

中学生

FOR MIDDLE
SCHOOL STUDENTS

英汉阅读快车

ENGLISH-CHINESE
READING EXPRESS

科技短文

STORIES OF COMMON SCIENCE



四川辞书出版社



前

言

阅读,是学习英语的重要环节之一。只要多看多读各类地道的英语文章,就能在熟悉英语单词、短语、句型、语法的同时,增强语感和语言表达能力。

阅读,也是各级各类英语考试重点考查的一项语言技能。增加阅读文章的种类和数量,培养一定的阅读能力和阅读技巧,是获取高分的重要途径。

针对中学生和广大英语爱好者的实际水平和需要,我们精心策划编写了这套《中学生英汉阅读快车》丛书,首批推出三个分册,分别收录了幽默有趣的短文 76 篇,轻松休闲的短文 64 篇,以及反映当代科技的短文 68 篇。全套书以英汉对照的方式编排,版式醒目,插图幽默,每篇文章均设置阅读要求、阅读提示、注释和阅读理解等栏目,引导读者轻松理解文章内容。

要编好一套阅读材料是不容易的,特别是我们的读者朋友求知欲比较强,并且喜欢有趣的和前卫的东西。所以我们收录的文章力争原汁原味、时代感强,并突出知识的浓缩性、题材的趣味性。希望这套书能切实帮助中学生和广大英语爱好者提高学习英语的兴趣和能力。

编 者

2001 年 7 月

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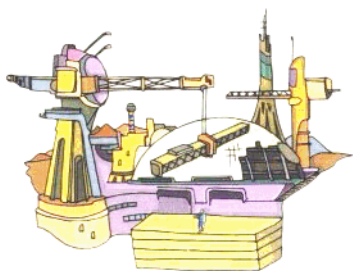


中学生

FOR MIDDLE
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英汉阅读快车

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平面设计

COVER DESIGNED BY Jingming Zhou

周靖明

平面设计室



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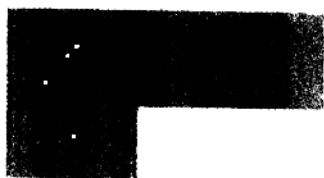
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Computers

电 脑





阅读要求

此文适合精读。



阅读提示

比尔·盖茨是当今世界最杰出的人物之一。少年盖茨的优点如珍惜时间、喜欢挑战、思维活跃等都是值得我们学习的。



1 少年比尔·盖茨

Bill Gates in His Boyhood

童年时期，即便成了大人，比尔也不修边幅。据说为了改此习惯，玛丽为他制定了一周着装计划。周一上学他穿蓝色装，周二绿色，周三棕色，周四黑色，等等。周末用餐时间也布置得细致入微，每件事都要井井有条。比尔·盖茨讨厌浪费时间，无论是在工作中或闲暇时。

在比尔家中的餐桌上的讨论总是既生动又富有教育意义。“那是个内容丰富的学习环境。”

As a child—and as an adult as well, Bill was untidy ●. It has been said that in order to counteract this, Mary drew up weekly clothing plans for him. On Mondays he might go to school in blue, on Tuesdays in green, on Wednesdays in brown, on Thursdays in black, and so on. Weekend meal schedules might also be planned in detail. Everything had to fit in. Bill Gates hated wasting time, at work or during his leisure time.

Dinner table discussions in the Gate's family home were always lively and educational. "It was a rich environment in



which to learn," Bill remembered.

Bill's contemporaries, even at the age, recognized that he was exceptional. Every year, he and his friends would go to summer camp. Bill especially liked swimming and other sports. One of his summer camp friends recalled, "He was never a kind of kid you didn't want on your team. We all knew Bill was smarter than us. Even back then, when he was nine or ten years old, he talked like an adult and could express himself in ways that none of us understood."

Bill was also well ahead of his classmates in mathematics and science. He needed to go to a school that challenged him. His parents decided to send him to Lakeside—an all-boys' school for exceptional students. It was Seattle's most exclusive school and was noted for its rigorous academic demands, a place where "even the dumb kids were smart".

Lakeside allowed students to pursue their own interests, to whatever extent they wished. The school prided itself on making conditions and facilities

比尔回忆道。

比尔的司代人,即使是在那个年龄,都能看出他的与众不同。每年,他和朋友们都要去夏令营。比尔特别喜爱游泳运动等。他的一位在夏令营的朋友回忆道:"他绝不会是个不足挂齿或无足轻重的人。我们都晓得比尔比我们聪颖,甚至在更早的时候,当他九岁、十岁时,言谈就如同成人一般,他说的话有时我们感到高深莫测。"

在数学和自然方面比尔比同班同学也更胜一筹。他需要上一所对他充满挑战的学校。随即父母决定送他去湖畔中学——一所专门招收超常男生的学校。这是西雅图一所管制最严的学校,它以严格的课程要求而著称,是个“连哑童都聪明”的地方。

湖畔中学允许学生们按自己的兴趣自由发挥,去达到他们希望的极至。令校方骄傲的是他们所创造的环境及设

施使学生能充分发挥各自的潜能。这是像比尔·盖茨这样学生的理想环境。

1968年，学校做出的一项决定改变了13岁的比尔·盖茨的生活——同时也改变了许多其他的人。

学校主要靠家长提供的资金通过一种电传打字机进入电脑——即程序数据处理机。在电传打字机上键入几条指令，几秒钟后程序数据处理机即会反馈回信息。比尔·盖茨当即就着了迷——他那时最好的朋友坎特·埃文斯和另一名长他两岁的学生保罗·艾伦也是如此。

他们不管有没有空，都要赶到电脑室去用用那台机器。这些学生非常专注，以至于在电脑方面的知识都超过了老师，同时因为他们的执著也带来了不少麻烦，他们忽略了其他的课程——每项作业都迟

available that would enable all its students to reach their full potential. It was the ideal environment for someone like Bill Gates.

In 1968, the school made a decision that would change thirteen-year-old Bill Gate's life and that of many of others, too.

Funds were raised, mainly by parents, that enabled the school to gain access to a computer—a Program Data Processor (PDP)—through a teletype machine. Type in a few instructions on the teletype machine and a few seconds later the PDP would type back its response. Bill Gates was immediately hooked ●—so was his best friend at the time, Kent Evans, and another student, Paul Allen, who was two years older than Bill.

Whenever they had free time, and sometimes when they didn't they would dash over to the computer room to use the machine. The students became so single-minded that they soon overtook their teachers in knowledge about computing and got into a lot of trouble because of



their obsession^①. They were neglecting their other studies—every piece of work was handed in late. Classes were cut. Computer time was also proving to be very expensive. Within months, the whole budget that had been set aside for the year had been used up.

At fourteen, Bill was already writing short programs for the computer to perform. Early games programs such as Tic-Tac-Toe, or Noughts and Crosses, and Lunar Landing were written in what was to become Bill's second language, BASIC.

One of the reasons Bill was so good at programming is because it is mathematical and logical. During his time at Lakeside, Bill scored a perfect eight hundred on a mathematics test. It was extremely important to him to get this grade—he had to take the test more than once in order to do it.

If Bill Gates was going to be good at something, it was essential to be the best.

Bill's and Paul's fascination with computers and the business world meant that they read a great deal. Paul en-

迟才交,有时还旷课。上机时间也很昂贵,几个月后,当初留做一年用的预算就已经消耗殆尽了。

比尔十四岁时,就已开始编写简短的运行电脑的程序了。早期的游戏程序如“三棋杀三子”“画圈打叉游戏”及“登月”就是用后来成为比尔的第二种语言的BASIC来写的。

比尔善于编程的其中一个原因就是它蕴含的运算性与逻辑性。他在湖畔中学的那段时间,比尔在一次数学测验中取得了满分800分。取得这样的成绩对他来说是至关重要的——为了这个成绩他不得不参加几次测验。

倘若比尔·盖茨决定要做好某件事,他必定会做得最为出色。

比尔和保罗对电脑和商界的痴迷意味着他们要博览群书。保罗喜

爱像《大众电子》之类的刊物，而比尔则翻阅商业杂志。上机费用很昂贵，而这两个孩子又迫切需要更多的上机时间，还有比尔早已洞察到他们在经济上会有所收益，于是他们俩决定自己组建公司：湖畔程序设计者集团。比尔宣布道：“让我们唤醒这个世界并给它推销点东西吧！”

joyed magazines like *Popular Electronics*, while Bill read business magazines. Computer time was expensive and, because both boys were desperate to get more time and because Bill already had an insight into what they could achieve financially, the two of them decided to set themselves up as a company: The Lakeside Programmers Group. "Let's call the real world and try to sell something to it!" Bill announced.

注释

- 1) untidy [ʌn'taɪdi] *adj.* 衣着不整洁的, 不修边幅的
- 2) exceptional [ik'seɪʃənl] *adj.* 与众不同的, 杰出的
- 3) hooked [hʊkt] *adj.* 被吸引的 (*hook* 原意是“衣钩”)
- 4) obsession [əb'seɪʃən] *n.* 着迷
- 5) desperate ['despərət] *adj.* 渴望的

阅读理解

Choose one best answer for each of the following questions.

- 1) Bill needed to go to a school that challenged him because _____.
 A. he lagged behind his classmates in math and other courses
 B. he was ahead of his classmates in math and science
 C. his teacher was incapable of teaching him
- 2) What is the true of the following statements?
 A. Bill hates wasting time.
 B. Bill likes studying in a challenging situation.
 C. Both A and B.



阅读要求。

此文适合快速阅读，阅读时间为3分钟。



阅读提示。

此文介绍了一种新的银行取款的方法——用眼睛取钱。也许有一天你就会用上呢。

2 眼睛——开启财富大门的钥匙

Get Money Through Your Eyes

To get cash out in the 21st century, you won't need a bank card, a PIN^① or even have to move a finger. You will simply have to look the cash machine straight in the eye, claims National Cash Registers, a multinational^② company that makes automated teller machines, or ATMs^③.

NCR has demonstrated a prototype^④ that it believes is the future of banking. Instead of prompting^⑤ you for your PIN on a screen, the Super Teller—Stella for short asks you verbally through a loudspeaker to look straight ahead while an infrared^⑥

在21世纪，你若取钱，你无需银行磁卡、个人密码或者甚至无须动手。你仅需用眼睛直视一下自动提款机即可。这是一家制造自动提款机的跨国公司——美国全国现金记录器公司——所声称的。

美国全国现金记录器公司已展示了一台样机。公司认为：这是银行业的未来。这种“超级提款机”——简称为“斯蒂拉”——不会在屏幕上提示你输入个人密码，而会用扬声器要求你直视前方。与此同时，红外

线摄像机会定位你的头部，然后定位出你的眼睛，最后拍下你的虹膜。为了辨识的目的，虹膜扫描比指纹法更好，因为虹膜有 256 种区分度特点，而指纹只有 40 种。这意味着别人冒充你的机会仅是 10 的 20 次幂分之一。一旦你被确认，“斯泰拉”会叫出你的名字，同你打招呼，并说“你是要现金还是要对账单？”一个红外线出入口会让机器把银行对账单直接输送到你的掌上电脑中。

camera locates your head, then your eye, and finally takes an infrared snapshot ● of your iris. For identification purposes, an iris scan is better than a fingerprint, with around 256 distinct characteristics compared with 40 for fingerprints. This means that the chances of someone else being recognized in your place is about 1 in 10^{20} . Once you've been identified, Stella greets you by name and says: "Would you like cash or a statement?" An infrared port allows the machine to send a bank statement straight to your palmtop ● computer.

注 释

- 1) PIN *personal identification number* 个人识别编号
- 2) Multinational [ˌmʌltiˈnæʃənl] *adj.* “跨国的”，如：multinational company 跨国公司。
- 3) ATM *automated teller machine* 自动提款机
- 4) prototype [ˈprəʊtəʊtaɪp] *n.* 样机，样品，原形，样本
- 5) prompt [prɒmpt] *v.* 提示，指点
- 6) infrared [ˈɪnfərəˈred] *adj.* 红外线的
- 7) snapshot [ˈsnæpʃɒt] *n.* 快照
- 8) palmtop [ˈpɑːmtɒp] *n.* 掌上(电脑)

阅读理解

Please answer the following questions.

- 1) What is ATMs?
- 2) Can the machine called Stella talk to you and what it says?



阅读要求

此文适合快速阅读，阅读时间为3分钟。



阅读提示

英特尔、IBM、康柏和 AMD 是我们非常熟悉的厂家。它们在微处理器方面的竞争非常激烈。

3 很酷的速度 Cool Runnings

What's the fastest desktop PC on the market? The Cool Athlon 800, from South Carolina-based KryoTech Inc., is the fastest PC ever shipped. It runs off a regular old AMD Athlon chip (a 600 MHz model), but KryoTech uses a proprietary • refrigeration technology that cools the chip down to -40 degrees Celsius. When microprocessors • get colder, they run faster, and that's how the Cool Athlon can get up to 800 MHz. The system retails at a reasonable • \$2,200. And unlike an ordinary PC, the Cool Athlon is fully supported by AMD.

市场上运行速度最快的台式电脑是什么？这便是南卡罗来纳州 KryoTech 公司生产的 Cool Athlon 800。它采用问世已久的 AMD Athlon 普通芯片（600 兆赫），但 KryoTech 运用专利制冷技术，将芯片的温度降至 -40°C 。微处理器温度越低，运行速度就越快，这样一来，这款 Cool Athlon 电脑的速度达到了 800 兆赫。它的零售价并不昂贵，只有 2,200 美元。而且与一般的家用电脑不同的是，Cool Athlon 电脑全部使用 AMD 的处理器。

KryoTech 公司推出这款惊人的电脑,采用的是 AMD 的 Athlon 处理器,而不是老牌的英特尔奔腾处理器,这一点证明英特尔公司在处理器市场的垄断地位并不稳固。AMD 推出 650 兆赫的 Athlon 处理器后,在这场速度战中首次超过了英特尔,IBM 和康柏立即与其签约,生产采用 Athlon 处理器的家用电脑。

AMD 会取代英特尔的地位吗?目前还不可能。英特尔是否该有危机感呢?毫无疑问。对消费者而言,这样的竞争意味着可以用更低的价格买到更强劲电脑。

That KryoTech pulled this stunt with AMD's Athlon chip and not the classic Intel Pentium demonstrates how tenuous ● Intel's hold on the chip market has become. When AMD introduced a 650 MHz Athlon chip back, it seized the lead in the speed race from Intel for the first time, and IBM and Compaq both promptly signed on to build Athlon-based PCs.

Is AMD the new Intel? Not yet. Should Intel be worried? Most definitely. All this competition means more computing power for less money for the consumer.

注 释

- 1) proprietary [prə'praɪətəri] *adj.* 专利的,专卖的
- 2) microprocessor [mɪkrəʊ'prəʊsesə] *n.* 微处理器
- 3) reasonable ['rɪznəbl] *adj.* 不昂贵的
- 4) tenuous ['tenjuəs] *adj.* 脆弱的,不稳固的;值得怀疑的

阅读理解

Please answer the following questions orally.

- 1) What is the effect of temperature on the running of the microprocessor?
- 2) Which company is currently leading in the speed race?