

# 一个女学生的 英文日记选

胡孝申

ENGLISH DIARIES

By a girl student

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## **内 容 简 介**

本书为一个女中学生的英文日记选录，共收日记 40 篇，前后时间跨度约为一年。内容涉及有关学习方法和态度，同学朋友之间的友谊，与家人、老师关系的简描，对社会现象与所参加的活动的影响和观点以及游览风景名胜的记述等等。感情丰富，语言生动活泼，富有幽默感，并附有汉语参考译文及生词表。本书可作为高中二、三年级和大学低年级学生学习英语的辅助读物。

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## INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

It was by mere chance that I came across a copy of diary written in English. The owner of it was a young girl who had just finished her study in senior middle school. Apparently, she was keen on literature and English, and was trying to practise composition in English. This copy covers roughly a period of a year before she was enrolled in a famous university, majoring in English language and literature.

The content of the diary shows that the girl has a wide scope of interests and the points she made in her discussion are pertinent. That is really not easy for her, because at that time she was only a third year student in senior middle school, and it was really marvellous of her to be able to write in English. Of course, some mistakes in grammar or inaccuracies in diction or somewhat Chinglish expressions are bound to occur. That is perfectly understandable. The most important point is that she made a persistent attempt to do the writing practice which is either totally missing or ruefully inadequate in most cases with students of English here in China.

Many students have difficulties in writing in English, because in most exercises nowadays they are only expected

to do multiple choice whose emphasis is laid upon the recognition of the correct use of the language rather than creative production of opinion or description. Therefore their weaknesses seem to be very obvious. Actually they should be encouraged to write in English, which will in turn improve their reading or even speaking in English.

With the permission of the owner of the diary, I have selected 40 pieces from the original work and have revised or rewritten them, and translated them into Chinese. The manuscripts have been polished and approved by Ged Neary, professor of English, to whom I offer my gratitude and appreciation for many valuable comments on the early drafts. I alone am responsible for what errors in grammar or translation remain. And above all, my thanks to all those who made the appearance of this little book possible for their encouragement and generous help.

The readers do not have to take much notice of the events and characters, time and places which have no factual significance any more.

At the time our country is undergoing a rapid development in reform and opening up to the outside world, there is an ever growing urgent need of large numbers of people who are able to use foreign languages, especially English, as a tool of communication. It is my sincere hope that this little book may be of practical help to young learners of English who wish to improve their ability to read and write in English.



## START WRITING DIARY IN ENGLISH

Monday, Aug. 10, Fine

This is the last year ~~for me~~ to study in the senior middle school. This academic year is undoubtedly a very important turning point in my life. Who does not long for a higher aim — to pursue one's further study in a university to expand one's knowledge so as to better serve the motherland?

It is the first day we go to school, a few days before the new semester begins, because our class are doing some extra work. The old fellow students get toge-ther in twos and threes, chatting cheerfully about what we saw and heard during the summer vacation, including travelling experiences and personal plans for the future. It was really a scene of bustle and excitement.

What speciality should one choose to study in the future has become our central concern. It's true that everybody has his or her own preferences and strong points. Many specialities in great demands in an era of reform and opening to the outside world strongly attract our interest. In the past, many people set their aims to be an engineer, doctor or scientist; nowadays, however, international trade and laws concerning economic relations with foreign countries seem to have greater attraction.

What is my goal? It's not yet definite. With so many good and beautiful things to choose from one can hardly make a quick choice. Whatever speciality I might choose, I think, during an epoch like this one, a foreign language is always a very important and useful tool for communication and obtaining information. In this very year, I must try my best to lay a solid foundation to my English studies. In order to counteract my weaknesses in English composition, I'll try to keep writing my diary in English. In the process of my learning English, a saying that often encourages me to work hard at English is: if you are afraid of losing your dignity, you can not expect to learn to speak a foreign language well. I think it will be true with composition as well.

## **WATCH THE LAUNCHING OF AN AUSTRALIAN SATELLITE**

**Friday, Aug. 14, Overcast**

A few days ago, it was reported that our country would re-launch today the Australian communication satellite made in USA. Originally, the satellite was to be launched in March according to the plan. Because of some unexpected troubles, it was postponed until today.

We turned on our TV set before 7 o'clock, and the whole family stared at the screen with eyes wide open. The rocket Long March CZ-2 carrying the Australian satellite was standing there with its majestic appearance at the rocket launching pad embraced in an unusual tranquillity ... Clearly shown on the rocket are the national flags of China, USA, and Australia. And there are 4 very big Chinese characters which mean China Space Aviation. What an exciting and breath-catching moment!

The instruction for launching is given at exactly 7 o'clock, flames with extreme intensity were ejaculated from the bottom of the rocket. The rocket moved perpendicularly upward. It was then reported in the TV program that the rocket has performed successfully all the required operations in the given time. It indicated that the launching of the

satellite was a perfect success.

What a great achievement and exploit it was! This is a wonderful glory of China. The space aviation technique of a developing country such as China has come up to the internationally advanced level. This is the result of the persevering efforts of the Chinese scientists and technical workers for decades in succession. They really have set a very good example for us young people. In order to bring China's science and technology up to an internationally advanced level in as many disciplines and fields as possible, we must work in a down-to-earth way to learn about fundamental subjects, because the accumulation of knowledge has to be carried out drop by drop and little by little. There is an old Chinese saying, although an old cliché, which, I believe, radiates everlasting significance-diligence is the path that goes through the mountains of books, and assiduity is the boat that travels over the oceans of learning. This saying should become my motto.

# OLYMPIC GAMES

Thursday, Aug. 20, Cloudy

In these recent two weeks, people's attention have been centred around the city of Barcelona-where the 25th Olympic Games is being held. Modern science has enabled people to watch TV program transmitting live performance of the first-class players coming from all over the world. It is strange that all the people here, men and women, old and young, people who love sports or those who normally don't, get interested in watching TV program, especially when the Chinese sports men and sports women stand on the platform receiving gold medals, watching the five star red flag rising slowly and elegantly with our national anthem drifting all over the world, we are all overwhelmed with excitement, and our eyes brimmed with tears, feeling so proud of ourselves. This is perhaps the value and significance of the Olympic Games.

At the Olympic games, the Chinese sports persons have won 16 gold medals, 22 silver medals and 16 copper medals, coming up the 4th place. This time the players of our country have won more medals than the previous two games in which China also participated. Ours is a large country, all these medals put together are not too many. But we must

understand that only half a century ago, some foreigners regarded us Chinese as “the East Asian Invalids”. There ~~was~~ hardly a place for the Chinese people at any international sports meet. The Chinese people cannot but feel elated and proud with the victories the Chinese sports persons have won. Isn't it a tremendous progress to receive medals at the glorious platform?

It is a shame to say that I have no special talent for any item in sports. I'm not good at either balls or track and fields. I can only get a mere pass at the exams of physical education. It is said that in universities a compulsory course of physical education is offered to the freshmen and sophomores. I think I may not be very strong at sports but I should love sports, because I do understand the importance of the consciousness and the spirit of participation. I think I should insist on doing adequate physical exercise to keep fit so as to be able to cope with study and work tasks in the years to come.

## A GUEST FROM SHANGHAI

**Sunday, Sept. 6, Overcast**

A guest came to my home this morning. He was entrusted by my aunt to bring me some little gifts: a very exquisite little alarm clock and a beautiful table lamp. My aunt said in her letter that she had just come back from Japan on an errand, and these little gadgets may perhaps improve conditions for my study. I'm very grateful to my dear aunt. She's so considerate! I really should double my efforts in my study, trying to get enrolled in an ideal university so as to live up to the expectation of all the people who love me and show concern for me.

The youth who brought the gifts to me is a relative of my aunt. His family name is C. I have never seen him before although I have heard of him because his name is sometimes mentioned by the people around me. He graduated from senior middle school this year and he has got enrolled in a key university here in this city, majoring in Laser Physics. This is his first semester which has just started. So he came to Wuhan. Oh, with this connection, ~~I might~~ serve as a hostess to entertain him.

Mr. C is a tallish young man, I guess he should be over 1.75 m in height. Somewhat slender but very energetic and

full of vigour. He is a little bit diffident and bashful, but not at all awkward. He seems to have got very good upbringing, with elegant and graceful bearings. Oh, my, why do I write so much description about him?!

Mother and I received him with delight and invited him to have a dinner with us at home. After dinner, he sat for a while and then politely took his leave and went back to his university. Because he has not been here long and he has no other relatives or friends in this city, we invited him to come to our house on holidays when he has time. He accepted our invitation with gladness and expressed sincere thanks.

In her letter, my aunt says C is a top student. He works very hard and gets excellent grades. His high score enabled him to get enrolled in the nationwide well-known university ... I think I can probably get some help from him in my last year's study in the middle school.



## **THOUGHTS ON THE TEACHERS' DAY**

**Thursday, Sept. 10, Rainy**

The annual Teachers' Day, which marks people's respect for teachers, has come. The ancient saying goes: it takes ten years to grow a tree and a hundred years to bring up a generation of good men—a long term plan. At such a high-tech era as ours, knowledge is power, science and technology are most important factors in productivity. Tracing back to the source, the essence of the matter is education which is mainly carried out by teachers. It is doubtless that they should receive due respect.

I'm now finishing my middle school education, having some basic knowledge about mathematics, chemistry, physics, history, geography, Chinese and English language. And next year I'll have to stand the test of university entrance exams. In the past 12 years, we have accumulated bit by bit some knowledge which, in the final analysis, is given by our teachers who devote their youth and wisdom to the educational cause just like those hard working gardeners taking great care of tender flowers and plants.

Pupils and students come and go, year after year,