感受经典美文





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C L A S S I C E S S A Y

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内容简介

本书经过修订,原版 70%的内容得以更新,题材更丰富,特点更突出可读性更强。主要内容和特点如下:一是所选范文短小精悍,语言规范,生动活泼,朗朗上口,易读易记。所有范文都是供读者模仿、学习语言的佳作。二是题材广泛,特别是流行题材多,重要话题多,热门话题多,内容全面丰富多彩。各类文章生动地反映出现代社会和现代生活的方方面面,洋溢着时代气息和生活气息。三是所选范文内容健康,或传播知识、信息,或阐明事理、哲理,既可拓展读者的知识面,又可使人受益,给人启迪。四是英汉对照,自学方便,适用性强,应用性广。熟练诵读本书的范文,就等于掌握了成功作文、成功翻译、成功交际的金钥匙。本书经过精心修订,堪称精品,必定使我国广大高中生读者受益无穷,必定成为你们的良师益友。

前言

诵读是公认有效的传统学习方法之一。著名文学家巴金曾经说过:"我是读了几百篇古文能够背诵,就开始写起文章来。"世界上的文坛巨擘之所以创作出许许多多脍炙人口、流芳百世的诗文佳作,主要是因为他们锲而不舍坚持不懈地背诵了大量文质兼美的精品范文。

诵读范文对于外语学习尤其大有裨益。诵读可以帮助我们加深对文章的理解,提高阅读理解能力和作品赏析能力;还可以帮助我们了解文章中用词造句、布局谋篇的内在联系,培养和提高写作能力、听说能力和翻译能力。要想学好外语,诵读这种方法是必不可少的。诵读文章多了,在大脑这座仓库里储存的语言材料就多了,在阅读时,就会自然而然地联想起已接触并背诵过的词语、句式、结构、篇章,从而有助于我们对新文章的理解和赏析。通过诵读,语言材料增多了,知识增加了,理解技能增强了,听说译的能力也便随之提高了。在写作时,也会自然地联想起并且模仿运用那些已接触并背诵过的词语、句型和写法,从而有助于提高写作能力。这个道理是显而易见、毋庸置疑的,无数例子充分证明了这一点。

诵读的真正意义还在于它能够锻炼并提高一个人的记忆力,而记忆力对于青年学生的成长、成才、成就实在太重要了。俄国生理学家谢切诺夫(1829—1905)说过:"一切智慧的根源就在于记忆。"记忆的品质表现为记忆的敏捷性、准确性、持久性和记忆的备用性。古今中外有不少记忆力惊人的典型事例,一直传为佳话。马克思能够用英语背诵莎士比亚剧本中最微末角色的台词;明末学者顾炎武能够背诵《十三经》(即《诗》《书》《易》《周礼》《礼记》《仪礼》《左传》《孝经》《论语》《尔雅》《孟子》等13部儒家经典著作);1980年,日本索尼电器公司一名职员可背诵圆周率小数点后两万位数字,令人惊叹不已。

然而,上述这些例子是不是表明人的记忆力已经达到极限了?不是,远远不是。生理学家和心理学家的研究表明,人脑由 140 至 160 亿个高度特殊化的神经细胞组成。人脑的网络系统比北美洲的全部电报、电话通信网络还要复杂得多。因此,专家们认为,人脑记忆的可能容量相当于全世界图书馆藏书的信息总量!换言之,迄今为止,人们的记忆力还远远没有达到应有的水平,人们的记忆潜力还大得很哩!

人的记忆力的好坏,与本身的遗传天赋固然有关,但主要靠后天刻苦锻炼。训练记忆力的方法许许多多,而诵读范文就是其中最佳的方法之一。人生任何

1

时期都可训练记忆力,但公认的最佳时期是青少年时代。充分把握最佳时期运用诵读这种最佳方法把自己的记忆力训练好,对今后一生的发展都具有无可估量的重要意义。诵读并记住语言规范、内容健康、富有知识、富有教益、可读性强的英汉对照范文,不仅能够帮助我国高中生增长知识,优化知识结构,开阔知识视野,从而有助于他们大大提高听说读写译的能力,而且还能够帮助他们洗涤并净化心灵,纯洁和美化语言,进而有助于他们在潜移默化之中陶冶高尚情操,使之成为具有高度精神文明的人。

诵读范文的好处如此之多,那么在青少年最多、学习英语蔚然成风的中国,编写一部有特色的英语诵读范文(高中版)就显得十分必要,意义非常深远了。本书作为独具特色的英语诵读范文精品,作为我国广大高中生和英语爱好者的诵读本,必定会产生非同寻常且一举多得的效用,必定成为广大高中生走向成功的桥梁,必定成为他们的良师益友。

本书经过再次精心修订,原版 70%的范文得以更新,题材更丰富,可读性更强,特点更突出。本书由 17 个单元组成,每一个单元包括 3—6 篇短文。每个单元的短文自成一体,相辅相成,相得益彰。本书绝大多数范文精心选自国内外出版的英文报纸和书刊,其中有些范文是经主编加工、润饰,使之完善的结晶。每篇范文后面有生词注音、词语英汉释义和参考译文。所有译文经过主编谭卫国教授悉心校对和认真修正,最后由华东理工大学出版社责任编辑审定。此外,本书从每篇范文中精选出万用佳句,并用下画线标出,你可以背诵这些佳句,从而在写作中灵活运用。

在编写此书的过程中,我们参考了国内外出版的有关书刊和报纸,谨此向 所选范文的编者或作者表示衷心感谢。编译者水平有限,书中不妥之处在所难 免,诚请广大读者不吝指正,以便今后进一步完善。

> 编 者 2014年5月

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1 Family and Children

In some societies people want children for what might be called **familial** reasons: to extend the family line or the family name, to **propitiate** the ancestors; to enable the proper functioning of religious rituals involving the <u>family</u>. Such reasons may seem thin in the modern, **secularized** society but they have been and are powerful indeed in other places.

In addition, one class of family reasons shares a border with the following category, namely, having children in order to maintain or improve a marriage; to hold the husband or occupy the wife; to repair or rejuvenate the marriage; to increase the number of children on the assumption that family happiness lies that way. The point is underlined by its converse: in some societies the failure to bear children (or males) is a threat to the marriage and a ready cause for divorce.

Beyond all that is the profound significance of children to the very institution of the family itself. To many people, husband and wife alone do not seem a proper family—they need children to enrich the circle, to validate its family character, to gather the redemptive influence of offspring. Children need the family, but the family seems also to need children, as the social institution uniquely available, at least in principle, for security, comfort, assurance, and direction in a changing, often hostile world.

To most people, such a home base, in the literal sense, needs more than one person for sustenance and in generational extension.



Words and Expressions

- 1. familial [fəˈmɪljəl] *a*. typical of or connected with a family 家庭的,涉及家庭的
- 2. propitiate [prə'pɪʃɪeɪt] vt. to do something to please someone who is angry or unfriendly 抚慰;取悦;使息怒
- 3. secularize ['sekjʊləraɪz] *vt*. make somebody lose connection or not religious 使世俗化:使不受宗教影响
- 4. rejuvenate [rɪˈdʒuːvəneɪt] vt. to make somebody look or feel young and strong enough 使变得年轻;使恢复活力
- 5. converse [kən'vэ:s] *n*. a change from one purpose or system to another 相反的事物(事实、言辞、陈述等)
- 6. redemptive [rɪ'demptɪv] a. in the state of being saved from evil which Christians believe was made possible by the death of Christians 赎回的;赎罪的;拯救的
- 7. a ready cause for divorce: a proper reason for divorce 离婚的正当理由
- 8. in a changing, often hostile world: in a world which is changing fast and which is often full of hostility 在一个经常充满敌意、变化多端的世界里

参考译文

① 家庭与子女

在一些社会中,人们需要子女的种种理由可谓与家庭息息相关:延续家族, 光耀祖宗,让涉及家人的宗教仪式能够名正言顺地起作用。这些理由在现代世俗化社会里兴许显得软弱无力,但在别的地方一直极具影响力。

生儿育女的另一种理由与下面的情况密切相关,即拥有子女是为了维系婚姻或改善婚姻状况;为了把握住丈夫或占有妻子;为了修复婚姻关系,或是为了让婚姻重新焕发活力;为了多子多福。相反的事实也强化了这种观点:在某些社会中,未能生儿育女(或者说不能生儿子)是对婚姻的一大威胁,也是离婚的正当理由。

除此以外,孩子对家庭本身的存在也具有深远的意义。对许多人来说,光有夫妻两人似乎不构成一个适当的家庭——他们需要孩子来丰富家庭圈子的生活,需要孩子让家庭的性质得以体现,需要孩子来扩大影响,坐享其成。孩子需要家庭,家庭似乎也需要孩子。家庭作为独特的社会单位,似乎需要孩子在一个不断变化、充满敌意的世界里获得安全、舒适、保险、有所依靠。至少理论

上是这样。

就大多数人而言,这样的家庭基础实际上不止需要一个人来维持,不止需要一个人来传宗接代。(何昆仑译)

2 More Harmonious Family Life

The evidence for **harmony** may not be obvious in some families. But it seems that four out of five young people now get on with their parents, which is the opposite of the popularly-held image of unhappy teenagers locked in their room after endless family quarrels.

An important new study into teenagers' attitudes surprisingly shows that their family life is more harmonious than it has ever been in the past. "We were surprised by just how positive today's young people seem about their families," said one member of the research team. "They are expected to be rebellious and selfish, but actually they have other things on their minds; they want a car and material goods, and they worry about whether school is serving them well. There is more **negotiation** and discussion between parents and children, and children expect to take part in the family decision-making process. They don't want **to rock the boat.**"

So it seems that this generation of parents is much more likely than parents of 30 years ago to treat their children as friends. "My parents are happy to discuss things with me and willing to listen to me," says 17-year-old Daniel Lazall. "I always tell them when I'm going out clubbing. As long as they know what I'm doing, they're fine with it." Susan Crome, who is now 21, agrees. "Looking back on the last 10 years, there was a lot of what you could call negotiation. For example, as long as I had done all my homework, I could go out on a Saturday night. But I think my grandparents were a lot stricter with my parents than that."

Maybe this positive view of family life should not be unexpected. It is possible that the idea of teenage **rebellion** is not rooted in real facts. A researcher comments, "Our surprise that teenagers say they get along well with their parents comes because of a brief period in our social history when teenagers were regarded as different beings. But that idea of rebelling and breaking away from their parents really only happened during that one time in the 1960s when everyone rebelled. The normal situation throughout

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history has been a smooth change from helping out with the family business to taking it over."

Words and Expressions

- 1. harmony ['hɑːmənɪ] *n*. compatibility in opinion and action 协调;和睦;融合;调和
- 3. rebellion [rɪˈbeljən] n. opposition to some authority 叛乱;反抗
- 4. to rock the boat: to spoil a good or comfortable situation 破坏良好或舒适的局面
- 5. to go out clubbing: go to night clubs 去夜总会
- 6. taking it over: assuming control of sth 接管;控制 be responsible for a task in succession to another 接任

参考译文

② 和睦美满的家庭生活

和谐的证据在一些家庭或许并不明显,但现在五分之四的年轻人似乎跟父母相处融洽。这与大多数人心目中的青少年形象恰恰相反:青少年跟家人没完没了地争吵之后,把自己锁在房间里,闭门不出,闷闷不乐。

一项最新的关于青少年态度的重要研究令人惊讶地表明:他们的家庭生活比过去任何时候都和谐。"现在的年轻人对家庭所抱的积极态度令我们惊讶不已。"该研究小组的一位成员说道,"他们被认为叛逆自私,但实际上他们有自己的心事:他们想要一辆小车,渴望一些物质的东西,担心学校是否待他们好。父母和子女的商议和讨论比以前多了。孩子们盼望参与家庭决策的过程,不想破坏良好的家庭关系。"

所以这一代父母比 30 年前的那一代往往更可能把孩子当成朋友。"爸妈很高兴跟我一起讨论问题,乐意倾听我的想法。"17 岁的丹尼尔·拉左说道,"我每次去夜店总是告诉他们一声。只要知道我的行踪,他们就放心了。"21 岁的苏珊·克罗姆也持相同看法。"回想过去十年,所谓的协商、沟通可不少。比如,只要我完成了家庭作业,周六晚上我就可以外出。我想我的祖父母和外祖父母对待我爸妈比这可严格得多。"

也许我们不应对这种积极的家庭生活观念感到意外。青少年叛逆这个观

念可能并不源于现实。一位研究人员说:"青少年说他们和父母相处融洽,我们对此甚为惊讶,这是因为在我们社会史上曾有过一段青少年被视为异类的短暂时期。但是叛逆反抗、跟父母决裂的观念仅仅存在于20世纪60年代那段人人叛逆的时期。历史上的正常情况一直是平稳过渡的:从帮助家业渡过难关到最后接手管理。"(杨进译)

3 My Mother

My mother is a kind and **gentle** woman. She is very busy from morning till night. As a teacher she works diligently and efficiently. As mother, she takes good care of us and gives us every comfort. I have an elder brother. He and I both love her **dearly**, as she loves us.

My mother has been teaching maths at a middle school in my home town. She goes to the school early in the morning and does not return home until late in the afternoon. She loves her students and cares for them. She treats them with patience and teaches them well. For her excellent qualities and very good teaching results, she is always praised and respected by both her students and colleagues alike. And she has been chosen or **elected** as a model teacher several times.

My mother is a **thrifty** and industrious woman. She never buys expensive or fancy dresses for herself; she goes occasionally to buy some inexpensive and high-quality clothes for us. She never goes to **luxurious** restaurants to enjoy expensive meals. She merely eats a **humble meal** outside when she is too busy. She lives a busy yet simple life, **without any complaints**. As soon as she comes back from school, she sets about doing housework: sweeping the living room and bedrooms or cleaning the furniture, and putting everything in good order. Besides, she prepares nice dishes for us to eat. She seems to be always on the go all the time. As she has been very busy working hard every day, she looks older than she really is. Her face is **wrinkled**, and her hair has turned silver white. But she looks as cheerful and happy as ever.

Often she says to us, "Work while you work, and play while you play. That is the way to be happy and gay. If you do not work, you will become lazy and of no use to society." What a piece of good advice this is! I never forget it and always bear it in my mind. This advice of hers will always serve as a guide to my action. My mother is great indeed, and I always feel proud



of her.

Words and Expressions

- 1. gentle ['dʒent1] adj. kind and careful in the way you behave or do things so that you do not hurt or damage anyone or anything 温柔的,温和的
- 2. dearly ['dɪəlɪ] *adv*. very much 深情地,由衷地; in a way that involves a lot of suffering, damage, trouble, etc. 昂贵地
- 3. elect [r'lekt] *vt*. to choose someone for an official position by voting 投票选举,推选; elect to do sth = decide to do sth 作出选择,决定做某事
- 4. thrifty ['θrɪftɪ] adj. using money carefully and wisely 节俭的,节省的
- 5. luxurious [lʌgˈzjʊərɪəs] *adj*. very expensive, beautiful and comfortable 豪华的;奢侈的
- 6. wrinkle ['rɪŋkl] vt. to form lines or folds 使起皱纹
- 7. affectionately [əˈfekʃənətlɪ] *adv*. in a way that shows love or fondness towards people 亲切地,钟爱地,慈爱地
- 8. a humble meal = a simple meal 便餐
- 9. without any complaints: without expressing annoyance or unhappiness about something 毫无怨言,从不埋怨
- 10. be always on the go = be always very busy 总是忙忙碌碌,总是忙个不停
- 11. bear it in mind = keep it in mind 牢记在心,铭记于心

参考译文

③ 我的母亲

我的母亲是一位心地善良、性情温和的妇女。她从早到晚忙个不停。作为 老师,她工作努力且效率颇高;作为母亲,她细心关照我们,对我们体贴入微。 我有一个哥哥,我们兄妹俩由衷地爱母亲,她也深情地爱我们。

我母亲一直在我家乡的一所中学教数学。她清晨去学校工作,下午很晚才回家。她热爱学生,关心他们,耐心地教他们,而且教得很好。因为她品行优秀,教学效果甚佳,所以总是受到学生和同事的称赞和尊敬,并多次被评为模范教师。

我母亲是一位节俭勤勉的妇女。她除了偶尔出去给我们买一些价廉物美的衣服外,从来不为她自己购买昂贵时髦的服装。她从不进豪华的餐馆吃一顿很贵的饭菜,当她忙得不可开交时,也只在外面吃一顿便餐。她过着繁忙而简