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ZUOWEN JINGXUAT

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美国儿童作文

削音	1
The Tenacity of a Friendship	2
Pi Day	6
The Hurricane is Coming	10
Childhood Obesity	14
Tutoring	17
Little Secret of "United Nation"	22
Halloween	25
The Autumn of New Jersey	29
My American Legacy	32
A Memorable Audition	36
Catching a School Bus	39
Friendship	42
I Participated in the Chinese New Year's Parade	46
Grandma	49
Horse-back Riding in the Canyon	52
Fishing	55
Summer in China	59
Williamsburg Then and Now	63
Glass Deer	66
My Third Grade Teacher	70
The Flight to the United States	74
Shaina's Million	77



My Chicken Baobao	80
My Little White Dog	83
The Joy of Learning Chinese	87
I Like Chinese Food	91
Thanksgiving Day Parade	94
The Adventure of Polly	98
Hawaii Vacation	101
The Little Scandinavian Villages	104
Smoky Mountains and West Nile Virus	107
Doing Something Small	110
My Rocket Flew up to the Sky	113
Snow White	117
The Unforgettable Trust	120
My First Time	123
Visiting My Old Home	126
A Letter to Grandfather and Grandmother	130
The Game of Life	134
A Coin That Made Me Remember	138
Learning to Grochet	141
Baseball and Me	144
When I Failed the Test	148
The Unforgettable "September 11th"	152
中国儿童作文	
快乐的梦	156
难忘的童年	158

时尚袜	160
教室里的墨水瓶	162
要强就是不服输	164
我就是我	165
我是女生	166
独闯"天下"	167
四季歌	169
中华的孩子健康成长	171
童年趣事	173
"甜食迷"现形记	175
我第一次打工	177
第一次一个人坐公共汽车	179
打车记	180
放飞快乐	182
我当"小保姆"	183
帮助小鱼保暖	186
谁来珍惜我	188
我成长 我快乐	190
第三只眼睛看健康	191
胆小的我	192
我的童年	193
我成长中的一件傻事	195
我是社区播音员	196
雨后	197
快乐钢琴日	198
摘柿子	199
考级	201



农家乐	203
美味的汤	205
中华儿童健康成长	206
难忘	208
一只玩具蛋糕	209
我的阳光 我的爱	211
勇敢、坚强	213
快乐生活	214
快乐而健康的生活	215
梅花小队诞生了	216
我丢了	218
影子	221
爱,这样延续	223
可爱的小金龟	225
我是超级男孩	227
为理想挣"工资"	229
我做小风车	230
路	232
登山	233
我和音乐交朋友	234
第十一个生日	235
拍照	237
乡下的螃蟹	238
想像	240



前 言

中国和美国是两个在世界上有着重要影响力的大国,中美两国文化虽然存在种种差异,但也有很强的互补性。两国人民的互相了解,文化交流互通是最重要、最有效的渠道。由少年儿童出版社、上海市少年工作委员会、联合利华口腔护理中心、美国华夏中文学校共同举办的"中华杯"中美儿童双语作文大赛,就是在中美儿童交流方面的一次全新尝试。中美两国儿童用真切的笔调描述了身边的所见所闻和生活趣事,这不仅有益于异国间同龄人相互了解,更用直观的方式为儿童展示出了另外一种全新的文化氛围,在他们心中种下了友谊的种子。这是首次中美两国儿童通过作文的形式进行的一次直接文化交流。在两个多月时间里,中国 700 多所学校的上万名学生参加了比赛。同时,在大洋彼岸,由美国华夏中文学校组织的来自新泽西州、纽约州、宾西法尼亚州的美国学生也投来了他们精心准备的佳作。

本书收录了 100 余篇比赛的获奖优秀作文。中美两国小作者们用中文和英文记录下了生活中的酸甜苦辣、喜怒哀乐。让我们一篇篇地读下去,细细地品味吧!



The Tenacity of a Friendship

When I first left China for Indiana, the Midwestern State of America, I was seven years old and felt trapped in a country where there was a language I could not speak. My consternation at the situation grew rapidly, but just as it reached unbearable proportions, I found my reprieve. Her name was Yu, and she was one year younger but three inches taller than I. It was her companionship that preserved my sanity in those early days of isolation.

Yu often invited me to play with her outdoors. When she discovered that I couldn't ride a bicycle, she eagerly volunteered to teach me. Under her tutelage, I slowly began to wobble around the parking lot in shaky circles. She cried out a warning, and I swerved aside in time to avoid a car driving towards me. As the autumn progressed, our families decided to take a trip to an orchard for apple picking. was very brave as she faced the bees and wasps in that place, while I was frightened out of my wits. Even when it came to eat apples, she was better than me. In China, my grandparents would peel and slice apples for me, and now I had no idea how to eat it whole. So I could only watch in admiration as Yu effortlessly devoured the fruits she had picked. As the sun began to set, we wandered into some pumpkin fields nearby, where we perched ourselves against the biggest pumpkin we could find. We were reluctant to leave a place of such happy memories as we gazed at each other's face under the russet golden light of the glorious sunset.

Unfortunately for us, mom and dad were typical Chinese parents, always praising other people's children. I was subjected to lengthy discussions of Yu's many commendable traits. A dim sense of the growing distance between us left me in despair; fortunately, some-



thing happened that put us on equal footing again. One day, Yu's teacher told her students to catch some caterpillars and raise them into butterflies, but Yu, who feared no bees or wasps, was terrified by furry caterpillars. She came to me for help, and I realized that I was not inferior to her in every way, so our friendship could survive. I felt that there must be equality between friends if the relationship is to last.

Three years passed, and Yu's family was moving to New Jersey. It was as though someone had struck me. Don't leave, I cried in silence. Nevertheless, we children could not influence parental decisions. On Christmas Eve, Yu came to my house to say farewell. We sang and danced crazily like children possessed, but we could not delay the inevitable. In the end, she went to New Jersey. We became pen pals, exchanging news in our letters. But for some unknown reason, the letters grew scarce. Eventually, all that passed between us were obligatory holiday and birthday cards.

In the blink of an eye, another three years passed. This time, it was my turn to move away. We were also going to New Jersey! My parents knew that I missed Yu, so they chose to stay in Westfield, the same town where she lived. Joyfully I went to her house to see her. She stood still as she looked at me. I looked, too, and saw the same short hair falling to her shoulders, the same big, sparkling, inquisitive eyes, yet there was also a more thoughtful look to her face. Discreetly I measured myself against her; not surprisingly, I was still a few inches shorter. A stranger would still mistake me for her younger sister. Although at first we were reserved and shy, soon we became close friends again.



Both of us have matured over time, especially Yu. We can no longer play together with the same nonchalant ease as before. In spite of this, we are bound by eight years of acquaintance, and our friendship is as solid as ever.

八年友情

记得七岁来到美国印第安那州时,我一句英文也不懂,身处异 乡,感到无比的寂寞。正当我烦闷不安时,遇上了一位中国女孩。她 叫小羽,比我小一岁,可是个子却超过我。 她真是我的救星,要不 我肯定会憋出病来。

小羽常约我到外面玩耍。她知道我不会骑那种小号的自行车, 就自告奋勇来教我。慢慢地,我也能摇摇晃晃地在停车场里绕圈儿 了。一辆车开了过来,她惊呼着我的名字,让我躲避。秋天到了,我们 两家一起去果园摘苹果。小羽很勇敢,不怕蜜蜂,而我却被吓得魂不 附体。连吃苹果我都不如她,因为在中国有爷爷奶奶为我削皮,再切 成片,如今碰上整个儿苹果,我不知道怎么办,眼瞅着小羽三口两口 就把苹果送进了肚子,心里好佩服!直到太阳快下山了,我们俩还去 南瓜地转悠,趴在那个大南瓜上,相互凝视着对方脸庞上橘红色的 落日余晖,久久不愿离开。

爸爸妈妈毕竟是中国式的父母,总是称赞他人的孩子,尤其是 对小羽赞不绝口。我隐隐约约感到我和她之间的距离被拉大了。可 是有一件事使我们又变成了平等的朋友。那次,小羽的老师要求学 生捉毛毛虫回来,养成蝴蝶,我的朋友偏偏非常害怕那虫子,就向我 求助。这样,我发现原来自己并不是事事比她差,可以继续和她做朋 友。因为对我来说,朋友之间只有相互平等,友谊才会长久。



三年过去了,小羽要搬家了。我一听就呆住了,不要走啊,我心里喊着。可是,那些父母们的事儿不是我们孩子所能管的。圣诞节前夕,她来到我家告别。我们又唱又跳,发疯似的玩闹。可惜,天下没有不散的宴席,最后她去了新泽西州。于是我们成了笔友,相互通报近况。但是,不知为什么,信越来越少,渐渐地只剩下了贺卡。

一晃又是三年,这回轮到我搬家了。真是奇妙,我们也搬到了新泽西。父母知道我想念小羽,特意把新家安在她住的西田镇。我高高兴兴地来到她家,一见面,她就静静地站在那儿,只是看着我。我也打量着她,她仍然是一头齐肩的短发,一双扑闪扑闪的大眼睛透露出好奇的目光,但在脸上呈现出比以前更加稳重的气质。我还悄悄地与她比划了一下,个头还是差她几厘米。尽管刚开始有点陌生,很快地,我们又成了好朋友。

我俩都长大了,尤其是小羽成熟了不少,我们之间再也不能像 从前那样无忧无虑地尽情玩闹了! 尽管如此,我们仍是毫无疑问 的好朋友,八年友情不一般哪!

> 美国华夏中文学校爱迪生分校提高班 杨乔子 指导老师 窦泽和

5



Pi Day

Among the wide range of diverse festivities in America, the one that appeals to me the most is the celebration of none other than a number named π . This unforgettable celebration occurred during my seventh grade year at Voorhees Middle School.

Following the start of a new year, my math teacher, Mr. Danfield, informed his students that the fifth annual π Day of Voorhees Middle School was going to take place on March 14th, 2002. On behalf that π is approximately 3.14...the reason for this particular date is not hard to figure out. In addition to honoring π , it also serves as a tribute to the great Albert Einstein, whose birthday happens to fall on March 14th. Since this celebration was first established, there has been a trend of one student annually setting and breaking the school record for the most correctly memorized digits of π. Mr. Danfield notified us of the school record thus far, 202 digits, and then encouraged all of us to do our best to set a new one this year. It was not going to be an easy feat to say the least, but everyone was eager to face the challenge. Following a lesson on the history of π , I realized the large role the Chinese played in making π what it is today. An ancient Chinese mathematician by the name of Zhu Chong Zhi was among the first to compute π , he calculated the first seven digits, and this became a record that remained unbroken for about a thousand years. As a Chinese immigrant in America, I feel extreme pride. This tale of my ancestor inspired me to follow in his footsteps. I was determined to make history as well, at least within the school. The new record for the most π digits memorized was going to bear my name on it, and it will be one that was not to be easily beat.

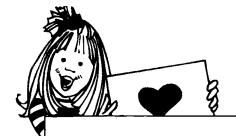
From that day on, I began my journey to break the school



record. At first, the numbers were rather tame, and aligned themselves in proper order inside my mind. Yet, as I progressed on my way to set a new record, the little numbers started to get unruly, and gradually defiance took place. Despair settled into my heart, and self–doubt swallowed my eagerness. As I thought back on the story of my ancestral mathematician's accomplishments however, it stirred up enthusiasm once again, and I picked up right where I left off on my road to conquer π .

 π Day finally arrived, and everyone was just as excited as I. Students were climbing on top of each other to go first in dazzling others with their memorized π digits. Daniel memorized 30 digits, Jessica 50, Eric rambled off 100 digits fluently... I was eager to stun all, but was terrified that I may forget or recite the wrong numbers. spite of the hard work that I put forth all leading up to this day, cold sweat trickled down my brow, for the notion of messing up scared me Almost everyone had finished reciting their memorized π digits, "Could it be that no one dared to break the Mr. Danfield inquired, record this year? "His wandering eyes settled on me. Taking a deep breath, I held up my arm, which was covered in goose bumps from anticipation. Facing the class, quietly, I began to recite the numbers that have become so familiar to me. I zipped through 100, 200, 203 digits... My voice gradually got louder and more confident. The record has been broken, but living up to my word, I did not even pause, 300 digits, 400 digits... 515. I stopped and was met with total silence. Suddenly, the principal led the class in a wave of thunderous applause as I walked back to my seat in a trance.

I accomplished my goal, but π Day was far from over. Students



brought in self-made posters honoring π and decorated the classroom with them. What's a celebration without food? Cookies with the symbol of π on it, cake with a timeline of π 's history written with icing, and all different kind of pies were offered to the class.

More than a year has passed, and my record still lives on. Not only have I gained a reputation for myself, I have also gained one for all Chinese children as being persistent and capable of doing the unthinkable.

圆周率——π节

我在美国度过许多有趣的节日,其中最有意思的是在 Voorhees 中学七年级时的圆周率——π 节。

新年刚过,数学老师 Mr.Danfield 宣布第五届 π 节将于 3 月 14 日举行,不仅因为 π=3.14······而且这天也是伟大的科学家爱因斯坦的生日。每年的这一天,Mr.Danfield 的学生们都争着背尽可能多位的圆周率,目前的最高纪录是小数点后 202 位。从 Mr.Danfield 介绍的 π 历史,我得知中国古代数学家祖冲之曾将 π 计算到小数点后 7 位,这一纪录 1000 年后才被西方人打破。我为自己是中国人而感到自豪,并在心里盘算着一定也要创造一个让其他同学无法轻易打破的纪录。

我每天都坚持背 π。刚开始那些小数字还算听话,乖乖地从纸上跳到我这个小数学迷的脑子里按顺序排队。但随着数字的增加,它们开始不听我指挥了,我感到有些失望,但一想到中国古代数学家所做出的成绩,就又坚持背了下去。

π 节终于等到了,同学们一个个争着上讲台炫耀他们记住的圆



周率。Daniel 背了 30 位,Jessica 背了 50 位,Eric 背了 100 位……虽然我迫不及待地盼望上台破纪录,但又怕背到半截出错或忘记,我身上开始冒冷汗。几乎所有的同学都背完了,Mr.Danfield 问大家:"今年难道没人能破纪录了吗?"他说话的时候,眼睛一直看着我,我深吸了一口气,把我那起满鸡皮疙瘩的胳膊高高举起。面对老师同学期待的目光,我小声地背诵起来,100 位,200 位,203 位,我的声音逐渐响亮起来,虽然已经刷新了纪录,我仍然没有停下来,300,400,一直到 515 位,此时教室里鸦雀无声。忽然,校长带头鼓起掌来,接着一片掌声响起,我像做梦似的在同学们的欢呼声中回到座位。

 π 节还在继续,同学们把自己所做的有关 π 的海报摆放在教室,就连所吃的食物也都与 π 有关,有带有 π 符号的饼干,画有 π 历史的蛋糕,还有苹果派……

一年过去了,我的纪录仍然保持着,我不但为自己,也为中国孩子争了光。

美国华夏中文学校樱桃山分校五年级 **范 然** 指导教师 叶 园



The Hurricane is Coming

Hurricane Isabel is coming. The weather forecast said hurricane Isabel would be even stronger than hurricane Andrew in 1992. I was born in the year of hurricane Andrew, so I never had the chance to see it, but I do recall 1999's hurricane Floyd. The gigantic tree between Mrs. Jamison and our houses was brought down like a sack of potatoes in the harsh winds of Floyd. We're very lucky that the tree did not crush our house, but it is just so sad that we will never see those gorgeous yellow and white spring flowers blossom in all their beauty ever again. Other than that, my brother and I were still beaming with joy, because of the flood in our schools that gave us the entire week to just relax and enjoy our flood vacation. The rain flooded all the way up to the 2nd floor, and it took almost a whole week for the desks of our school to dry!

Isabel is landing upon our lovely homes tonight. By myself after school my heart raced with excitement and joy. At the same time fear was pounding in my heart and wildly running about in my mind. The smoky fog seaming through the misty air was like a warning. The hurricane was coming. You could tell by the shivery feeling inside your skin, as if you could feel the storm building. At that very moment I just picked up the basketball and zoomed out the door to see my friend Matt. His sisters Jenny and Sally were there too. We played some ball and chased, and chased, and chased each other until we literally fainted on the light grassy plain and felt the comfortable, soothing, and cool wind as it blew against our faces and allowed our hair to blow in and out with and through it. As I was about to leave I suggested to have a big hurricane bash of the century. We said there would have to be food, games, and everybody would be there. We al-