

美国中学生作文选

吕奇恩 马兰 李碌 雪玄 编

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编 者 的 话

本书作者为北京四中等重点学校高级教师。他们在国内外长期从事外语教学的实践中，深深感到外语学习之艰难。

在课堂教学之外，选择必要的外语读本，强化外语语言环境，无疑是巩固提高高中生外语水平的重要途径。

目前市场上英语初级读本易求，高级 TOEFL、GRE 也不难寻，但如何使高中生由初级进入高级的读本（单词量由 4000 进入 30000）却不多见。本书为帮助高中生巩固加强课堂知识，提高拓展英语水平，顺利完成从初级向高级的过渡，搭了一座英语之桥。

本书课文选自作者在国外教学时收集的美国同龄学生的校园习作、论文、散文、小说、诗歌、通讯报道等，题材广泛，体裁新颖，真实地反映了当今西方文化背景及美国社会不同阶层、不同种族人们的思想观念、风俗习惯，有助于学生拓宽知识面，提高英语水平。

课文及文后适当的练习，由浅入深，循序渐进，反复加强学生对英语的全面理解和把握。

本书在编写过程中，得到美国 NMH 中学外事主任 John Durgin，美籍教师 Sarah Pettus，美籍华人施同德先生及夫人费淑芳女士的大力协助，在此一并感谢。

本书作为一种尝试，恳切希望得到读者的指正，以期完善，共同摸索一条适合中国学生学习掌握英语的有效途径。

1996 年 12 月

CONTENTS

PART I FOR ORDINARY STUDENTS

Lesson One

- That Day Shelley Hollis (2)
- Who Cares? John Watkins (9)
- Letters John (9)
- Inviting Friends for Christmas Judy (10)
- To Friend, On a Disappointment Tom Richards (10)
- Apology for Absence Owing to Illness of Relative D. M. Wright (11)

Lesson Two

- The Beauty of the Beast Janine Snow (12)
- Angry Thoughts Matthew Cucchiara (19)
- Man is a Tree Maggie Wetherby (19)
- The Real Story Jen White (20)

Lesson Three

- My Secret Admirer Shana Onigman (22)
- Sometimes Jeff Hilliard (29)
- My Toy Gun Jun He (30)
- My Home a Visiting Place Nakyoung (31)

Lesson Four

- Home Sweet Home Aubrey Burhart (33)
- Echo Derek Dailey (38)
- The Debate Yen Chun (38)
- Confession of a Rotting Person Oscar Jencquel (40)

Lesson Five

- (I) Baby Love Lindsay Denerstein (42)
- (I) A Bad Week Katie Toohey (42)
- (II) A Single Word Michelle Tham (43)
- Life Rebecca Glogowski (49)

He Hit Me, So I Hit Him Back	Shienny Sutanto (49)
When I Understood	Ded Chinsupakul (50)

Lesson Six

Ali	Janie Bleiweiss (52)
Generation	Hannah Flynn (58)
The Broken Heart	Monica Lee (59)
The Horror	Hsin Sheree (59)

Lesson Seven

Dear Amy... ..	Amy Garoner (61)
Confusion	Kurt Reising (68)
Alley Cat	Tomoko Asai (68)
Johnson & Wales	Sara Elliott (70)

English Ability Test (I) (71)

Lesson Eight

Why I Walk	Abigail Carroll (81)
Life on Video	Andrew Patrick (86)
3-4-1	Jessyka Scoppetta (87)
Soup Kitchen	Caroline Rico (88)

Lesson Nine

My Hometown	Christina Lemieux (89)
I'm Sorry, Really	Aynsley Harrington (94)
Unforgettable... ..	Penny Nikitas (94)
Indoor Soccer	Ben Driscoll (95)

Lesson Ten

A Child	Heather Corkins (96)
Folk Man with a Guitar or the Depravity of Modern Musicians	Kristina Richard (101)
My Science Career	Robert Le Kitts (102)
Cream in My Coffee	Anonymous (103)

Lesson Eleven

Basketball	Matt Canon (104)
The Tree	Rebecca Bokuniewicz (109)
Cleaning up the Environment	Laura Mills (109)
Is There Anyone out There	Tara Murphy (110)
An Empty Page	Lynn Resureccion (111)

Lesson Twelve

- My Father is worried about Me Anonymous (112)
 My Friend During the Week Shelley Faunt Leroy (116)
 The Ever So Popular Tree Kristy Porter (117)
 Fear of Phobias Jessie Glasser (118)

Lesson Thirteen

- Friday Feeding Frenzy Trevor Papkov (120)
 Chalk Life Brooke Chickering (125)
 The Hidden Face Hannah Heroux (125)

Lesson Fourteen

- Pieces Anonymous (127)
 The War Alice Goleen (134)
 Absolutely Nothing Becky Gallagher (134)
 Chopsticks 101 Kdward Kai Chiu (135)
 I Wonder Satiya Key (136)

- English Ability Test (I)** (137)

PART I FOR ADVANCED STUDENTS**Lesson One**

- Before You Call 911 Reporter (150)
 Where Did Summer Vacation Go Tim Hayes (154)
 The Wind Beneath My Wings Kristina Lyons (154)

Lesson Two

- A Woman Today Reporter (156)
 A Woman Growing Old Megan Hamill (162)
 Pot Now Used for a Little R&R Jason Stahi (163)

Lesson Three

- Your Daughter had an Accident (I) Samrra (165)
 The Foster Child Anonymous (170)
 Trees Sarah Lipton (171)
 Teenaged Cynicism; Love Corey Green (171)
 Dramatized Thoughts on Public Speaking Erica Seifert (173)

Lesson Four

- Your Daughter had an Accident (I) Samrra (175)
 A Typical Day for Norman Ruairi Powers (179)

Revelations	Michael Feigelson (181)
Lesson Five	
Racism	Jessica Melillo (184)
The Sledding Expedition	Mike Burdon (187)
Grains of Sand	Peter Morgan (188)
English Ability Test (II)	(189)

PART I FOR ORDINARY STUDENTS

When I first saw the students, I was struck by their...
The students were...
I thought...
They watched...
From and he was...

Lesson One

That Day

by Shelley Hollis

Throughout my life I have heard people say that when an event of great historical importance occurs, a person remembers every detail for the rest of their life. My parents remember vividly the day President Kennedy was killed. I never really believed that I would experience anything so important that it would change me forever. The events of January 28, 1986 proved me wrong.

When I was six, my parents decided they needed a change of scenery, so we moved to Titusville, Florida. Only 15 minutes from the space center, it was an interesting place to live. My mom got a job at the center, and we got free passes to see launches. I learned a lot about the space program and must have viewed 15 takeoffs. After a while, the excitement wore off and seeing a launch when walking out to get the morning paper was something everyone took for granted. For this reason, we didn't really think too much when we heard about the Challenger launch.

It was just like any other day, until I got to my math class. My friends informed me we were going outside to watch because a teacher, Christa McAuliff, was going up. Excited to miss class, we ran outside and stood in the playground waiting for the takeoff. My school was so close to the space center we could hear the countdown. I remember getting impatient because they continually started counted and then stopped because something was wrong. Finally, the real countdown began: 10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1-LIFT OFF!

The shuttle rocketed up into the sky at a tremendous speed, as usual, and everyone cheered. Then something went wrong. The shuttle seemed to slow down and was suddenly engulfed in a mass of smoke and flames. I was shocked at first and didn't understand what had happened. When I heard teachers around me let out horrified gasps and begin to cry, it began to sink in. I was too shocked to cry. As I stared at the fireball in the sky, I just stood there on the playground enveloped in my own thoughts. It blew up! I can't believe this. How could something like this happen?

I thought of the children and families of the astronauts and how they must have felt as they watched their loved ones die. I thought of one of the astronauts I knew. His name was Ron and he was my next door neighbor's best friend. I thought of how he used to yell, "Hey,

Blondie!” at me whenever he saw me playing in the yard. I remember him taking my brother and me fishing on Saturdays.

He can't be dead. I just saw him two days ago.

Then a woman standing behind me yelled, “Look! Parachutes!” Momentary hope filled me. Then I remembered that the Challenger had not been equipped with parachutes, so that couldn't be possible. My heart was again filled with despair as I realized that what she saw were pieces of debris falling from the sky.

Finally a teacher touched my shoulder and motioned me inside. My classmates and I filed into the classroom without saying a word. There was no sound until the principal came on the intercom and told us we were to be dismissed early. I rode my bike home with my friends as usual. The only difference was the deafening silence. Even the crossing guard who normally joked did not speak. When I arrived home, my brother and father were already there. They were watching television, which kept replaying the horrible incident. I went to my room, I didn't want to see it anymore. One time was bad enough.

I was waiting for my mother to come home from the space center. I wished she would come in and announce that there had been some kind of miracle and the astronauts had survived, but when she walked in with tears streaming down her face, I knew there wasn't going to be any miracle. The Challenger astronauts were gone.

This experience had a great effect on me because I realize I have to live life to the fullest and do my best in everything I do. There may not always be a tomorrow to fix my mistakes. When I thought of the families of the astronauts, it made me appreciate my family and all I have more. I learned not to take things for granted. This experience really changed me as an individual and I know I will never forget anything about that day for as long as I live.

Notes

1. Kennedy: 美国第 35 任总统, 任职期间被暗杀。
2. ...proved me wrong: 证明我是错的。
3. the space center: 宇航中心。
4. launch [lɔ:ntʃ]: 发射、轮船下水。
5. take for granted: 认为理所当然或习以为常。
6. The Challenger: 美航天飞机名字(挑战者号)。
7. Christa McAuliff: 挑战者号宇航员之一, 是一名教员。
8. countdown: 倒计时。
9. engulf: [in'gʌlf]: 吞没、卷入。
10. parachute ['pærəʃu:t]: 降落伞。
11. equip with: 装备。

12. dismissed: 解散、放学。

13. miracle [mirəkl]: 奇迹。

Activities

Vocabulary

Put the following sentences into Chinese.

1. A person remembers every detail for the rest of their life.

a. I shall always remember your kindness to my daughter.

b. I remember telling him about it.

c. Remember to mail the letter.

d. I can't remember how to get the cinema.

2. ...I would experience anything so important that it would change me forever.

a. Experience is the mother of wisdom.

b. We would never forget the first night's experience.

c. He experienced a lot of difficulties.

d. He is an experienced English teacher.

3. They needed a change.

a. My family has changed its address.

b. The color has changed.

c. Do you have any change for the tip?

d. I thought a change might do me good.

4. We moved to Titusville.

a. The bus was already moving.

b. That table is in the way, move it please.

c. Don't make a move or I'll shout.

d. Whose move is it?

5. We got free passes to see launches.

a. They will launch a moon rocket next week.

b. They will hold a meeting to launch the new film.

c. The workers launched the freighter with great splash.

d. The ship will be launched next year.

6. I learned not to take things for granted.

a. I can't granted your request.

b. I grant that what you say is correct.

c. Don't take the teacher's help for granted.

- d. I take it for granted that you will stay with us.
7. My friends informed me that we were going outside.
- He informed me that our English teacher had left for Europe.
 - Keep me informed of fresh developments.
 - This information came from the teacher.
 - This book contains much useful information.
8. The shuttle rocketed up into the sky at a tremendous speed.
- Drive at a safe speed.
 - The time sped quickly by.
 - I sped the car through the streets.
 - The train soon speeded up.
9. I knew there wasn't going to be any miracle.
- It's a miracle that the missing boy returned.
 - It's a miracle of technology.
 - It was a miracle that she survived.
 - The car ran over the child, but by a miracle, he was unhurt.
10. The events of January 28, 1986 proved me wrong.
- The exception proves the rule.
 - We will prove to the students that he was right.
 - His story proved false.
 - The book proved to be very good.

Structures

1. It was an interesting place to live.
- I still have twenty more pages to cover.
 - They will give you something to take to your friend.
 - The doctor will give you some medicine to take for two days.
 - My father looked upon it as something to be proud of.
2. I must have viewed 15 takeoffs.
- She must have lost her key.
 - He may have got well already.
 - They can't have finished their homework so soon.
 - She must have told you about it.
3. My school was so close to the space center we could hear the countdown.
- She was so young that you must excuse her.
 - It was so good a book that everyone liked it.

- c. It was such a good book that everyone liked it.
 - d. It was such a good weather that we could go swimming.
 - e. They are such good students that they could pass the exam.
 - f. She had so much money that she could buy it.
4. Then something went wrong.
- a. It will go hard with him.
 - b. The milk had gone bad.
 - c. She went pale at the news.
 - d. When the teacher mentioned it to her, she went red.
5. I wished she would come in.
- a. Sometimes I wish I had time to do it.
 - b. I wished you wouldn't talk like that.
 - c. I wish you had not hurt her so much.
 - d. I wish I had been able to talk this over with him when he was here last evening.

True or False

Correct the sentence if it is false according to the article.

1. The writer's family needed a change because the writer needed a new school.
2. The writer's home is far away from the space center.
3. The writer thought the launch of the Challenger was very important at first.
4. Countdown means to count the number from 10 to 100.
5. The students were going outside to watch because the spaceship—Challenger was a new ship.
6. Because the spaceship equipped with parachutes, the astronauts might have some kind of miracle.
7. "The Challenger astronauts were gone" means they went to another space center.
8. If the astronauts were survived we could always fix our mistakes tomorrow.
9. The writer's parents are both worked in the space center.

Multiple Choice Test

1. It is _____ cold weather that we could hardly go out.
 - A. such
 - B. such a
 - C. so
 - D. a so
2. Her voice is _____ that everyone enjoys her songs
 - A. so beautiful
 - B. such beautiful
 - C. very beautiful
 - D. too beautiful.
3. I wish I _____ you better.

- A. know
C. knew
- B. am knowing
D. have known
4. I wished it _____, but it did.
A. occurred not
B. did not occur
C. had not occurred
D. was not occurred.
5. I wish that we _____ with my brother when he flies to England next week.
A. could go
B. had gone
C. will go
D. are going
6. The window is _____ small that no one can climb through it.
A. so
B. such
C. too
D. very
7. We moved to the front row _____ we could hear and see better.
A. so
B. so that
C. such
D. such that
8. "Can you ride a horse?"
"No, I never had the chance _____."
A. for learning
B. for learning how
C. how to learn it
D. to learn how.
9. I haven't got a chair _____.
A. to sit
B. for to sit on
C. to sit on
D. for sitting
10. I'm not sure which restaurant _____.
A. to eat on
B. eating at
C. to eat at
D. for eating
11. He _____ have been nervous because he didn't go straight in.
A. ought to
B. must
C. should
D. had to
12. "Why didn't you answer the phone last night?"
"I _____ when you called."
A. had to have slept
B. have to be sleeping
C. must have been sleeping
D. must have slept
13. The children must not go _____.
A. hungrily
B. hungry
C. hunger
D. hungered
14. The engine went _____.

EXTENSIVE READING

Who Cares?

by John Watkins

People are dying.
Nobody is crying.
Too busy buying,
Or selling. Whatever.
It doesn't matter anyway.
Cause we're all gonna die someday.
Nobody knows how or when.
But let's see who's crying then.

Letters

Dear Editor,

I've been reading your magazine for about four months now, and think it's a pretty good magazine. I have noticed, looking through the December issue and the three preceding ones, that in the fiction section, everything is the same.

It seems to me that every story is about some teen-ager's meaningful experience in life. Fine. I enjoy reading those stories. But what about science fiction? What about horror? In the stories I've seen the only people who die are old or sick or both. There is no action or adventure. There is no fantasy. Is this because very few people submit these kinds of stories? Or is it because the editor only puts in what he (she) likes instead of what I, and my friends who read the magazine, enjoy reading?

Everything else in the magazine is cool: pen-pals, poetry, yadda yadda yadda...but the fiction section does not have what it could have. It has potential.

Yours,

John

Dear Editor,

I truly enjoy reading your magazine every month. I wait for my health teacher to hand out the magazines in anticipation of what great pieces I will read. I am writing in response to