

A Schoolboy in Three Cultures

小小留学生

◎ 吴宇光/著 Philip Yuguang Wu

本书作者是一名十六岁的中学生,他结合自己的亲身经历,用中,英两种语言 以及幽默的笔法,讲述了他在北京,温哥华、香港上小学和中学的故事。本书对许 多人关心的教育问题,如东西方中小学不同的教育方式,学生如何去适应不同的学 习环境,生活环境等都作了有趣的描述和详细的介绍。



上海教育出版社



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内容简介

本书作者虽然只是一名十六岁的中学生,却以自己的亲身经历,讲述了他在北京、温哥华以及香港的英国国际学校上小学和中学的故事。作者用中、英两种语言,以幽默的笔法,描述了他怎样在小小的年纪就要面对逆境,克服各种各样的困难,以便能够不断地学习并获得更多的知识的求学经历。对许多人关心的问题,如东西方的小学和中学不同的教育方式,学童怎样适应不同的环境,以及学习和生活的各种变化等等方面,在书中都作了有趣的描述和详细的介绍,并比较了中国内地及香港以及西方的教育各自的特点。

书末对世界各地大学院校的升学和报考事项、各国学制、优质大学排名榜、海外短期课程等都提供了实用的数据。

本书也适用于有兴趣愿意通过阅读来学习中英文的读者。

Brief Introduction

In his own words, sixteen-year-old Philip tells us of his experience in schools in Beijing, Vancouver and an English international school of Hong Kong. There he received his education in different systems, each with its distinct culture.

Since he was a little boy, Philip had to adapt to a variety of environments, learning processes and ways of living. With a sense of humour, Philip describes for us how he has coped with the changes, challenges and difficulties he has encountered in his continuous process of acquiring for new knowledge. At the same time, he presents the unique features of the education systems in these schools in a comparative way, and shares his understanding on how to benefit from each of them.

The appendix of the book provides useful information about application and admission to universities in various parts of the world, their respective systems, rankings and short-term overseas courses.

Philip wrote the book both in English and Chinese, which readers may find useful in their effort to improve the languages through reading.

1988年的那一天,灿烂的阳光洒向大地。随着一声响亮的婴儿啼声,宇光来到人世。他的到来给我们带来了喜悦,更使爷爷奶奶感到格外的欣慰。回顾这十六年,宇光从幼小的生命开始,迅速地成长着。由在小床上滚爬,到起坐、姗姗学步、上学,一点点地学会各种新的技能。在兴奋、欢笑、无忧无虑之中伴随着岁月成长。

在中国内地上小学时,老师非常认真负责,要求严格。他们有一丝不苟的敬业精神,按照教学计划,完成教学要求,使宇光学到许多知识。

在加拿大,管理宽松,学校按学生的天性,引导嬉玩、游戏,大多顺 其自然,使他有了美好、快乐的童年。香港的老师采用多种方法,引导 他进一步学习,健康成长。

汉文化博大精深,包罗万象,教给宇光治学方向、方法和许多做人做事的道理;再加上西方文化的学习,外语的帮助,能掌握先进的现代科技知识,将会成为对社会有用的人,不辜负此生。宇光的前辈、祖父母和父母在学习阶段,可以说历尽了艰难困苦,才学到了一些东西。

Preface One

On that day of 1988, it was beautiful and sunny. We heard a loud cry of a baby — Philip was born. His birth brought happiness to the whole family. As Philip's grandparents, we felt extremely comforted that the family name could now be passed down to a further generation. Looking back at the past 16 years, Philip has grown into a fine young man from the tiny baby. From crawling on the bed, learning how to stand upright and sit down, to taking his first step, and to going to school. Step by step, through excitements and laughter, he has learned all kinds of new skills, which accompanied him through his childhood in a carefree fashion.

His Chinese primary school teachers were serious and responsible, always making strict demands on the students. They had a great sense of conscientiousness and were meticulous in their work. They followed the curriculum, and met their teaching requirements. They taught Philip a lot of useful knowledge.

In Canada, the school rules were more relaxed. The school aimed to encourage students to explore their potentials. It organised many different kinds of interesting activities, allowing him to have fun, and an enjoyable and memorable childhood. His teachers in Hong Kong have used many kinds of methods to lead him take a bigger step in his studies, as well as giving him the best environment for further growth and development.

现在的生活条件和学习环境这么好,希望宇光要更加发奋努力,学习东西方的文化科学知识,将来对社会做出更加多的贡献。

祖父母

The Chinese culture is rich, intensive and all-inclusive, offering Philip the correct studying directions and methods, as well as many principles of establishing himself in the society. Combined with his western education, foreign language skills, as well as mastering the modern technological knowledge, he will become a much more useful member of the society, and will enjoy a meaningful life. The generations before Philip, including his parents and grandparents, had to experience a lot of hardship in their pursuit of knowledge. Under the current favourable living conditions and learning environments, we hope that Philip could study even harder, learn more knowledge about eastern and western science and cultures, and become an individual who will devote more to the society.

Philip's Grandparents

序二

宇光分别在北京、温哥华和香港三地读小学和中学,感受到了不 同的文化和教育体制。

在北京的时候,他上的是一所普通的小学。学校教育严格,他按时完成作业,遵守校纪。为了考取满分,他对学习精益求精,是个好学生。

到了加拿大以后,和绝大多数的当地孩子一样,他上的是一所公立 小学。学生没有课本,老师的教学方法很灵活,很多课是在博物馆和户 外上的。这与在北京时正规的、一丝不苟的教学方法形成很大的反差, 宇光要付出很多的努力来适应学习和生活的变化。起初,他的数学没 什么提高,但他不再害怕在众人面前讲话,并学会了进行公众演讲。

从我们父母的角度来看,在北京,小学教育注重知识的系统性的学习,并培养刻苦、认真的学习方法。但在加拿大,小学教育则着重培养孩子的求知兴趣,并开发他们的潜在能力。喜欢学习的孩子,可以自由发挥。

在中国香港,他上的是一所英国国际学校。学校虽然在课程设置上与北美相似,却注重体现英国的文化和传统,再加上香港本身的文化

Preface Two

Our son Philip has attended schools in Beijing, Vancouver, and Hong Kong respectively; experiencing three different cities with distinct cultures and school systems.

In Beijing, he attended an ordinary primary school. He was a good student. He finished his homework on time and obeyed school disciplines in order to achieve perfect marks.

Years later, he came to Vancouver, and attended a public school as most Canadian kids did, where the students had no textbooks. The education methods were very flexible, and many lessons were in the form of fieldtrips, visits to museums, etc. These contrasted greatly with the formal, disciplined learning in Beijing. What was happening in the new school was fresh and exciting to him on one hand, on the other he had to learn how to adapt to the new learning programs. It was all very challenging to him. Initially, we found that his mathematics skills did not improve as much as we had anticipated. However, we were pleased to see that he was no longer shy and could speak to audiences skillfully and confidently.

As parents, we felt that in Beijing, the knowledge was presented to the students in the most systematic way, allowing the students to develop a spirit of diligence. On the contrary, in Vancouver, the education in the primary school was more focused on encouraging the kids to think,

和传统,使得宇光又经历了一次很大的学习和生活的改变。他需要克服很多困难。

像其他父母一样,我们也希望他多学些东西,总觉得知识越多越好,但我们更希望他生活得健康快乐。我们处在一个信息时代,要学的东西很多,只能学最有用的东西。我们希望能帮他合理安排,以便能够学有所用。

书中的内容,主要是字光根据他的日记写成。由于历史、传统、文化的不同,各种教育制度都有其特点和优点,但像字光这样,小小年纪就经历和感受了这些不同教育的孩子并不多。如果能够通过字光的这本书,使更多孩子增多了解并有所收益,这正是我们所希望的。

父母

cultivating their interests and curiosities in science and technology, and to develop their potentials. For children who love to learn, they have plenty of opportunities to show their creativity.

In Hong Kong, China, he attends an English international school. Though the science-related courses offered are similar to those in North America, the school places much emphasis on British traditions and culture. With the addition of the unique customs and traditions of Hong Kong itself, Philip once again is given the experience of another change in both lifestyle and learning, and again has encountered many hardships.

Like other parents, we wish Philip will learn more. But we hope even more that he lives a happy and healthy life. We live in an era of communications, and people today have so much to learn. Therefore, it is only possible for them to learn what they think is the most useful. We hope to help him find an efficient way to absorb the most useful and practical knowledge in the limited time.

The contents of this book come mainly from Philip's diary. Since the differences in history, cultures and traditions, every education system has its specialities and qualities. However, not many teenagers are like Philip, who has already experienced so many types of education at a very young age. We sincerely hope that many children, by reading this book, may be benefited while developing their broader knowledge.

Phílip's Parents

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