plague
- oppressor /əˈpresə/ n. 压迫者,残酷的统治者,暴君
- poverty /'pɔvəti/ n. 贫穷,贫困 [例] There is a poverty of colour in her work. 她的作品缺乏色彩。[同] destitution, impecuniosity
- mockery /'mokəri/ n. 嘲笑,嘲弄,奚落 [例] make a mockery of sth 使某事物显得荒谬或无价值
- alleviate /əˈliːvieit/ v. 减轻(苦痛、疾苦等),使缓和;减少,减小 [例] the alleviation of poverty 改善贫穷 [同] comfort, ease



参考译文【Suggested Translation】

我为何而生

发情的渴望,对知识的探求和对人类苦难不可遏制的同情, 是支配我一生的单纯而难以抗拒的三种情感。这些情感如 阵阵飓风,随意地把我吹得飘来荡去,有时吹过深沉痛苦的海洋, 直抵绝望的边缘。

我曾经追求过爱情,首先是因为爱情可以给我带来狂喜,这种狂喜竟如此强烈,以至于我常常会为了体验几小时爱的欢娱,而宁愿牺牲生命中的其他一切。我曾经追求过爱情,其次是因为爱情可以摆脱孤寂——置身于那可怕的孤独之中,那令人战栗的感觉,有时会掠过世界的边缘,把人带到寒气袭人且没有生命的无底深渊。我曾经追求过爱情,还因为在爱的结合中,我看到了古今圣贤以及诗人们梦想中天堂的神秘缩影。这也正是我所追寻的人生境界。虽然它对一般的人类生活也许太美好了,但这正是我透过爱情最终所找到的。

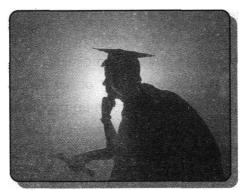
我曾以同样的感情追求知识。我一直渴望去了解人类的心灵,也渴望知道星星为什么会发光,同时我还想理解毕达哥拉斯的力量,通过它的力量,数驾驭了万物的变化。我学到了一点点知识,但仅是皮毛而已。

爱情与知识,总是可以把我引领到天堂的境界。可对于人类 苦难的同情经常把我带回现实世界。那些痛苦的呼唤经常在我内 心深处回响激荡。嗷嗷待哺的孩童,压迫者折磨之下的受害者,给 子女造成重负的孤苦无依的老人,以及那充满孤独、贫穷和痛苦的 世界,是对人类所应该拥有的生活的无视和嘲弄。我常渴望能尽 自己的微薄之力去减轻这不必要的痛苦,但是却无能为力,而我也 因此受着痛苦的煎熬。 这就是我的生活,我觉得是值得活的。如果有谁再给我一次生活的机会,我将欣然接受这难得的赐予。**●**

(《英语沙龙》泰云 译)

- ●Every tragedy makes heroes of common people. (每场悲剧都会在平凡的人中造就出英雄来。)
 - ----Normna Stephens(诺姆拿・斯蒂芬斯)
- He who allows himself to be insulted, deserves to be. (自己甘愿受辱的人,受污辱也活该。)

--F. C. Comford(科福德)





If I Were a Boy Again*

f I were a boy again, I would practice perseverance more often, and never give up a thing because it was too hard or inconvenient. If we want light, we must conquer darkness. Perseverance can sometimes equal genius in its results. "There are only two creatures," says a proverb, "who can surmount the pyramids — the eagle and the snail."

^{*} 作者佚名。童年可以说是一个人一生中最重要的时期,很多素质、习惯——无论坏的还是好的——都是在这个阶段养成的。当我们离开学校走向社会时,决定我们成败的往往不是我们的知识,而是我们的素质和习惯。一家著名公司在招聘会上说,一个人知识不够没有关系,学一两年就可以赶上来;然而如果素质和习惯不过关,那要花几年的时间才能纠正。不要犹豫了,如果你想改变什么素质和习惯,就立即动手吧。