



环球时代  
Greatness can be prepared.

美文读本

Global Times Reader 1

掌握英语从美丽英文开始

# 改变历史进程的 那些美文

*The Words That Change the Course of History*

■ 主编 吴中东 宫玉波

■ 编者 吴中东 王文媛

英汉对照

中国人民大学出版社

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# 写在前面的话

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## 掌握英语从美丽英文开始

同学，当你打开这本小册子的时候，展现在你面前的是篇篇美丽的英语短文。读着这些天籁之声，你会发现它们会同我们心灵深处发出的声音相唱和，从此永远镌刻在你记忆的五线谱上，成为你生命乐章的一部分。

乔姆斯基认为语言是一种能力（competence），与生俱来的能力。这就是为什么当我们用我们母语表达思想时可以随心所欲，自然而然，无需特别考虑语法等这些形式元素（formality），而这些形式元素完全由我们大脑的某个区域在完全无意识的状态下控制，所以语言是下意识甚至是无意识的能力。我们可以设想一个法语为母语的人在讲话前若先思考性一致、数一致、格一致、主谓一致、人称一致、时态一致等这么多内容还如何说话。因此，若要使外语成为我们的第二母语，就必须将外语转变为下意识能力。而达到这一目的的最好路径是背诵美文。

你有可能苦背单词却一无所获，这时你不妨试试美丽英文。比如“desert（动词，放弃）”这个枯燥乏味的词，想让它生动起来吗？吟诵一下散文《青春》（“Youth”），其中有这样一句：“Nobody grows old merely by a number of years. We grow old by deserting our ideals.（世界上没有人是因为岁月的增加而变得衰老。我们衰老了，是因为我们放弃了我们的理想！）”——在语境中体会单词是否别有一番情趣呢？

有的同学经常问“口语怎么练”。我认为，熟背英语美文，会保证你一张口便是地道、漂亮、流畅的英语，经过一段时间你定能出口成章。

关于美文对写作的帮助更不必说了，语言贫乏、无法表达，这是多数同学的

通病。若是背些美文，做到活学活用，把它们变成你自己的，就会在写作时下笔如流了。

背诵美文对阅读也有很大的益处，通过背诵，我们的口语获得“语感”，而语感是英语阅读理解的基础。

同我们的母语中文一样，我们的英语语音练好之后，说起英语就是很好听的、悦耳的。“语音”是说英语的大问题，练好语音的最好办法是“模仿”。有哲人说：“Beauty imitated is beauty created.（模仿美丽即是美丽的再造。）”

背诵的效果一方面取决于你对背诵的认识和背诵的方法，另一方面取决于背诵的文本。时下的大学英语课本选材很少具有可背诵性，内容老旧乏味，有的令人不堪忍受。因此，我们环球时代学校的老师们一起编纂了这套“环球时代美文读本”，所选的文章都是对我们一生的成长过程产生过重要影响的作品。我们把它们奉献给大家，为大家搭起一座通向成功的便捷之桥。

祝大家成功！

——吴中东

附：在本书的编写过程中，我们参考并引用了部分英文篇章的中文译文。由于时间仓促，我们未能与原译者取得联系。在此，我们对原译者表达衷心的感谢，并请原译者及时与我们取得联系。电话：010-62512737，电子邮箱：huangt@crup.com.cn。

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## A Room of His Own

### 自己的小天地

Mary E. Potter

玛丽·E·波特

The Words That Change  
the Course of History

导读

一个人只有在夜深人静的时候，才能体会人生的真谛；一个人只有在独处的时候，才能思考人生的意义。夜深人静，万事万物都已沉寂，思绪才能在思想的银河中徜徉；在独处中，人才能静心冥思，深入透彻理解人生的哲学。

Unmistakable noises are coming through my bedroom wall. Now a scuffling<sup>①</sup>, now a bumping, a long, drawn-out scraping. “John, are you moving furniture in there? Again?” I call. The wall muffles<sup>②</sup> his “yes” but does not filter out of his voice the tinge of excitement.

I am not upset by these impulsive rearrangements, just amused at their frequency. I remember my own feelings when I was 13 as he is — the startling, rapid evolution of body and mind and emotions, the need to invent and reinvent yourself through clothes, hairstyles and the arrangement and decor of your room.

透过我卧室的墙壁清清楚楚地传来嘈杂声。一会儿是拖来拖去的声音，一会儿是嘎登嘎登的撞击声，一会儿是咚咚的重击声，一会儿是拉得长长的尖利的刮擦声。“约翰，你又在倒腾家具啦？”我喊道。隔着墙壁，传来他闷声闷气的回答：“对！”但墙壁并没有过滤掉他话音里的激动。

对他的这些心血来潮的重新布置我并不感到烦乱，只是对他如此频繁地倒腾感到好笑。我还记得我13岁时，和他现在一样大的时候，自己的那些感觉——身体上、心理上和情感上的惊人的、迅速的变化，想通过衣着、发式以及房间的布置和装饰来塑造和重新塑造自我的那种需求。

① scuffle: to fight or struggle confusedly at close quarters 扭打

② muffle: to make a sound quieter or less clear 包裹或覆盖某人[某物](为保暖或保护)

Amid the smothered thuds I remember how much John longed for the privacy of his own domain, how he took me aside two years ago when he was sharing a room with his younger brother, Robert. "Mom," he said, "can I please have a room of my own? I could use Jeff's. He won't mind."

It was true that Jeff had graduated from college that past June and had flown from the nest. But would he mind if the place where he had spent countless hours growing up was yanked out from under him? Would he feel ousted<sup>①</sup> from the family, barred from ever coming home again?

But beyond his feelings, would I mind? That room was so much a part of our lives over the many years that Jeff had been our only child. In it I taught him to read; we constructed architectural wonders out of blocks and set up elaborate desks. It was where Jeff perfected his artwork and struggled with college applications. It was the place where I told him a thousand stories and where we had a thousand talks.

As close as we were, though, the time came when Jeff needed a door between us, a space of his own to grow in. The door to that bedroom would be shut most of the evening, behind it the muffled sound of a radio or the clack of his secondhand manual typewriter as he banged

就在这些闷声闷气、叮叮咚咚的撞击声中，我记起了约翰是多么向往拥有一个自己的小天地。两年前，当时他跟弟弟罗伯特同住一间屋子。他把我拉到一边对我说：“妈妈，求求你，我一个人住间屋子好吗？我可以用杰夫的房间，他不会在意的。”

的确，杰夫在那一年的6月份就已大学毕业，飞离了这个鸟窝。但是，如果猛地一下抽掉他曾经在其中成长和度过许多时光的栖息之处，他会不在意吗？他会不会觉得家里人不要他了并不许他再踏进家门了呢？

还有，除了他的感情以外，我就不会在意吗？在我们只有杰夫这一个孩子的许多年里，那间屋子在我们一家人的生活中占据了多么重要的地位啊！在这间屋子里，我教他认字读书，我们用积木堆出建筑上的奇迹（我们一起摆积木，那些积木简直就是建筑上的奇迹），安放很精巧的书桌。就在这里，杰夫修改过他的一幅幅美术作品，为申请上大学煞费苦心；就在这里，我给他讲过上千个故事；就在这里，我们交谈过上千次（就在这里，我给他讲过无数个故事，无数次我们彼此敞开心扉）。

尽管我们亲密无间，这样一个时刻终于还是来到了：杰夫需要在我们之间隔一扇门，需要一个他自己的成长空间。晚饭后，那间卧室的门多数都是关着的。这扇关闭的门后面总是闷声闷气地传来收音机的声音或是在他那台旧打字机上敲出马

① ousted: to eject from a position or place; force out 驱逐，罢黜

out one of his marathon letters.

I knew those letters to friends must have been filled with thoughts and opinions Jeff did not share with me. His life was spreading into areas that had nothing to do with home and family. I no longer could — or should — know everything about him.

As conscientious parents, we strive to foster independence. But when it happens, when you pause outside that door and look at the blank panels it is always a little unsettling.

It turned out that getting Jeff's permission to change the room was easy. "Of course," he said. "It would be selfish of me to hold on to it." Then his voice softened. "Mom, I won't be living at home again — you know that." Behind his glasses, his eyes were lit with all the love that has passed between us over the years. There were no doors closed here — they had all opened up again.

Then John and I jumped into the task of cleaning out closets and drawers, dispatching all the things Jeff had left behind. Playbills, and **snapshots**<sup>①</sup>, a withered **bouttonniere**<sup>②</sup>, old report cards that stung me with pride, a stack of homemade thank-you cards from the second-grade Spanish class Jeff volunteered to teach.

拉松式的长信时咯嗒咯嗒的响声。

我明白，杰夫从没给我讲过的各种各样的念头和看法都在这些给朋友的信里头。他的生活正在朝着他的家和家人毫不相干的领域扩展。对他的事，我再也——或者说再也不应该，什么都知道了。

作为责任心很强的父母，我们努力培养孩子的独立性。可是一旦他们有了独立性，当你站在关上的门外边看着光秃秃的门板时，心里总是有那么一点不安。

果然，杰夫很爽快地就同意让约翰住他的房间。“当然可以，”他说，“我占着那间屋子不放就太自私了。”然后他的声音柔和下来：“妈妈，我不会再住在家里了，这一点我想你会明白的。”他的眼镜后面，双眼闪烁着这些年来我们之间一直都传递着的爱的光泽（在他的眼镜后面，双眼一直闪烁着光泽，这光泽就是我们一直以来给予彼此的爱）。这时我们之间没有关上的门了，因为它们突然一下子都重新打开了。（我们之间那扇关上的门已经消失了，因为它们突然间一下子全部都打开了。）

接着，约翰和我马上就忙起清理那间屋子里的柜子和抽屉来，把杰夫撂在家里不用的东西都处理掉：剧场节目单、快照、枯萎了的纽扣花、曾经让我得意的心里一阵阵乱跳的学习成绩报告单（曾经让我倍感得意的成绩报告单）、还有一叠小学二年级学生送的手工制作的感谢卡，杰夫给他们义务教过西班牙语。

① **snapshot**: a short description or a small amount of information that gives you an idea of what sth is like 快照

② **bouttonniere**: a flower or small bunch of flowers worn in a buttonhole 纽扣花束

Suddenly, amid all the upheaval my throat caught. There, in a pile of assorted sketches, was a pencil drawing of T-Bird — Jeff's beagle, dead these many years — curled up asleep. Jeff's rendering was so evocative<sup>①</sup> I could almost feel the dear old dog's satiny warm ears. And in that room, with Jeff's things heaped around me, I could almost touch the little boy I knew was gone forever.

But we accept — at least we say we do. All of parenting is a series of letting go by degrees. The child walks and runs and rides a bike; he is stricken with the pangs of first love that we are powerless to kiss away. Then he is driving a car, and we are falling asleep before he gets home, alert, even in our dreams, to the sound of his motor gearing down.

I looked at the room around me and, in my heart, I let it go. To hold on would be, as Jeff said, selfish. Now it was time for John, shouldering through the door with an armload of his things, his eyes bright with the promise of independence, to disappear behind the door. It was time for the letting go to begin again.

突然，就在上下翻腾的忙乱之中，我一下子就哽咽住了。在一大堆各种各样的画稿之中，有一幅用铅笔画的杰夫的小猎兔犬——雷鸟正蜷缩着身子睡觉的画（其中一幅画的是杰夫的小猎兔犬——雷鸟，它正蜷缩着身子在睡觉）。那只狗好多年以前就死了。杰夫的描绘是如此的生动逼真，不禁使我觉得那条可爱的狗那滑溜溜、热乎乎的耳朵似乎伸手可及。就在那个房间里，四面都堆着杰夫的旧物，我觉得几乎可以触摸到那个男孩子，虽然我自己也明白他已经一去不复返了。

但是我们还是接受了这个事实——至少可以说我们这么做了。养育儿女实际上就是一个逐步撒手、放手的过程。小的时候，他先会走，后会跑，再会骑自行车；接着他为初恋而痛苦，这种痛苦是我们无法吻去的；然后他就会开车了，我们都睡着了，他才回家，即使在梦中我们都留意听着他的马达换低速挡的声音。

我环顾着四周的房间，在心底里我已松开了手。正如杰夫所说，抓住不放手是自私的。现在，该轮到约翰了，他两眼闪着独立自主的希望之光，抱着自己的东西，用肩膀顶开门，然后消失在门背后。又到了开始撒手、放手的时候了。

（孙建中 译注）

① evocative: making you think of or remember a strong image or feeling, in a pleasant way 引起回忆的；唤起感情的



## Cloze

## 完形填空

I was staying recently in rather a smart hotel in Melbourne, Australia. No 1 had I got into bed than I became 2 of music coming from the room next to mine. I knocked quite gently on the partition wall to indicate that it was unacceptably loud. I 3, nonetheless, have dropped off to sleep. At 2:00 a.m., I was wide 4 and the music seemed even louder. I walked out into the corridor to get the room number before telephoning the person 5 next door. A sleepy Australian voice replied and I told him 6 no uncertain terms that his music was disgracefully loud.

Another ten minutes 7 the noise was no better. I rang again, even more angry this time. As I appeared to be getting nowhere fast, 8 depression I telephoned the hotel security. The noise seemed to get even worse. I banged more angrily on the wall. Eventually the hotel security man turned 9. He entered my room, walked to the side of the bed and 10 a button. There was silence. All the time it had been my own radio with its loudspeaker by the wall, which had been the cause of the trouble.

Key

1. sooner    2. aware/conscious    3. must    4. awake    5. living    6. in  
7. and    8. in    9. up    10. pressed



## Translation Practices

## 翻译练习

## (1) Textual Translation (篇章翻译)

突然，就在上下翻腾的忙乱之中，我一下子就哽咽住了。在一大堆各种各样的画稿之中，有一幅用铅笔画的杰夫的小猎兔犬——雷鸟正蜷缩着身子睡觉的画。那条狗已经死了好些年了。杰夫的描绘是如此的生动逼真，不禁使我觉得那条可爱的狗那滑溜溜、热乎乎的耳朵似乎伸手可及。就在那个房间里，四面都堆着杰夫的旧物，我觉得几乎可以触摸到那个男孩子，虽然我自己也明白他已经一去不复返了。

## (2) Sentence Translation ( 句子翻译 )

① 子曰：“吾未见好德如好色者也。”

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② 子曰：“语之而不惰者，其回也与！”

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③ 子谓颜渊曰：“惜乎！吾见其进也，未见其止也。”

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### Key 参考译文

(1) Suddenly, amid all the upheaval my throat caught. There, in a pile of assorted sketches, was a pencil drawing of T-Bird — Jeff's beagle, dead these many years — curled up asleep. Jeff's rendering was so evocative I could almost feel the dear old dog's satiny warm ears. And in that room, with Jeff's things heaped around me, I could almost touch the little boy I knew was gone forever.

(2) ① Confucius said, "I've never met anyone who loves virtue as much as he loves beauties."

② Confucius said, "I'm afraid only Yan Hui never gets bored when listening to my speech even one hundred times."

③ Confucius said to Yan Yuan, "What a pity! I've only seen him advancing but never seen him stopping."



## Emulation

美文自己写得出——学生仿写

[illegible]

## The significance of Initiative

We are familiar with the old saying “the winner takes it all”. Of all the characters of a winner, the initiative will be given high priority which brings one’s potential into full play. Once one masters the initiative of his life, whatever field he is involved in, he edges all the contemporaries out of the era. In our daily life, the initiative serves as the lighthouse that guides the marching direction of life, in that one in possession of the priority confirms where he should start from, what he should do, and which result he should achieve.

First things first, a student who commands the initiative will outreaches all the other students of his/her class. Even though universities and their professors offer pedagogical expertise and provide curricula based on appropriate learning goals, realistic

expectations and ongoing evaluation, the outcome is bound to be melancholic given that one doesn't take initiative in discussing, studying and researching. Supposing the student is only bent on duplicating this kind of structure, the tragic result won't be beyond our imagination. However, those who master the initiative often seem to know how to self-educate, what kind of means will be adopted and what one aims to reach. Take Wei Shusheng for example. Mr. Wei is acclaimed as an education reformer, who ranked first among his counterparts and procured greater achievements than others in that he was adept in employing his unique methods to study independently in a positive means.

Additionally, the importance of the initiative can't be emphasized too much in a market competition. If an enterprise expects to occupy a significant position in the socialistic modernization, it is a must to positively grasp the initiative. For one thing, a company that takes the lead in contriving to put forward an important strategic decision will seize the privilege of strengthening the collective force in the domestic and foreign markets. For another thing, an enterprise which prefers to plan for its long-term interests rather than concentrate on the immediate benefits will lead off with the result that the enterprise will turn into the bellwether of the same occupation. Based on what mentioned above, we can come to realize the fact that nothing seems to be more important than the initiative concerning whether a corporation comes off or not.

Finally, it is of great magnitude to give the initiative into full play in the interpersonal relationships, even the relations among nations. As we all know, friendship is no one-sided affair. There can be no friendship without reciprocity. Thus, proactive interaction with people should be given high priority in the course of the formation of a good relationship. A negotiation between two countries is a case in point. When the two warring nations finally came to a ceasefire, a talk between them seemed to be indispensable. In the process of negotiating, one side that enables to dominate the conference will definitely gain the upper hand to the point that the nation benefits a lot.

In conclusion, the initiative belongs to those who clarify their objectives. Only when we firmly grasp the initiative to exploit its functions to the full will the success come before us. No matter what sector we will engage in, studying, working or communicating, we should go to great lengths to seize our priority of life in an active manner.



# A Season for Hymning and Hawing

## 令人赞叹的季节

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The Words That Change  
the Course of History

导读

一年之计在于春，一日之计在于晨。春天的气息带给我们春意盎然，夏天的炎热让我们体会骄阳似火，秋天的清爽给我们笼罩上金色的氛围，冬天的纯洁让我们体会到“瑞雪兆丰年”的喜悦。

Technically, it begins next week. Actually, it began with the epic sigh of relief that could be sensed all over the U.S. right after Labor Day. Even before it arrives, Americans always manage to get into autumn. And no wonder. It is easily the most habitable season of the year.

Indeed, autumn deserves a hymn — and it has received far less tribute than it deserves. True, some mixed notices have come in over the centuries. Horace slandered<sup>①</sup> autumn as a “dread” period — “harvest-season of the Goddess of Death.” He was dead wrong, of course, for as Ovid noted, once he got his mind off sex, autumn is “cum formosissimus annus” — “the fairest season of the year.” Had he lived a

严格按季节来说，秋天要下周才开始。实际上，劳动节一过，在整个美国都可听到一声如释重负的巨大叹息，秋天从此开始了。即使在它来临之前，美国人已在想方设法进入秋天了。这倒不足为奇。因为秋天无疑是一年中最为惬意的季节。

秋天的确值得赞颂。但它所得到的赞颂与它应该得到的却相差甚远。多少个世纪以来，人们对秋天就褒贬不一。贺拉斯诽谤秋天，说它是“可怕的”时期，是“死亡女神丰收的季节”。当然他是大错特错了。正如奥维德所说的，一旦摒弃了性的念头，秋天便是“cum formosissimus annus”——“一年中

① slander: to make a false statement to damage sb's reputation 诽谤；诋毁；中伤