

# 21世纪 大学英语

快速阅读 (第二版)

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# 《21 世纪大学英语快速阅读 2》

## (第二版)

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# LOVE WORKS MIRACLES

## Passage 1

### Love Works a Miracle

Reading Time: 6 minutes



“There goes Cruiser again,” thought Cindy Dunlop when she heard a splash in the family swimming pool. Their dog Cruiser always jumped into the pool just for fun. Cindy was in the patio (露台). She was talking on the phone to a friend who had called to chat.

But suddenly Cindy sensed that something was wrong. The splash she had heard was followed by dead silence. Quickly Cindy said goodbye and hung up the phone. She hurried around the corner and saw — to her horror — her 17-month-old daughter, Kyla, floating face down in the 15×30-foot pool. Cruiser was running back and forth along the edge of the pool, trying to save the child by grabbing Kyla’s clothing with his teeth.

Most mothers would have simply jumped into the pool and pulled the child to safety. But Cindy Dunlop was not like most mothers. She was paralyzed (使瘫痪) from the chest down as a result of an accident 12 years before. Because of her disability, Cindy had been forced to adjust to life in a wheelchair. At 90 pounds, Cindy swam regularly for physical treatment but needed help getting in and out of the pool.

Now, on October 7, 1986, Kyla’s life rested in her mother’s hands. Cindy didn’t have time to phone for help. There wasn’t anyone nearby, anyway. They lived in the faraway town of El Mirage, California. Cindy’s husband, Ron, had gone off to work several hours earlier. The nearest rescue squad (队伍) was 25 miles away. And the nearest neighbor was half a mile down the road.

Knowing she couldn't grab Kyla from the edge of the pool, Cindy had only one choice. She drove her wheelchair straight into the cold water. As the chair sank, Cindy began to swim over to Kyla, who was still floating, face down, 25 feet away. When Cindy reached her daughter, she managed to flip her over. Then she grasped her and pulled her to the edge of the pool. Kyla's eyes were closed and her lips were blue. She wasn't breathing.

Wild with fear and panic, Cindy tried to lift Kyla up and out of the water while holding onto the edge of the pool with one arm. "She was so limp and heavy, I couldn't," she later said.

Cindy realized she would have to find another way to get Kyla out. She took a deep breath and let herself sink to the bottom of the pool. With her arms under Kyla's body and her fingertips seizing the edge of the pool, Cindy used her head to push the child upward. She managed to lift Kyla out of the water, but couldn't get her over the edge onto the concrete. When she tried, the little girl fell backward into the pool.

Desperately, Cindy kept trying. Finally, by keeping her head straighter, she was able to roll Kyla up and out of the water. Then, supporting herself on her elbows at the edge of the pool, Cindy reached out and turned Kyla toward her. Her daughter still wasn't breathing. With great fear, Cindy pinched the child's nose shut and began puffing short breaths into her mouth.

At first, there was no response. Again and again Cindy puffed breaths into Kyla's mouth. Finally, Kyla began to cough and spit up water, and then started to cry. "It was the greatest thing in the world to hear that scream," Cindy said.

Cindy called 911, and she and Kyla were rushed to a hospital. Cindy's feet, elbows, and hands were badly hurt from crawling (爬) across the concrete. Kyla, however, was fine. Before long, she was giggling (咯咯地笑) and playing as if nothing had happened.

(608 words)

Your reading time: \_\_\_\_\_



## Exercises

### I. Choose the most appropriate answer for each of the following questions.

1. Cindy was \_\_\_\_\_ when she heard a splash in the swimming pool.
  - A. watching her dog
  - B. taking care of her daughter
  - C. answering a friend's call
  - D. chatting with a friend

2. Kyla was \_\_\_\_\_ old.
- A. 17 months
  - B. 15 months
  - C. 30 months
  - D. 12 months
3. Cindy couldn't jump into the pool like most mothers because \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. she never learned to swim
  - B. she was disabled
  - C. she was undergoing physical treatment
  - D. she had just survived an accident
4. The incident happened in \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. spring
  - B. summer
  - C. fall
  - D. winter
5. Cindy's only choice at that moment was to \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. drive her wheelchair straight into the pool
  - B. phone for help
  - C. turn to a neighbor
  - D. ask Cruiser to pull the child out
6. Cindy failed to lift Kyla out of the water at first because \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. Kyla wasn't breathing
  - B. Kyla was too heavy to be carried with one arm
  - C. Cindy was wild with fear and panic
  - D. they were at the center of the pool
7. Which of the following is true according to the story?
- A. Cindy was desperate when she heard Kyla scream.
  - B. Cindy called 911, and a doctor was sent to them for treatment.
  - C. Kyla's elbows were badly hurt.
  - D. The accident had little impact on Kyla.

Complete the following sentences with the information given in the passage.

8. When Cindy hurried around the corner after she sensed something wrong, she saw with great horror that Kyla was \_\_\_\_\_ in the swimming pool.
9. Cindy was paralyzed as the result of an earlier accident and had been forced to \_\_\_\_\_.
10. At first, Cindy failed to lift Kyla out of the water with one arm, because the child stopped breathing and was \_\_\_\_\_.

II . The following box contains a list of details when Cindy rescued her daughter. Please rearrange them in the correct time order according to the information you get from the passage.

- A. Cindy grasped Kyla and pulled her to the edge of the pool.
- B. Cindy reached Kyla and managed to flip her over.
- C. Cindy managed to lift Kyla out of the water, but couldn't get her over the edge onto the concrete. When she tried, Kyla fell backward into the pool.
- D. With her arms under Kyla's body and her fingertips seizing the edge of the pool, Cindy used her head to push Kyla upward.
- E. Cindy took a deep breath and sank to the bottom of the pool.
- F. Cindy pinched Kyla's nose shut and began puffing short breaths into her mouth.
- G. By keeping her head straighter, Cindy was able to roll Kyla up and out of the water.
- H. Cindy tried to lift Kyla up and out of the water while holding onto the edge of the pool with one arm, but she couldn't.
- I. Kyla began to cough and spit up water, and then started to cry.
- J. Supporting herself on her elbows at the edge of the pool, Cindy reached out and turned Kyla toward her.

(     ) — (     ) — (     ) — (     ) — (     ) — (     ) —  
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## LOVE WORKS MIRACLES

### Passage 2

### Because I Care About You

Reading Time: 8 minutes



Steve, a twelve-year-old boy with alcoholic parents, was about to be lost forever by the U.S. education system. Remarkably, he could read. But in spite of his reading skills, Steve was failing. He had been failing since first grade, as he was passed on from grade to grade. Steve was a big boy, looking more like a teenager than a twelve year old. He went unnoticed ... until Miss White turned up.

Miss White was a smiling, young, beautiful redhead, and Steve was in love! For the first time in his young life, he couldn't take his eyes off his teacher; yet, still he failed. He never did his homework, and he was always in trouble with Miss White. His heart would break under her sharp words, and when he was punished for failing to turn in his homework, he felt just miserable! Still, he did not study.

In the middle of the first semester, the entire seventh grade was tested for basic skills. Steve hurried through his tests, and continued to dream of other things, as the day wore on. His heart was not in school, but in the woods, where he often escaped alone, trying to shut out the sights, sounds and smells of his alcoholic home. No one checked on him to see if he was safe. No one knew he was gone, because no one was sober (头脑清醒的) enough to care. Oddly, Steve never missed a day of school.

One day, Miss White's impatient voice broke into his daydreams.

"Steve!!" Startled, he turned to look at her.

"Pay attention!"

Steve locked his gaze on Miss White with young adoration (崇拜), as she began to go over the test results for the seventh grade.

“You all did pretty well,” she told the class, “except for one boy, and it breaks my heart to tell you this, but ...” She hesitated, pinning Steve to his seat with a sharp stare, her eyes searching his face.

“... The smartest boy in the seventh grade is failing my class!”

She just stared at Steve, as the class spun around for a good look. Steve dropped his eyes and carefully examined his fingertips.

After that, it was war!! Steve still wouldn't do his homework. Even as the punishments became more severe, he remained stubborn.

“Just try it! ONE WEEK!” He was unmoved.

“You're smart enough! You'll see a change!” Nothing bothered him.

“Give yourself a chance! Don't give up on your life!” Nothing.

“Steve! Please! I care about you!”

Wow! Suddenly, Steve got it!! Someone cared about him? Someone, totally perfect, CARED ABOUT HIM??!!

Steve went home from school, thoughtful, that afternoon. Walking into the house, he took one look around. Both parents were passed out. He quickly gathered up his camping gear (装备), a jar of peanut butter, a loaf of bread, a bottle of water, and this time ... his schoolbooks. He headed for the woods.

The following Monday he arrived at school on time, and he waited for Miss White to enter the classroom. She walked in, all sparkle and smiles! God, she was beautiful! He yearned for her smile to turn on him. It did not.

Miss White immediately gave a quiz on the weekend homework. Steve hurried through the test, and was the first to hand in his paper. With a look of surprise, Miss White took his paper. Obviously puzzled, she began to look it over. Steve walked back to his desk, his heart pounding within his chest. As he sat down, he couldn't resist another look at the lovely woman.

Miss White's face was in total shock! She glanced up at Steve, then down, then up.

Suddenly, her face broke into a bright smile. The smartest boy in the seventh grade had just passed his first test!

From that moment nothing was the same for Steve. Life at home remained the same, but life still changed. He discovered that not only could he learn, but he was good at it!

He discovered that he could understand and retain (能记住) knowledge, and that he could translate the things he learned into his own life. Steve began to excel! And he continued this course throughout his school life.

After high school Steve joined the Navy, and he had a successful military career. During that time, he met the love of his life, he raised a family, and he graduated from college. During his Naval career, he inspired many young people, who without him, might not have believed in themselves. Steve began a second career after the Navy, and he continues to inspire others, as an associate professor in a nearby college. Miss White left a great legacy (遗产). She saved one boy who has changed many lives.

You see, it's simple, really. A change took place within the heart of one boy, all because of one

teacher, who cared.

(803 words)

Your reading time: \_\_\_\_\_



## Exercises

I . Go over the passage quickly and decide whether the following statements agree or not with the information in the passage.

### Mark

Y (for YES) if the statement agrees with the information given in the passage;

N (for NO) if the statement contradicts the information given in the passage;

NG (for NOT GIVEN) if the information is not given in the passage.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Steve had been failing since first grade, because he didn't have reading skills.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Steve had a big build for his age.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Miss White always punished him for not turning in his homework, which made him feel miserable.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The woods was like a shelter for Steve, where he could escape from his alcoholic home.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Miss White regarded Steve as the smartest boy in the entire grade.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. After Miss White said she cared about Steve, he spent the whole weekend in the woods studying his lessons.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Miss White smiled to Steve when she found that Steve arrived at school on time the following Monday morning.

Complete the following sentences with the information given in the passage.

8. When Miss White found that Steve had passed his first test, her face \_\_\_\_\_ a bright smile.
9. Steve discovered that he could not only \_\_\_\_\_ knowledge, but also translate knowledge into his real life.
10. During Steve's Naval career, he met his wife, raised a family, \_\_\_\_\_, and inspired many young people.

II . Answer the following questions by choosing letter A – I in the box below.

1. What kind of family was Steve from? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What was Miss White like? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How did Steve feel about Miss White? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What happened in the middle of the first semester? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What was the war between Steve and Miss White? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What did Steve take when he went to the woods that afternoon when Miss White said she cared about him? \_\_\_\_\_
7. How did Miss White feel after Steve handed in his paper in the quiz? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What did Steve find about himself after that? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What did Steve do after his Naval career? \_\_\_\_\_



- A. Parents were alcoholics. Nobody cared about him.
- B. Miss White was surprised and puzzled at first, then became shocked, and finally she was more than happy.
- C. Steve did not study although Miss White imposed more severe punishment on him.
- D. Steve worked as an associate professor in a college.
- E. Miss White was a smiling, young, beautiful and responsible teacher.
- F. The entire seventh grade was tested for basic skills, and Steve failed.
- G. Steve loved and adored Miss White so much that he even couldn't take his eyes off her.
- H. Steve took his camping gear, some food and water, and schoolbooks.
- I. Steve discovered that he was good at learning.



## LOVE WORKS MIRACLES

### Passage 3

### An Old Man's Love Works Ordinary Miracles

Reading Time: 7 minutes



This is a story about faith and about the small miracles that love works every day. I write it to show miracles, even ordinary ones, matter to all of us.

Silence settled over my mother a year ago, as the chemotherapy (化疗) that would get rid of her cancer ate at her brain. For months I flew to Florida to be with her and my 84-year-old father. But when I returned home, despair came with me.

She did not know me anymore. Curled in a ball, wearing pink pajamas and adult diapers (成人纸尿裤), she would eye me from her bed and mutter to herself. She saw things that weren't there and believed I wrote Barack Obama's inauguration (就职) speech. She was violent and unpredictable, a danger to herself and her family, especially to my father, who hid all the knives in the house.

For a time he cared for her at home, but she kept falling as she lost strength, and her unpredictability kept him from sleeping at night. One warm morning last spring, I persuaded her into taking a ride in the car with me. We drove a mile or two down the road, and then I handed her over to the staff of the dementia (痴呆) unit at an Orlando nursing home. She never said goodbye, never even really understood that anything had changed for her.

I tried talking with her on the phone, but she didn't know who I was. She would hold the phone and breathe, and finally just drop it and walk away. I knew that I would never have another conversation with her.

The doctors used some anti-dementia drugs. For a time during the summer, she was deaf. I

prepared myself for the call that I knew would come in the night to tell me she had died and that the next time I flew to Florida would be to bury her.

I didn't dare say that to my father, who has loved her since he was 14 and she was 12.

A few months ago, he attended a program about dementia and cornered one of the speakers, who had some advice for him. Work on rebuilding her memory, he said. Tell her to remember what she ate for breakfast and then quiz her on it. Ask her about her grandchildren and what their names are. Work puzzles with her. The human brain, the man said, is capable of remarkable things, even when it has been damaged by stroke, chemotherapy or injury.

My father went to work, coaxing, sweet-talking and shouting. They worked together every day.

He told me she was making progress, and I flew to see her last week. I had my doubts. In the drawer next to her bed in the nursing home was evidence that her mind was gone: random marks in India ink across page after page of lined paper.

But when I walked in to see her, she was deep in conversation with a neighbor. She saw me arrive with my sister, and a smile lit her face.

"Bobby!" she called and opened her arms for me to hug her. It was the first time I had heard her say my name in more than a year and the first time she had hugged me since the morning the doctors cut the tumor (瘤) from her body.

"Mama," I said. "You know me!"

"Of course I know you. You're my son."

A little later, sitting in her room, I asked her about the pages in the drawer.

"That's shorthand," she said. "I was a secretary, you know."

"How ...?" I said, not knowing any way to ask where she had been all these months or to tell her how amazed I was to see her again.

"Your father," she said.

I called them the afternoon I got home. They were out for pizza and soft drinks. Two or three hours' up and about is all she can take before she tires and falls asleep for the night. But for two or three hours, she is his wife and my mother again, and her strength returns to her a little each day.

(687 words)

Your reading time: \_\_\_\_\_

## Exercises



I. Choose the most appropriate answer for each of the following questions.

1. Which of the following is NOT true about the author's mother?
  - A. She was suffering from chemotherapy.

- B. She was 84 years old.
  - C. She was not clear in mind.
  - D. She was a danger to her family.
2. What did the author do one morning last spring?
- A. He took his mother out for a journey.
  - B. He sent his mother to a nursing home.
  - C. He said goodbye to his mother.
  - D. He talked with his mother on the phone.
3. How long has the author's father loved his mother?
- A. For about 14 years.
  - B. For about 12 years.
  - C. For about 17 years.
  - D. For about 70 years.
4. What advice did the author's father get from the speaker on the program about dementia?
- A. To work to rebuild the mother's memory.
  - B. Not to coax the mother to do anything.
  - C. Never to make the mother puzzled.
  - D. To help the mother remember remarkable things.
5. Why did the author have doubts when his father told him his mother was making progress?
- A. Because the mother was still silent.
  - B. Because he saw some paper with random marks drawn by his mother.
  - C. Because she still couldn't recognize her children.
  - D. Because she didn't know her neighbor.
6. What was the mother's explanation for the marked paper?
- A. It was handwriting.
  - B. It was a gift for the father.
  - C. It was shorthand.
  - D. It was an abstract picture.



7. How did the author feel when he saw his mother again?

- A. Amazed.
- B. Horrified.
- C. Interested.
- D. Disappointed.

II. Complete the following summary of the passage. Choose NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS from the passage for each blank. You may change the form if necessary.

The author's mother became demented because of side-effects of chemotherapy. The mother couldn't speak clearly, saw unreal things and was \_\_\_\_ 1 \_\_\_\_\_. The author had to send her to the dementia unit of a nursing home, and even prepared himself for the news that \_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_. But his father didn't give up hope easily. Following an expert's advice to \_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_, he worked in all possible ways, such as \_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_, sweet-talking and shouting. When the author was told that his mother was \_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_\_, he \_\_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_\_\_ at first, for he saw random marks across page after page of lined paper in her drawer. But when he saw his mother in person, he was \_\_\_\_ 7 \_\_\_\_\_. The old lady talked with a neighbor, recognized and \_\_\_\_ 8 \_\_\_\_\_ him, and explained the marks to him. The author is more than happy to see \_\_\_\_ 9 \_\_\_\_\_ to his mother a little each day. That's why he feels that even \_\_\_\_ 10 \_\_\_\_\_ matter to all of us.

III. Translate the following sentences into Chinese.

1. She did not know me anymore. Curled in a ball, wearing pink pajamas and adult diapers, she would eye me from her bed and mutter to herself. She saw things that weren't there and believed I wrote Barack Obama's inauguration speech. She was violent and unpredictable, a danger to herself and her family, especially to my father, who hid all the knives in the house.