

ACT 阅读

30天速成真经

Original Test Bible for ACT
Reading in 30 Days



考天下学习网 编

美国大学 入学考试, 30天学习计划名师指导

选材科学, 习题丰富, 紧扣ACT阅读考试内容

NO.1


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内 容 提 要

本书包括四个方面:ACT 阅读高分攻略、ACT 阅读分类练习、ACT 阅读文章精读精练和 ACT 考试必备散文精选。每篇练习都配有答案和详细的试题讲解,精读部分更是附有词汇冲浪、长难句解析以及精美译文。通过本书的练习,广大考生能够快速掌握 ACT 阅读考试特点和应试技巧,并能够在短时间内迅速提高自己的应试能力。

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ACT阅读30天速成真经

学习计划

对于任何一个参加英语类考试的考生来说,要想在阅读上获得理想的成绩,如若没有一个合理的复习计划,无异于痴人说梦。只有经过反复练习,把握住技巧并经过认真总结,才能向着高分甚至满分突破。因此,考生只要从头到尾将本书四个部分的内容按照科学的时间认真完成,定能在考试中收获成功。

第1天:ACT阅读高分攻略

通过对该部分内容的了解和掌握,考生能够对ACT考试的整体框架有一个宏观的把握,并熟悉ACT阅读技巧,做到心中有数。

第2~11天:ACT阅读分类练习

该部分练习包括散文小说 Prose Fiction(8篇)、社会学 Social Science(8篇)、人文学 Humanities(8篇)、自然科学 Natural Science(9篇)。这部分内容占全书的35%,需要每天阅读3~4篇。

第12~22天:ACT阅读文章精读精练

该部分内容分为文学评论、地质学、考古学、散文小说、社会学、生物学、科学、心理学等,融合了ACT考试阅读所涉及的所有分类。这部分内容占全书的45%,需保证每天阅读3~4篇。

科学阅读先读什么 ACT

第 23~30 天:ACT 考试必备散文精选

该部分内容是 ACT 散文阅读,所选文章均经过了精挑细选,符合 ACT 阅读真题的特点,这部分内容占全书的 20%,需要每天阅读 2~3 篇。

本书的散文选编力求做到“精、准、新、活”,所选文章均出自 ACT 官方题库,且经过精心挑选,符合 ACT 阅读真题的特点。本书的散文选编力求做到“精、准、新、活”,所选文章均出自 ACT 官方题库,且经过精心挑选,符合 ACT 阅读真题的特点。

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ACT 考试全称“American College Testing”，即美国的高考，是美国大学本科的入学条件之一，也是奖学金发放的重要依据之一，所有美国 4 年制大学及学院均接纳 ACT 的成绩。ACT 考试包括四个部分：文章改错、数学、阅读和科学推理。本书内容主要针对阅读这一部分。

ACT 阅读部分考试时间为 35 分钟，需要读完 4 篇文章，每篇 10 道题目，共 40 题。就题材而言，分 4 类：小说(Prose Fiction)、社会科学(Social Science)、人文(Humanities)、自然科学(Natural Science)。其中，小说来自英美作家作品的节选。社会科学取材于人类学、考古学、传记、经济、教育、地理、历史、政治、心理学等。人文类文章多涉及建筑学、艺术、舞蹈、电影、文学评论、传记、音乐、随笔、哲学、电视等。自然科学类一般包括天文学、生物学、化学、地质学、医学、物理学等方面的内容。单从涉及面之广来看，ACT 阅读考试的难度可见一斑。

《ACT 阅读 30 天速成真经》正是为了解决广大考生实际存在的问题编写而成的，是 ACT 阅读的权威练习辅导用书。本书具有以下特点：

1. 编写科学合理

从分类练习到文章精读，最后是散文精选，层层推进，内容科学。

2. 选材全面得当

所编内容包括文学评论、地质、考古、散文、小说等，题材广泛，涵盖了 ACT 阅读考试选材的所有方面。

3. 完全依照真题模式

根据历年考试真题，总结 ACT 考试常见题型，并配以详细解析，使广大考生知其然，并知其所以然。通过系统科学的训练和讲解，引导考生掌握一套良好的阅读方法和技巧，轻松应考，铸就辉煌。

4. 内容丰富

每篇精读文章后都配有词汇冲浪和长难句解析，考生可以通过精读练习增加词汇量，完善语法知识体系。每篇文章还配有精美的译文，以供考生参考。

我们的初衷是想奉献给读者一本讲解全面、结构清晰、层次分明、逻辑有序的 ACT 阅读参考教材，诚挚希望本书能对广大 ACT 考生在出国求学奋斗的道路上提供有力的帮助和支持，能够协助与激励大家更好更快地成功走向世界，创造人生新的辉煌。但毕竟水平有限，所以我们真诚希望广大读者以及各界人士能对本书的不足之处提出宝贵意见和建议，我们当虚心改正，精益求精。

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第一章

ACT 阅读高分全攻略

ACT 考试是美国大学本科的入学条件之一,也是奖学金发放的重要依据之一。由 ACT 公司主办。ACT 考试分为四个部分:文章改错(English),数学(Math),阅读(Reading)和科学推理(Science Reasoning)。另外,作文为选考。

阅读文章在考试中出现的形式比较多样,既考单篇、又考双篇,既考长篇、又考短篇;而 ACT 阅读文章在考试中仅出现一种,就是单篇。ACT 每一次考试的阅读部分,都是四篇长度几乎一致的文章:第一篇稍长,900~1000 字左右;第二篇到第四篇的长度均在 600~800 之间,篇幅长度很整齐。不但文章有这样整齐的特点,题目的出现也很一致。每一篇文章出 10 道题目,阅读部分四篇文章一共出 40 个题目,固定不变。

阅读部分的选材一般在四个方面,自然科学、社会科学、散文小说和人文学科。社会科学主要包括人文学、考古学、传记、商务、经济、教育、地理、历史等方面;自然科学包括解剖学、天文学、生物学、植物学、化学、生态学等方面;散文和小说大致是完整的短篇故事或短篇小说和长篇故事的节选。这四类题材出现的顺序也是固定的:第一篇比较长的文章必定是小说,然后是社科,人文和自然科学。文章题材如此的固定,对我们平时大量阅读积累阅读能力是非常有指导作用的:我们可以只读这四种题材,更有针对性、也更高效地锻炼阅读能力。

ACT 阅读部分每篇文章固定出 10 个题目,题型及各种题型所占比例相对固定。然而 ACT 阅读题目的题干上带行号的不多,也就是说,可以直接定位回去读考点的定位题不多。主旨题是问文章的主旨或主题,运用结构阅读法就能够解决。但分散细节就提高了难度:一是题干上没有任何可以定位的提示,我们不能直接或间接地找到答案点,二是这类题的答案分散在文章的多个地方,如果漏读一句就可能做错。所以,这类题是 ACT 阅读中最不好搞定的题目。

根据 ACT 阅读的固定化题型,就 ACT 的考察对象而言,可以大致分为三类。

1. 直接事实题

这类题目一般是就文中所给出的信息进行提问,考生只要找到正确的对应处,并作同义转换即可。

原文:“The revisionist interpretation, which I support, does not enshrine dinosaurs as paragons of intellect, but it does maintain that they were not small brained after all. They had the “right-sized” brains for reptiles of their body size.”

译文:我所支持的修正主义者的解释,就是不把恐龙视为智力的模范,但是也主张他们毕竟不是小脑。对他们这种身形的爬行动物来说,他们的脑的大小正好合适。

题目: According to the passage, what is the revisionist interpretation concerning the relationship between intelligence and physical size?

- A. Dinosaurs actually had relatively large brains.
- B. Dinosaurs were paragons of intellect.
- C. Dinosaurs were relatively small brained.
- D. Dinosaurs' brains were appropriately sized.

答案: D

分析: 直接事实题根据文章内容,做直接的同义转换,此处将 right-sized 改写为 appropriately sized,属于正确改写。而 A 选项将其改写为 relatively large,不正确。

注意: 直接事实类题常见错误选项的特点为故意丢失 not,如 B 选项中的 paragons of intellect 与文章相同,但是丢失了 not,因此具有一定迷惑性。同样,C 选项中的 small brained 也与文章完全相同,但也故意丢失了 not。

2. 举例作用题

此类题目一般会就文中给出的举例进行提问,需要考生回答此例在文中所起的作用。

原文: "Government is so technical that even career civil servants cannot explain what is happening. In 1978 I attended a seminar on federal estate and gift tax, where the Internal Revenue Service lawyers responsible for this area frankly confessed that they did not understand the Tax Reform Act of 1976."

译文: 政府是如此的有技术含量以至于甚至连公务员都不能解释正在发生着什么。1978年,我出席了一个联邦资产税收的研讨会,在这里负责的美国国内税局的律师坦白地承认到,他们不明白 1976 年的税收改革法案。

题目: The author uses the description of the tax seminar in 1978 to make the point that some governmental issues are: _____.

- A. so technical that not even career civil servants can understand them
- B. so technical that only career civil servants can understand them
- C. more technical than they used to be before the passage of the Tax Reform Act
- D. too technical for anyone other than an Internal Revenue Service tax lawyer to understand

答案: A

分析: 作者在文中描述一个例子的作用就是为了证明一个结论,所以,举例作用题的答案为例子之前或之后的结论句。一般,由 for example 开头的例子,结论句在之前。如果例子结束后出现 therefore,则 therefore 之后为结论句。本题结论句在例子之前,即 Government is so technical that even career civil servants cannot explain what is happening. 通过同义改写,得到 A 选项。B 选项错误原因依然是故意丢失 not。

注意: 举例作用题常见错误选项为选项中重现例证中原文,比如此题的 C, D 选项中出现的 Tax Reform Act 和 Internal Revenue Service。

3. 推论题

此类题目与直接事实题不同,不是就文中的信息进行直接的提问,而是考查作者所写的某处内容实际暗示了什么。

原文：“The remarkable thing about dinosaurs is not that they became extinct, but that they dominated the earth for so long...”

“People, on this criterion, are scarcely worth mentioning—5 million years perhaps since Australopithecus, a mere 50,000 for our own species, Homo sapiens...”

译文：恐龙最著名的一件事情不是他们灭绝了，而是他们占据了地球如此之长的时间。人类，在这种标准下，根本不值一提——大概 5 百万年前的南方古猿，仅仅 5 万年前的我们自己的物种，智人。

题目：In the context of the passage, what does the author mean when he states that “people...are scarcely worth mentioning” (lines 81-82)?

- A. Compared to the complex social behavior of dinosaurs, human behavior seems simple.
- B. Compared to the longevity of dinosaurs, humans have been on earth a very short time.
- C. Compared to the size of dinosaurs, human seem incredibly small.
- D. Compared to the amount of study done on dinosaurs, study of human behavior is severely lacking.

答案：B

分析：解答推论题时方法如下：

- ① 如果定位句位于段首，或定位句后有冒号，破折号时，往后找答案。
- ② 如果定位句中有 this 等代词时，则往前找答案。
- ③ 如果定位句既位于段首，句中又有代词，则同时读句前和句后，并作比较，得出答案。此题属于第三种情况，读上文，知“恐龙占据地球的时间如此之长”；读下文，得“人类，在这种标准下，不值一提”。两者相比，人类在地球上的生存时间比恐龙短，所以正确答案选 B。

注意：灵活应用“竖读选项法”，此题中选项开头相同，可通过竖读选项，快速得到各选项的关键词，以方便解题。

以上介绍的便是常见的三种 ACT 阅读题型，三种解法异中有同，均符合一条原则，即所有答案一定可以在原文中找到，切不可作任何联想。

在做 ACT 阅读题目时，不要按照托福阅读的方法做题，一篇文章从头到尾读一遍，读完之后再开始做题，这样回过头来会发现题里问的东西已经忘掉了，脑子里根本就没有印象，不利于节省做题时间。阅读部分有时一个出题点很可能是在因果词、逻辑关系词，找到这个做题点后答案就会清晰很多，做题速度也就提高了。ACT 考试里的小说题材的阅读文章基本上会从一个很长的小说里节选，有时候还是用古英语，考生以为自己读懂了，做题时感觉很好，出来一看都错了，所以建议大家最后做小说类型的阅读，把 35 分钟全力放在其他 3 篇文章。

最后总结一下：

- ① 练习很重要，别不相信题海战术，但要有方法的题海战术。
- ② 基础很重要，但方法和技巧也很重要。
- ③ 时间是 ACT 最大的挑战，练习时一定要严格按时间来。
- ④ 注意规律的总结，要有自己对 ACT 各部分的认识。

第二章

ACT 阅读分类练习

第一节 Prose Fiction

Passage 1

In November Harry Bellamy, tall, broad, and brisk, came down from his Northern city to spend four days. His intention was to settle a matter that had been hanging fire since he and Sally Carrol had met in Asheville, North Carolina, in midsummer. The settlement took only a quiet afternoon and an evening in front of a glowing open fire, for Harry Bellamy had everything she wanted; and, besides, she loved him—loved him with that side of her she kept especially for loving. Sally Carrol had several rather clearly defined sides.

On his last afternoon they walked, and she found their steps tending half-unconsciously toward one of her favorite haunts, the cemetery. When it came in sight, gray-white and golden-green under the cheerful late sun, she paused, irresolute, by the iron gate.

“Are you mournful by nature, Harry?” she asked with a faint smile.

“Mournful? Not I.”

“Then let’s go in here. It depresses some folks, but I like it.”

They passed through the gateway and followed a path that led through a wavy valley of graves—dusty-gray and mouldy for the fifties; quaintly carved with flowers and jars for the seventies; ornate and hideous for the nineties, with fat marble cherubs lying in sodden sleep on stone pillows, and great impossible growths of nameless granite flowers. Occasionally they saw a kneeling figure with tributary flowers, but over most of the graves lay silence and withered leaves with only the fragrance that their own shadowy memories could waken in living minds.

- They reached the top of the hill where they were fronted by a tall, round headstone, freckled with dark spots of damp and half grown over with vines.
- (25) “Margery Lee,” she read; “1844~1873. Wasn’t she nice? She died when she was twenty-nine. Dear Margery Lee,” she added softly. “Can’t you see her, Harry?”
- “Yes, Sally Carroll.”
- He felt a little hand insert itself into his.
- (30) “She was dark, I think; and she always wore her hair with a ribbon in it, and gorgeous hoop-skirts of alice blue and old rose.”
- “Yes.”
- “Oh, she was sweet, Harry! And she was the sort of girl born to stand on a wide, pillared porch and welcome folks in. I think perhaps a lot of men went
- (35) away to war meaning to come back to her; but maybe none of ’em ever did.”
- He stooped down close to the stone, hunting for any record of marriage.
- “There’s nothing here to show.”
- “Of course not. How could there be anything there better than just ‘Margery Lee,’ and that eloquent date?”
- (40) She drew close to him and an unexpected lump came into his throat as her yellow hair brushed his cheek.
- “You see how she was, don’t you, Harry?”
- “I see,” he added gently. “I see through your precious eyes. You’re beautiful now, so I know she must have been.”
- (45) Silent and close they stood, and he could feel her shoulders trembling a little. An ambling breeze swept up the hill and stirred the brim of her floppy hat.
- “Let’s go down there!”
- She was pointing to a flat stretch on the other side of the hill where along
- (50) the green turf were a thousand grayish-white crosses stretching in endless, ordered rows like the stacked arms of a battalion.
- “Those are the Confederate dead,” said Sally Carroll simply.
- They walked along and read the inscriptions, always only a name and a date, sometimes quite indecipherable.
- (55) “The last row is the saddest—see, way over there. Every cross has just a date on it, and the word ‘Unknown.’”
- She looked at him and her eyes brimmed with tears.
- “I can’t tell you how real it is to me, darling—if you don’t know.”
- “How you feel about it is beautiful to me.”
- (60) “No, no, it’s not me, it’s them—that old time that I’ve tried to have live in me. These were just men, unimportant evidently or they wouldn’t have been ‘unknown’; but they died for the most beautiful thing in the world—the dead South. You see,” she continued, her voice still husky, her eyes, glistening with

tears, “people have these dreams they fasten onto things, and I’ve always grown
 (65) up with that dream. It was so easy because it was all dead and there weren’t any
 disillusionments comin’ to me. I’ve tried to live up to those past standards of *noblesse
 oblige*—there’s just the last remnants of it, you know, like the roses of an old
 garden dying all round us—streaks of strange courtliness and chivalry in some of
 (70) these boys and in stories I used to hear from a Confederate soldier who lived next
 door, and a few old folks. Oh, Harry, there was something, there was
 something! I couldn’t ever make you understand, but it was there.”

“I understand,” he assured her again quietly.

Sally Carrol smiled and dried her eyes on the tip of a handkerchief
 protruding from his breast pocket.

(75) “You don’t feel depressed, do you, lover? Even when I cry I’m happy here,
 and I get a sort of strength from it.”

Hand in hand they turned and walked slowly away. Finding soft grass she
 drew him down to a seat beside her with their backs against the remnants of a
 low broken wall.

(80) “Wish those three old women would clear out,” he complained. “I want to
 kiss you, Sally Carrol.”

“Me, too.”

They waited impatiently for the three bent figures to move off, and then
 she kissed him until the sky seemed to fade out and all her smiles and tears to

(85) vanish in an ecstasy of eternal seconds.

- It is reasonable to infer from the passage that the *matter* referred to in line 2 pertains to: _____.
 - rumors that Harry had heard about Sally’s romances
 - reasons that Sally had been in Asheville
 - the question of Sally and Harry’s future together
 - something that Sally had said to Harry last summer
- The narrator indicates that Sally loves Harry because: _____.
 - he is good-looking, masculine, and energetic
 - he possesses all the qualities she wanted in a boy
 - he is different from the boys she knew in her hometown
 - he has come on his own to visit her for four days
- As it is used in the passage (line 11) the word *irresolute* most nearly means: _____.
 - hesitant
 - thoughtful
 - irrelevant
 - determined
- The details and events in the passage suggest that the relationship between Harry Bellamy and Sally Carrol can most accurately be described as: _____.
 - charitable, as illustrated by their generosity toward others
 - tender, based on their willingness to share intimate feelings
 - selfish, as shown by occasional insensitivity to the needs of the other
 - trusting, as evinced by a shared love of risky adventures

5. Which of the following is NOT included in the narrator's descriptions of the cemetery?
- An ornate stone entrance to the burial ground.
 - An orderly arrangement of graves.
 - Visitors paying their respects to the dead.
 - Carvings on headstones.
6. As she is portrayed in the passage, Sally can best be described as _____.
- generous and considerate
 - high-strung and nervous
 - morbid and depressed
 - sentimental and compassionate
7. Given evidence throughout the passage, Margery Lee is most likely: _____.
- a spinster who died in childbirth
 - an obscure ancestor of Sally's
 - an idealized figure imagined by Sally
 - a well-known celebrity from the past
8. Sally weeps for all of the following reasons EXCEPT: _____.
- the passing of the old South
 - the anonymity of the dead soldiers
 - her estrangement from the modern world
 - the realization that she'll never be like Margery Lee
9. While explaining her attachment to the "dead South" (lines 62-63), Sally is most worried that: _____.
- she may burst into tears at any moment
 - Harry will fail to understand
 - Harry will think she is a silly fool
 - she cannot accurately express her emotions
10. It is reasonable to infer from the passage that Harry said, "wish those three old women would clear out" (line 80) because he: _____.
- has more on his mind than just a kiss
 - is uncomfortable about showing affection in public
 - has concerns about Sally's reputation
 - does not want to embarrass the old women


参考答案

1. C Choice D is intriguing, but the passage fails to mention any particular words that Sally had said to Harry last summer. Choice C is supported by which indicate that Sally loved Harry. Indeed, Harry, we are told, has everything that Sally wants in a man, an attitude suggesting that she had at last found her true love. C is the best

- answer. Choice B is unimportant to Harry. Either he already knows why Sally had been in Asheville or he doesn't care. A may be a trap for readers who see Sally as a flirt because she has a side that is "kept especially for loving" (line 7-8). But nothing in the portrait of Sally says that she jumps casually into and out of romances.
2. **G** Choice G paraphrases the very reason that attracts Sally to Harry: he "had everything she wanted." G, therefore, is the best answer. H is a reasonable choice, but the passage includes nothing about her attitude toward hometown boys. F lists qualities that may have turned Sally's head, but there is something more to Harry that captures Sally's affection. J is true but is unrelated to Sally's fondness for Harry.
3. **A** Choice B is a possibility because Sally pauses, perhaps to think things out. Choice D, virtually an antonym of irresolute, make little sense in the context, and C is no better. That leaves A, an answer preferable to B because of the question Sally asks of Harry: "Are you mournful by nature?" She has hesitated at the gate to make certain that Harry will be all right visiting a cemetery. D is the best answer.
4. **J** Choice J is a possibility because Harry and Sally share a mutual trust. The illustrative example, however, disqualifies J as a good answer because there is nothing risky or adventurous about Harry and Sally's stroll through the cemetery. Eliminate H as a reasonable choice because neither Harry nor Sally shows signs of selfishness or insensitivity to others' needs. F is an equally dubious choice. It's true that Sally grows weepy over the Confederate dead, but her feelings don't necessarily reflect a generous nature. That leaves G as the best choice. Indeed, Harry and Sally express affection for each other, especially in the second half of the passage. He tells her, for example, "I see through your precious eyes. You're beautiful now". She calls him "darling" and "lover". Even more to the point are Sally's poignant revelations about her nostalgia for the Old South.
5. **A** Eliminate B because the narrator says that crosses stretch "in endless, ordered rows like the stacked arms of a battalion." D is not a good answer because almost an entire paragraph is devoted to the carvings on gravestones. The reference to kneeling figures with "tributary flowers" rules out C as an answer. Only A is not mentioned in the passage. In fact, the gate to the cemetery is made of iron. A, therefore, is the best answer.
6. **J** Choice F has promise because Sally is neither ungenerous nor inconsiderate. But the absence of unfavorable traits doesn't necessarily prove the existence of favorable opposites. Choice H may also have appeal because Sally's obsession with dead soldiers suggests a kind of morbidity. Whether she is depressed, however, is questionable. Note that she says, "It depresses some folks, but I like it." J most accurately captures Sally's character. She revels in nostalgia for the Old South and feels acutely for the dead soldiers, especially for the unknowns. J is the best answer. G is the least valid answer; Sally does nothing to suggest that she is neurotic.

7. **C** Choice C fits Sally's propensity to empathize with the "dead South." Indeed, she imagines Margery Lee as the epitome of a Southern belle in both manners and looks. She may, in fact, be describing how she herself would have looked and acted back then. C is the best choice. A is a far cry from anything that Sally has in mind, for a sexual scandal has no place in Sally's thoughts. B could make sense, although there is nothing in the passage to suggest that Margery Lee is kin to Sally. Nor does the passage allude to D.
8. **H** Choice J alludes to Sally's identification with the long-dead Margery Lee. Because Sally's eyes brim with tears after she and Harry come upon the graves of the unknown soldiers, eliminate G. Also rule out F because Sally's eyes glisten "with tears" after explaining to Harry that the soldiers made a sacrifice for "the most beautiful thing in the world—the dead South". Someone stuck in the past may indeed feel alienated from the modern world, but if Sally does feel estranged, nothing in the passage suggests that it causes her to weep. Therefore, H is the best answer.
9. **B** Choice D could not be right; Sally conveys her feelings convincingly; there is no doubt that she is enamored of a time and place that no longer exist. As for A, Sally tends to weep easily. In fact, her eyes brim with tears even before she begins to confide in Harry. Discard E as an answer because Harry's affectionate statement, "How you feel about it is beautiful to me," has already assured her that he accepts her without reservation just as she is. The process of elimination leaves B as the best answer. Indeed, Sally is concerned that Harry may not have grasped the reality of her feelings. Moments later, she declares, "Oh, Harry, there was something... I couldn't ever make you understand, but it was there."
10. **G** Choice G reveals the source of Harry's wish to be alone. G is the best answer. H alludes to something that may be true, but nothing in the passage suggests that the three old women either knew Sally or had the slightest awareness that she and Harry were in the cemetery. J has no merit whatsoever. If anyone were to be embarrassed by the ardent kiss that ends the passage, it would be the lovers, not the old women. F may indeed reflect Harry's innermost desires, but the passage stops short of saying so.

Passage 2

I was once, when riding express, "snowed under" with a famous old pioneer in the great cañon that splits Camas Prairie in two and breaks the monotony of its vast levels.

A wild unpeopled and unknown land it was then, but it has since been made immortal by the unavailing battles of Chief Joseph for the graves of his fathers.