

ENGLISH READING

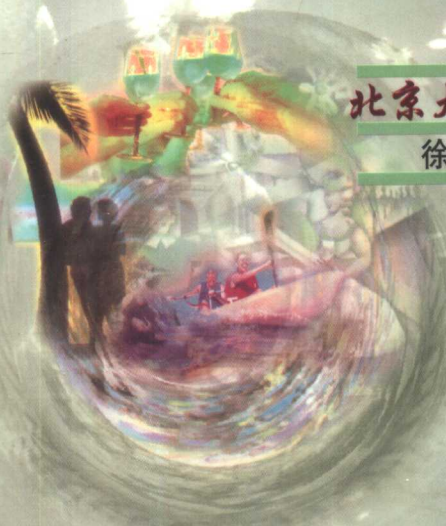
挑战大学英语考试辅导丛书

六级-考研时文阅读

现代生活万花筒

北京大学

徐挺 编



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人物篇

Piano Diplomacy

钢琴外交

以色列和巴勒斯坦两国素来积怨颇深，长达百年的领土争端使两国人民饱尝了战争之苦，可坦克、导弹和间谍活动并没有给人们带来安全保障。然而，一位享有国际声誉的以色列钢琴家 Barenboim 却用音乐沟通了两国人民尘封已久的心灵大门，实现了他一生都在追求的钢琴外交。

A famed Israeli musician makes an overture^① for peace.

Daniel Barenboim has appeared on most of the world's great concert stages. His recordings have been heard by millions. But until he performed in a recital hall at Birzeit University earlier this year, the internationally renowned^② Israeli pianist and music director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra had never played on the West Bank.

The trip to Birzeit from Tel Aviv, where Barenboim grew up, takes about an hour, but it represents a lifetime's journey^③. In 1967, just after the Six-Day War, the 24-year-old

pianist performed a series of concerts with his then fiancée, cellist^④ Jacqueline du Pré, to support the Israeli war effort. Since then, he has grown increasingly critical of what he sees as his country's harsh treatment of Palestinians and its failure to make peace with them after a 22-year military occupation^⑤. Last year, when asked to help commemorate Israel's 50th anniversary, he declined. "It was not an act of defiance^⑥," says Barenboim. "I did not have the feeling I could celebrate with an open heart."

The idea for the concert at Birzeit, a Palestinian school repeatedly shut down^⑦ by the Israelis, was Barenboim's. But the story behind it began six years ago when he met Edward Said in a hotel lobby in London^⑧. A professor of literature at Columbia University, a leading Palestinian intellectual in the United States and a talented pianist, Said had much in common with Barenboim^⑨, and the two men became fast friends. "What appeals to^⑩ me about Edward is his ability to connect art, literature, music and politics," says Barenboim. "I try to be like this."

Early last year, Said arranged for Barenboim to have dinner at the home of Birzeit president Hanna Nasir, who had been exiled by the Israelis for 20 years, and his wife, Tania. Like most Israelis, Barenboim had never spent an evening in a Palestinian home on the West Bank. "Are you sure it's safe?" he asked Said as their taxi made its way from Jerusalem into the West Bank. Barenboim was particularly drawn to Tania Nasir, a lover of art, poetry and music with a large, embracing personality^⑪. The pianist responded by inviting her to Jerusalem for a recital. And he dedicated an encore^⑫ to her, telling his audience that he had spent an evening at the home of a leading West Bank citizen and had been treated not just as a friend but as a member of the family.

Soon after, Barenboim told Said he wanted to perform on the West Bank—something no prominent Israeli musician had done since the territory was seized from Jordan. With Said's help, and with the cooperation of the Nasirs, the recital was scheduled for January 29. The 500 people who jammed^① Kamal Nasir Hall (named after^② a cousin of Hanna Nasir's who was assassinated^③ by the Israelis in Lebanon in 1973) burst into^④ applause when Barenboim walked onstage. Whatever bitterness might have been lingering in the hall was banished when he played the dramatic opening chords of Beethoven's "Pathétique" Sonata^⑤. By the end of the evening, after a rousing four-hand encore with Salim Abboud, a young Palestinian pianist, the audience was on its feet^⑥, applauding wildly. Even the three apprehensive Israelis who had brought a Steinway from Jerusalem for Barenboim to play were impressed. "This is the way to do peace," one of them said. "With music and with love."

Notes 注释

- ①overturn n. 开端, 序幕
- ②renowned adj. 有名望的, 享有声誉的
- ③它象征着他一生的生命旅程。
- ④cellist n. 大提琴手
- ⑤从那时起他对所看到的事件的批评与日俱增, 批评他的祖国苛刻地对待巴勒斯坦人民, 批评祖国长达 22 年的军事占领地并未使以色列做到与巴勒斯坦和平共处等。
- ⑥defiance n. 违抗; 挑战, 轻视
- ⑦shut down(使)关闭, (使)停止
- ⑧但是这个主意背后所发生的故事却是开始于 6 年前, 当他在伦敦一家旅馆的大厅里遇到了 Edward Said 的时候。
- ⑨Said 和 Barenboim 有许多相似之处。

- ⑩ appeal to 吸引
- ⑪ Barenboim 特别受 Tania Nasir——一个仁慈宽厚、能够包容一切的艺术、诗歌和音乐爱好者的崇拜。
- ⑫ encore n. 要求再演
- ⑬ jam v. 挤进, 塞入, 使阻塞
- ⑭ name after 以……命名
- ⑮ assassinate v. 暗杀
- ⑯ burst into applause 爆发出热烈的掌声
- ⑰ 无论在这座大厅里可能会弥漫什么样的不愉快气氛, 当他演奏 Beethoven 的 Pathétique 奏鸣曲中给人印象最深的开场乐时, 一切的阴影都消散殆尽。
- ⑱ be on one's feet 站了起来

Reading Comprehension 阅读理解

1. Why did Barenboim come to Birzeit to give piano concerts?
_____.

 - A. He wanted to be known by Palestinians.
 - B. He hoped to visit the city.
 - C. He was trying to make effort for peace between two countries.
 - D. He needed money.

2. What does “with an open heart” mean in the article?
_____.

 - A. Pleasantly
 - B. Leisurely
 - c. Happily
 - d. Cordially

3. Hannas Nain and his wife treat Barenboim as a friend, because _____.

 - A. Barenboim is an internationally renowned Israeli pianist.
 - B. they love art and think that art hasn't national boundaries.
 - C. Barenboim is their friend—Said's friend.
 - D. they want Barenboim to play the piano for their people.

4. What's the result of Barenboim's piano performance in

Birzeit?

A. Great success.

B. No one likes it.

C. Only some people like it.

D. Cannot be found.

Keys for Reading Comprehension 阅读理解答案

1. C 2. D 3. B 4. A

Hero of the Year

美国人心目中的英雄

结肠癌夺去 Katie Couric 丈夫的生命,但她没有因此而消沉,她顽强地继续生活下去。Katie 不顾个人的悲痛,制作了一部 5 集的电视片以帮助人们检查自己是否患了结肠癌。但她也有来自各方面的生活压力,谈起她丈夫的死时她泪眼婆娑,但她的微笑,还是那样灿烂……

KATIE COURIC after the death of her husband, she goes on with remarkable grace.

She is our morning star, a brilliant point of light to start the day. So for Katie Couric to suffer the untimely death of husband Jay Monahan last January was a kind of national eclipse.^① And when she reappeared on the *Today* show a month later, his wedding ring on a chain around her neck, her grace was an inspiration. “I get a lot of letters from people who say I’ve helped them carry on,” says Couric, 42. “The fact that people are inspired and empowered is really gratifying.”^②

She herself gets strength from Ellie, seven, and Carrie, three. “I have two small children who depend on me for a lot more than food, clothing and shelter—they depend on me as an example of how to go on^③. I do it for them, and I do it for their father,” she says. “You can’t get too preoccupied^④ with your own sadness because you have to be thinking about their happiness.”^⑤

Work is also a welcome distraction.^⑥ “I describe it as an out-of-body experience,” she says. “For those two hours, I’m able to focus^⑦ on events in Washington or make Halloween decorations.” She did face down her personal tragedy professionally in September with a five-part series urging viewers to be tested for colon cancer, the disease that killed her husband. “I want people to know that it could change their lives forever, too,” she says. “It fills me to hear, ‘Because of your husband, I went to the doctor—you two saved my life.’”

Ellie has been telling Mom she’s working too much, but with this year’s reported \$7 million contract, Couric won’t be able to sleep late anytime soon. Currently, her little family is living in a hotel in New York City until they move into a new apartment later this year. But such stresses seem “minuscule” to Couric. “Every day is hard to me,” she says. For fans who ask how to deal with grief, she has “no cookie cutter solution. The only advice I have is to encourage people to lead their lives so that they would never have to say, ‘If I’d only known...’” She has tears in her eyes when she talks about her loss, but her smile has its old sparkle.^⑧ “I’d rather not save anyone’s life and still have my husband,”^⑨ Couric says. “Does that sound selfish?” No, just human. That’s why millions love her.

Send donations to the Jay Monahan Fund for Research to the National Cancer Institute c/o Dr. Alan Rabson, 31 Cedar Drive, Bldg 31, Rm. 11A48, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Notes 注释

①eclipse n. 失色, 暗淡

②gratifying adj. 令人高兴的

③我有两个孩子, 他们不仅依赖我给他们提供衣、食、住、行——他们还依赖我给他们树立怎样继续生活下去的榜样。

- ④preoccupied adj. 全神贯注, 出神
- ⑤你不能过分沉浸于自己的痛苦中, 因为你还要考虑到别人(他们)的快乐。
- ⑥distraction n. 转移注意力, 分心
- ⑦focus vt. 集中注意力于……问题
- ⑧sparkle n. 火花, 闪光, 闪耀, 闪烁
- ⑨我宁愿要我丈夫, 而不要救任何人。

Reading Comprehension 阅读理解

1. Every day is hard to her, because _____
 A. her work is very hard.
 B. her family lives in a little hotel.
 C. she lost her husband.
 D. fans ask her how to deal with grief and she has no cookie cutter solution.
2. “Minuscule” here means _____
 A. tiny. B. weight. C. large. D. light.
3. Katie thinks that work is _____
 A. a welcome relaxation B. very hard
 C. an out-body experience. D. Both B and C.
4. People love her because she is _____
 A. beautiful. B. brave.
 C. selfish. D. human.

Keys for Reading Comprehension 阅读理解答案

1. D 2. A 3. D 4. D

John Glenn

美国的第一位宇航员——约翰·格林

美国第一位进入地球轨道的宇航员约翰·格伦又一次飞上太空。约翰·格伦今年 77 岁,但他在太空的工作无可挑剔。12 月 29 号他返回地面时受到包括他家人在内的很多观众的欢迎。

JOHN GLENN

America's first astronaut to orbit earth sends our spirits soaring once again.

On John Glenn's Senate office wall hangs an old-geezer cartoon, showing a space shuttle^① hurtling through the universe with a bumper^② sticker, LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT MY GRANDCHILDREN. Well, the grandkids were there, both of them, when *Discovery STS-95* was launched on October 29. So were Glenn's son and daughter, his beloved wife, Annie, and 250,000 prayerful spectators^③, the biggest Cape Canaveral crowd in a decade.

Glenn said he wasn't afraid of blowing up but of screwing up his 12 onboard scientific experiments. He performed flawlessly—collecting blood and urine samples from the six other crewmembers and himself, sleeping with sensors on his body, shooting pictures with a custom-made digital^④ camera, answering questions from students back on Earth and even cracking lame jokes with Jay Leno.

After 134 orbits, 3.6 million miles and nine days of

weightlessness, Glenn came back a tad unsteady but recovered in time for a New York City ticker tape parade. What his flight reveals about aging will take months of study. What it reveals about him is already clear. He said, "Zero G and I feel fine." He meant, "I'm 77 and up here! Eat your hearts out, youngsters."

Notes 注释

- ①shuttle v. 穿梭
- ②bumper n. 保险杠
- ③spectator n. 观众
- ④digital adj. 数字的

Reading Comprehension 阅读理解

1. Glenn came back to Earth on _____.
A. October 20th
B. October 21th
C. October 29th
D. November 7th
2. Which of the following sentences is not correct? _____
A. Glenn is the oldest of the crewmembers.
B. Glenn is the first astronaut in America.
C. Glenn performed perfectly.
D. This is his second flight into space.
3. There were _____ in the crew.
A. seven members
B. six members
C. nine members
D. four members
4. Glenn performed the following flawlessly except _____.
A. collecting blood and urine samples from the six other

- crewmembers and himself
- B. shooting pictures
- C. answering questions from students back on Earth
- D. taking care of the other crewmembers

Keys for Reading Comprehension 阅读理解答案

1. D 2. A 3. A 4. D

Sang Lan and Winston Sie

桑兰与她的“哥哥”

她叫他哥哥，他叫她妹妹，但他们并没有血缘关系。女孩桑兰出生于中国南方一个普通家庭，她八岁开始练体操，从那时起，为了奥运会上金色的梦她全身心投入到训练中。七月份，在一次热身训练中，桑兰在做一个翻跃动作时不慎失手，头朝地摔落下来，造成胸部以下瘫痪。从此，她开始了另一种生活。在美治疗期间她认识了 Winston Sie，她监护人的儿子，一位纽约大学的学生。他成了她的朋友和她的哥哥……他们说是命运把他们连在一起。

A remarkable relationship is forged after a gymnast's terrible tragedy.

She calls him Older Brother (he's 25), he calls her Little Sister (she's 17), but they are not related. They say fate brought them together. The girl, Sang Lan, was born in southeastern China, to a building-superintendent father and a mother who worked in a shoe factory. A gift for gymnastics took her from her parents at age eight, and from then on, her life was devoted to training for the golden dream of the Olympics. In July, Sang was warming up for the Goodwill Games in New York with a vault^① she had done thousands of times before. This time, she landed on her head. Shocked spectators waited for her to move.

And so Sang began a new life in a new country, practicing