

美国中学生优秀作文选

SEVENTH

GRADE

WRITERS

Getting There

ON LIFE,

SCHOOL, AND

THE UNIVERSE

出发

美国青少年作者 著

吴践 唐桦 译

冯斗 审校

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Getting There

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内 容 提 要

《出发》一书展现的是青春狂想时期的青少年们所营造的一个文学世界。21篇故事的作者全是七年级的学生，题材涉及美国华裔的亲情观、少年对异性的幻想、种族问题、城市生活的无奈、学习压力下的自嘲等；皆文笔流畅，立意清新，想象丰富。每篇文章配美国文化背景介绍，词汇解释。中文翻译使本书成为文学性、趣味性很高的学习材料。绘声绘色的朗读更给精美的故事插上了翅膀。

本书配1盘原版朗读磁带。纯正美音。

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出版说明

我们十分欣喜地向全国大中学生、青少年读者推荐《美国中学生优秀作文选》丛书。这套丛书是美国图书馆联合会的最优秀青少年作品。丛书中每篇文章都出自美国中学生之手，文中叙述了他们的实际生活及感受，吐露了他们的真实思想和情趣，也暴露了他们成长中的问题和烦恼。我们阅读这些原汁原味的作品，既可以学习、提高运用英语写作、叙事的能力，又可以对美国文化及青少年的生活有所了解。必须指出的是，生活在美国的青少年的人生观及其生活方式、思想方式和我们是有很多不同的，他们在文章中所表现出来的积极的、向上的、健康的、美好的东西是值得我们吸取的，而那些消极的、颓废的、不健康的甚至丑恶的东西是应该批判和抛弃的。

我们相信，我国的大、中学生，青少年读者对于善与恶、美与丑是有分辨能力的，因此出版时忠实于原作，保持原汁原味。这样有利于学习当代英文，也有利于全面了解美国文化，了解美国青少年。

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1998年10月

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Around the Block



Her love reached across miles—and generations.

Po

by ABRAHAM TZOU

I was only two and one-half months old when I first met Po. The time was November, 1978; the place was Grandpa's house in Taipei, Taiwan. My mom took me with her to Taiwan for a visit; she could not wait to show off her brand-new baby boy to all the friends and relatives back home. At first sight, Po picked me up from Mom's arms as if I were Po's first-born. I made quite an impression on everybody there because I was crying as if I had been stabbed by a sharp pin. Having just been on a fifteen-hour overseas flight, Mom was too exhausted to calm me down. So Po volunteered to hold me and to cuddle me so that Mom could get some rest. Walking and rocking me back and forth in the living room throughout the night, Po was finally able to put me to sleep. Po must have had very sore arms and feet that first time we met! Although I was too young to actually remember anything from this particular episode, I could just picture it in my

mind years later when Mom told me about it.

My next close encounter with Po took place when I was two years old. Mom was offered a teaching position at a private university in Taiwan. Since Dad had to finish up his Ph.D. at the University of Illinois, he suggested that Mom accept the offer and take me back to Taiwan with her. We stayed at Grandpa's four-bedroom condominium in Taipei. Po lived there, too.

I had a severe nose-bleeding problem at that time. For some unknown reason, my nose would bleed heavily at least two or three times a day. Both Mom and Po were very worried. Mom took me to many doctors, but none of them seemed to help. Po asked around among friends and found out about an experienced Chinese herbal doctor. Mom decided to give it a try. After the herbal doctor had felt my pulse from both wrists, he started prescribing on a piece of 8 1/2" by 11" letter-size paper, using a brush pen to write all kinds of small Chinese characters. Mom told me that there were at least twenty-some herbs included in the prescription. But that was nothing compared to what we had to do with the prescription afterwards!

Mom brought home a huge bag of herbs which had been cautiously scaled and mixed and individually packed and sealed at the herb store. To get up at four o'clock in the morning and start simmering one pack of the herbs for four hours every day became a ritual for Mom and Po. It was extremely important that the heat and the amount of water be just right at all times so that the final product would be most effective. Since Mom had a busy schedule at the university, Po volunteered to do it all alone so that Mom could concentrate on her teaching commitment.

It was, however, an absolute nightmare for me to have to drink, three times a day after meals, the dark brown liquid extracted from all the herbs. I'm sure it was the most horrible-tasting medicine that anybody has ever had to take. The mission was almost impossible, especially since I was only two years old and was way beyond reasoning. It took Po unbelievable effort and patience to get the precious medicine carefully prepared; it took Po still more in the way of creativity, along with some magic, to actually manage to get the yucky liquid successfully transferred from the elegant rice bowl into that stubborn little mouth of mine, three times a day! By the end of the eighth month, I was completely cured. Po, on the other hand, had lost about twenty pounds and gained an alarmingly high blood pressure in return.

My path and Po's have crossed many more times since then. After fulfilling her one-year teaching obligation, Mom was given charge of occasional short-term projects at the university. She took me back to Taiwan at least once a year on assignment, and we got to spend a lot of time with Po on each visit. Every time we came back to the States, our suitcases would be overflowing with food, clothes, and toys that Po had bought for us. When Po saw us off at the airport, I could not hide my feelings very well. Trying to cheer me up, Po said, "Don't be sad, Abe. We'll see each other again, sooner than you think. Besides, we'll always be together in our hearts . . ." However, I detected some shakiness in Po's voice and tears in Po's eyes.

Po was invited by Mom and Dad to come visit us in the States. I was so excited that I could not sleep

the night before. The day Po arrived, Mom and Dad took me to pick up Po at the San Francisco International Airport. I was going to give Po a big hug, but Po called out, "Oh, be careful, Abe. I've got my hands full!" In Po's hands was my favorite Chinese pastry that weighed about thirty pounds. Po had insisted on hand-carrying it halfway around the world so that the delicious and delicate pastry would stay fresh and look nice, not squeezed or smashed.

I could just write a whole book about the nice things that Po has done for me, but I can never fully express my appreciation for Po. Po is the most caring and loving person that I have ever known, besides my own parents.

By the way, Po is seventy-two years old now. She is the mother of my mother. As a matter of fact, "Po" is the phonetic translation of the Chinese word for "Grandma."

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Born in Illinois, Abraham Tzou is a bilingual Chinese-American. He attends Ralston Middle School in Belmont, California. Abraham enjoys playing the piano and drawing; favorite sports are baseball, basketball, and football.

时空无阻的爱：

婆

——亚伯拉罕·邹

文化背景

很多美国学生的父母或他们自己是外国来的移民。有些是被迫离开祖国的难民，还有些，象故事的主人公——亚伯，在美国出生、长大，但仍然与国外的亲戚保持着紧密的联系。本文主人公把对外婆的回忆进行了细微的描述。本文让学生重新认识到他们的家庭、朋友和亲戚间的深情，并让他们和美国历史及传统联系起来。

初见婆时我才两个半月大。那是1978年10月，在台湾台北市外公的家里。妈妈带我回台北探亲，迫不及待地要把她的新生儿向老家的亲戚朋友炫耀一番。婆一见到我立刻从妈妈怀里把我抢过去，就象我是她第一个孩子似的。亲戚们对那天一定记忆深刻，因为我象被针扎了一样哭个不停。妈妈在飞机上连续呆了十五个小时之后已经筋疲力尽，无力再安抚我。于是婆便自告奋勇地抱着我，照顾我，让妈妈去休息。她整夜抱着我在起居室里走来走去，总算把我哄睡着了。唉！第一次见面就让婆手脚酸痛！尽管我当时很小，根本不记得这件事，后来妈妈告诉我时，我依旧能在脑海里刻画那时的情形。

第二次与婆相遇并亲密相处时我已两岁。台湾的一所私立大学请妈妈回来教书。爸爸必须在伊利诺斯大学完成博士学位，因此他建议妈妈接受这份工作并带我一块儿回

台湾。我们住在台北外公的四室公寓套房，婆也住在这儿。

那时我流鼻血的毛病非常严重。无缘无故的，一天至少要发作两、三次。妈妈和婆都非常担心。妈妈带我看了很多医生，全都无济于事。婆也在她的朋友圈中打听，终于找到一位经验丰富的中医。妈妈决定试一试。那位中医为我两只手都把了脉，然后在一张 8.5 英寸长 11 英寸宽的纸上开药方，用毛笔写满了蝇头小楷的中国字。妈妈告诉我这张处方至少包括 20 种不同的中药。但是与后来我们按药方所做的事相比，这简直是小巫见大巫！

妈妈带回一大袋中草药，已经在药店里仔细称量，小心配制并单独包好封好。此后，每早四点起床，以文火熬四个小时药成了妈妈和婆必不可少的工作。而且尤为重要，熬药过程中任何时候热度和水量都要刚刚好，只有火候把握适度，药效才最好。妈妈学校工作很忙，婆便独立承担煎药的事，以便妈妈专心工作。

然而，一日三餐之后都得喝深褐色的中药水也就成了我不可逃脱的恶梦。我相信世上再没有人吃过比这更难吃的药了。所以，要让我老老实实地把药喝下去简直是不可能的。而且我那时才两岁大，根本是不可理喻的。婆费老大劲、用了极大的耐心才把宝贝中药小心翼翼地熬好；接下来还得发挥更大的创造力，挖空心思，象变魔术一样，哄我张开固执的小嘴巴喝下精致小碗里讨厌的药水。一天三次呢！八个月以后，我全好了，可婆却瘦了 20 磅，还患上令人担心的高血压。

此后，我还和婆相处过多次。妈妈和那所大学的一年教学合约到期后，又接受了该大学的一些短期项目。她至少每年带我出差回一次台湾。每一次，都要和婆呆很长时间。每次回美国时，行李箱里总是塞满婆为我们买的食品、衣服和玩具。婆在机场送别时，我无法完全掩饰自己的感情。婆为

了让我高兴起来,常说:“别哭,亚伯。我们很快就可以见面,比你预想的要快得多呢!而且,我和你 not 是一直就心贴心的吗……”尽管这样说,我还是觉察她的声音在发颤,看到她眼里闪着泪花。爸妈请婆到美国来玩,我为此激动得晚上几乎睡不着觉。婆到的那天,爸妈带我到旧金山国际机场接她。我一见她立刻扑上去拥抱她,婆一下子叫出来:“小心,亚伯!我两只手都占着呢。”婆手里提着我最爱吃的中国糕饼,足有 30 磅重!婆提着它绕了半个地球,因为只有这样,这些美味而精致的糕点才能不被压扁或压碎,才能保持新鲜和美观。

关于婆为我做的事可以写整整一本书,但依然不能表达我对婆的感激。在我眼里,除了我父母,婆是世上最关心人、最有爱心的人。

顺便提一句,婆现在已经 72 岁。她是我妈妈的妈妈。事实上,中国人管“Grandma”就叫“婆”。

词 汇

1. **brand new** completely new 全新
2. **volunteer** offer willingly (主动)提供
3. **cuddle** hold in a comforting way 拥抱
4. **rocking** moving from side to side 摇摆
5. **episode** an event; something that occurred; a scene
插曲,片断
6. **condominium** an apartment which is owned, not rented
私宅
7. **severe** serious 严厉的
8. **simmering** keeping warm a liquid mixture that has

already boiled 煨, 炖

9. **ritual** routine; event or action which is regularly repeated 仪式
10. **commitment** obligation; responsibility 责任, 义务
11. **extract** pull out of; take from 溢出, 取走
12. **reasoning** logical thought 推理(悝)
13. **yucky** (slang) unpleasant; disgusting 沮丧的, 厌恶的
14. **stubborn** unyielding; obstinate 固执的
15. **fulfilling** completing 完成
16. **way beyond reasoning** not able to listen to instruction or advice and respond in a rational manner 不讲理的