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前言 PREFACE

英语思想家培根说过：阅读使人深刻。阅读的真正目的是获取信息，开拓视野和陶冶情操。从语言学习的角度来说，学习语言若没有大量阅读就如隔靴搔痒，因为阅读中的语言是最丰富、最灵活、最具表现力、最符合生活情景的，同时读物中的情节、故事引人入胜，进而能充分调动读者的阅读兴趣，培养读者的文学修养，至此，语言的学习水到渠成。

“麦格希中英双语阅读文库”在世界范围内选材，涉及科普、社会文化、文学名著、传奇故事、成长励志等多个系列，充分满足英语学习者课外阅读之所需，在阅读中学习英语、提高能力。

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本套图书充分照顾读者的英语学习阶段和水平，从读者的阅读兴趣出发，以难易适中的英语语言为立足点，选材精心、编排合理。

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本套图书注重经典阅读与实用阅读并举。既包含国内外脍炙人口、耳熟能详的美文，又包含科普、人文、故事、励志类等多学科的精彩文章。

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本套图书充分体现了双语阅读的功能和优势，充分考虑到读者课外阅读的方便，超出核心词表的词汇均出现在使其意义明显的语境之中，并标注释义。

鉴于编者水平有限，凡不周之处，谬误之处，皆欢迎批评教正。

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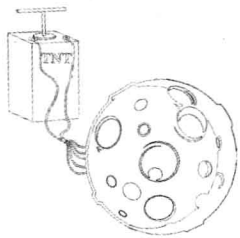
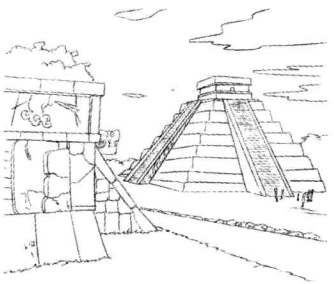


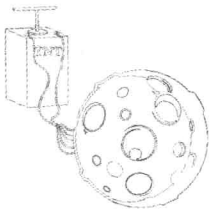


1

Should We Blow Up the Moon?

Most people like the moon just the way it is. They write poems about it. They sing love songs to it. They hold hands under it. But Alexander Abian has a *scheme* that would change all that. He wants to blow up the moon!

Abian is a *mathematics* professor at Iowa State University. He has a bold



Buzz Aldrin stands next to the American flag that the Apollo 11 landing crew placed on the moon in July 1969. If you're set on visiting the moon, perhaps you'd better hurry. If Professor Alexander Abian has his way, the moon won't be around much longer.

引爆月球

桑普勒·巴兹·阿德里安站在1969年7月由阿波罗11号飞船宇航员插在月球上的美国国旗旁边。如果你打算也登上月球的话，那你可得快点了，如果亚历山大·亚比安教授计划成功实现，月球也不会陪我们多久了。

大多数人都喜欢我们现在的月亮。人们写诗歌赞美月亮，对着月亮吟唱情歌，在月光下牵手谈情说爱。但是亚历山大·亚比安却有着一个足以颠覆那一切的计划。他想炸掉月球。

亚比安是美国衣阿华州州立大学的数学教授。他有一个大胆的计划，

scheme *n.* 计划　　mathematics *n.* 数学

plan. First he wants to send some astronauts to the moon. They would drill a huge hole in the moon's surface. Into this hole they would tuck some nuclear *bombs*. After the astronauts are safely out of the way, someone back on Earth would push a remote control button. One second later, the moon would be blown to bits.

Why does Abian want to do this? He thinks it would improve the earth's weather. With the moon out of the way, he says, there would be no more *blizzards* in the Rocky Mountains. There would be no killer typhoons in Asia. Summer heat waves in New York City would end. So, too, would *droughts* in Africa. Not only would bad things end, but good things would start. According to Abian, the deserts and arctic regions would bloom. After we blow up the moon, says the professor, we would have pleasant weather all year long.

首先派送一些宇航员到月球上去，在月球表面上钻一个巨大的洞，再将一些原子弹放进去。在这些宇航员安全离开之后，回到地球的某个人会按下一个远程控制按钮。一秒钟过后，月球就会被炸成碎片。

为什么想这么做呢？他认为这样可以改善地球的气候。他说，如果是除去了月球，洛基山就不会再有暴风雪，亚洲也不会再有害人的台风，纽约市的夏季热流会终止，非洲的旱灾也会消失。据亚比安所言，沙漠和极地都会有鲜花绽放。这位教授说，在炸掉月球之后，我们就会享有全年的好天气。

bomb *n.* 炸弹
blizzard *n.* 暴风雪
drought *n.* 干旱

What does the moon have to do with snowstorms in Denver or floods in Bangladesh? Plenty, says Abian. The moon's gravity pulls on the earth. That tug keeps the earth tilted at a 23½-degree angle. And that's the problem. It is this *tilt* that gives us our seasons. The side of the earth tilted toward the sun has summer and sweltering weather. The side tilted away from the sun has winter and chilling cold.

Now suppose we blow up the moon. According to Abian, the earth would then lose its 23½-degree tilt. The amount of sunlight would no longer change with the seasons. It would be the same all year long. "*Perpetual* spring!" promises Abian.

So why haven't we blown up the moon? Most people like having it around. More than a dozen countries like it so much they have put

那么，月亮与丹佛的暴风雪或是孟加拉国的洪涝水灾又有什么关系呢？据亚比安说，这其中关系甚大。月球的重力吸引着地球，吸引力使地球保持23½度角的侧倾。这就是问题所在。正是这个倾斜角让我们有了现在的一年四季。地球倾向太阳的一面是夏季，有着酷热的天气；另一面是冬季，有的则是刺骨的寒冷。

假设我们现在已经炸掉了月球。根据亚比安的设想，地球即会失去那23½的倾斜。太阳光的热量也就不会因季节而变，而会全年如一。如亚比安所言，人们将拥有"永恒的春天！"

但是我们为什么至今还没炸掉月球呢？是因为大多数人都喜欢它的存在和陪伴。十几个国家甚至把它画在了国旗上。对这点，亚比安很清楚。

tilt *n.* 倾斜　　perpetual *adj.* 永恒的

Why, he asks, do we have to accept the solar system the way it is? Why can't we move things around? Abian has some other ideas as well. He would like to change the *orbit* of Venus. It's too close to the sun, he says. Temperatures on Venus are a toasty 900°F. Abian thinks we should move Venus away from the sun. That would cool the planet and perhaps make it fit for human life. How does Abian recommend we move Venus? "We can shoot it with *rockets*," he suggests.

No one is holding his or her breath waiting for these things to happen. Even Abian knows that other scientists think his ideas are a bit strange. "I don't think [anything will happen] in my lifetime or in my children's lifetime," he says. "But I want to plant the seed."

为什么我们必须接受太阳系本来的面貌？为何我们就不能改变些什么？他还有其他的想法，试图改变金星的轨道。他说，金星离太阳太近了，它的温度足有华氏900度之高。他认为我们可以把金星从太阳旁边移开。那样可以使这个星球冷却下来，或许可以让他成为适于人类生息的第二家园。那么，亚比安是如何建议我们移动金星的呢？他建议“我们可以用火箭向它发射。”

不会有人屏住呼吸等待这些事情发生。甚至他自己都知道大多数科学家认为他的设想有些离奇。他却说：“我不认为在我的有生之年或者我孩子的生命里，我的设想会成为现实，但我还是想播下这颗科学的种子。”

orbit *n.* 轨道　　rocket *n.* 火箭

2

The Mysterious life of Twins

Jim Lewis was an identical twin. But he hadn't seen his brother since birth. The two boys were ***adopted*** by different families. They knew nothing about each other. Yet when they were brought together in 1979 after 39 years, something ***spooky*** seemed to be going on. For one thing, both boys had been named

Scientists have been exploring the relationship between twins for many years. They have studied pairs of twins who grew up together and other pairs who were separated at birth. They have come up with some remarkable findings.

双胞胎的奥秘

多年来，科学家们一直在探究双胞胎之间的关系。他们研究生活在一起的双胞胎和一出生就被分开的双胞胎，科学家有了惊人的发现。

吉姆·路易斯是同卵双胞胎之一，但自出生以来和他的兄弟就从未谋面。两个男孩被不同的家庭收养，因此他们对彼此一无所知。然而在39年后的1979年，当他们被带到一起的时候，一些神秘的事情似乎正在发生。首先，他们都叫詹姆斯，小名都是吉姆，小的时候，他们俩各自养的宠物狗又都叫托尼。

adopt *v.* 收养　　spooky *adj.* 怪异的；不可思议的

grew up together. They saw the same people. They learned to like the same things. But that is not the case with the "Jim" twins. They did not grow up together. They knew nothing about each other when they bought cars, named their sons, and picked out beaches.

In the 1980s a man named Thomas J. Bouchard, Jr., took a closer look at twins. He found other sets of identical twins who had lived apart since birth. Among them were Daphne Goodship and Barbara Hebert. Like the "Jim" twins, these women had not seen each other for 39 years. Bouchard *arranged* for them to meet in London, England. At that meeting, Daphne and Barbara showed up wearing the same kind of clothes! Both had chosen a light brown dress and brown *velvet* jacket.

As the two women compared notes, they found they were alike in many ways. Both had the *weird* habit of pushing up their noses.

人，从小开始喜欢同样的事物。但这两个吉姆却不是那样。他们并没有一起长大。在他们买车，给儿子取名或是选择沙滩去度假时，他们并不知道对方的存在。

在20世纪80年代，一个叫小托马斯·布查德的人对双胞胎作了比较深入的研究。他找到了其他几对从出生就分开生活的同卵双胞胎。其中有达夫妮·古德希普和巴巴拉·赫伯特一对，像吉姆双胞胎一样，这两位女士39年来从未听说过对方，布查德安排两人在英国伦敦会面。见面时，达夫妮和巴巴拉竟然以同样的装束出现，她们都选择了淡棕色的长裙和棕色的丝绒夹克。

随着两位女士的相互比较，她们发现在很多方面都有相似之处。她们都有向上推鼻子的癖好，都是16岁时在当地的舞会上与丈夫邂逅，都生了

arrange *v.* 安排　　velvet *n.* 丝绒

weird *adj.* 异乎寻常的；不可思议的

would have guessed. None of them had been in touch with his or her twin growing up. So what led them to make so many of the same choices in life? Some people think twins can communicate with each other in *mysterious* ways. Ron and Rod Fuller are identical twins from Dallas, Texas. They say each can tell when the other one is in trouble. Explains Rod, "There is a certain *bond* that we have for one another that I think all twins have."

Other twins agree. Andreina and Andreini McPherson grew up in Chino Hills, California. They say they, too, can each tell how the other is feeling. In fact, they claim, they can feel each other's pain. When one of them is hurt, the other one can feel the injury.

If that is true, then maybe twins raised apart can also communicate in special ways. Did the twins from Bouchard's study send each other messages for years without knowing it? Perhaps.

成长过程中从来没有接触或联系过彼此。那是什么让他们在生活中作出了如此之多的相同决定呢？一些人认为双胞胎之间可以以某种神秘的方式沟通。朗·福勒和罗德·福勒是来自得克萨斯的达拉斯的一对同卵双胞胎。在他们俩之间，当一个有难时，另一个就能知道。罗德解释道："我们之间有着一种所有双胞胎共有的联系。"

其他的双胞胎也都赞同。安德雷那·麦克弗森和安德里尼·麦克弗森在加州的奇诺山长大。他们说他们也能够知道另外一个人的感受。事实上，他们声称，他们能感到彼此的痛楚。当一个人受伤，另外一个可以感到伤痛。

如果那是真的话，或许被分开养大的双胞胎也应该能以某种特殊方式沟通。莫非布查德研究中的双胞胎们多年来都一直无意识地给对方传送讯息？也许吧。但或许终究是基因导致了这一切。1988年，大卫·特普里

mysterious *adj.* 神秘的　　bond *n.* 结合

But it may be that the answer lies in the genes, after all. In 1988 Dr. David Teplica began to study twins. He took pictures of six thousand pairs of identical twins. He found some amazing things. These twins had ***freckles*** in the same spots. They got gray hairs at the same time and in the same places on their heads. Their faces got the same wrinkles. They even got ***pimples*** on their noses on exactly the same day! To Dr. Teplica, there was just one way to explain all this. Genes had to be controlling these events.

It's hard to believe we are born with genes that control when and where we get pimples. But that may be the case. Thomas Bouchard says his work also points to the power of genes. He believes genes explain many of the "coincidences" among the twins he studied. So who knows? Maybe there really is a gene that tells us what kind of car to buy.

卡医生开始研究双胞胎。他给6000对同卵双胞胎拍了照，发现了一些惊人之处。这些双胞胎竟在同样位置上长雀斑，在头上的同样地方同时长灰头发。他们脸上长着同样的皱纹。甚至他们的鼻子竟然在同一天长粉刺。对特普里卡医生来讲，只有一种方法可以解释这一切，一定是基因在控制着这些。

有基因决定我们何时何处长粉刺实在令人太难以置信。但那可能恰恰就是真相。托马斯·布查德说，他的研究也指向了基因的力量。他相信基因正好可以解释他研究中的许多"巧合"。天知道，或许真有某种基因决定我们去买哪款车呢。

freckle *n.* 雀斑　　pimple *n.* 丘疹；脓疱

3

Is the Earth Alive?

Imagine drilling a hole eight miles deep. That's what Arthur Conan Doyle described in his short story titled "*When the World Screamed*." In Doyle's story, drilling that hole turned out to be a bad idea. As the hole got deeper and deeper, the earth began to *howl* in pain.

How can we tell that something is alive? It reacts to its surroundings, and if it senses danger it runs away or defends itself. It responds to food and light. It does what it can to keep itself alive. Can Earth itself be classified as a living being? Some scientists think so.

地球母亲

我们如何才能肯定地说一个事物是活的？它对周围的环境有反应，一旦察觉出危险，便会逃跑或自卫。对光和食物能作出反应，尽其所能维持自己的生命。地球可以被划归为这类有生命的活物吗？一些科学家认为是这样的。

想象一下，我们钻挖一个8英里深的洞。那是亚瑟·柯南道尔在他的短篇小说《当地球在尖叫》中所描述的。在柯南道尔的故事中，挖那个洞结果看来并不是好主意。随着洞越挖越深，地球便开始疼痛地哭起来。

howl *v.* 咆哮；号叫

anything as large and ***apparently*** [dead] as the Earth is alive." Yet that's how Lovelock sees it. And he's not the first one to look at things this way. A German scientist named Gustav Fechner (1801-1887) thought everything was alive.

Fechner believed that all planets have a life of their own. In fact, he claimed, a ***planet*** is a higher form of life than you and I. As proof, Fechner noted that the earth doesn't have arms and legs. Why? According to Fechner, the earth doesn't need them. The planet Earth already has everything it desires. Human beings, on the other hand, are not born with everything they need. They must find ways to feed and shelter themselves. So they have had to develop arms and legs in order to do that.

书，9年后他又写了《地球母亲的年龄》。拉夫洛克说，你或许觉得要相信像地球这样巨大且明显没有生命的事物是活的还非常困难，然而那正是拉夫洛克的想法。而且，他并非是第一个抱有这种观点的人。一位名叫古斯特·芬切纳（1801—1887）的德国科学家认为一切都是活的。

芬切纳相信一切星球都有自己的生命。他声称，星球实际上是一种比你我都高级的生命体。芬切纳以地球没有四肢为据。为什么呢？根据他的说法，那是因为地球不需要四肢。地球已经拥有了它所渴求的一切。而人类却并不是生来就具备他们所需要的一切。他们必须想办法不让自己饿肚子，想办法遮避风雨。为了完成这些事，他们必须进化发展四肢。

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apparently *adv.* 显然地　　planet *n.* 行星

Fechner's weird view didn't catch on during his lifetime. Other scientists simply ignored him. They went on thinking of the earth as a mixture of *lava*, rocks, water, soil, and plants. To be sure, these scientists said, the earth is a wonderful place. But it is not "alive" in any true sense of the word.

Then along came Lovelock. His bold views caught many people's attention. Even some scientists became interested in Gaia. Lovelock says Gaia is based on one key principle. It is this: Living things and the earth have a direct effect on each other. At first, that might not sound like a shocking idea. After all, it is clear that the earth affects life. There is no argument here. People who live in the cold mountains do things one way. Those who live in the warm *tropics* do

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芬切纳的奇异论调在他的有生之年并未能够立住脚。其他科学家忽视了他的学说。他们继续视地球为一个集熔岩、岩石、水、土壤和植被一体的混合体。这些科学家们说，我们确定地球是个美妙的胜地，但从任何实在的意义上讲，它并没有"活着"。

之后，拉夫洛克的大胆理论受到了很多人士的关注。甚至一些科学家也对道尔提起了兴趣。拉夫洛克说道尔的设想是构建在一个主要核心原理之上的，即：生物体和地球对彼此都有直接的影响。最初那听起来并不是个多么令人震惊的想法。毕竟，地球对生命体施加影响是再明确不过的，这一点毋庸质疑。住在寒冷山区的人们以一种方式生活，住在热带地区的

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lava *n.* 火山岩浆；火山岩

tropic *n.* 热带