

# 美英当代纪实文学 精品阅读

(英汉对照)

Selected Readings  
on Contemporary American and British Reporting

张天光 编著



国防工业出版社  
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(英汉对照)

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## 前 言

《美英当代纪实文学精品阅读(英汉对照)》收集了3篇当代美国和英国书刊中语言优美、情节感人、百读不厌的纪实文学精品。这些选文都是由当事人执笔,情节和体验真实可信、感人至深,而且这些事件——登月、艾滋病、海难都是绝大多数常人无法经历和体验的。另外,这些选文被多家美英报刊转载,可见其受欢迎的程度。

在《我的月球之旅》中,人类首次登上月球的两位宇航员之一——巴兹·奥尔德林向我们讲述了登月的独特历程和奇妙体验。

在《随光而去》中,一位母亲向我们讲述了7岁儿子因输血而感染艾滋病后,感情的磨难和送儿升天的催人泪下的故事。

在《我的地狱之旅》中,英国环球航海运动员托尼·布利莫尔向我们讲述了帆船被风暴打翻后,孤身陷冰海,死里又逃生的独特体验。

本书的英文和译文都是文学精品,因此适合多种读者群。本

书的主要读者对象是广大高中生和大学生。但其他读者(如研究生)也会发现阅读此书的极大乐趣和独特体验。高中生可先欣赏中文译文,体验其美妙的故事、情节和感受,然后再慢慢体会、学习优美的英文原文。而大学生和其他读者则可先欣赏优美的英文原文,体验其美妙的故事、情节和感受,然后再阅读译文,获取另一种感受,并进一步学习英文翻译的技巧。

笔者获解放军洛阳外国语学院硕士学位,从事英汉翻译20多年,两次荣获全国“韩素音青年翻译奖”竞赛一等奖,这里的译文都是笔者的呕心之作,相信能够经得起广大读者和专家的检验。尽管如此,笔者还是希望广大读者和专家提出宝贵意见,使本书更加完美,读者获益更多。

张天光  
2006年12月

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# My Journey to the Moon<sup>1</sup>

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*Project Apollo was the single most daring endeavor<sup>2</sup> in human history. America's first man in space, Alan Shepard, was launched from Cape Canaveral<sup>3</sup> on May 5, 1961. His flight lasted only 15 minutes, but just 20 days later President John F. Kennedy, in a speech before Congress, challenged America to send men to the moon—and return them safely—by the end of the decade.*

*If this bold gamble was to succeed, men would leave the safety of the earth and voyage across a quarter-million miles of space to walk on the dusty soil of the moon. Here, told by Buzz Aldrin, one of the men who lived<sup>4</sup> it, is the story of that incredible journey.*

Campfires twinkled on the beaches and along the causeways<sup>5</sup> near Cape Kennedy. Nearly a million people had come to watch the launch of Apollo 11. Many had sweated in bumper-to-bumper<sup>6</sup> traffic

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1 Condensed from *Men from Earth* by Buzz Aldrin and Malcolm McConnell; the book is published by Bantam Books, New York.

2 endeavor [in'devə] *n.* 努力, 尝试, 探索。

3 Cape Canaveral [kə'nævərəl] *n.* 卡纳维拉尔角 (原来称为 Cape Kennedy), 美国航空航天局的肯尼迪载人航天发射中心, 位于南部佛罗里达州的大西洋沿岸。

4 live = to experience: 经历, 体验。

5 causeway ['kɔ:zwei] *n.* (穿过水或湿地的) 堤道。

6 bumper-to-bumper: 保险杠挨保险杠。

from Cocoa Beach to Titusville the night before. Even at 3 a.m. on this muggy<sup>1</sup> Wednesday morning, the headlights of almost 300,000 cars cut through the darkness, intensifying the excitement. In 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hours, NASA<sup>2</sup> would launch three astronauts in mankind's first attempt to land on the moon. It was an event no one wanted to miss.

In Firing Room 1 of the launch-control center, the liftoff team was supervising the hazardous<sup>3</sup> loading of 2,200 tons of super-cold liquid-oxygen (LOX) and liquid-hydrogen (LH<sub>2</sub>) propellants<sup>4</sup> into the massive white pillar of Saturn<sup>5</sup> V. Even at rates of up to 10,000 gallons a minute, the operation would take four hours and was so dangerous that the pad, usually crowded with work trucks and men in coveralls, had been ordered evacuated<sup>6</sup>.

Hundreds of engineers and technicians were hunched<sup>7</sup> over computer consoles, monitoring the thousands of separate systems aboard the three-stage booster<sup>8</sup> and the Apollo spacecraft itself. The composite<sup>9</sup> vehicle was heavier than a World War II destroyer. It contained six million parts and a total of 91 engines and motors, making it the most complex machine ever assembled<sup>10</sup>. In theory all this machinery had to work perfectly if we were to succeed in our mission.

At 4:15 a.m., Deke Slayton, director of flight-crew operations, came to wake Neil Armstrong, Mike Collins and me. In our

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1 muggy ['mʌgi] *adj.* 闷热, 湿热。

2 NASA ['næse] *n.* National Aeronautics and Space Administration (美国航空航天局)。

3 hazardous ['hæzədəs] *adj.* 危险的。

4 propellant [prə'pelənt] *n.* (火箭)推进剂。

5 Saturn ['sætə(:)n] *n.* 美国“土星”号运载火箭。

6 evacuate [i'veækjueɪt] *vt.* 撤离, 疏散。

7 hunch [hʌntʃ] *vt. & vi.* 俯身, 躬身。

8 booster ['bu:stə] *n.* (多级火箭的)助推级; 助推器。

9 composite ['kɒmpəzɪt] *adj.* 组合起来的。

10 assemble [ə'sembəl] *vt.* 组装, 装配。



windowless quarters<sup>1</sup>, we couldn't tell if it was night or day, or if the weather had held<sup>2</sup> for launch morning. But Deke had a sheath<sup>3</sup> of flapping<sup>4</sup> weather reports. "It's a beautiful morning," he said. "You're go<sup>5</sup>."

Deke and astronaut Bill Anders ate breakfast with us. They were friendly and talkative, but also somewhat distant. The three of us—Neil, Mike, and I—were going. They were staying behind.

Joe Schmitt, a NASA technician, had our equipment laid out in the brightly lit suiting room. The space-suits hung like headless white snowmen from racks, and there were gloves and boots stacked<sup>6</sup> neatly here and there. The place looked like an anatomy<sup>7</sup> lab for robots.

Suiting up<sup>8</sup> went quickly. I was hooked to my portable ventilator<sup>9</sup>, and Joe pulled the brown-and-white "Snoopy cap" with earphones and microphone down over my head. When he snapped my clear bubble helmet in place, the outside world went silent.

It was almost dawn when the van stopped at the base of the gray mobile launch platform<sup>10</sup>. Saturn was fully fueled now. The elevator climbed so fast to the 320-foot level that we had to yawn to unplug<sup>11</sup> our ears. At the top of the tower, Joe Schmitt turned us over to Guenter Wendt, the pad leader who had sealed the hatches of every

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1 quarters ['kwɔ:təz] *n.* (复数) 住所。

2 hold [həʊld] *vi.* (状态、条件等) 保持, 维持。

3 sheath [ʃi:θ] *n.* 套; 罩; 夹。

4 flap [flæp] *vi.* (纸页、旗帜等一边固定, 另一边) 飘动, 抖动。

5 go [gəʊ] *adj.* = ready: 正常的, 准备好的。

6 stack [stæk] *vt.* 堆放, 码放。

7 anatomy [ə'neɪtəmi] *n.* 解剖; 解剖学; 剖析。

8 suit up: (为某项活动、运动) 穿衣服。

9 ventilator ['ventileɪtə] *n.* 换气器。

10 platform ['plætfɔ:m] *n.* 平台。

11 unplug [ʌn'plʌg] *vt.* 拔掉(塞子、插头等); 去除、脱离阻碍。un-: 前缀, 表示否定或相反。

manned<sup>1</sup> American spacecraft since the first Mercury<sup>2</sup> flight eight years earlier.

Guenter greeted us with a warm smile. He handed Neil Armstrong a four-foot-long, plastic-foam key marked “Key to the Moon.” Even with this good-natured ceremony, however, we were all aware of the monstrous white booster steaming beside our platform in the rosy-pink dawn. We were standing next to the explosive equivalent of a small nuclear bomb.

Our seat assignments for liftoff dictated<sup>3</sup> the order in which we would enter the command module<sup>4</sup>. Neil, the mission commander, would be in the left couch because the abort handle was there. Mike Collins had the right position. I would be in the center and responsible for sealing the hatch. That meant I'd be the last man to enter.

Guenter led Neil and Mike on ahead. I found myself standing alone on the platform, holding my portable suit ventilator like a commuter carrying his briefcase.

I was intrigued<sup>5</sup> by my position. Huge crowds were gathered on the roads and beaches surrounding the Cape and halfway back to Orlando, all gazing at this launch pad. Yet I was utterly<sup>6</sup> alone, breathing cool oxygen within the sterile<sup>7</sup> cocoon<sup>8</sup> of my suit. As I scanned the deserted complex, there was not another human being in sight.

Looking south down the coast, I saw the older launch pads

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1 Manned ['mænd] *adj.* 有人的, 载人的, 有人驾驶的。

2 Mercury ['mɜ:kjuri] *n.* 美国“墨丘利”号宇宙飞船。

3 dictate ['dik'teɪt] *vt.* 决定, 规定。

4 module ['mɒdʒu:l, 'mɒdju:l] *n.* (飞行器上独立的) 舱。

5 intrigue [in'tri:g] *vt.* 激起某人的兴趣或好奇心。intrigued by/with.

6 utterly ['ʌtəli] *adv.* 完全地, 绝对地, 彻底地。

7 sterile ['sterail] *adj.* 无菌的; 无生殖能力的; 无效的。

8 cocoon [kə'ku:n] *n.* 保护壳, 保护罩。

diminishing<sup>1</sup> in size and complexity as they neared the lighthouse at the bend in the Cape. There was Pad Three, where America had launched its first rocket from the Cape, a captured V-2 that Wernher von Braun's team had assembled after World War II. Then came the rusty Redstone gantries<sup>2</sup>, reminders of the early days of the space race and Alan Shepard's historic suborbital<sup>3</sup> lob<sup>4</sup> in 1961; and then the Atlas<sup>5</sup> complex, where John Glenn took off on America's first manned orbital flight.

I stared at the gray tower of Launch Pad 34, where Gus Grissom, Ed White and Roger Chaffee had died 30 months before in the inferno<sup>6</sup> of Apollo 1. In a special pocket of my spacesuit, I had an Apollo 1 mission patch<sup>7</sup>. I also carried two Soviet medals honoring cosmonauts<sup>8</sup> Vladimir Komarov—killed on Soyuz 1—and Yuri Gagarin, the first man in space, who had died in a plane crash the year before. I planned to leave these mementos<sup>9</sup> on the moon.

I leaned over the rail to gaze down the chill white column of Saturn V. Sheets of frost fluttered<sup>10</sup> away from its flanks<sup>11</sup>. Groaning<sup>12</sup> and rumbling<sup>13</sup> with thermal tension, the giant booster seemed to be straining to break free from the bonds of gravity. I turned as Joe Schmitt appeared on the platform. They were ready for me in the command module.

---

1 diminish [dɪ'mɪnɪʃ] vi. 逐渐变小。

2 gantry ['gæntri] n. 火箭的吊装、维护塔架。

3 suborbital [sʌb'ɔ:bɪtl] adj. 亚地球轨道的。sub-: (前缀) 亚, 次, 下。

4 lob [lɒb] n. 高抛球; 高抛弹道。

5 Atlas ['ætɪləs] n. “宇宙神”运载火箭。

6 inferno [ɪn'fɛ:nəu] n. 地狱似的地方或状况; 充满烈焰的地方。

7 mission patch: 飞行任务徽章。

8 cosmonaut ['kɒzməno:t] n. (俄罗斯或苏联的) 宇航员。

9 memento [mə'mentəu] n. (对过去的) 纪念物(品)。

10 flutter ['flʌtə] vi. 漂, 飞。

11 flank [flæŋk] n. 侧面。

12 groan [grəʊn] vi. (因受到压力而) 发出声响; 呻吟。

13 rumble ['rʌmbl] vi. 发出深长、滚动的声响。

Sixty seconds before liftoff, Firing Room 1 grew quiet. The engineers and technicians were seated at their ranks of consoles as the electronic countdown clock swept past T<sup>1</sup> Minus 50 seconds.

In the glass enclosure<sup>2</sup> reserved for visiting officials, Wernher von Braun held his binoculars and stared out the tall blast-proof windows toward Launch Pad 39-A. The launch-sequence computer was now in full control. We would have liftoff in 17 seconds. Von Braun lowered his binoculars and smiled. "So," he said softly. Then he began to pray, "Our Father who art in heaven...."

### "Go for Staging"<sup>3</sup>

"T minus ten, nine ..." The voice from the firing room sounded calm in my headphones. I glanced at Neil and saw his gloved left hand resting inches from the abort handle. If something went wrong, Neil might have a second to twist the handle, which would blast our module free of the booster and shoot us to a safe altitude for parachute deployment.

"... four, three, two, one, zero. All engines running." Amber<sup>4</sup> lights blinked on the instrument panel. I looked over my left shoulder at Neil, then turned right to grin at Mike. There was a rumble, like a freight train far away on a summer night. "Liftoff! We have a liftoff."

It was 9:32 a.m.

Instead of the sudden G forces<sup>5</sup> I remembered from the Titan

---

1 T = time.

2 enclosure [in'kleʊʒə] n. 隔间, 围墙, 围栏。

3 staging ['steɪdʒɪŋ] n. (多级火箭的) 级间分离。

4 amber ['æmbə] adj. 琥珀色的, 棕黄色的。

5 g force: 重力; 惯性力, 超重力 (常用重力加速度 g 的倍数表示)。

rocket that launched me into space on Gemini<sup>1</sup> XII, there was an unexpected wobbly<sup>2</sup> sway. The blue sky outside the hatch window seemed to move slightly as the huge booster prepared to clear<sup>3</sup> the tower. Then came more elastic wobbling. We all knew that if we toppled<sup>4</sup> sideways into the launch tower, our escape system would likely be useless.

The rumbling grew louder, and for 12 tense seconds we waited. Then came the welcome words “tower cleared.”

All five F-1 engines were at full thrust, devouring<sup>5</sup> tons of propellant each second. Astronaut Bruce McCandless, our capsule communicator in Houston—the “CapCom” — announced that Mission Control had taken over from the firing room at the Cape. A minute later we were approaching Max Q—maximum dynamic pressure. My arms and legs settled in my suit as the G forces mounted with acceleration. My jaw began to sag<sup>6</sup>.

“You are go for staging,” Bruce called.

Neil nodded, gazing at the booster instruments on his panel. He had a tuft<sup>7</sup> of hair sticking out from the front of his Snoopy cap that made him look like a kid on a toboggan<sup>8</sup> ride. “Staging and ignition<sup>9</sup>,” he called. The gigantic<sup>10</sup> first stage burned out and dropped away toward the ocean, 38 miles below us.

The second-stage engines made very little noise. We began to

---

1 Gemini ['dʒemɪnaɪ] *n.* 美国“双子座”号飞船。

2 wobbly ['wɒbli] *adj.* 不稳定的，晃的。

3 clear [kliə] *vt.* 脱离，离开，通过。

4 topple ['tɒpl] *vi.* 翻倒。

5 devour [di'vaʊə] *vt.* 吞噬；挥霍；消耗。

6 sag [sæg] *vi.* 下沉，下坠。

7 tuft [tʌft] *n.* 一撮，一丛。

8 toboggan [tə'bɒɡən] *n.* 雪橇。

9 ignition [ɪɡ'niʃən] *n.* 点火。

10 gigantic [dʒaɪ'ɡæntɪk] *adj.* 巨大的，巨型的。

read through the familiar litany<sup>1</sup> of checklists, and as the G's built gently, forcing my head downward and depressing my larynx<sup>2</sup>, I could tell my voice was getting deeper. Outside, the horizon of the Atlantic bent like a bow.

Six minutes later, we could clearly make out the division between the arched blue band of Earth's atmosphere and the black sky of space. The second stage dropped away, and the single engine of our third stage burned for 2½ minutes before shutting down. My limbs rose within the folds of my suit, and a Velcro<sup>3</sup> tab<sup>4</sup> on the leg of my suit fluttered in the Zero G. Apollo 11 was in orbit.

We crossed the day-night terminator<sup>5</sup> into darkness above Madagascar<sup>6</sup>. Two hours and 45 minutes after liftoff, we were into our second orbit, just past Hawaii. The spacecraft had to reach an escape velocity to leave Earth orbit and begin the coasting<sup>7</sup> flight path that would loop it around the moon, what Apollo mission planners called Translunar<sup>8</sup> Injection (TLI).

Restarting the third-stage engine in space was risky. The temperature of LH<sub>2</sub> was near absolute zero, but the engine's plume<sup>9</sup> was hot enough to melt steel. The damn thing could explode and riddle<sup>10</sup> our spacecraft with shrapnel<sup>11</sup>.

The TLI burn began silently. The Pacific Ocean tilted beneath us. Six minutes later, the burn stopped as abruptly as it had started. "It

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1 read through the litany of checklists: 对读 (一人读, 另一人重复、核实); litany ['lɪtəni] n. 对别人说的话的重复。

2 larynx ['lærɪŋks] n. 喉部。

3 Velcro ['velkrəʊ] n. 尼龙搭扣的商标名称。

4 tab [tæb] n. 搭片, 拉片。

5 terminator ['tə:mineɪtə] n. 昼夜 (明暗) 分界线。

6 Madagascar [mædə'gæskə] n. (非洲岛国) 马达加斯加。

7 coast [kəʊst] vi. 惯性飞行。

8 Translunar [træns'lju:nə] adj. 跨月球的。trans-: (前缀) 跨越, 穿越。

9 plume [plu:m] n. (发动机的) 尾烟。

10 riddle ['rɪdl] vt. 把...打穿很多洞。

11 shrapnel ['ʃræpnəl] n. (爆炸产生的) 破片。

looks like you are well on your way now,” McCandless radioed from Houston. Apollo 11 was outbound<sup>1</sup> for the moon.

## “Barbecue Roll”

It was time to separate, turn around and dock<sup>2</sup> with the lunar module (LM). Mike, as command-module pilot, had responsibility for this tricky maneuver<sup>3</sup>. He'd practiced it hundreds of times in simulators<sup>4</sup>, but this was different. We were moving through space at 17,000 miles per hour, and we sure didn't want to see either of the spacecraft damaged while docking.

With the flick<sup>5</sup> of a switch, Mike blew the explosive bolts and separated our module from the Saturn's third stage, which contained the LM. He thrust ahead, then rotated us a complete 180 degrees. The booster, topped by the awkward-looking LM, froze in place against the Pacific backdrop<sup>6</sup>.

Then Mike moved our command module until its nose nestled<sup>7</sup> firmly in the doughnut<sup>8</sup>-ring on the roof of the LM. It was a coupling like that of railyard<sup>9</sup> switch engines. We heard a reassuring clank<sup>10</sup> and a whirring<sup>11</sup> bump<sup>12</sup> as the latches snapped<sup>13</sup> into place,

---

1 outbound [ˈaʊtbaʊnd] *adj.* 远离的。

2 dock [dɒk] *vi.* (飞行器太空) 对接。

3 maneuver [məˈnuːvə] *n.* (飞行器的) 机动。

4 simulator [ˈsɪmjʊleɪtə] *n.* 训练模拟器。

5 flick [flɪk] *n.* (轻轻的) 一按。

6 backdrop = background.

7 nestle [ˈnesl] *vi.* 坐落, 落入, 顶住。

8 doughnut [ˈdəʊnʌt] *n.* 环形物。

9 railyard [ˈreɪljɑːd] *n.* 铁路编组站, 调车场。

10 clank [klæŋk] *n.* 金属撞击声。

11 whirl [wɜːl] *vi.* 呼呼地运动。

12 bump [bʌmp] *n.* 颤动, 振动。

13 snap [snæp] *vi.* 咔嚓一声发生动作。

forming an airtight tunnel between the two spacecraft<sup>1</sup>. I radioed, "Houston, Apollo 11, all 12 latches are locked." Mike then flipped<sup>2</sup> switches to separate our composite spacecraft from the Saturn's third stage, which would drift past the moon into solar orbit.

Mike removed the tunnel hatch and checked the probe-and-drogue assembly<sup>3</sup> linking the command module with the LM. We got a sudden shock when we smelled the unmistakable stench<sup>4</sup> of burned wiring that every astronaut dreads<sup>5</sup>.

Mike looked grim. Although we saw no smoke, and there was apparently no danger of fire, we had to make sure the equipment was intact<sup>6</sup>. The docking system was our Achilles' heel, a complex meshing of latches and electric-powered jaws, and it would have to work flawlessly several times during our mission.

Grabbing the docking latches, Mike jiggled<sup>7</sup> them hard. The electrical panel gave us good voltage readings and nothing seemed to be amiss<sup>8</sup>. We figured the docking hatch must have been overheated during launch.

When we reached the moon, the command module would be called *Columbia* and the lunar module *Eagle*. Now, linked head-to-head, the composite spacecraft looked bizarre<sup>9</sup>: the bullet-shaped command module wedged into the cement mixer LM.

I stared out my window. Even at this speed, there was no way to

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1 spacecraft ['speɪskra:ft] *n.* 复数形式与单数形式相同。

2 flip [flɪp] *vt.* 快速轻按某物。

3 probe-and-drogue assembly: (飞船对接用的) 探管—锥套组件。assembly [ə'sembli] *n.* 组件。

4 stench [stentʃ] *n.* 浓烈的臭味。

5 dread [dred] *vi.* 惧怕。

6 intact [ɪn'tækt] *adj.* 完整的。

7 jiggle ['dʒɪɡl] *vt.* 摇晃、晃动(某物)。

8 amiss [ə'mɪs] *adj.* 出问题的, 有故障的。

9 bizarre [bi'zɑ:] *adj.* 奇怪的, 古怪的, 不寻常的。



actually sense Earth receding<sup>1</sup>; but if I glanced away from the window, then looked back, more of the planet was revealed<sup>2</sup>. The next time I peered out, I was startled to see a complete, bright disc. We were 17,000 miles above Earth, our speed slowly dropping as Earth's gravity tugged<sup>3</sup> at us.

Flying steadily this way gave us a nice view of Earth, but it also meant that one side of the spacecraft was constantly in sunshine, while the other was in darkness. You can't do this for very long because in space the sun's heat will literally<sup>4</sup> broil<sup>5</sup> delicate equipment and burst propellant tanks on the hot side, and on the shaded side the gear<sup>6</sup> will freeze in the deep cold.

We had to begin the "barbecue roll," turning slowly on our long axis so that we would distribute the sun's heat evenly. Mike fired the thrusters<sup>7</sup> and tilted the spacecraft sideways. Apollo 11 was not shooting toward the moon like a bullet, with its pointed end toward the target; it was moving more like a child's top<sup>8</sup>.

Our "roll" meant that every 20 minutes Earth disappeared, then reappeared, moving left to right, from one window to another, followed by the hot searchlight of the sun. We could see the crescent<sup>9</sup> moon out a couple of our windows, though the view was obscured<sup>10</sup> by the LM's many struts<sup>11</sup> and bulges<sup>12</sup>.

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1 recede [ri'si:d] *vi.* 离开, 后退。

2 reveal [ri'vi:l] *vt.* 展露, 展现。

3 tug [tʌg] *vi.* 用力拉。

4 literally ['lɪtərəli] *adv.* 实际上, 真正地; 表示强调。

5 broil [brɔɪl] *vt.* 烤 (某物)。

6 gear [giə] *n.* 设备, 装备。

7 thruster ['θrʌstə] *n.* (飞行器用的) 小型推进器。

8 top [tɒp] *n.* (玩耍用的) 陀螺。

9 crescent ['kresnt] *adj.* 弯月的; 像月牙的; 逐渐增加的。

10 obscure [əb'skjuə] *vt.* 掩盖, 遮挡。

11 strut [strʌt] *n.* 加强杆, 支杆。

12 bulge [bʌldʒ] *n.* 凸台, 鼓包。