


*Life
@ Reading*

英语经典美文诵读

高二年级

■ 浙江教育出版社



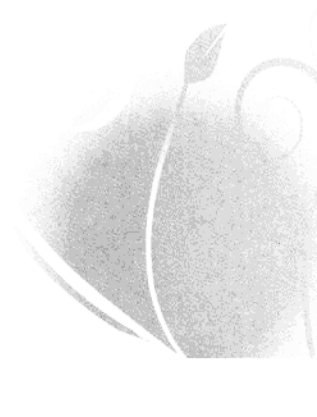


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高二年级

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前 言

古人云：“熟读唐诗三百首，不会作诗也会吟。”古人又云：“读书破万卷，下笔如有神。”英伦名仕弗朗西斯·培根爵士亦云：“Reading maketh a full man.”(读书使人完美。)英语中更有格言，曰：“Reading is to the mind what exercise to the body.”(阅读之于心灵，犹如运动之于身体。)

学习一门语言，阅读和背诵是两件很重要的事情。

阅读可以使人明理，使人睿智。在阅读的过程中，我们感知语言的美，感悟语境的美。通过阅读，我们培养语感，积累素材；通过阅读，我们体验文化，训练思维。

背诵可以使人博古通今，使人雄辩。在背诵的过程中，我们体验英语的用词习惯，感受英语的行文习惯。通过背诵，我们巩固词汇，强化写作；通过背诵，我们提升思维，拓展自我。

为了给高中学生的英语学习提供阅读和背诵的材料，我们经过一年多的筹备，组织来自杭州外国语学校等一批名校的中学特级、高级教师和优秀的中学一级教师，编写了《英语经典美文诵读》(高一年级、高二年级)。

本书选材时充分考虑了《高中英语课程标准》的要求和现行人教版英语教材的语法、词汇及话题，所选文章题材新颖、体裁广泛、循序渐进、难易适当、语言优美、朗朗上口。

高一年级有Living Well、Time and Space、Science and Technology、Change、Experience和Faith and Confidence等六个话题共六十篇，高二年级有Art、Education、Nature、Peace、Success和Wisdom等六个话题共六十篇。其中，每篇文章对生词均有注释(音标、词性、英汉双语解释)，重点突出优美的句子，还有对文章的鉴赏(多数文章从内容和写作两方面分析)。

书中如有不当之处，敬请批评指正。

葛炳芳

2009年1月



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Section One

Art

Art is the object of feeling, and the subject of nature.

Passage 1

Painting of Peace

Read the passage and think:

Why did the king choose the second painting which didn't look peaceful at all?

Once a king offered a prize to the artist who would paint the best painting of peace. There were only two paintings he really liked. One painting was of a calm lake, which was a perfect mirror for peaceful towering mountains all around it. Overhead was a blue sky with white clouds. All who saw this painting thought it was a perfect painting of peace. The other painting had mountains as well. Above was an angry sky, from which rain fell and in which lightning played. Down the side of the mountain tumbled a waterfall. This did not look peaceful at all. But looking closely, the king saw behind the waterfall a bush growing in a crack in the rock. In the bush a mother bird had her nest built. There, in the middle of the angry water, sat the mother bird on her nest—in perfect peace.

· 2 ·

The king chose the second painting. “Because,” he explained, “peace does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble, or hard work. Peace means to be in the middle of all those things and still be calm in your heart. That’s the real meaning of peace.”

(201 words)

Notes

towering /'taʊəriŋ/ *adj.* very tall 高大的; 高耸的

tumble /'tʌmbəl/ *v.* fall suddenly; roll over or down quickly or violently 流下; 翻滚

crack /kræk/ *n.* a line of division caused by splitting 裂缝



宁静的油画

从前有个国王悬赏,看哪位画家最能描绘出“宁静”的意境。只有两幅作品是他真正喜欢的。一幅画中是一片宁静的湖泊,而湖泊就是一面完美的镜子,倒映着四周高耸寂静的群山。蓝色的天空中白云飘飘。每个看到这幅画的人都认为这是一幅表现宁静的完美作品。另一幅画也有山脉。画面上方是愤怒的天空,但见狂风骤雨、电闪雷鸣,一道瀑布从山的一侧倾泻下来。这场景看起来一点都不宁静。国王仔细看了看,发现瀑布后面岩石的裂隙中长着一株灌木。一只鸟妈妈在灌木上筑了一个巢。在汹涌的水流中间,鸟妈妈安坐在巢穴中——如此宁静。

国王选择了第二幅画。他说:“因为宁静并不是指一个地方没有噪音、没有烦扰、没有艰苦的劳动。宁静意味着所有这些因素都存在于你的周围,而你的心中依然能保持平和,这才是宁静的真谛。”

Critical Reading 本文鉴赏

According to the story of the passage, the second painting chosen by the king doesn't look peaceful at all, with rain falling from the angry sky, lightning playing in the sky, and a waterfall tumbling down the side of the mountain. However, in the middle of the angry water sits a mother bird on her nest made in a crack in the rock—in perfect peace. The peace reflected in the second painting is just what the king thought the real peace was—peace doesn't mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble, or hard work, but means to be in the middle of all those things and still be calm in your heart.

· 3 ·

◆ Good painting is like good cooking; it can be tasted, but not explained.

—Maurice de Vlaminck

好画犹如佳肴,只可意会,不可言传。

——莫里斯·德·弗拉曼克

Passage 2

Life and Music

Read the passage and think:

How does the writer explain the importance of music in life?

To me, life without music would not be exciting. I realize this is not true for everybody. Many people get along quite well without going to the concert, and listening to the record. But music plays an important part in everyone's life, whether he realizes it or not.

Try to imagine, for example, what films or TV plays would be like without music. The feelings, the moving plot, and the climax wouldn't be exciting.

As a matter of fact, music exists in our everyday life—in the rhythm of the sea, the singing of a bird and so on. So music surely has meaning for everyone, in some way or other. And, of course, it has special meaning for those who have spent all their lives working on playing or writing music.



It is well said, "Through music a child enters into a world of beauty, expresses himself from his heart, tastes the joy of creating, widens his sympathies, develops his mind, and adds grace to his body."

(169 words)

Notes

climax /'klaɪmæks/ *n.* the most exciting or important part in a story or experience, which usu. comes near the end 高潮(顶点)

rhythm /'rɪðəm/ *n.* (a) regular repeated pattern of sounds or movements 韵律;节奏;韵动

sympathy /'sɪmpəθi/ *n.* understanding of the sufferings of other people, often expressed in a willingness to give help 同情;同情心

grace /greɪs/ *n.* fine and attractive quality in movement or form 优美;优雅



生活与音乐

对我而言,没有音乐的生活是没有趣味的。可我发现并非人人都是这么认为的。许多人不去音乐会,不听唱片,生活过得也很好。但是,无论他是否意识到这一点,音乐的确在每个人的生活中起着重要作用。

试想一下,电影或电视剧少了音乐将会怎样呢?片中人物的思想情感、感人的故事情节以及高潮就会变得平淡无奇。

事实上,我们的日常生活中音乐无所不在,大海涛声的韵律、鸟鸣的曲调等等。因此,音乐对于每个人无疑都有着这样或那样的意义。当然,对于那些将毕生精力投入到演奏音乐或创作曲子中去的人来说,音乐有着特殊的含义。


有句话说得好:“儿童通过音乐可以进入美的世界,表达内心的感情,品尝创造的乐趣,扩大同情的胸怀,发展自己的智慧,并可培养优雅的体态。”

Critical Reading 本文鉴赏

The passage is an argumentative essay with its organization “Argument (Paragraph 1)—Supporting details (Paragraphs 2–4)”. The argument of the passage is that music plays an important part in everyone’s life, as stated in Paragraph 1. To convince readers that “music plays an important part in everyone’s life”, the writer gives supporting details by means of presenting an example, facts and a quote. Note the phrases “for example”, “as a matter of fact” and “it is well said”, all of which indicate the different ways to back up the argument the writer is trying to make.

◆ The best, most beautiful, and most perfect way that we have of expressing a sweet concord of mind to each other is by music. —Jonathan Edward

音乐是人们相互表达美妙和谐的心灵的最佳、最美和最完善的方法。

——乔纳森·爱德华 

Passage 3

Ballet—the Dance of Kings

Read the passage and think:

How do you understand the sentence “Though learning this style of dance is very difficult, the results on stage are magical” in the last paragraph?

Since its first appearance in the 15th century in the courts of European royalty, ballet has become one of the most loved forms of dance. One of the most beloved ballets is *Swan Lake*. First performed in Russia in 1895, it continues to excite audiences around the world today.

The word “ballet” itself is French, and comes from the Italian word *ballo*, meaning “a dance”. Ballet dancing, as we know it today, is a result of influences from many countries. Italy, France, Russia, England, and America have all contributed important parts to this style of dance.

Highly technical, ballet is always performed to music and often tells a story. Though learning this style of dance is very difficult, the results on stage are magical. The graceful moves show the body in the most elegant and beautiful manner possible.

(138 words)

Notes

ballet /'bæleɪ/ *n.* a theatrical performance in which a story is told using artistic dancing and music, but without speech or singing 芭蕾舞

royalty /'rɔɪəltɪ/ *n.* people of the royal family 皇室(王族)成员

Swan Lake 芭蕾舞剧《天鹅湖》，作品创作于1876年。故事取材于俄罗斯古老的童话，由别吉切夫和盖里采尔编剧，是柴科夫斯基最著名的代表作之一。

influence /'ɪnfluəns/ *n.* an effect on sb or sth 影响

graceful /'ɡreɪsful/ *adj.* characterized by beauty of movement, style, form, etc. 优美的；文雅的

elegant /'elɪɡənt/ *adj.* having the qualities of grace and beauty 高雅的；优美的

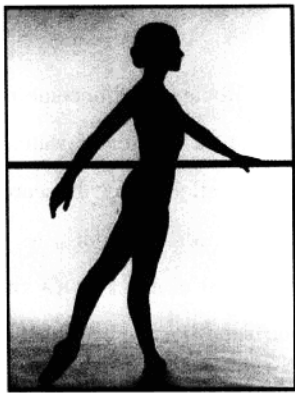


芭蕾——舞蹈之王

自15世纪在欧洲皇室宫廷首次出现,芭蕾已成为最受人们喜爱的一种舞蹈形式。《天鹅湖》是最为人们喜爱的芭蕾舞剧之一。该剧于1895年在俄国首演,至今仍不断牵动着全世界观众的心弦。

“ballet”一词是法语,源自意大利语“ballo”,意即“一种舞蹈”。今天我们所知道的芭蕾舞,是许多国家影响下的产物。意大利、法国、俄国、英国和美国,在许多方面都对这一舞蹈形式作出过重要的贡献。

芭蕾舞总是配合音乐演出,而且常常讲述一个故事,是一种技艺高超的舞蹈。学习这种舞蹈形式非常艰苦,然而舞台上的演出效果却魅力十足。优美的动作尽可能地把优雅绝妙的体态之美展示出来。



Critical Reading 本文鉴赏

As stated in the last paragraph, ballet is highly technical and is always performed to music and often tells a story. Thus, it needs dancers' great efforts and much time to master dancing skills. However, once you gain the skills, the graceful moves show the body in the most elegant and beautiful manner possible when you perform on the stage. That's the reason why the writer says in the last paragraph—"Though learning this style of dance is very difficult, the results on stage are magical".

The passage introduces the popularity of ballet in Paragraph 1. Paragraph 2 is mainly about the origin of today's ballet, and Paragraph 3 is about the characteristics of ballet.

◆ Art is long, and time is fleeting.

艺术是永恒的,时间则是瞬息即逝的。

—Longfellow

——朗费罗

Passage 4

The Effects of Movies

Read the passage and think:

What are the effects of movies on us?

Movies have become more and more popular in our daily life. Many people like to choose to go to a theater or watch movies on TV in their spare time. Have you ever wondered how movies affect you? Research studies show that movies do have an effect on you, for good or ill, in quite different ways.

First of all, movies give you information and add it to your store of knowledge. The films you see affect your ideas of right and wrong more than you may realize. When you see pic-



tures presenting certain kinds of people or certain ideas in either a favorable or an unfavorable light, you usually develop a similar feeling toward them. In addition, movies may also have an effect on your emotions. When you go to the movies, your emotions are stimulated. This is part of the movie magic. Furthermore, film fashions in conduct, speech, and appearance do affect you. So let the things you learn be suited to your own way of living.

(172 words)

Notes

have an effect on 影响

favorable /'feɪvərəbəl/ *adj.* encouraging or approving or pleasing 令人满意的; 表示赞许的

in addition 另外

emotion /'ɪməʊʃən/ *n.* any of the strong feelings of the human spirit 强烈的感情; 情绪; 激情

stimulate /'stɪmjəleɪt/ *v.* to encourage by exciting the mind or interest 激发; 激励



电影的影响

电影在我们的日常生活中越来越受欢迎。许多人喜欢在闲暇时到电影院或在电视上看电影。你曾想过电影是如何影响你的吗?研究表明,不管电影的影响是好是坏,它都会以不同的方式对我们产生影响。

首先,电影向你提供信息,提升了你的知识储备。电影对你的是非观念产生的影响远远超过你能想象的。当你从积极或消极的角度看待电影中的某些人物或观点时,你通常会对这些人物或观点产生类似(积极或消极)的情感。此外,电影也会影响你的情绪。看电影时,你的情绪会受到感染,这就是电影的一种魅力。电影中人物的举止、言语、装扮所引领的潮流也会对你产生影响。让这些你在电影中所学到的东西融入你的生活吧!

Critical Reading 本文鉴赏


The effects of movies on us are stated in three aspects in Paragraph 2 as follows: (1) movies give you information and add it to your store of knowledge, (2) movies may also affect your emotions, and (3) film fashions in conduct, speech, and appearance affect you.

The passage consists of an introductory paragraph (Paragraph 1) and a supporting paragraph (Paragraph 2). The introductory paragraph starts with several sentences to attract readers' attention and then presents the thesis of the passage in the last sentence—research studies show that movies do affect you, for good or ill, in quite different ways. The supporting paragraph gives three points of the effects of movies. Note the phrases with which each supporting point starts, “First of all”, “In addition”, “Furthermore”.

- ◆ Does art reflect life? In movies, yes. Because more than any other art form, films have been a mirror held up to society's porous face.

—Marjorie Rosen

艺术反映生活吗?对电影而言是。比起其他任何艺术形式,电影更像是竖在社会之多样面貌前的一面镜子。

——马乔里·罗森 

Passage 5

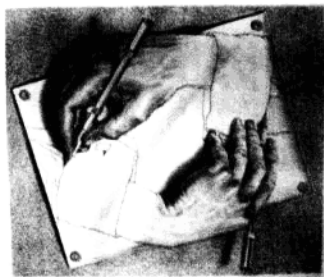
Artists

Read the passage and think:

How do artists say something to the public?

Every artist knows in his heart that he is saying something to the public. Not only does he want to say it well, but he wants it to be something which has not been said before. He hopes the public will listen and understand—he wants to teach them, and he wants them to learn from him.

What visual artists like painters want to say is easy to make out but difficult to explain, because painters translate their experiences into shapes and colors, not words. They seem to feel that a certain choice of shapes and colors, out of the millions possible, is quite interesting for them and worth showing to us.



Most artists take their shapes and colors from the world of nature and from human bodies in movement and at rest. Their choices show that these parts of the world are worth looking at, because they contain beautiful sights. Modern artists might say that they only choose subjects that provide an interesting pattern, and that there is nothing more in it. Yet even they do not choose totally without reference to the character of their subjects.

(188 words)

Notes

visual /'vɪʒʊəl/ *adj.* of or gained by seeing 视觉的

pattern /'pætən/ *n.* a regularly repeated arrangement of lines, shapes, or colours on a surface that has a decorative or pleasing effect 图案

without reference to 与……无关;不论



艺术家

每一位艺术家内心都知道,他在向公众表达某样东西。他不仅希望淋漓尽致地将它表达出来,而且希望他所表达的东西是前所未有的。他希望大家能倾听并理解他——他想教育大家,让大家从他那儿学到东西。

画家之类的视觉艺术家们想要表达的东西很容易创作,但却很难解释,因为画家用形状和色彩来诠释他们的经历,而非语言。他们似乎觉得,他们从无数的形状和色彩中挑选出来的某些形状和色彩对他们特别有意义,并且值得向大家展示。

大多数艺术家从自然界,以及动态和静态的人体中选取形状和色彩。他们的选择表明了世界的这些方面值得人们去关注,因为它们蕴含了美丽的景象。现代艺术家或许会说,他们只会选取有着有趣图案却没有深刻内涵的物体。但是,如果不考虑物体的性质特征,他们甚至无从选择。

Critical Reading 本文鉴赏

Artists say something to the public by translating their experiences into shapes and colors rather than words, as is expressed in Paragraph 2. According to Paragraph 3, most artists choose certain shapes and colors, which they think quite interesting to them and worth showing to the public, from the world of nature and from human bodies in movement and at rest. When choosing shapes and colors, they usually refer to the character of the subjects, which contain beautiful sights.

Paragraph 1 serves as an introduction to the topic of the passage. The main idea is that every artist knows in his heart that he is saying something to the public and wants to teach them. Paragraph 2 is mainly about the fact that artists translate their experiences into shapes and colors, not words. And Paragraph 3 tells us how artists choose shapes and colors. It's important to note that the first sentence in each paragraph serves as the topic sentence of each paragraph.

· 11 ·

- ◆ There are painters who transform the sun to a yellow spot, but there are others who with the help of their art and their intelligence, transform a yellow spot into the sun.

—Picasso

有些画家把太阳画成一个黄斑,但有些画家借助于他们的技巧和智慧把黄斑画成太阳。

——毕加索

