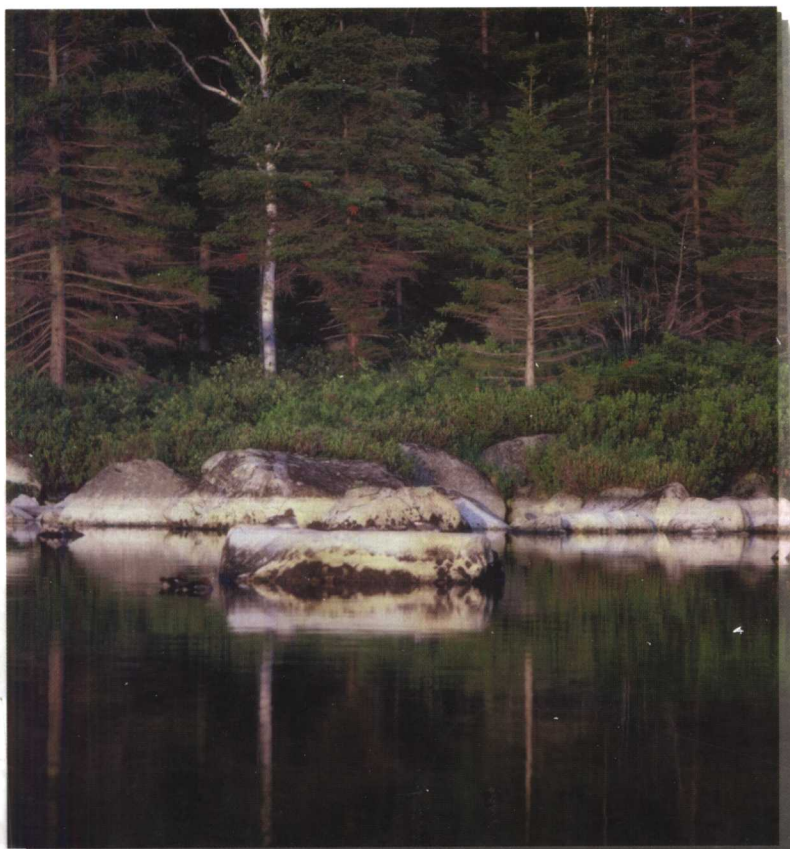




普通高等教育“十五”国家级规划教材  
教育部推荐使用大学外语类教材

# COLLEGE ENGLISH

*Reading Course 6*  
*Student's Book*



上海外语教育出版社

SHANGHAI FOREIGN LANGUAGE EDUCATION PRESS

**全新版**

*New*

# 大学 英语

阅读教程

(通用本)

学生用书

# 6

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主编 白永权

编

江苏工业学院图书馆  
藏书章



外教社

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## 图书在版编目(CIP)数据

大学英语(全新版)阅读教程(6) 学生用书: 通用本 / 白永权主编;

—上海: 上海外语教育出版社, 2004

(大学英语系列教材)

ISBN 7-81095-478-4

I. 大… II. 白… III. 英语—阅读教学—高等学校—教材

IV. H319.4

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字(2004)第121736号

---

## 《大学英语》系列教材(全新版)

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出版发行: 上海外语教育出版社

(上海外国语大学内) 邮编: 200083

电话: 021-65425300 (总机)

电子邮箱: bookinfo@sflap.com.cn

网址: <http://www.sflap.com.cn> <http://www.sflap.com>

责任编辑: 王冬梅

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印刷: 无锡市春远印刷厂

开本: 787×965 1/16 印张 12.5 字数 277 千字

版次: 2005年2月第1版 2005年2月第1次印刷

印数: 30 000 册

---

书号: ISBN 7-81095-478-4 / H · 163

定价: 13.80 元

本版图书如有印装质量问题, 可向本社调换

本社反盗版举报电话: 021-65366698

# 关于《阅读教程》(通用本)的编写和使用

## 1. 编写宗旨

本教程为非英语专业学生提供了系统且题材多样化的课外阅读材料,旨在培养学生熟练运用阅读技巧、正确理解篇章的能力,扩大学生的知识面和文化视野,增强学生的阅读理解和欣赏水平。

## 2. 全书框架

本教程共分六册,每册分8个单元,每单元有3篇阅读文章,共有24篇。每单元包含以下五个部分:

1) 每篇课文前设有 Introduction, 以激发学生的阅读兴趣并让他们对文章的主要内容和文化背景有初步了解。

2) 每篇课文中的生词与语言难点均采用边注形式编写,以及时扫除学生在阅读过程中的理解障碍,这样有利于学生将阅读重点放在语篇水平的理解上。

3) 每单元第一篇文章的选材紧扣《综合教程》相关单元的主题,其目的是使学生对同一题材有更多的信息“输入”,自然亦有助于学生对相关信息的“输出”。另两篇文章的主题为其他内容的题材,如:短篇故事、科普、人物传记、历史事件等,以培养学生对人文知识的兴趣,并扩大其知识面。

4) 本教程涉及的练习形式有:多项选择题、正误判断题、英译汉练习、简短回答问题练习、词汇与定义配对选择题、思考讨论题等。每篇课文后使用了三种或四种练习形式。练习的旨在引导学生进一步理解课文和对语言难点解惑释疑,进而提高学生分析、归纳的能力。

每册书后附有总词汇表,供学生查找和记忆。表中四级词汇用黑正体表示,六级词汇用黑正体并在词尾加“▲”表示,六级后词汇用黑斜体表示,纲外词汇用白斜体表示,短语(句子)用黑正体表示,文化地理等词条用白斜体表示。

本教程配有教师用书。

本书由西安交通大学英语系和语言教学实验中心编写,白永权教授任主编,参加编写的人员有高云、田鹏、周庆华和姜维焕。本书总主编李荫华教授十分关心本书的编写工作,提出了许多宝贵建议。在本书的编写过程中,西安交通大学的领导以及美籍教授 Dr Anne Bliss 给了我们大力支持、指导和帮助,在此对他们表示感谢。

编者

2004年1月

# CONTENTS

## UNIT ONE

- 1. A Beautiful Mind (Part One) ..... 1
- 2. A Beautiful Mind (Part Two) ..... 9
- 3. A Beautiful Mind (Part Three) ..... 17

## UNIT TWO

- 4. How to Get Rich in America ..... 23
- 5. The Mirage of Farm Exports ..... 29
- 6. The Souks ..... 36

## UNIT THREE

- 7. Baby Emma's Miracle ..... 43
- 8. The Brain of the Century ..... 51
- 9. Why Do Americans Learn Kung Fu? ..... 58

## UNIT FOUR

- 10. Working at the McDonald's ..... 64
- 11. Thank Mom for How Presidents Turned out ..... 71
- 12. The Music That Can Make You Cleverer ..... 77

## UNIT FIVE

- 13. E-Cheating: Combating a 21st Century Challenge ..... 85
- 14. Is It Closing Time for the Big Game Attractions? ..... 93
- 15. The Robe of Peace ..... 99



UNIT SIX

16. A Beautiful Life and a Beautiful Death .....	106
17. Dicing with Death .....	112
18. Street Trees .....	119

UNIT SEVEN

19. Whose Body Is This? .....	126
20. The Other Difference Between Boys and Girls .....	133
21. Mother's Day in a Federal Prison .....	142

UNIT EIGHT

22. Technology Is the Answer .....	150
23. Dearly Disconnected .....	158
24. Cyberhood vs. Neighborhood .....	165

APPENDICES

1. Glossary .....	173
2. Key to Comprehension Exercise I of the Texts .....	192

# UNIT ONE

## 1. A Beautiful Mind (Part One) — The Parents

*Sylvia Nasar*

### Introduction

*The following biography presents us with a vivid account of the life of John Nash, the mathematical genius, starting with his family background.*

### Text

Among John Nash's earliest memories is one in which, as a child of about two or three, he is listening to his maternal<sup>1</sup> grandmother play the piano in the front parlor<sup>2</sup> of the old Tazewell Street house, high on a breezy hill overlooking the city of Bluefield, West Virginia.

It was in this parlor that his parents were married on September 6, 1924. The thirty-two-year-old groom was tall and gravely handsome. The bride, four years his junior, was a willowy<sup>3</sup>, dark-eyed beauty. Her narrow, brown cut-velvet

1. maternal / mə'tɜːnl / a.  
母方的

2. parlor / 'pɑːlə / n. 客厅

3. willowy / 'wɪləʊ / a. 苗条的

10 dress<sup>4</sup> emphasized her slender waist and long, graceful back.

John Forbes Nash, Sr., was “proper, painstaking, and very serious, a very conservative man in every respect,” according to his daughter Martha Nash Legg. What saved him from dullness was a sharp, inquiring mind. He was born in

15 1892 on his maternal grandparents’ plantation on the banks of the Red River in northern Texas, the youngest of three children of Martha Smith and Alexander Quincy Nash. The first few years of his life were spent in Sherman, Texas, where his paternal grandparents, both teachers, had founded  
20 the Sherman Institute (later the Mary Nash College for Women), a modest but progressive establishment, where the daughters of Texas’s middle class learned the value of regular physical exercise and a bit of poetry and botany. After his grandparents died, John Sr.’s parents operated the college  
25 until a smallpox epidemic<sup>5</sup> forced them to close its doors for good.

John Sr.’s mother was a highly intelligent, resourceful woman. After she and her husband separated, Martha Nash supported herself and her two young sons and daughter on  
30 her own, working for many years as an administrator at Baylor College, another Baptist<sup>6</sup> institution for girls, in Belton, in central Texas. Devout<sup>7</sup> and diligent, Martha was also described as an “efficient and devoted” mother, but her constant struggle against poverty, bad health and low spirits,  
35 along with the shame of growing up in a fatherless household, left its scars on John Sr. and contributed to the emotional reserve he later displayed toward his own children.

Surrounded by unhappiness at home, John Sr. early on found solace and certainty in the realm of science and technology. He studied electrical engineering at Texas Agricultural & Mechanical, graduating around 1912. He enlisted<sup>8</sup> in the army shortly after the United States entered World War I and spent most of his wartime duty as a lieutenant in the 144th Infantry<sup>9</sup> Supply Division in France. When he returned to

4. cut-velvet dress 鹿皮衣服

5. smallpox epidemic 天花流行

6. Baptist / 'bæptɪst / n. 浸礼会教友

7. devout / dɪ'vaʊt / a. 虔诚的

8. enlist / ɪn'list / vi. 参军

9. infantry / 'ɪnfəntri / n. 步兵



45 Texas, he did not go back to his previous job at General Electric, but instead tried his hand at teaching engineering students at the University of Texas. At the end of the academic year, he agreed to take a position in Bluefield with the Appalachian Power Company.

50 Photographs of Margaret Virginia Martin — known as Virginia — at the time of her engagement to John Sr. show a smiling, animated<sup>10</sup> woman, stylish and whippet<sup>11</sup>-thin. Outgoing and energetic, Virginia was a freer, less rigid spirit than her quiet, reserved husband and a far more active presence in her son's life. Her vitality<sup>12</sup> and forcefulness were such that, years later, her son John, by then in his thirties and seriously ill, would dismiss a report from home that she had been hospitalized for a "nervous breakdown" as simply unbelievable. He would greet the news of her death in 1969  
60 with similar disbelief.

Like her husband, Virginia grew up in a family that valued church and higher education. But there the similarity ended. She was one of four surviving daughters of a popular physician, James Everett Martin, and his wife, Eva, who  
65 had moved to Bluefield from North Carolina during the early 1890s. The Martins' affluence<sup>13</sup> did not protect them from terrible blows — their first child, a boy, died in infancy; Virginia, the second, was left entirely deaf in one ear at age twelve after a bout of scarlet fever; a younger brother was  
70 killed in a train wreck<sup>14</sup>; and one of her sisters died in a typhoid<sup>15</sup> epidemic — but on the whole Virginia grew up in a happier atmosphere than her husband. The Martins were also well-educated, and they saw to it that all of their daughters received university educations. Eva Martin was herself unusual in having graduated from a women's college in Tennessee. Virginia studied English, French, German and Latin first at Martha Washington College and later at West Virginia University, graduating at age sixteen. By the time she met her husband-to-be, she had been teaching for more than ten

10. animated / 'ænimetɪd /  
a. 活泼的

11. whippet / 'wɪpɪt / n. 小  
灵狗

12. vitality / vaɪ'tælɪti / n.  
活力

13. affluence / 'æfluəns / n.  
富裕

14. wreck / rek / n. 失事,  
灾难

15. typhoid / 'taɪfɔɪd / n. 伤  
寒

80 years. She was a born teacher, a talent that she would later lavish<sup>16</sup> on her gifted son. Like her husband, she had seen something beyond the small towns of her home state.

When the newly married Nashes returned from their honeymoon, the couple lived at the Tazewell Street house with 85 Virginia's mother and sisters. John Sr. went back to his job at the Appalachian, which in those years consisted largely of driving all over the state inspecting remote power lines. Virginia did not return to teaching. Like most school districts around the country during the 1920s, the Mercer County 90 school system had a marriage bar. Female teachers lost their jobs as soon as they married. But, quite apart from her forced resignation, her new husband had a strong feeling that he ought to provide for his wife and protect her from what he regarded as the shame of having to work, another legacy of 95 his own upbringing.

For a long time, Bluefield owes its existence to the rolling hills full of coal and was a rough and ready frontier outpost<sup>17</sup> where Jewish merchants, African-American construction workers, and Tazewell County farmers struggled to 100 make a living and where millionaire coal operators sat down to negotiate contracts. By the 1920s, when the Nashes married, however, Bluefield's character was already changing. Directly on the line between Chicago and Norfolk, the town was becoming an important rail hub<sup>18</sup> and had attracted a 105 prosperous white-collar class of middle managers, lawyers, small businessmen, ministers, and teachers.

Bluefield was not "a community of scholars," as John Nash later said with more than a hint of irony. Its bustling commercialism, Protestant<sup>19</sup> respectability, and small-town 110 snobbery<sup>20</sup> couldn't have been further removed from the atmosphere of the intellectual hothouses<sup>21</sup> of Budapest and Cambridge which produced John von Neumann and Norbert Wiener. Yet while John Nash was growing up, the town had a sizable<sup>22</sup> group of men with scientific interests and engi-

16. lavish / 'lævɪʃ / *vt.* 慷慨给予

17. outpost / 'aʊtpaʊst / *n.* 边区村落

18. hub / hʌb / *n.* 中心

19. Protestant / 'prɒtɪstənt / *a.* 新教(教徒)的

20. snobbery / 'snɒbəri / *n.* 势利

21. hothouse / 'həʊhaʊs / *n.* 温室

22. sizable / 'saɪzəbl / *a.* 相当大的

115 neering talent, men like John Sr. who were attracted by the  
 railroad, the utility, and the mining companies. Some of  
 those who came to work for the companies wound up as sci-  
 ence teachers in the high school or one of the two Baptist col-  
 leges. In his autobiographical essay, Nash described “having  
 120 to learn from the world’s knowledge rather than the knowl-  
 edge of the immediate community” as “a challenge.” But, in  
 fact, Bluefield offered a good deal of stimulation for an in-  
 quiring mind; John Nash’s subsequent career as a multifacet-  
 ed<sup>23</sup> mathematician, not to mention a certain pragmatism of  
 125 character, would seem to owe something to his Bluefield  
 years.

23. multifaceted / ˌmʌlti-  
 ˈfæsətid / *a.* 多方面的

More than anything, the newly married Nashes were  
 strivers. Solid members of America’s new, upwardly-mobile  
 professional middle class, they formed a tight alliance and  
 130 devoted themselves to achieving financial security and a re-  
 spectable place for themselves in the town’s social pyramid.  
 They became Episcopalians<sup>24</sup>, like many of Bluefield’s more  
 prosperous citizens, rather than continuing in the fundamen-  
 talist churches of their youth. Unlike most of Virginia’s fam-  
 135 ily, they also became staunch Republicans, though (so as to  
 be able to vote for a Democratic cousin in the primaries) not  
 registered party members. They socialized a good deal. They  
 joined Bluefield’s new country club, which was displacing the  
 Protestant churches as the center of Bluefield’s social life.  
 140 Virginia belonged to various women’s book, bridge, and gar-  
 dening clubs. John Sr. was a member of the Elks and a num-  
 ber of engineering societies. Later on, the only middle-class  
 practice that they deliberately avoided was sending their son  
 to prep school. Virginia, as her daughter explained, was “a  
 145 public-school thinker.”

24. Episcopalian / ˌɪpɪskə-  
 ˈpiəriən / *n.* 主教派会员

John Sr.’s job with the Appalachian remained secure  
 right through the Depression of the 1930s. The young family  
 fared<sup>25</sup> considerably better in this period than many of their  
 neighbors and fellow churchgoers, especially the small busi-

25. fare / feə / *vi.* 生活, 过  
 活

150 nessmen. John Sr.'s paycheck was steady. All decisions involving the expenditure of money, no matter how modest, were carefully considered; very often the decision was to avoid, put off, or reduce. There were no mortgages to be had in those days, no pensions either, even for a rising young middle manager in one of the nation's largest utilities. Virginia Nash used to accuse her husband, when they'd had an argument — which they rarely did within earshot of the children — of being quite likely, in the event that she died before him, to marry a younger woman and let her squander<sup>26</sup> all the money she, Virginia, had scraped so hard to save. (Their savings, it turned out, were considerable, however. Even though John Sr. died some thirteen years before Virginia, and even with the high cost of hospitalizations for John Jr., Virginia barely dipped into her capital and was able to pass along a trust fund to her children.)

Though they began life as parents in a rental house owned by Eva Martin, the Nashes were soon able to move to their own modest but comfortable three-bedroom home in one of the best parts of town, Country Club Hill.

170 However much they were forced to economize, the Nashes were able to keep up appearances. Virginia had nice clothes, most of which she sewed herself, and allowed herself the weekly luxury of going to a beauty parlor. By the time they moved to their own house, she had a cleaning woman who came once a week. Virginia always had a car to drive, typically a Dodge, which was hardly the norm<sup>27</sup> even among middle-class families at the time. John Sr., of course, had a company car, usually a Buick. The Nashes were a loyal couple, like-minded.

26. squander / skwɒndə / vt.

浪费

27. norm / nɔ:m / n. 标准

## COMPREHENSION EXERCISES

### I. Choose the best answer for each of the following questions.

1. The main aim of this piece is to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. tell the readers something of John Nash's early education in Texas
  - B. present the readers a vivid picture of the cleverness of John Nash's father
  - C. indicate how outgoing and energetic John Nash's mother was
  - D. show the readers John Nash's family background in the city of Bluefield
2. John Sr.'s emotional reserve was mainly the result of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. his mother's bad health and low spirits
  - B. his family poverty and fatherless household
  - C. his mother's lack of devotion
  - D. both A and B
3. When John heard that his mother was ill, \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. he was not surprised
  - B. he could not believe it to be true
  - C. he asked his family to tell him the details
  - D. he wished to see the medical report
4. Which of the following could best describe Bluefield?
  - A. A small town full of scholars.
  - B. A small town with no snobbery.
  - C. A small town full of commercialism.
  - D. A small town with no respect for religion.
5. John Nash's Bluefield years \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. contributed a share to his later career as a mathematician
  - B. were very stimulating and interesting
  - C. had no influence on his character
  - D. provided him with a very inquiring mind

### II. Give brief answers to the following questions.

1. Was John Forbes Nash's father a native of Texas? How do you know?
2. When did John Sr. escape from his unhappy childhood?
3. What did John Sr. do before joining the Appalachian Power Company?

4. Was John Nash's mother well educated? And what did she do before meeting John Nash Sr. ?
5. What happened to John Nash's mother after she got married?

**III. Questions for discussion.**

1. When do you think is the best age to acquire foreign languages? What is the difference between a baby learning its mother tongue and an adult learning a foreign language?
2. Do you agree with the idea that the earlier a person receives higher education the better? Why or why not?

## 2. A Beautiful Mind (Part Two)

### — Early Life

*Sylvia Nasar*

#### Introduction

*Due to his poor performance in mathematics and other subjects, Nash was once considered by his teachers as an underachiever, needing improvement in effort, study habits and respect for the rules. Yet mathematics was to become his chosen profession. How was it that there was such a considerable change?*

#### Text

John Forbes Nash, Jr., was born almost exactly four years after his parents' marriage, on June 13, 1928. He first saw the light of day not at home, but in the Bluefield Sanitarium<sup>1</sup>, a small hospital on Main Street that has long since been converted to other uses. The big, blond baby boy was apparently healthy, and was soon baptized in the Episcopal Church directly opposite the Martin house on Tazewell Street and given his father's full name. Everyone, however, called him Johnny.

He was a singular little boy, solitary<sup>2</sup> and introverted<sup>3</sup>. The once-dominant view of the origins of the schizoid tem-

1. sanitarium /ˌsænɪˈteəriəm/   
 n. 疗养院

2. solitary /ˈsɒlɪtəri/ a. 孤独的

3. introverted /ˈɪntroʊvɜːtɪd/   
 a. 内向的



perament<sup>4</sup> was that abuse, neglect, or abandonment caused the child to give up the possibility of gratification<sup>5</sup> from human relationships at a very early age. Johnny Nash certainly  
 15 did not fit this now-shameful paradigm<sup>6</sup>. His parents, especially his mother, were actively loving. In general, one can imagine, on evidence from biographies of many brilliant men who were peculiar and isolated as children, that an inward-looking child might react to intrusive<sup>7</sup> adults by withdrawing  
 20 further into his own private world or that efforts to make him conform might be met by firm resolve to do things his own way — or perhaps that unsympathetic taunting<sup>8</sup> peers might have a similar effect. But the facts of Nash's childhood, in many ways so typical of the educated classes in small  
 25 American towns of that era, suggest that his temperament may well have been one that he was born with.

The Highland Street house to which the Nashes had moved shortly after his birth was within easy walking distance of Tazewell Street and Virginia continued to spend a  
 30 great deal of time there, even after the birth of Johnny's younger sister Martha in 1930. But by the time Johnny was seven or eight, his aunts had come to consider him bookish and slightly odd. While Martha and her cousins rode stick horses, cut paper dolls out of old pattern books, and played  
 35 house" and hide-and-seek in the "almost scary but nice" attic, Johnny could always be found in the parlor with his nose buried in a book or magazine. At home, despite his mother's urgings, he ignored the neighborhood children, preferring to stay indoors alone. His sister spent most of her free time at  
 40 the pool or playing football and kickball. But Johnny played by himself with toy airplanes and matchbox cars.

Although he was no prodigy<sup>10</sup>, Johnny was a bright and curious child. His mother, with whom he was always closest, responded by making his education a principal focus of her  
 45 considerable energy. "Mother was a natural teacher," Martha observes. "She liked to read, she liked to teach. She

1. schizoid /temperament  
精神分裂性格

5. gratification / 'græti-fi-  
'keɪʃən / n. 满意

6. paradigm / 'pærədaɪm /  
n. 范例

7. intrusive / 'intrusɪv / a.  
打扰的

8. taunt / taɪnt / vt. 辱骂

9. play house 过家家

10. prodigy / 'prɒdɪdʒ / n.  
神童

wasn't just a housewife." Virginia, who became actively involved in the PTA<sup>11</sup>, taught Johnny to read by age four, sent him to a private kindergarten, saw to it that he skipped a  
 50 grade early in elementary school, tutored him at home and, later on, in high school, had him enroll at Bluefield College to take courses in English, science, and math. John Sr.'s hand in his son's education was less visible. More distant than Virginia, he nonetheless shared his interests with his children —  
 55 taking Johnny and Martha on Sunday drives to inspect power lines, for example — and, more important, supplied answers to his son's incessant<sup>12</sup> questions about electricity, geology, weather, astronomy, and other technological subjects and the natural world. A neighbor remembers that John Sr. al-  
 60 ways spoke to his children as if they were adults; "He never gave Johnny a coloring book. He gave him science books."

At school, Johnny's immaturity and social awkwardness were initially more apparent than any special intellectual gifts. His teachers labeled him an underachiever. He day-  
 65 dreamed or talked incessantly and had trouble following directions, a source of some conflict between him and his mother. His fourth-grade report card, in which music and mathematics were his lowest marks, contained a note to the effect that Johnny needed "improvement in effort, study  
 70 habits and respect for the rules." He gripped his pencil like a stick, his handwriting was atrocious<sup>13</sup>, and he was somewhat inclined to use his left hand. John Sr. insisted he write only with his right hand. Virginia eventually made him enroll in a penmanship<sup>14</sup> course at a local secretarial college, where he  
 75 learned a certain style of printing and also how to type. A newspaper clipping from Virginia's scrapbook shows him, age nine or ten, sitting in a classroom with rows and rows of teenage girls, his eyes rolled up in his head, looking bored. Complaints about his writing, his talking out of turn or even  
 80 "monopolizing the class discussion," and his sloppiness<sup>15</sup> dogged him right through the end of high school.

11. PTA - Parent-Teacher Association 家庭教师协会

12. incessant / in'sesnt / a.  
不断的, 不停的

13. atrocious / ə'traʊfəs / a.  
糟糕的

14. penmanship / 'penmənʃɪp /  
n. 书法

15. sloppiness / 'slɒpɪnis / n.  
随便