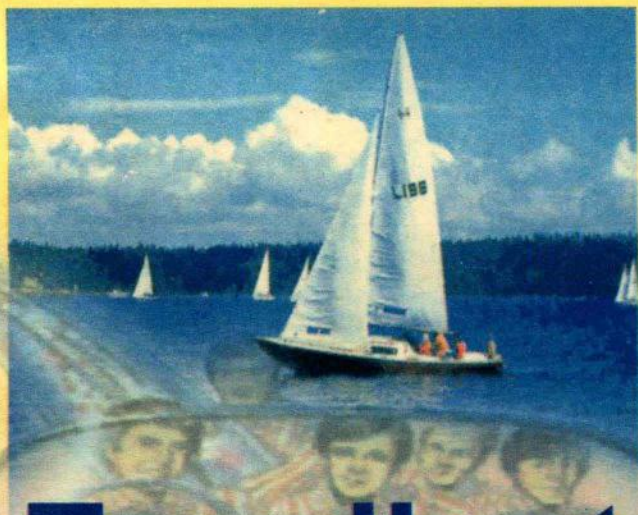


美国学生 优秀作文选

张可俭 编注



Excellent Compositions

美国学生优秀作文选

**The Selection of Excellent
Compositions by American Students**

张可俭 编注

吉林大学出版社

美国学生优秀作文选

·张可俭 编注

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前 言

作为一名交流教师，我有幸在美国加利福尼亚州的希尔图高中学习和工作一年时间，自己感到收获很大，从友好的师生那里学到了很多東西。

希尔图高中位于邱拉维斯他市（Chula Vista）的东部，因为地势高，所以叫 Hilltop High School。邱拉维斯他市是圣迭戈地区的一部分，距圣迭戈市（San Diego）仅 15 英里，离墨西哥边境只有 12 英里，是一个自然环境非常幽美的地方。站在希尔图高中的运动场上向西北方向可俯瞰圣迭戈市全貌，向南可见墨西哥边境城市蒂华纳（Tijuana）。这里一年四季鲜花盛开，气候清爽宜人。许多美国孩子春夏秋冬只穿 T 恤衫和牛仔褲，顶多再备件外衣。希尔图高中特别重视对外交往，全校共开设七门外语，即：西班牙语、法语、德语、意大利语、日语、俄语和汉语，其中学习西班牙语的学生人数最多，约占学生人数的一半以上，学俄语的人数最少。

在美国期间，我有机会与友谊校的中文班教师丽莎·拉森小姐合作，共同教美国孩子学习汉语和中国文化。希尔图高中是一所非常好的学校，她的办学宗旨是高质量、国际化、面向 21 世纪。该校 1995 年被评为加利福尼亚州优秀学校。希尔图高中的师生非常友好，待人诚恳、热情。我在该校学习和工作期间倍受欢迎，许多教师主动邀请我去听课或介绍（presentation）中国的文化、教育情况。一年之中我先后听了 302 节课，上了 117 节课，与友谊校的师生结下了深厚的友谊，增进了两

校的相互了解，促进了民间交往。

本书所有文章都是希尔图高中学生写的。前半部分文章是我从该校历年的校内学生文选“*Young Wing*”中筛选出来的，后半部分文章是我在友谊校听课过程中发现的优秀作文并从师生手中亲自要来的，或是任课教师主动向我推荐的。例如：我听九年级英语课的时候，任课教师 Mrs Martha Ries 讲评作文，对凯蒂·黑尔（Katie Hill）的文章“*Success*”大加赞扬，课后经学生本人同意，Mrs. Ries 给了我一份复印件。

本书的前半部分内容是关于美国高中学生的日常生活趣事，包括学习、生活、交友、友谊、爱情、旅游、往事回顾等等许多方面；后半部分大都是心理学方面的论文，涉及关于酗酒、吸毒、枪支、艾滋病等等触及美国社会现象方面的内容。论文部分是本书的精华所在，其文章立论独特，论据充分，观点明确，分析透彻，条理性强，以理服人。尽管所触及的社会实质不够，但总体上来说来其论述还比较客观、深入，可读性强。

本书的所有文章均未曾在美国正式公开发表过，在中国这也是第一次公开发表。书中论文部分的写作时间为 90 年代初期（1990 年至 1994 年），因而该书是国内同类出版物中材料最新、时间最近的一部书。

我在为本书词汇注释的过程中，对全书的所有篇章进行了多次阅读，每次读后都有新的感受。这些美国中学生写的文章非常贴近生活，选材大都紧紧围绕着日常生活琐事，主人公往往又都是作者本人，所描写的情节又是作者亲身经历过的事情，文章生动活泼，生活气息浓厚，笔触简练，引人入胜，有的文章扣人心弦。一般说来，美国中学生成熟较早。由于中美两国社会制度不同，人们的社会观念、社会价值也不相同。与中国学生相比，美国中学生对社会接触得比较早，社会经历多，见识广。他们敢于把自己的心里话写出来。美国孩子不愿

隐讳自己的思想感情，他们的文章不论长短，都有血有肉，读起来令人感到真实、可信、亲切、生动、有吸引力，耐人寻味。本书所选的文章不仅涉及的内容多，知识覆盖面宽，而且题材也相当多，有记叙文、说明文、议论文、散文、诗歌，还有短剧。这也算是本书的一个特点吧。

由于本书的文章是美国高中学生用他们自己的母语——英语写的，所以，语言比较地道，很少有太偏僻的词汇，加上文笔流畅，读起来很上口，通俗易懂。这对于我们把英语作为外语来学的中国学生来说无疑是一件好事，我们不仅可以从书中学到许多有用的词语和句型，包括成语、习语和俚语，还可以学到许多关于心理学、医学、人文学和社会学等方面科普常识的英文表达法以及写作方法等等。通读本书确实是一举两得的事情。

1994年6月17日希尔图高中举行了隆重的毕业典礼，我荣幸地受到了狄莫斯校长（Principal Demos）的邀请。会上狄莫斯校长向毕业生们致辞，语重心长地向毕业生们做最后一次嘱咐，期望他们做有知识、有爱心、肯于为社会作贡献的人。随后，有三名女毕业生先后走到麦克风前向母校的领导和教职员致答辞，感谢母校四年来对她们的精心培养和教育。她们的发言感情真挚，语言优美，感人肺腑，博得在场的数以千计的毕业生、在校生以及家长和亲朋好友的热烈掌声，场面十分感人，于是也就有了本书最后三篇优秀发言稿了。但是，非常遗憾的是我只把发言稿要来了，却忘记请她们写上自己的名字了。

自从1994年暑假从美国回国以后，我一直想把这些美国高中生的文章编辑整理出来，推荐给中国学生，让中国学生通过阅读原文，从字里行间看一看美国学生都在想些什么、关心些什么、做些什么，以便对他们有个大概的了解。由于前一段时间工作繁忙而推迟到现在。借此机会，我再一次感谢希尔图

高中的全体师生员工，感谢他们的诚挚、热情和友好。我十分感谢 Sandee Rindone 和 Judy Schille 两位教师，感谢她们向我推荐并提供了很多优秀的文章。我特别感谢 William Demos 校长，感谢他的盛情邀请和热情帮助。我更要感谢我的女房东，希尔图高中的图书管理员 Susan Head 和她的丈夫 John Head，感谢他们的真诚、慷慨大方和对我无微不至的关心、照顾以及所提供的各种方便。

真诚地感谢那些支持我并为本书的出版而奔波的各位同志。

东北师范大学附属中学特级英语教师
张可俭

1996 年 12 月

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An Expedition

In the early morning we set out on our expedition to Fossil Valley. We were a company of five; my sister Kathy, Laurie our friend, Christopher and Andrew who were brothers, and myself. All of us were extremely anxious to reach our destination, as dreams of discoveries of old dinosaur bones filled our young minds. Fame and fortune would be ours and we imagined, early retirement from school.

Many miles we walked(or so it seemed)until we came to the twisty mouth of Fossil Valley. Armed with small garden spades, we attacked both walls of the valley, hoping to pull out an enormous legbone or the ribcage of a dinosaur. But all we found were sea shells and turtle shells. After awhile our enthusiasm decreased to nil. It was by now mid-afternoon and our throats were parched and dry from the clouds of dust we had raised there. We all agreed that Fate would not be kind to us today and that a cool pitcher of lemonade would do us all good. Tiredly we began trudging back home through the valley.

Then, suddenly, Christopher sighted something white, half-buried by dirt. He soon had hold of it and with some difficulty pulled it from the earth. When he gave the last pull, we gasped! We were staring at the discovery of a dinosaur's skull!

We hurried to my home as fast as we could, breathless with excitement and fatigue. My doctor father was sitting on the lawn when we arrived, and we excitedly reported the finding to him. He took the skull from Christopher and studied it a moment. Then with a laugh he said, "Children, I'm sorry to say, but you have only discovered the bone of a cow's rear end!"

Melinda Manion

Words and Expressions

- expedition [ˌɛkspiˈdiʃən] *n.* 探险, 考察, 远征
fossil [ˈfɒsl] *n.* 化石
destination [destiˈneɪʃən] *n.* 目的地, 终点
dinosaur [ˈdaɪnəsəː] *n.* 恐龙
fame [feɪm] *n.* 名声; 声望
retirement [riˈtaɪəmənt] *n.* 退职, 退休; 引退
twisty [ˈtwɪsti] *adj.* 弯弯曲曲的, 扭曲的
enormous [ɪˈnɔːməs] *adj.* 巨大的, 庞大的
legbone [ˈleɪbəʊn] *n.* 腿骨
ribcage [ˈrɪbkeɪdʒ] *n.* 胸廓; 胸腔
shell [ʃel] *n.* 壳
enthusiasm [ɪnˈθjuːzɪˈæzəm] *n.* 热情; 热心; 热忱
decrease [diˈkriːs] *vi.* 减少
nil [nɪl] *n.* 无, 零
parch [pɑːtʃ] *vt.* 使焦干; 烘, 烤
pitcher [ˈpɪtʃə] *n.* (有嘴和柄的) 大水罐
lemonade [ˌleməˈneɪd] *n.* 柠檬水
trudge [ˈtrʌdʒ] *vi.* 跋涉, 步履艰难地走
gasp [gɑːsp] *vi.* 喘息; 气喘
skull [skʌl] *n.* 颅骨, 头盖骨
fatigue [fəˈtiːg] *n.* 疲劳, 劳累
rear [rɪə] *n.* 后部; 后面 ~end 臀部

Rudy

It was so long ago I can hardly remember-my first love, Rudy Boydans. He sat across from me in second grade at my table. About the fourth day of school I noticed Rudy. He was taller than most second graders and had dark brown hair. I think it was then that I fell in love with him. Our class went outside for recess; it was hot and sunny, a perfect day for "young lovers". I was standing by the volley ball pole waiting to play, when I turned around and saw HIM! He walked up to me and said, "You sit at my table, across from me." I stared right into his eyes(I couldn't believe he was talking to me.) "Y...y...yea...I...I do."

That's all he said. He just got up and left. I stood there, glued to the cement. All of a sudden I came to, to the sound of people yelling my name: "Nancy! Nancy! Nancy! It's your turn, get in!" I ran in as fast as I could, but I couldn't play worth beans. All I thought about was Rudy. He noticed me, he really noticed me, how could he... look at me, gosh, he really noticed me! That's all I thought about for a week and a half, even though he didn't say two more words to me since that day.

One day after lunch period I found a note in my table slot. It read:

I love you. Do you love me? Yes ☐ No ☐

Of course I checked "Yes." I wasn't about to give up a chance like this! I gave him the note back. He read it and smiled at me. Before the bell rang to let school out, I went behind the

bulletin board to get my coat. Standing back there was Rudy. I grabbed my coat and he grabbed me. That was my first kiss. I'll never forget that day as long as I live.

The rest of the year our small love died down. There were no more kisses behind the bulletin board, but there were frequent notes. Then summer came and Rudy moved away. I never saw him again till fourth grade. I was sitting in my classroom when the principal walked in with a new boy.

It was Rudy! I couldn't believe it. I smiled at him but he did nothing. He never even recognized me. He didn't look the same to me and I guess I didn't look the same to him either.

Nancy Alexander

Words and Expressions

- recess [ri'ses] *n.* (课间)休息
glue [glu:] *vt.* 用胶粘合
cement [si'ment] *n.* 接合剂;水泥
slot [slot] *n.* 槽;口
grab [græb] *vt.* 抓取;强夺
frequent ['fri:kwənt] *a.* 频繁的

The Longest Weekend

At approximately 5:24 Friday afternoon I found myself standing with my five nieces and nephews waving good-bye to their parents who were leaving on their well deserved second honeymoon. At precisely 5:30, Friday afternoon I suddenly realized what a mistake I had made in volunteering my services as babysitter when my five year old niece came bouncing up to me and exclaimed, "Aunt Kathi, Ralph is having kittens in the bathtub."

Three hours and ten kittens later we finally got Ralph and her new family settled down in a box in the kitchen.

Unfortunately Ralph was to be the least of my worries, in fact, she was the best thing that happened all weekend.

After dinner Fridy night I thought things were going to settle down, until I heard a tremendous roaring sound from the back of the house. The only thing I could think of was that Michael, working on his chemistry set in his room, had blown himself up.

"Michael, Mike! Are you all right? Michael, where are you?" I screamed while running through the house with the four little ones close behind, eager to see what, if anything was left of their brother. Mike came out of his room, all in one piece, with two test tubes in his hands.

"What's the matter?" he asked. "You scared me half to death. If I spilled any of this the whole house might have blown up."

By this time I was beginning to wish he had spilled it. That would have solved everything, but things being what they were, and Michael all in one piece, we started looking for whatever it was that had blown-up. I didn't have to look very far for as I turned around I saw that the walls of the hallway were black with

soot.

"It's the heater!" cried Eddie. "Quick, turn it off before it blows-up again!" This was fine, because with the heater off it couldn't blow-up, but with the temperature outside a very cold forty two degrees, the temperature inside wasn't much warmer.

I suggested that we all go to bed and worry about this in the morning, hoping that maybe it was all a bad dream, and that I would wake up soon and find myself on some deserted island, away from everything. When I woke up, though, I was still at my sister's house and the walls were still black and Ralph had added two more to her family, which brought the count up to twelve.

Now I had two choices: I could sneak out of the house before the kids got up and escape to Canada, or I could try to live through the rest of the weekend. Unfortunately, before I had time to decide, Kelli came in the kitchen demanding her breakfast. So I had no alternative but to suffer through the next two days and hope, that by some miracle I would make it to work on Monday.

After everyone was awake, I suggested that they all stay home, because I had already called the gas man and informed him that I didn't want to spend another night with six blankets on top of me so I could hardly move, and maybe they could learn something from him to keep the heater from blowing up again. They thought this was a great idea, and when the gas man did show up he had five little helpers, whether he wanted them or not. As he left he gave me a long list of instructions on what to do, and what not to do, and what to do if you did.

Feeling very much relieved, and a lot warmer, the kids and I went out to eat. When we returned, I was very happy to find the house still intact and Ralph keeping the count down to twelve.

In bed that night I was feeling very ashamed of myself for even thinking about deserting the kids, even if I was kidding. So in my warm little bed of shame I fell asleep, convinced that tomorrow had to be better, for the simple reason that it couldn't get any worse.

I woke up the next morning only to find out how wrong I was. There were two inches of water throughout the whole house. Michael went outside and turned the water off. Then I said calm-

ly, "Children, get dressed. We're going to church. If there was ever anyone who needed to be prayed for it has to be us. Don't worry about the water; it will be here when we get back."

I was right. The water was there. I don't know if going to church did the carpet any good, but I like to think that it helped us a little.

While Michael and Eddie were trying to figure out what had gone wrong, the rest of us started bailing out the house. The boys finally came to the conclusion that the water heater had broken, and it being Sunday there was nothing we could do. So we all went to the zoo and returned just in time to see the honeymooners drive up. As I dropped the kids off I told my sister how good they had been under the circumstances, and congratulated her on the twelve new additions, and then left.

Whether they ever found out what really happened, I never knew, but two days later I received a dozen roses and a note thanking me for my courage "above and beyond the call of duty." Then they asked me how I managed to get the children to go church to so early, and especially without reading the comics first. And that was the one question I couldn't answer.

Suellen Olsen

Words and Expressions

approximately [ə'prɒksɪmɪtli] *adv.* 大约;大致;差不多

honeymoon ['hʌnɪmu:n] *n.* 蜜月

precisely [pri'saɪli] *adv.* 恰好;无误地;精确地

bounce [baʊns] *v.* 乱冲,乱撞

kitten ['kɪtn] *n.* 小猫

bathtub ['bɑ:θtʌb] *n.* 澡盆

spill [spɪl] *vt.* 溢出;倾覆

soot [sut] *n.* 黑烟灰

intact [ɪn'tækt] *adj.* 未损伤的,完整的

relieve [ri'li:t] *vt.* 减轻或解除(痛苦或困难)

bail [beɪl] *v.* 将水汲出

comic ['kɒmɪk] *a.* 滑稽的 the ~s 连环画