

名校大学生英语习作系列

Model Compositions by
Students of Nanjing University

南京大学
学生优秀英语作文选评

南京大学大学外语部编

北京大学出版社
北 京

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

南京大学学生优秀英语作文选评/南京大学大学外语部编. - 北京:北京大学出版社,2001.11

(名校大学生英语习作系列)

ISBN 7-301-05272-3

I. 南… II. 南… III. 英语-作文-高等学校-选集
IV. H319.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2001)第 075231 号

书 名: 南京大学学生优秀英语作文选评

著作责任者: 南京大学大学外语部编

责任编辑: 范一亭

标准书号: ISBN 7-301-05272-3/H·0677

出版者: 北京大学出版社

地址: 北京市海淀区中关村北京大学校内 100871

网址: <http://cbs.pku.edu.cn>

电话: 邮购部 62752019 发行部 62754140 编辑部 62752028

电子信箱: zpup@pup.pku.edu.cn

排版者: 兴盛达打字服务社

印刷者: 北京朝阳区飞达印刷厂

发行者: 北京大学出版社

经销者: 新华书店

850×1168 大 32 开本 10.625 印张 265 千字

2001 年 11 月第 1 版 2001 年 11 月第 1 次印刷

定 价: 16.00 元

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Preface

When Peking University Press inquired if we would be interested in contributing a collection of model compositions by students of Nanjing University, we responded enthusiastically. Our motivation is manifold. But mainly there are four. First, when viewing our students' weekly written assignments, we are often deeply impressed by their wide knowledge, power of creative thinking and personal charm. It is our long wish that more people would have an opportunity to enjoy all this in their writing. Second, we have taught our students to write with an audience in mind instead of their professors only. Now, having maneuvered over a year or two, they eventually have real readers of their own. Writing for authentic readers will make a world of difference in their writing processes and written products and give them invaluable experience in writing. Third, such a collection is a good source of encouragement to other learners, especially those who are more or less of the same age as our students. The rich bank of topics, different writing techniques and varied writing styles are surely to provoke new thoughts and new ambitions on the part of the readers. Last but not least, our country has attached great importance to College English teaching. As a result, the flowers in the garden of College English teaching bloom. It is our responsibility and pride to show ours among them.

All the compositions in the collection are contributed by non-English major undergraduates except two from first year English majors. They were all written in answer to the call for articles for this collection. In spite of the extremely inconvenient deadline for

the papers—just before the beginning of their midterm examination period, the final drafts rolled in. A range of general topics were provided for students to narrow down to their own topics, but they were well welcome to go beyond the boundary and bring up an entirely new topic.

There are two additional principles for our selection to the general principle of choosing the best ones: 1) The composition that adds to the variety of topics will first be considered; 2) The one that opens a new perspective for an existent topic has the priority. Therefore, the readers will not only find a great variety of general topics in the collection, but also see how the same topic is explored by different writers.

Although it is hard for any comments to be free from a commentator's subjective view, we have tried to be as objective as possible in our comments on each composition and offer maximum help to the readers. We have also preserved a few imperfections, both global and local, in the original compositions and given suggestions on how they can be fixed in an effective way. Readers will find that the little touch sometimes suggested in the comments will do wonders to a composition.

In a project of this kind, many people deserve thanks. The primary persons to be singled out are the contributors themselves. Special thanks should be given to Prof. Chen Hai, vice-chair of the Department of Applied Foreign Language Studies, for proof-reading the whole collection. I would also like to acknowledge the full support given to me in the project by all my colleagues in the department and my former colleague Ms. Sun Yuexiu.

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亲情篇

姓名：张一颖
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Express Our Love to Our Family Members

One day I wandered into a newly opened gift shop. As it happened to be my mother's birthday, I bought her a music box. It was pink in color and a heart in shape with a golden word "Mother" printed on the lid. When I got home, I gave it to my mother, saying to her "Happy birthday, Mum!" Mother was a bit surprised but overjoyed. I noticed that the music box was ringing in her room almost all the evening and there was always a smile on her face.

It had never occurred to me that my gift would make her so happy. I had never given her a birthday present before because I thought she knew very well my deep love for her. It would not be necessary for me to make my love explicit by using any words or sending any presents. But on that evening, I began to realize that even to those whom we love deeply and who know our love very well, we still need to show our love more explicitly from time to

姓名：马 艳
系别：会计系
学号：001094011



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Watermelon without Seeds

“Diploid watermelon and tetraploid watermelon hybridize and then we’ll get the triploid watermelon without seeds.” I was trying to remember the points of biology. Before the July College Entrance Examinations, I had to review the lessons all day long. But biology was too difficult for me to learn by heart. Though it was very hot during this very period, I dared not turn on the air-conditioner for I was afraid of catching a cold. So I felt hotter and hotter and became so upset that I wanted to tear the biology book into half and throw it into the garbage can.

Just at that time, my mother brought me a large plate of watermelon “without seeds”. She patted me on the back and said, “Have a rest and eat some watermelon. I’ve already eliminated all the seeds for you.” After saying that, she left quietly and let me stay alone. I stared at the slices of watermelon. So many of them and so many small holes in them, and there were no seeds left. During the passed several days after I started the final preparation for the coming examinations, I would lose my temper easily when I came across something difficult. I knew I was out of sorts. But she silently tolerated

姓名：李夏晗
系别：计算机系
学号：99149077



The Immortal Love

There are many kinds of love in the world: love of motherland, love between couples, love of friends and so on. In my opinion, the greatest love of all, also an immortal one, is love from parents.

I have seen the movie *Life is Beautiful*. The story took place in Italy about 60 years ago. Guido had a son named Giosue—the apple of his parents' eyes. Love and optimism, however, were unable to hold up the Second World War. On Giosue's fourth birthday, the family were captured. Later despite the horror of the situation: death all around, brutal labor and dehumanizing barracks, the father exerted all his efforts to concoct a story to convince the boy that they were taking a surprising trip to celebrate his birthday. Finally Guido succeeded in protecting the young boy's fragile soul at the cost of his own life.

Love from parents is the purest. Whether the child belongs to the elite or the lowly, they love him wholeheartedly. When he encounters difficulties, they will back him up and do anything that helps; when he is rejected and depressed, they will embrace him and give him courage; when he succeeds, they will be the ones who