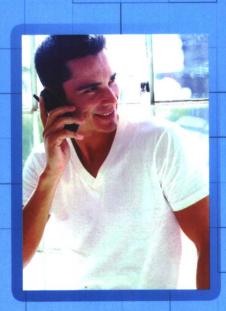
A Modern Advanced English Coursebook for the Development of Reading, Speaking and Listening Skills



高级英语读说听教程



赵景绥 主编





高级英语读说听教程

A Modern Advanced English Coursebook for the Development of Reading, Speaking and Listening Skills

赵景绥 主编 编者 李丙午 胡春萍 李康映 张宏生 刘向东 汤志霞

江苏工业学院图书馆 藏 书 章

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

高级英语读说听教程/赵景绥主编. - 郑州:河南人民出版社,2006.8 ISBN 7-215-06036-5

I. 高… II. 赵… III. ①英语 - 阅读教学 - 高等学校 - 教材②英语 - 听说教学 - 高等学校 - 教材 IV. H319 中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2006)第 092381 号

河南人民出版社出版发行

(地址:郑州市经五路 66 号 邮政编码:450002 电话:65723341) 新华书店经销 河南省诚和印制有限公司印刷 开本 787 毫米×1092 毫米 1/16 印张 22 字数 514 千字 印数 1 - 3000 册 2006 年 8 月第 1 版 2006 年 8 月第 1 次印刷

前 言

进入21世纪以来,我国改革开放的步伐加快,国际学术交流活动日益频繁,越来越多的专家学者有机会出国进修深造,这对他们使用英语进行涉外交际的能力提出了很高的要求。为满足这一要求,我们根据多年博士生英语教学经验编写了《高级英语读说听教程》,旨在为培养专家学者及博士生这一层次群体运用英语的能力,使他们达到能在真实的社交场合用英语表达和获取信息的水平。

本教程共有 39 个单元,每个单元围绕一个主题展开,包含阅读课文、话题讨论及听说训练三个部分。所选取的材料反映了当代科技、文化、政治、教育等方面的最新动态及热点问题,与现代生活非常贴近,多方位多角度地体现了当代英语的特点和风格。从故事、书评、新闻报道、政界商界要人及专家学者访谈到平民百姓聊天,内容广泛丰富,语言地道规范。故事、书评、新闻报道等事先经过准备属书面语范畴,而记者采访、专题讨论则属口语范畴,因为讲话人通常是即兴发言,他们说的话与日常生活中的谈话相差无几。这些源于生活和工作的原汁原味的语言素材可以使学习者了解英语在不同真实语境中的使用情况,学会使用地道的英语。

本教程的听力训练部分采用了正常语速的美国英语并伴有一些背景噪音。听来自真实 交际环境的语言材料有利于学习者在练习中逐渐适应自然语流中的音素,词的重读、弱读形式,由同化省略、连音造成的音变及语调中包含的信息。只有习惯外国人的语音语调才有可能达到用英语进行正常涉外交际的目的。

本教程包含许多有趣的热门话题,涉及到现代生活的方方面面,容易引起学习者思想上的共鸣。通过学习不仅能掌握运用英语的能力,而且还能了解新知识,提高学生的人文素养,扩大他们的视野。由于听、说、读、写技能的培养与训练都围绕同一主题展开,表达相同概念的词汇及短语重复率较高,这有助于学习语言知识,提高培养语感的效率。

在我国,英语不是人们日常交际的工具,学习者缺乏真实的语言环境及材料。这不利于 他们语言能力的发展。我们希望本教程能为他们创造条件,使他们达到能顺利地与国外专 家学者交流的水平。

Contents

Unit 1	Youth	1
	Reading: Remarks by the President and the First Lady at the White House	
	Conference on Teenagers: Raising Responsible and Resourceful Youth	
	Speaking: Topics for Discussion	
	Listening: American Teenagers' Concern	i 1
Unit 2	Voice Recognition	13
	Reading: Voice Recognition—A User's Perspective	13
	Speaking: Topics for Discussion	17
	Listening: Voice Recognition Technology	18
Unit 3	Digital Radio	20
	Reading: Noah Samara: Vision Comes First	20
	Speaking: Topics for Discussion	23
	Listening: Digital Radio	23
Unit 4	Street Children	27
	Reading: Street Children Find Refuge in Sewers	27
	Speaking: Topics for Discussion	29
	Listening: Street Children in Angola	30
Unit 5	Facing Death	32
	Reading: Excerpt from the Prologue of The Measure of Our Days	32
	Speaking: Topics for Discussion	
	Listening: The Measure of Our Days	39
Unit 6	Intellectual Property	41
	Reading: What Is Intellectual Property?	41
	Speaking: Topics for Discussion	44
	Listening: Intellectual Property Rights	46

Unit 7	Fruit and Vegetable	49
	Reading: Ames Agrees with Mom's Advice: Eat Your Fruits and Vegetables	49
	Speaking: Topics for Discussion ·····	
	Listening: Fruit at the US Markets ·····	54
Unit 8	Iris Scan	57
	Reading: The Eyes Have It	57
	Speaking: Topics for Discussion ·····	60
	Listening: Iris Scan ·····	61
Unit 9	Relationships	63
	Reading: Business Networks in China	63
	Speaking: Topics for Discussion ·····	
	Listening: Relationships in China	66
Unit 10	Hunger	68
	Reading: Benedictine Leads Second Harvest Against Hunger	68
	Speaking: Topics for Discussion	
	Listening: Hunger in the US	71
Unit 11	Gifted Children	73
	Reading: Finalists Named in 57th Annual Talent Search	
	Speaking: Topics for Discussion	
	Listening: Brainy Kids	76
Unit 12	News Media ····	78
	Reading: The Many Fronts of the Media War	
	Speaking: Topics for Discussion	
	Listening: The More You Watch, the Less You Know	83
Unit 13	Marriage	85
	Reading: A Mathematical Model of Marriage	85
	Speaking: Topics for Discussion	
	Listening: About Marriage	91
Unit 14	Bill Gates	92
	Reading: Bill Gates	92
	Speaking: Topics for Discussion	96
	Listening: Microsoft's Monopoly	97

Unit 15	Computer Based Test	98
	Reading: The TOEFL Computer Based Test	
	Speaking: Topics for Discussion	
	Listening: New TOEFL	106
Unit 16	Smoking	107
	Reading: Cigarette Smoking	
	Speaking: Topics for Discussion	109
	Listening: How to Obliterate Tobacco	112
Unit 17	Olympics ·····	114
	Reading: Chinese Seal: the Beijing 2008 Olympics Emblem	114
	Speaking: Topics for Discussion ·····	118
	Listening: Study of Olympics	119
Unit 18	Computerized Data	120
	Reading: Will Your Data Survive You? ····	120
	Speaking: Topics for Discussion ·····	123
	Listening: Computerized Records	124
Unit 19	Medical Miracles	126
	Reading: Excerpt from Making Miracles Happen	126
	Speaking: Topics for Discussion ·····	131
	Listening: Making Miracles Happen	132
Unit 20	Black Women in America	134
	Reading: Shining Thread of Hope: A History of Black Women in America—Book	
	Review ····	134
	Speaking: Topics for Discussion	137
	Listening: About African American Women	138
Unit 21	Hobbies ····	140
	Reading: To Collect—But How?	140
	Speaking: Topics for Discussion ·····	142
	Listening: Collecting Sewing Machines	143
Unit 22	Ending Street Violence	145
	Reading: How Peace Started	145

	Listening: Strength of the Black Community	150
Unit 23	Titanic	152
	Reading: Titanic Fever	152
	Speaking: Topics for Discussion ·····	157
	Listening: Titanic, Fortune and Fate	159
Unit 24	Islam	161
	Reading: Islamic Religion	161
	Speaking: Topics for Discussion	168
	Listening: Ramadan	170
Unit 25	Violence Against Women	171
	Reading: Ending Violence Against Women	171
	Speaking: Topics for Discussion ·····	173
	Listening: Violence Against Women	173
Unit 26	Future Cars	175
	Reading: On the Road Again—In the Car of the Future	175
	Speaking: Topics for Discussion	
	Listening: Driving for a Better Future	181
Unit 27	Genetic Testing	183
	Reading: Genetic Testing	183
	Speaking: Topics for Discussion ·····	186
	Listening: Genetic Testing	187
Unit 28	AIDS ·····	189
	Reading: UC AIDS Team Turns up Major Clinical Findings	189
	Speaking: Topics for Discussion ·····	191
	Listening: New Findings about AIDS	191
Unit 29	Polio Vaccines	193
	Reading: Development of Polio Vaccines	193
	Speaking: Topics for Discussion	196
	Listening: Polio ·····	197
Unit 30	Relationships over E-mail	199
	Reading: E-love ·····	199
	Speaking: Topics for Discussion ·····	201

	Listening: Human Relationships over E-mail	202
Unit 31	Cloning ····	204
	Reading: The Future of Cloning—Where Are We Headed?	204
	Speaking: Topics for Discussion ·····	
	Listening: The Issue of Cloning	208
Unit 32	Internet Information Gap	210
	Reading: Excerpt from State of the Union Address	210
	Speaking: Topics for Discussion ·····	
	Listening: Internet Information Gap	212
Unit 33	Christmas	214
	Reading: Holidays in the U.S	
	Speaking: Topics for Discussion ·····	
	Listening: Stories behind Christmas Songs	227
Unit 34	English	230
	Reading: English, the Universal Language of the Internet?	230
	Speaking: Topics for Discussion	
	Listening: English and Economic Success	234
Unit 35	Tuesdays with Morrie	236
	Reading: Excerpts from Tuesdays with Morrie	236
	Speaking: Topics for Discussion ·····	
	Listening: Tuesdays with Morrie	242
Unit 36	Fighting Corruption	244
	Reading: The Independent Commission Against Corruption	244
	Speaking: Topics for Discussion	
	Listening: Fighting Corruption	247
Unit 37	Elizabeth Campbell ·····	250
	Reading: Margaret Elizabeth Pfohl Campbell	
	Speaking: Topics for Discussion ·····	
	Listening: The First Woman to Start TV	260
Unit 38	Space Tourism	262
	Reading: Promoters Foresee Booming Space Tourism Industry	262
	Speaking: Topics for Discussion	264

	Listen	ing: Space Tourism	265
Unit 39	Compu	iter Forensics	267
	Readii	ng: Recovering and Examining Computer Forensic Evidence	267
		ing: Topics for Discussion ······	
	-	ing: Computers and Crimes	
A DDENI	DIV.T	rongorints for Listoning Evensions	
AFFEI	DIA; I	ranscripts for Listening Exercises	
	Unit 1	American Teenagers' Concern	276
	Unit 2	Voice Recognition Technology ·····	277
	Unit 3	Digital Radio	278
	Unit 4	Street Children in Angola ·····	280
	Unit 5	The Measure of Our Days ·····	281
	Unit 6	Intellectual Property Rights	282
	Unit 7	Fruit at the US Markets	283
	Unit 8	Iris Scan ·····	286
	Unit 9	Relationships in China ·····	286
	Unit 10	Hunger in the US	288
	Unit 11	Brainy Kids ·····	290
	Unit 12	The More You Watch , the Less You Know	292
	Unit 13	About Marriage	294
	Unit 14	Microsoft's Monopoly	295
	Unit 15	New TOEFL	296
	Unit 16	How to Obliterate Tobacco ·····	297
	Unit 17	Study of Olympics ·····	299
	Unit 18	Computerized Records	300
	Unit 19	Making Miracles Happen	301
	Unit 20	About African American Women	303
	Unit 21	Collecting Sewing Machines	304
	Unit 22	Strength of the Black Community	306
	Unit 23	Titanic, Fortune and Fate	307
	Unit 24	Ramadan ·····	309
	Unit 25	Violence Against Women	310
	Unit 26	Driving for a Better Future	311
	Unit 27	Genetic Testing ·····	312
	Unit 28	New Findings about AIDS	
	Unit 29	Polio ·····	
	Unit 30	Human Relationships over E-mail	
	Unit 31	The Issue of Cloning	
	Unit 32	Internet Information Gap	321

Unit 33	Stories behind Christmas Songs ·····	323
Unit 34	English and Economic Success	328
Unit 35	Tuesdays with Morrie ·····	330
Unit 36	Fighting Corruption	331
Unit 37	The First Woman to Start TV	333
Unit 38	Space Tourism ·····	335
Unit 39	Computers and Crimes	336

Unit 1 Youth

Reading:

Remarks by the President and the First Lady at the White House Conference on Teenagers: Raising Responsible and Resourceful Youth

Mrs. Clinton's Remarks

Good morning, and please be seated, and welcome to the White House. We have been looking forward to this conference for nearly a year now as we have talked with and explored all the ways that we can raise resourceful and responsible young people. And many people have asked me why a conference on teenagers. Why make teenagers the focus of a fully day's discussion at the White House.

Well, I think that as we just saw in the video and I want to thank and applaud the families that participated in that video. Many of us are concerned about what we can do as parents and as citizens, as employers or educators, as public officials or community leaders, to give more support to teenagers and their families.

The President and I speak, of course, with great authority (laughter) having just graduated from being the parents of a teenager to being the parents of a 20-year-old and having survived it. But, believe me, this conference is more than just a trip down memory lane or an exercise in nostalgia for us. We believe strongly that our young people deserve our very best efforts.

I want to thank many of the people who are here today who have been part of putting this conference together, but more than that, for the work that they have done over so many decades. First, let me thank David and Betty Hamburg who are here. (Applause.) David and Betty, in many ways, inspired this conference.

I began working with them more than 20 years ago now, and I can think of no people who are more dedicated to helping all young people, whether they're in the forgotten or not forgotten half, whether they are going through great transitions or turning points in their lives. And I think many of us in this room owe both David and Betty a great deal of gratitude. I would like to ask them to stand so we could thank them both. (Applause.)

Also with us today is Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones and Secretary Donna Shalala Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder, Secretary Alexis Herman, National Service Corps CEO Harris Wofford, the Director of Personnel Management Janis LaChance, the Deputy Drug Czar Vereen, Annie E. Casey Foundation, the W. T. Grant Foundation and the YMCA of the USA are

all sponsors and supporters of this conference.

Now, all of us are here because we believe there is no group of Americans more full of promise or potential. But we also believe there is no group of Americans more in need of the support, guidance and committed efforts of all of us than today's teenagers.

Ask any teen and I do. I've been privileged to speak to so many in sort of personal and informal ways and in more formal settings. Just last week at a high school town hall in Watkins Glen, New York, where the teens lined up and asked all kinds of questions. If you ask teens and you listen to teens, you can hear, directly and indirectly, their voices telling us that growing up today feels tougher than ever before. I happen to think that's right. I think it's harder being a teen today than it was, certainly, when I was one so many years ago.

But I also think that the wonder and hope and exciting choices that teenagers face in their lives are too often becoming times of great stress, alienation, and confusion. And that, too, has always been part of the teen experience, but the environment and context in which that occurs is more dangerous than ever before.

And if it's tough to be a teenager today, it's probably even tougher to be a parent. More and more parents are working outside our homes; they're struggling to do right by their families and their jobs. And I have met so many mothers and fathers who tell me that they just feel inadequate and anxious about navigating those teenage years—more so than they certainly felt when their kids were younger.

We're all worried about the choices our teenagers make, about how the best-laid plans for a bright future can disintegrate with a single bad decision to drink, to try drugs, to drive too fast, to trust the wrong person. Parents are worried about the movies their children are seeing, the web sites they're visiting, the music they're listening to. And there's a lot of worry that all those heart-to-heart talks and those efforts to communicate, which are sometimes so awkward and difficult, about values and good behavior are getting drowned out by a popular culture filled with gratuitous sex and violence.

In our two panels this morning, and in the breakout sessions this afternoon, we will tackle the challenges facing today's teenagers and their parents. But it won't just be a session for everyone to share their worries. More importantly, we're going to be highlighting some of the latest research about teen years and the innovative ways that Americans can work together to ensure that every teenager has a safe passage to adulthood.

Three years ago, in this room, we held the first White House Conference on Early Learning and Childhood Development. We sought to raise awareness about the critical growth that takes place in the brain during the first three years of life, and to explore the implications of this knowledge on parenting, education and child care. In many ways, that conference and today's conference can be viewed as bookends, because now we're beginning to learn that the brain goes through yet another, and equally critical, growth spurt during the early teenage years. Though the research is still preliminary, scientists now believe that this is the time when all the hard-wiring of the brain takes place, when a teenager's intellectual, emotional and physical capacities are developed for a lifetime.

Now, I remember the very wise advice I got from a friend of mine, when my daughter was very small and she was raising three teenagers. And she said, you know, the two times in a child's life that seem most similar to me are those toddler years and the teenage years. It's when we need to give so much more attention to our children. And now, we didn't know, back when I heard this advice about 19 or so years ago, that there would be brain research to support that anecdotal experience that parents had. But I remembered that so often during the times when our own daughter was growing up—that even if your teenager or your preteen doesn't want you following her or him around, in many ways—think of that toddler metaphor—they need you around. And it's hard for a lot of parents to figure out exactly how to do that.

This research has, therefore, important implications for parents, because teenagers need the guidance and support of their parents more than ever. It is still difficult for many of us to remember that teenagers want our attention. After all, this is the time when the real or the imaginary "keep out" signs start appearing on closed bedroom doors, when many of our children would rather spend two hours talking to a friend on the phone than 10 minutes talking to their mother or father in person. But what we are learning is that for all their declarations of independence, America's teenagers still want and need the everyday love, involvement and discipline of their parents.

Today, we are releasing a new poll, commissioned by the YMCA, which found that parents are still the most important adults in their teenagers' lives. More than three out of four teens say they still turn to their parents in times of trouble. In fact, while parents—and this is so interesting—while parents list the threat of drugs and alcohol as their top concerns about their teens, teens, themselves, list education and "not having enough time" with their parents as their top concern.

So it's time that we respond to these concerns, and many of us have been struggling with ways to do that. I believe one of the biggest casualties of modern life has been family time, especially time during meals, when parents and children can check out of their busy schedules and check in with each other. Before our daughter left for college, the three of us made it a priority to share at least one meal together a day.

With our hectic schedules, it wasn't always easy and, occasionally, wasn't possible. But we sure tried. And when we were able to, that hour or half-hour in the small kitchen of the private quarters upstairs in the White House was truly my favorite part of the day, because Bill and I were very convinced that we wanted to convey to our daughter a simple message, one that we hoped she would carry away to college: that whenever she does need someone to talk to or ask for advice, or just wants to say hello, we will be available and eager to listen.

I also know, though, the experience of hanging around, waiting for a sighting. (Laughter.) You know, when we were first in Washington, in the first term, a lot of people—some of the pundits and others—would say, well, the Clintons don't go out, they don't socialize enough, you know, why aren't they going to Camp David enough. And those are people who had forgotten or never had a teenager. And when you have one in your home, you want to hang around with the hope that just maybe they'll deign to say something to you. Occasionally, that works, but not

always. And we hope this conference will inspire even more parents to stay involved in their teenagers' lives and to open new lines of communication.

I'm very pleased to announce the National Partnership for Women and Families, along with the Families and Work Institute, will lead a new campaign to promote the importance of spending time with your teenagers.

Now, there are some lessons we parents have to learn about this. That is not the time when you unload every piece of worldly advice you have stored up for your entire lifetime, it is not the time when you lecture and fill up the space with all the words that you want to fill. These are things that I've learned from experience.

It is, instead, a time when you hopefully are there to inspire the communication that is twoway and principally coming from your teen. The Time With Teens campaign will challenge parents to take stock of their own lives and work habits and look for ways to make more time for their children.

It will challenge businesses to offer more flexible work schedules and policies for parents, and it will challenge churches and synagogues, and mosques and schools, and health care agencies and all community organizations to create more opportunities for families to spend time together.

But we have to do more than just raise awareness among parents. We have to give parents the tools we all need to stay involved in our children's lives. That's why we're also launching a new White House Task Force on Navigating the New Media Age. Comprised of members from both the public and private sectors, this task force will find ways to transform the tools of the media age, namely the Internet, into tools for parents. The task force will develop two new Internet portals—one that will link parents to information and advice on raising teens, from health and safety to child care and education; and a second to link teens to a variety of age-appropriate resources on the Internet.

We also recognize it is more difficult for parents to keep track of what teens are watching and learning on TV or on their home computer. The YMCA poll you'll hear about found that six out of 10 teenagers are watching television without parental supervision, while 45 percent of all teens say they surf the Internet on their own.

You know, when we only had one TV in the home, and you had to fight with your parents and your brothers and sisters to figure out which one of the three stations you were going to watch, it was a lot easier for parents to supervise what their children were watching. Now we have so many opportunities for kids to see things without any parental supervision, or even without an older brother or sister around saying, that's stupid, or how dumb that is, trying to interject some reality into the world that the media conveys to our kids.

We also know that the V-chip is now in effect, and I strongly urge parents—particularly of young kids, but also of teenagers—to learn how to program that V-chip and to use it.

There are several media rating systems in place to help parents determine the appropriateness of the shows their children watch. But with so many different systems, parents must hunt for the information needed to decode these various ratings. That's why we will ask the task force to work

with the entertainment and media industries to create a single web site to help parents make sense of all the various rating systems, and use them to monitor their children's interactions with the media. I hope eventually, we will get to a uniform system of ratings, so that what is used on the video shows, is used on the movies, is used on the TV, is used across the board.

This is only a temporary step, the web site. But I renew, therefore, my challenge to the entertainment industry. Let's create a voluntary, uniform rating system so that all parents can better decide what's appropriate and what is not appropriate for their children to see.

The challenges before us are great, and the time between childhood and adulthood, as Bill and I can attest, is all too short. But if there is one message we hope all Americans will take away from this conference, it is that each of us has the power to make a difference in every teenager's life. And it is not just a task for parents. The research and our own experience shows that oftentimes, it is a teacher or a coach, a minister or an employer, a neighbor or another relative who can provide the mentoring and the stability that every young person needs. And sometimes during a rocky period in a teen's life, it may be somebody outside of a parent who can be turned to with good advice and suggestions.

So it is not just a conference aimed at teens and their parents, it's really a conference for our entire country; to be committed; to make what is biologically a disorienting time for our teens and a time of exploration, a confusing time—to make it more of an opportunity and a real journey to self-discovery; to take a time of peril and turn it into a time of promise.

We have a lot of experts and, certainly, we have teens and parents, as well—we're going to be talking about what has worked for them. And it will be a challenge to us. But when I speak to groups of teenagers, I always start by telling them how proud I am of the way that they are coping with their lives, because the great, vast majority of our kids are good kids.

That is not the message that we often receive on the media, where we only see the stereotypes and the negative depictions. And a lot of these kids are doing the very best they can. In fact, the flip side of our concern is that some of them take their lives so seriously and strive for such perfection that the teen years are a time of even heightened misery and anxiety because they don't think they're measuring up.

So we have got to do a better job in sending a message to our kids that we value them, we love them, we care about them, and that's why we want to be as involved in their lives as possible. So let me now introduce my co-parent (laughter) and someone who has been deeply committed to the young people of our country, the President of the United States. (Applause.)

President Clinton's Remarks

Thank you very much. Thank you and good morning. I want to join with Hillary in welcoming you to the White House, and thanking all of you for coming. I thank the foundations that have helped us. And thank you, David Hamburg. I still remember when we worked on a report about the developmental needs of young adolescents back in the late '80s, in which we

recommended, among other things, that there ought to be community service in all of our schools—something that we're finally getting around to.

I thank all of those who are here. I see so many people out here in this audience who have done so much to help our young people, our teenagers, live better lives. I see one of the founders of the City Year program in Boston. I see a man who has adopted a huge number of children, along with his wife, and personally made sure that they got through their teenage years. There are many, many stories here. I'm grateful to all of you.

I'm very grateful to Secretary Shalala and Secretary Herman, and our National Service Chairman, Senator Harris Wofford; and Deputy Attorney General Holder, and Janice LaChance, and all the others who are here from the administration, the Deputy Director of our Drug Office, Donald Vereen. And thank you, Representative Stephanie Tubbs Jones. I thank you all for what you are doing.

I want to thank the panelists, and those who will come on afterward. And I think we ought to give one more hand to the families that were in the film, that walked in with Hillary and me. They did a great job. (Applause.)

You know, we've worked very hard on these family issues for a long time, and Hillary has done so for 30 years. But the way I see this as President, as well as a parent, looking ahead to the kind of America we're trying to build in the new century—when I became President, we had to worry about whether everybody who wanted or needed a job could get one. And that was very important. And the dignity of work is very important to families. It helps to define the shape of family life in ways that are by and large positive.

I'll never forget once when I was governor, I had a panel of former welfare recipients that were in the work force, and one of my colleagues asked the lady from my state, said, well, what's the best thing about having a job. And she said, the best thing about it is when my boy goes to school and they say, what does your mama do for a living, he can give an answer.

But, by the same token, we live in a country that's very good at creating jobs, but is not as good at providing family supports; in which people are busier and busier and busier; and in which virtually everybody has some trouble balancing work and family during the period of the child's life. Even parents who are staying at home have trouble doing it.

And it is a problem that is more severe for single parents and people that have more than one job or people that have trouble getting around. It's a problem that's more severe for people that work for very modest incomes. But I don't think I know any parents who are working who have not had some periods in their lives when they worried whether they were letting their kids down because they weren't spending enough time with them; or whether there were too many forces out there that were kind of undermining that.

And one of the things that I have learned, in ways large and small over an unfortunately increasingly elderly existence (laughter) is that everybody has got a story, everybody. And every child has a spark inside. And I believe that everyone has a role to play and ought to be given a chance. And as important as work is—and I say that coming from a family of workaholics—the most important work that society does is still to raise children. And if that work is done well, the