

前言

改革开放以来，我国高校的人才培养面临“价值多元化、教育国际化、观念开放化”的冲击，如何在新时代确保思想政治教育“守正常新”是人才培养过程中具有挑战性的核心课题。全国高校思想政治工作会议指出：要用好课堂教学这个主渠道，思想政治理论课要坚持在改进中加强，提升思想政治教育亲和力和针对性，满足学生成长发展需求和期待，其他各门课都要守好一段渠、种好责任田，使各类课程与思想政治理论课同向同行，形成协同效应。2017年《高校思想政治工作质量提升工程实施纲要》提出“大力推动以‘课程思政’为目标的课堂教学改革”。这表明包括大学英语在内的各类语言文化类基础课程、专业课程、通识课程均可从不同角度和渠道实施课程思政这一新尝试，确保我国主流社会意识形态进入学生的头脑与心灵，培养中国特色社会主义事业的建设者和接班人。

《新编大学英语思政教程》寓思想政治教育于英语教学，选取具有时代性、新颖性、话题性以及批评性的中外名篇，在展开英语语言教学的同时，通过展示中西文化对这些问题的思考与探索，着力培养学生的批判性思维，引导学生了解中西文化观念和价值体系的异同，增强学生的社会责任感，激发学生的民族意识和家国情怀，帮助学生树立正确的世界观、人生观、价值观和家国观。

全书共分为八个单元，每个单元均涉及思想政治教育的内涵与外延，涵盖个人修养、家庭观念、社群意识、家国情怀、人类命运和宇宙格局等内容。整体上，八个单元构成一个有机整体，既体现修齐治平的道德伦理思想，又强调责任担当的立德树人理念。每个单元包括四大模块：第一模块“阅读经典和批判性思维”（Reading and Critical Thinking），设有A、B两篇中外经典名篇，旨在引领学生浸润于中西文化。文前辅以课前热身，文后配备注释、词汇表和练习；第二

模块“思政延伸和拓展练习”（Further Exploration），结合前一模块名篇的主题，引导学生对相关问题展开思考、讨论、调查或辩论，培养学生的批判性思维，提高学生分析问题和解决问题的能力；第三模块“学以致用，写作练习”（Writing），结合相关思想政治教育内容，通过写作锻炼学生陈述世界观、价值观的语言技巧和表达能力；第四模块“延伸阅读”（Further Reading），围绕单元主题提供电子版延伸阅读素材，供学生自学，帮助学生进一步挖掘单元主题，进行深入探索研究。

本教程主要适用于大学英语中高级阶段和全英通识课的教学，也可作为英语类专业的阅读教学材料。建议每单元设计为四个教学学时，全书分两学期使用，也可根据实际情况灵活调整。鉴于各单元练习形式丰富多样，层次鲜明，教师可以根据学生的基础和水平，有选择地布置课后练习。

本教程集思广益，由多所高校的一线优秀教师共同编写。囿于编写时间仓促，书中舛误在所难免，祈盼各位不吝赐教。

编者

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UNIT

1

Beauty of Life



Text A

Warm up

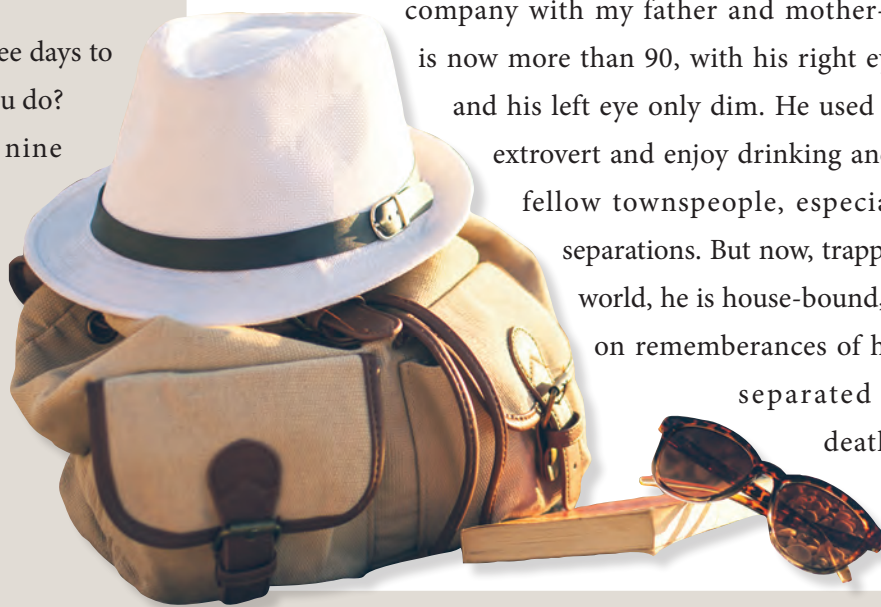
Human life is short and precious. It begins with innocent childhood, followed by awkward adolescence, reaches manhood of intense activities, and then turns to the sunset stage of our life. Finally, life flickers out and one goes into eternal sleep, never to wake up again. We won't get a second chance to live it the way we want. Now discuss the following questions with your partner.

- 1 If you had only three days to live, what would you do?
- 2 What if you had nine lives?

If I Had Nine Lives

Yu Guangzhong¹

- 1 If only I had nine lives!
- 2 One can be spent on dealing exclusively with problems of practical living. As the unfortunate Prince of Denmark says, the human flesh is heir to a thousand natural shocks. For a modern man, the worst of such "shocks" are the procedures he has to go through, of which the worst part is to fill in forms. One form will lead to another, with numerous specifications closely set, which require patient reading. There are in addition other requisites, none dispensable, such as photos, signatures, and numbers of all kinds of credentials.
- 3 Half a life is thus gone. The remaining half one could eke out for meetings and answering letters, if he could find the relevant letters, or was able to stomach the smoke from those sitting around him.
- 4 One I plan to leave in our old house in Taipei to keep company with my father and mother-in-law. Father is now more than 90, with his right eye totally blind and his left eye only dim. He used to be an active extrovert and enjoy drinking and chatting with fellow townspeople, especially after long separations. But now, trapped in a twilight world, he is house-bound, and has to live on remembrances of his wife, who is separated from him by death for 27 years,



or thinking about his son, his daughter-in-law and his granddaughters, all of whom spread out in other places. Mother-in-law is also over 80, whose steps have never again been steady since she broke her leg five years ago, and yet she drags her hobbling body along to look after the somber man under the same roof. She is Mother's sister, and moved over to take charge of the chores of a house in want of a hostess. To me she is another solicitous mother, so that I, in my gratitude, have come to believe that one never has reason to despair. How could he if Heaven will even make up for it when he has lost his mother?

- 5 One could be used to fulfill the role of husband and father. There are probably few full-time husbands in this world. For men, who are busy with external affairs, only take it as a half-time job to be a husband. Women, on the other hand, are usually professional wives. The proof of this lies in the fact that, when filling in forms, women could call themselves a "housewife," while no man has ever been seen to call himself a "househusband." Therefore, when one happens to have a good wife, it must have been something of providential will, a divine mercy to be appreciated with deep gratitude, instead of being taken as a matter of course. In my case, it is exactly because I have a good wife that I am better qualified as a husband than as a father. When the mother is so competent and dutiful, the father, of course, will be only too glad to "govern hands down." So in our family we practice prime minister system, with me playing the righteous chief only in the family photo. With our four daughters living in different corners of the world, the one responsible for letter writing and phoning is the mother, while the father is always otherwise occupied, missing them not in words but in hearts, though.
- 6 One could be devoted to being friends. A "man of the old style" in China, though only a part-time husband, is usually engaged fulltime as a friend. A wife could reap a fame of being virtuous if she helps to make it possible for her husband to prove his generosity and play the role of a magnanimous friend, and become, as the saying goes, "styled Mengchang² the Second in the chivalric world." The "man of the new style," of course, does not approve of such practice, as it exalts the

friend at the sacrifice of the wife. However, such a man cannot live without friends like a recluse, either. He then has to have the time and money to be a “worthy friend” so as to attract people from near and far. Now how is a man to be freehanded on matters concerning friends when he is already kept otherwise busy, desperately? My situation is, so to speak, desperate as far as time, though not exactly money, goes. I have therefore to keep a low profile in being a “worthy friend,” and am mostly only passive. As simply to keep on with friends around me is already exhaustive enough, I don’t have the energy to maintain a big communication network with distant friends overseas. The consequence of this is attention on the near at the neglect of the distant, a proof of my being extremely short-sighted, I admit. But now, then, am I to do something that is really beyond my reach?

- 7 One could be devoted to reading. Books in this world come too fast to you, so that before you have had time to finish a few volumes by the ancients, those by your contemporaries are already surging in in great waves to engulf you completely. In fact, if only you could do justice to all the books inscribed to you by your friends, you would well become a saint in the literary circles. Some read at random, abandoning themselves to what their interests lead them to, and could still become celebrities. Others are determined to become great scholars and confine themselves to established learning only, reading thoroughly and painstakingly, with serious intentions. In my case, I do not think so much of myself as to claim to be a celebrity, nor have I accomplished enough to become a great scholar, and am so somewhat suspended in limbo. I might be able to plan my studies rigorously if I give up writing, or to read freely if I do not teach. With a life wholly devoted to reading, the problem, of course, could be solved how I wish.
- 8 Another life should be spent entirely on writing. Writers in Taiwan are seldom fully occupied as such, but have mostly another, and principal, profession. Mine is teaching, and luckily what I teach and what I write about have enough in common as not to be mutually exclusive. Formerly in Taiwan I taught English during the day and wrote in Chinese at night, managing with both smoothly. Later on in Hong Kong, I taught literature of the thirties during the day and wrote about literature of the eighties at night, not having much conflict, either. Yet, art being an engrossing activity, no artist with another occupation who yet takes his art seriously does not place it in the dominant position. When Rubens was Netherlands’ ambassador to Spain he spent all his afternoons painting in the Imperial Garden. A courtier passing

by remarked, “Gee! So a diplomat also paints a few pictures sometimes to pass time.” To this he replied, “No. It is that an artist sometimes also passes time doing diplomacy.” I think that one is entitled to feel proud for being an artist. Rubens is remembered by posterity not by his diplomacy, but by his art.

- 9 One life should be preserved for traveling. I don't think there are people who don't fancy going about and seeing the world: to see more people and more places helps one not only to understand the world, but also to understand his own self. Some travel on luxury liners, which even Xie Lingyun³ would prefer if he lived now. Others plod over hills and dales under heavy baggage, and still others roam the world on bicycles. All these hold attractions for me, but what delights me most is to drive a car over long distances to remote places. My wife is even more given to traveling, and so the two of us make best company for each other, something for which perhaps even Xu Xiake⁴ would have envied us. But he, of course, was a great explorer, while we do not claim any importance in our travels.
- 10 The one life finally left is to be spent on leisurely life, to see flowers bloom and fade and to see people come and go, without any special purpose, nor under the pressure of any “deadlines.”

(1371 words)

Notes

- 1 Yu Guangzhong (1928–2017) is a well-known Chinese poet, writer and critic. He dedicated half a century to literary creation and his masterpiece *Nostalgia* expresses Taiwan people's nostalgia for their homeland and family members on the mainland, which generates much resonance among Chinese around the world.
- 2 Mengchang is a metaphor which refers to a man who values talent and loves associating with them. They are happy in doing good things, always glad to do charities; these people are very popular and thus have a lot of friends.
- 3 Xie Lingyun (385–433), a Chinese poet, Buddhist scholar and traveler of the Northern and Southern Dynasties.
- 4 Xu Xiake (1587–1641), a Chinese geographer, traveler and litterateur of the Ming Dynasty.

New Words

- exclusively** *adv.* only 仅仅, 唯独
- heir** *n.* the person who has the legal right to receive the property or title of another person when they die 继承人
- requisite** *n.* something that is needed for a particular purpose 必需的事物
- dispensable** *adj.* not necessary or important and so easy to get rid of 不必要的, 可有可无的
- credential** *n.* a letter or other document which proves your good character or your right to have a particular position 任职资格证书, (品格的)证明信, 推荐信
- extrovert** *n.* someone who is active and confident, and who enjoys spending time with other people 性格外向的人, 活泼自信的人
- twilight** *n.* ~ world a strange situation involving mystery, dishonesty etc. 朦胧世界, 阴暗世界
- house-bound** *adj.* not able to leave your house, especially because you are ill or old (尤指因生病或年老)出不了门的
- hobbling** *adj.* the way of walking with difficulty, especially because your legs or feet hurt 一瘸一拐的
- somber** *adj.* sad and serious 忧郁的, 沮丧的
- solicitous** *adj.* very concerned about someone's safety, health, or comfort 关怀的, 关切的, 操心的
- providential** *adj.* a providential event is a lucky one 幸运的, 凑巧的
- magnanimous** *adj.* kind and generous, especially to someone that you have defeated (尤指对自己击败的人) 宽宏大量的, 慷慨的
- chivalric** *adj.* characteristic of the time of chivalry and knighthood in the Middle Ages 中世纪骑士时代特征的
- exalt** *v.* to praise someone 赞扬, 歌颂
- recluse** *n.* someone who chooses to live alone, and

does not like seeing or talking to other people 隐居者, 隐士, 遁世者

- engulf** *v.* to completely surround or cover something 完全包围, 遮住
- inscribe** *v.* to carefully cut, print, or write words on something 雕刻, 印制, 题写
- limbo** *n.* a situation in which nothing happens or changes for a long period of time, and it is difficult to make decisions or know what to do, often because you are waiting for something else to happen first (常指因等待另一事先发生而所处的) 不确定的状态
- rigorously** *adv.* carefully, thoroughly, and exactly 严格地, 缜密地, 精确地
- engrossing** *adj.* having the quality of interesting you so much that you do not notice anything else 使全神贯注的, 吸引(注意力)的
- posterity** *n.* all the people in the future who will be alive after you are dead 后人, 后代, 子孙
- plod** *v.* to walk along slowly, especially when this is difficult 沉重缓慢地走, 步履艰难地走
- roam** *v.* to walk or travel, usually for a long time, with no clear purpose or direction 闲逛, 漫步
- deadline** *n.* a date or time by which you have to do or complete something 截止时间, 最后期限

Phrases and Expressions

- eke out** to make a small supply of something such as food or money last longer by carefully using small amount of it 精打细算地维持, 尽量节省使用
- under the same roof** in the same building 在同一屋檐下
- be devoted to** to deal with, contain, or be used for only one thing 专用于……的
- keep a low profile** to behave quietly and avoid doing things that will make people notice you 保持低调姿态, 低调
- be entitled to** to give someone the official right to do or have something 使有权利, 使有资格

Exercises

The following tasks are based on Text A.

Task 1 Match the following words in Column A with the accurate explanations in Column B.

Column A

1. exclusively
2. dispensable
3. extrovert
4. somber
5. plod
6. posterity

Column B

- A. to walk along slowly, especially when this is difficult
- B. sad and serious
- C. only
- D. all the people in the future who will be alive after you are dead
- E. someone who is active and confident and enjoys spending time with other people
- F. needless or unnecessary

Task 2 Complete the following passage with the expressions in the box. Each can only be used once with their appropriate form.

cherish

willingly

priceless

seal

withdraw

precious

fondle

measurement

I will live this day as if it is my last.

And what shall I do with this last (1) _____ day which remains in my keeping?

First, I will (2) _____ up its container of life so that not one drop spills itself upon the sand. I will waste not a moment mourning yesterday's misfortunes, defeats, or aches of the heart.

And what then shall I do? Forgetting yesterday neither will I think of tomorrow.

Can tomorrow's sand flow through the glass before today's? No! Tomorrow lies buried with yesterday, and I will think of it no more.

I have but one life and life is naught but a (3) _____ of time. When I waste one I destroy the other. If I waste today I destroy the last page of my life. Therefore, each hour of this day will I (4) _____ for it can never return. It cannot be banked today to be (5) _____ tomorrow, for who can trap the wind? Each minute of this day will I grasp with both hands and (6) _____ with love for its value is beyond price. What dying man can purchase another breath though he (7) _____ give all his gold? What price dare I place on the hours ahead? I will make them (8) _____!

Task 3 Choose the best answer to each question with the information you've got from the text.

1. What does the writer imply in Paragraphs 1 and 2?
 - A. Dealing with problems of daily life is a waste of time.
 - B. He hates dealing with problems of daily life.
 - C. Daily routine is troublesome and tedious, yet we have to embrace it.
 - D. Life is worthless.
2. Which of the following words is NOT appropriate for describing the writer's qualities?
 - A. Filial.
 - B. Grateful.
 - C. Dutiful.
 - D. Persistent.
3. Why does the writer cite the anecdote of Rubens in Paragraph 8?
 - A. To imply that we should have hobbies other than work and study.
 - B. To show that art should be first priority in our life.
 - C. To tell us that work or profession is not as important as hobbies.
 - D. To tell us they have something in common.
4. What does the writer value in life according to this passage?
 - A. Family.
 - B. Friendship.
 - C. Work and hobbies.
 - D. All the above.
5. Which of the following is NOT the attitude that the writer holds toward life?
 - A. Love of life.
 - B. Being disappointed.
 - C. Being positive and optimistic.
 - D. Being happy-go-lucky.

Task 4 Translate the following sentences into Chinese.

1. Mother-in-law is also over 80, whose steps have never again been steady since she broke her leg five years ago, and yet she drags her hobbling body along to look after the somber man under the same roof. (Para. 4)

2. With our four daughters living in different corners of the world, the one responsible for letter writing and phoning is the mother, while the father is always otherwise occupied, missing them not in words but in hearts, though. (Para. 5)

3. In fact, if only you could do justice to all the books inscribed to you by your friends, you would well become a saint in the literary circles. (Para. 7)

4. Yet, art being an engrossing activity, no artist with another occupation who yet takes his art seriously does not place it in the dominant position. (Para. 8)

5. The one life finally left is to be spent on leisurely life, to see flowers bloom and fade and to see people come and go, without any special purpose, nor under the pressure of any “deadlines.” (Para. 10)

Task 5 Work in groups and answer the following questions.

1. Why does the writer want to have nine lives?
2. Is the writer a qualified husband, father and son?
3. How does he strike the balance between work and interests?
4. What do you think of the writer’s remarks “spent on leisurely life... without any special purpose”?
5. What attitudes should we hold toward life?

Task 6 Work in groups. Think and share your thoughts with your classmates.

Change, or impermanence, is characteristic of life. Since life is full of uncertainty, we don't know how long our life will last. So do you want to know how long you will live? Is it a good thing or a bad thing if you were told how many days there were left in your life? Then how would you plan your life?

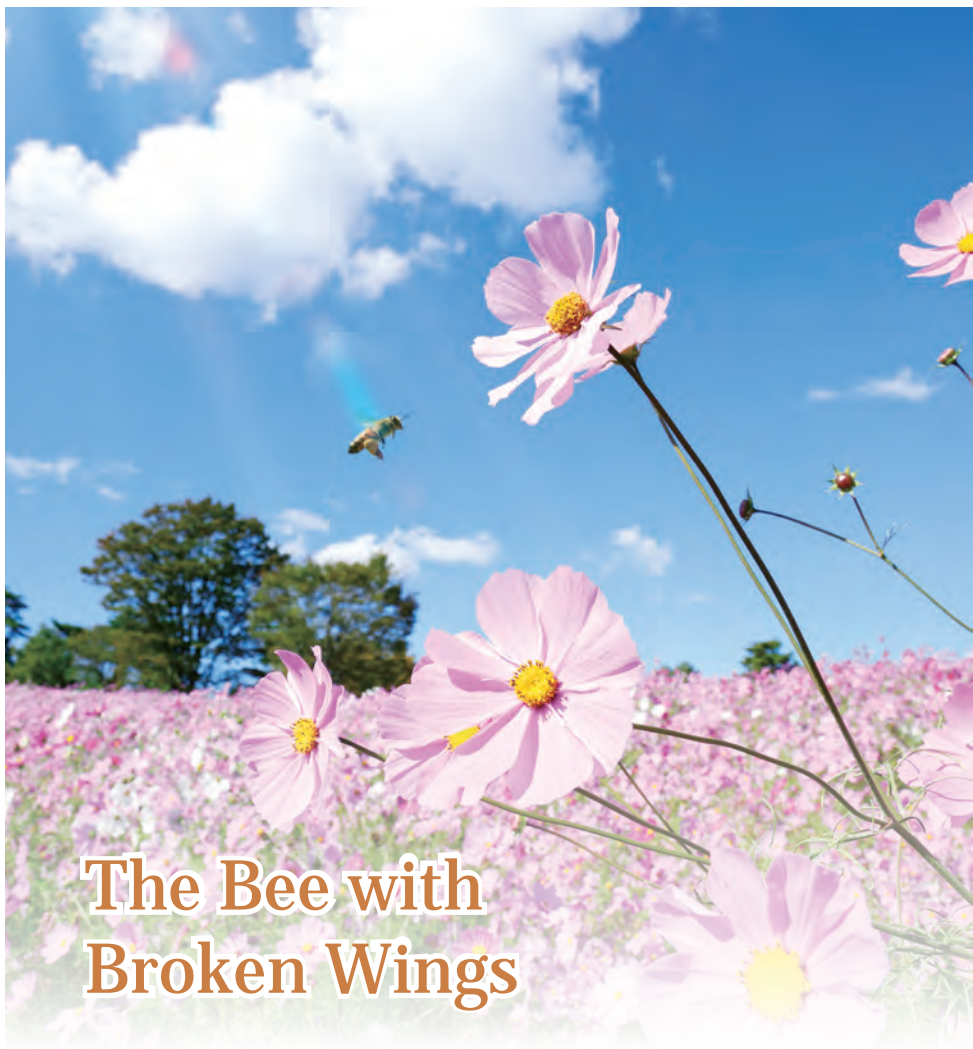


Text B

Warm up

Though life seems at times to suffer setbacks, it always endures and is made even stronger by the very things that would oppose it. Now discuss the following questions with your partner.

1. Have you been attracted by any insects and then observed them? Was there anything impressive about them?
2. What was the most depressing moment in your life? How did you get through it?



The Bee with Broken Wings

- 1 One afternoon a few summers ago, I had been clearing brush in the mountains for several hours and decided to reward myself with lunch. Sitting on a log, I unwrapped a sandwich and surveyed the rugged scenery. Two turbulent streams joined to form a clear, deep pool before roaring down a heavily wooded canyon.
- 2 My idyll would have been perfect had it not been for a persistent bee that began buzzing around me. The bee was of the common variety that plagues picnickers. Without thinking, I brushed it away.
- 3 Not the least intimidated, the bee came back and buzzed me again. Now, losing patience, I swatted the pest to the ground and crunched it into the sand with my boot.





- 4 Moments later I was startled by a minor explosion of sand at my feet. My tormentor emerged with its wings buzzing furiously. This time I took no chances. I stood up and ground the insect into the sand with all my 210 pounds.
- 5 Once more I sat down to my lunch. After several minutes I became aware of a slight movement near my feet. A broken but still living bee was freely emerging from the sand.
- 6 Beguiled by its survival, I leaned down to survey the damage. The right wing was relatively intact, but the left was crumpled like a piece of paper. Nevertheless, the bee kept exercising the wings slowly up and down, as though assessing the damage. It also began to groom its sand-encrusted thorax and abdomen.
- 7 Next the bee turned its attention to the bent left wing, rapidly smoothing the wing by running its legs down the length. After each straightening session, the bee buzzed its wings as if to test the lift. This hopeless cripple thought it could still fly.
- 8 I got down on my hands and knees to better see these futile attempts. Closer scrutiny confirmed the bee was finished—it must be finished. As a veteran pilot, I knew a good deal about wings.
- 9 But the bee paid no attention to my superior wisdom. It seemed to be gaining strength and increasing the tempo of its repairs. The bent veins that stiffed the gossamer wing were nearly straight now.
- 10 At least the bee felt sufficiently confident to attempt a trial flight. With an audible buzz it released its grip on the earth—and flew into a rise in the sand not more than three inches away. The little creature hit so hard that it tumbled. More frantic smoothing and flexing followed.
- 11 Again the bee lifted off, this time flying six inches before hitting another mound. Apparently the bee had regained the lift in its wings but had not mastered the directional controls. Like a pilot learning the peculiarities of a strange airplane, it experimented with short hopes that ended ignominiously. After each crash the bee worked furiously to correct the newly discovered structural deficiencies.
- 12 Once more it took off, this time clearing the sand but heading straight toward a stump. Narrowly avoiding it, the bee rechecked its forward speed, circled and then drifted slowly over the mirror-like surface of the pool as if to admire its own reflection. As the bee disappeared, I realized that I was still on my knees, and I remained on my knees for some time.

(560 words)

New Words

turbulent *adj.* turbulent air or water moves around a lot 风大浪高的, 狂风大作的

idyll *n.* a place or experience in which everything is peaceful and everyone is perfectly happy 平静快乐的地方, 安宁愉快的经历

plague *v.* to cause pain, suffering, or trouble to someone, especially for a long period of time 折磨, 使苦恼

intimidated *adj.* feeling worried and lacking confidence because of the situation you are in or the people you are with 胆怯的, 怯场的

swat *v.* to hit an insect in order to kill it 重拍, 猛击(昆虫)

tormentor *n.* someone or something that deliberately treats someone or something else cruelly by annoying them or hurting them 骚扰者, 烦扰物

beguile *v.* to interest and attract someone 吸引, 使感兴趣

intact *adj.* not broken, damaged, or spoiled 完好无损的, 未受损伤的

crumpled *adj.* crushed into a smaller bent shape 皱的, 扭曲的

groom *v.* to take care of your own appearance by keeping your hair and clothes clean and tidy 梳妆, 打扮

encrusted *adj.* covered with a hard layer of something 硬壳覆盖的, 结外壳的

thorax *n.* the part of an insect's body between its head and its abdomen (昆虫的)胸(节)

abdomen *n.* the end part of an insect's body, joined to the thorax (昆虫的)腹

futile *adj.* actions that are futile are useless because they have no chance of being successful 无用的, 徒劳的

scrutiny *n.* careful and thorough examination of someone or something 仔细的审视, 彻底的检查

tempo *n.* the speed at which something happens (事情进展的)节奏, 步调

gossamer *n.* a very light thin material 薄纱

tumble *v.* to fall down quickly and suddenly, especially with a rolling movement 倒下, 跌倒, 摔倒, 滚落

flex *v.* to tighten your muscles or bend part of your body 收紧(肌肉); 屈曲(身体部位)

peculiarity *n.* something that is a feature of only one particular place, person, situation etc. (某地方、某人或某情况等)特点, 独特性

ignominiously *adv.* in a way that makes you feel ashamed or embarrassed 蒙羞地, 丢脸地, 可耻地

stump *n.* the bottom part of a tree that is left in the ground after the rest of it has been cut down (树被砍倒后留下的)树桩, 树墩

Phrases and Expressions

not the least not at all 根本不, 一点也不

take no chances not to give any opportunity 不留机会

turn one's attention to to begin to notice 将注意力转向

Exercises

The following tasks are based on Text B.

Task 1 Match the following words in Column A with the accurate explanations in Column B.

Column A

1. turbulent
2. idyll
3. ignominiously
4. plague
5. beguile
6. scrutiny

Column B

- A. in a dishonorable manner or to a dishonorable degree
- B. to annoy someone, especially by asking for something many times or asking them many questions
- C. careful and thorough examination of someone or something
- D. the way air or water moves around a lot
- E. a place or experience in which everything is peaceful and everyone is perfectly happy
- F. to interest and attract someone

Task 2 Complete the following sentences with the expressions in the box. Change the form where necessary.

turbulent

plague

not the least

intact

tumble

scrutiny

futile

ignominiously

1. It is always _____ to try to hold back the progress of history.
2. Their arguments do not withstand the most superficial _____.
3. The present international situation remains tense and _____.
4. There is _____ element of truth in his account of what happened.
5. Many mothers and children _____ into poverty after divorce.
6. They were _____ defeated in the general election.
7. The glass remained _____ after being dropped.
8. I'm not going to _____ you with any more questions, Miss Green.

Task 3 Decide whether the following statements are True (T) or False (F) according to the text.

- () 1. The writer felt annoyed because he had done a lot of work that morning.
- () 2. With superior wisdom, the writer could easily judge whether the bee would live or not.
- () 3. The bee had struggled several times to fly away before it finally succeeded.

- () 4. What we can see in the bee are perseverance, fortitude, tenacity of life and strong will of survival.
- () 5. The reason why the writer was on his knees for a long time is that he was awed by the bee's vigor of life.

Task 4 Translate the following sentences into Chinese.

1. Two turbulent streams joined to form a clear, deep pool before roaring down a heavily wooded canyon. (Para. 1)

2. My idyll would have been perfect had it not been for a persistent bee that began buzzing around me. (Para. 2)

3. The right wing was relatively intact, but the left was crumpled like a piece of paper. (Para. 6)

4. Like a pilot learning the peculiarities of a strange airplane, it experimented with short hopes that ignominiously. (Para. 11)

5. Narrowly avoiding it, the bee rechecked its forward speed, circled and then drifted slowly over the mirror-like surface of the pool as if to admire its own reflection. (Para. 12)

Task 5 Work in groups and answer the following questions.

1. How did the writer's feelings and attitude toward the bee change from their first encounter to the bee's final flying away?
2. What qualities can we learn from the bee?
3. Were there any moments in your life that made you awe at the beauty of life? What were they?
4. Have you ever encountered adversity in life? How did you deal with it?

Task 6 Work in groups and discuss.

Nick Vujicic is an Australian-American born without arms or legs who has become a world-renowned speaker, *New York Times*' best-selling author, coach and entrepreneur. Nick faced tremendous obstacles in life from living life without limbs to being bullied at school and fearful for his future with no purpose in sight. Without hope, his feelings of helplessness and isolation led him to attempt suicide. But later Nick persevered through life's challenges and discovered key principles which enabled him to find his purpose and turn obstacles into opportunities, making him one of the most sought-after keynote speakers in the world! Millions of people have found hope, purpose and the strength to overcome their challenges through Nick's inspirational speeches and powerful coaching.



Find more about Nick Vujicic online, and discuss the following questions with your partner.

1. Is it his inner strength or external force that helps him get out of the rock bottom of life?
2. What are his inner strength and the external force respectively?
3. Will you seek help if you are in a dilemma in life? Then whom can you turn to?
4. Are there any other ways of dealing with sufferings in life?

Further Exploration

Task 1 Interview no less than three elderly people and ask them to recall their lives in memory.

Age	
Gender	
Occupation	
Main events in life	
Happiest moments	
Darkest moments	
Regrets	
Wishes	
Views toward life	

Task 2 Compare their life experiences and attitudes toward life, think about how they inspire you, and then deliver a speech in class on the topic "What Do I Live for."

In 2020, a picture went viral online. Read the following passage about the background information of the picture and search the internet for further information related to the issue. Write an article entitled “The Beauty of Life.” You should write about 150-200 words according to the outline given below.

1. Describe the picture in your own words;
2. Demonstrate the implied meaning in the picture;
3. Your viewpoint on “the beauty of life.”

Elderly Patient Seen Enjoying Beauty of Life

An 87-year-old novel coronavirus patient in Wuhan, Hubei Province – the hardest-hit city by the coronavirus outbreak in China – grabbed public attention due to a photo of him watching the sunset with his doctor.

The elderly patient surnamed Wang, also a violinist, was admitted to Renmin Hospital of Wuhan University on Feb 11, taken great care of by medical teams in the hospital and discharged after recovery.

Liu Kai, his former doctor from Zhongshan Hospital, was taking him for a CT scan on March 5 when Liu asked Wang if he wanted to stop and watch the sunset. Wang gave a quick nod of approval, and then both enjoyed the waning light of the day.

As the picture gained likes online, netizens called it “the warmest scene during the epidemic.”



UNIT

2

Love and Friendship



Text A

Warm up

Is it possible that one can fall in love with someone's reflection in water? Have you ever loved someone secretly? Read the following love story and share with your classmates your answer to this question: Why is it called “an inverted love story”?

Angela: An Inverted Love Story

*William Schwenck Gilbert*¹

- 1 I am a poor paralysed fellow who, for many years past, has been confined to a bed or a sofa. For the last six years I have occupied a small room, giving on to one of the side canals of Venice², and having no one about me but a deaf old woman, who makes my bed and attends to my food; and there I eke out a poor income of about thirty pounds a year by making water-colour drawings of flowers and fruit. But, on the whole, I am happy and content.
- 2 It is necessary that I should describe the position of my room rather minutely. Its only window is about five feet above the water of the canal, and above it the house projects some six feet. Although I can see but little of the material house opposite, I can see its reflection upside down in the canal, and I take a good deal of inverted interest in such of its inhabitants as show themselves from time to time (always upside down) on its balconies and at its windows.
- 3 When I first occupied my room, about six years ago, my attention was directed to the reflection of a little girl of thirteen or so, who passed every day on a balcony just above the upward range of my limited field of view. She had a glass of flowers and a crucifix (十字架) on a little table by her side; and I concluded that she earned her living by needle-work. She was certainly an industrious little girl, and, as far as I could judge by her upside-down reflection, neat in her dress and pretty. She had an old mother, an invalid, who, on warm days, would sit on the balcony with her, and it interested me

to see the little maid lay down her work and kiss and fondle the old lady for half a minute, and then take up her work again.

4 Time went by, and as the little maid grew up, her reflection grew down, and at last she was quite a little woman of, I suppose, sixteen or seventeen. I can only work for a couple of hours or so in the brightest part of the day, so I had plenty of time on my hands in which to watch her movements, and sufficient imagination to weave a little romance about her. One day, when it appeared to me that she was looking right at it—that is to say when her reflection appeared to be looking right at me—I tried the desperate experiment of nodding to her, and to my intense delight her reflection nodded in reply. And so our two reflections became known to one another.

5 It did not take me very long to fall in love with her, but a long time passed before I could make up my mind to do more than nod to her every morning. One day, however, when I saw her reflection looking at mine, I nodded to her, and threw a flower into the canal. She nodded several times in return. Then every morning I threw a flower into the water for “good morning”, and another in the evening for “good night”, and I soon discovered that I had not altogether thrown them in vain, for one day she threw a flower to join mine, and she laughed and clapped



her hands when she saw the two flowers join forces and float away together. And then every morning and every evening she threw her flower when I threw mine, and when the two flowers met she clapped her hands, and so did I; but when they were separated by some obstructions or rudely run down by a passing gondola (贡多拉船), she pretended to cry, and I did the same. One day she showed me her crucifix and kissed it, and thereupon I took a little silver crucifix that always stood by me, and kissed that, and so she knew that we were one in religion.

- 6 One day the little maid did not appear on her balcony, and for several days I saw nothing of her; and although I threw my flowers as usual, no flower came to keep it company. However, after a time, she reappeared, dressed in black, and crying often, and then I knew that the poor child's mother was dead, and, as far as I knew, she was alone in the world. But the darkest day of all to me was when a good-looking young gondolier (贡多拉船夫), worked his craft alongside the house, and stood talking to her as she sat on the balcony. They seemed to speak as old friends—indeed, as well as I could make out, he held her by the hand during the whole of their interview which lasted quite half an hour. Eventually he pushed off, and left my heart heavy within me. But I soon took heart of grace, for as soon as he was out of sight, the little maid threw two flowers growing on the same stem—an allegory of which I could make nothing, until it broke upon me that she meant to convey to me that he and she were brother and sister, and that I had no cause to be sad. And thereupon I nodded to her cheerily, and she nodded to me, and laughed aloud, and I laughed in return, and all went on again as before.
- 7 Then came a dark and dreary time, for it became necessary that I should undergo treatment that confined me absolutely to my bed for many days. One day—and it was a bright day indeed for me—the old woman who tended me told me that a gondolier had inquired whether the English gentleman had gone away or had died; and so I learned that the little maid had been anxious about me. So the first time, as the gondolier passed my window, I beckoned to him and thanked him and his sister for their many kind thoughts about me during my retreat, and I then learned from him that her name was Angela, and that she was the best and purest maiden in all Venice, and that anyone might think himself happy indeed who could call her sister, but that he was happier even than her brother, for he was to be married to her, and indeed they were to be married the next day.
- 8 Thereupon my heart seemed to swell to bursting, and the blood rushed through my veins so that I could hear it and nothing else for a while. “For,” said he, “my Angela has known you very long—ever since she was a child, and she has often spoken to

me of the poor Englishman who was a good Catholic, and she had said over and over again how dearly she wished she could speak to him and comfort him; and one day, when you threw a flower into the canal, she asked me whether she might throw another, and I told her yes, for he would understand that it meant sympathy for one sorely afflicted.”

- 9 And so I learned that it was pity, and not love, that prompted her to interest herself in my welfare, and there was an end of it all.
- 10 For the two flowers that I thought were on one stem were two flowers tied together (but I could not tell that), and they were meant to indicate that she and the gondolier were affianced lovers, and my expressed pleasure at this symbol delighted her, for she took it to mean that I rejoiced in her happiness.
- 11 And the next day, they entered the house in which I dwelt, and came into my room (and it was strange indeed, after so many years of inversion, to see her with her head above her feet!), and then she wished me happiness and a speedy restoration to good health (which could never be); and I, in broken words and with tears in my eyes, gave her the little silver crucifix that had stood by my bed or my table for so many years. Angela took it reverently, and crossed herself, and kissed it, and so departed with her delighted husband.
- 12 And as I heard the song of the gondoliers as they went their way—the song dying away in the distance as the shadows of the sundown closed around me—I felt that they were singing the requiem (安魂曲) of the only love that had ever entered my heart.

(1431 words)

Notes

- 1 William Schwenck Gilbert (1836–1911) is a famous English playwright and poet. His famous partnership with Sir Arthur Sullivan was formed in 1875, and led to a long series of brilliantly successful comic operas, beginning with *Trial by Jury*. Gilbert is a great phrase-coiner. Many of Gilbert’s phrases are still in use, and some have passed into proverbs.
- 2 Located in northern Italy, Venice has been known as “the city of water” and “the city of bridges.” The thin boat named gondola is a traditional vessel used to transport people, usually associated with the Venetian canals.

New Words

invert *v.* to put something in the opposite position
使反向, 使颠倒

paralysed *adj.* [BrE] = paralyzed [AmE] unable to move part or all of your body or feel it 瘫痪的

minutely *adv.* very carefully, to the smallest details 详细地

inhabitants *n. (pl.)* people who live in a particular place [复数] 居民

industrious *adj.* hardworking 勤劳的

invalid *n.* someone who cannot look after themselves because of illness, old age, or injury
病弱者, 年迈者, 伤残者

fondle *v.* to gently touch in a way that shows love
爱抚

sufficient *adj.* as much as is needed for a particular purpose 充足的

weave *v.* (~ a story) to put many different ideas, subjects, stories etc. together 编造, 编纂

allegory *n.* a story, painting etc. in which the events and characters represent ideas or teach a moral lesson 寓言, 讽喻

dreary *adj.* dull and making you feel sad or bored
沉闷的, 令人沮丧的

beckon *v.* to make a signal to someone with your hand 招手示意

swell *v.* (with pride/anger etc.) to become larger or rounder than normal (因骄傲、愤怒或激动)
肿胀, 膨胀

afflict *v.* (be afflicted with/by something) to make someone suffer 使受折磨

welfare *n.* someone's welfare is their health and happiness 幸福, 福祉

affianced *adj.* engaged 已订婚的

rejoice *v.* to feel or show that you are very happy
喜悦, 欣喜

dwell (dwelled/dwelt) *v. (in)* to live in a particular place 在……居住

restoration *n.* making something return to its former state or condition 恢复, 康复

reverently *adv.* showing a lot of respect and admiration 恭敬地, 虔诚地

Phrases and Expressions

give on to/onto something [BrE] to have a view of something; to lead directly to something 朝向, 面向, 通向

in vain without success 徒劳无益, 白费力气



Exercises

The following tasks are based on Text A.

Task 1 Match the following words in Column A with the accurate explanations in Column B.

Column A

1. inverted
2. confine
3. industrious
4. sufficient
5. reverently
6. sympathy

Column B

- A. pity
- B. respectfully
- C. upside down
- D. to restrict
- E. hardworking
- F. adequate

Task 2 Complete the following passage with the expressions in the box. Each can only be used once with their appropriate form.

obstruction	separate	convey	fortunate
imitate	downwards	despair	fashion

Every morning and every evening she threw her flower when I threw mine, and when the two flowers met she clapped her hands, and so did I; but when they were (1) _____, as they sometimes were, owing to one of them having met an (2) _____ which made it fail to catch the other, she threw up her hands in a pretty affectation (假装) of (3) _____, which I tried to (4) _____ but in an English and unsuccessful (5) _____. And when they were rudely run down by a passing gondola she pretended to cry, and I did the same. Then, she would point (6) _____ to the sky to tell me that it was Destiny that had caused the shipwreck of our flowers, and I would try to (7) _____ to her that Destiny would be kinder next time, and that perhaps tomorrow our flowers would be more (8) _____—and so the innocent courtship went on.

Task 3 Choose the best answer to each question with the information you've got from the text.

1. Which of the following statements is NOT true about the narrator?
 - A. He has lived in Venice for six years.
 - B. He makes a living by making water-colour drawings.
 - C. He can see clearly the material house opposite and its reflection in the canal.
 - D. He feels happy and content although he can only eke out a poor income.
2. What can be told from the girl's reflection in water?
 - A. The girl earned her living by making needles.
 - B. The girl was not interested in the narrator's reflection.
 - C. The girl was neat, pretty and hardworking.
 - D. The girl became known to the narrator by throwing flowers into water.
3. Why did the narrator say "it was a bright day indeed for me" in Para. 7?
 - A. Because the weather was fine on that day.
 - B. Because a gondolier passed his window.
 - C. Because the old woman who tended the narrator told him a story.
 - D. Because he thought that the little maid had been anxious about him.
4. What meaning did Angela want to indicate by the two flowers tied together on one stem?
 - A. They were good friends.
 - B. They were engaged lovers.
 - C. They were brother and sister.
 - D. They were anxious about me.
5. Why did the narrator regard the song of the gondoliers as the requiem?
 - A. Because he was dying.
 - B. Because he felt sad for their marriage.
 - C. Because he felt happy for their marriage.
 - D. Because he lost his only love.

Task 4 Translate the following sentences into Chinese.

1. I take a good deal of inverted interest in such of its inhabitants as show themselves from time to time (always upside down) on its balconies and at its windows. (Para. 2)

2. She was certainly an industrious little girl, and, as far as I could judge by her upside-down reflection, neat in her dress and pretty. (Para. 3)

3. I had plenty of time on my hands in which to watch her movements, and sufficient imagination to weave a little romance about her. (Para. 4)

4. Eventually he pushed off, and left my heart heavy within me. (Para. 6)

5. I felt that they were singing the requiem of the only love that had ever entered my heart. (Para. 12)

Task 5 Work in groups and answer the following questions.

1. In the story, the narrator's love for Angela can be called "unrequited love (暗恋, 单相思)." What would you do if you were the narrator?
2. How will you express your feelings to someone you love?
3. How do you feel if you are dumped by your boyfriend / girlfriend?
4. How will you balance your study and your love?
5. What are your standards for choosing a boyfriend / girlfriend ?

Task 6 Work in groups. Think and share your thoughts with your classmates.

Someone said that a couple should "be well-matched in social and economic status (门当户对)" for love and marriage. Do you agree? Why or why not?

Text B

Warm up

There are three kinds of friendship: one based on mutual usefulness, one based on pleasure and one based on goodness. Now discuss of the following questions with your partner.

1. Have you classified your friends into different groups?
2. What elements do you take into account when choosing a friend?



On Friendship¹

Michel de Montaigne²

- 1 In a traditional way, there are four types of human affective ties which can be characterized as: the natural, the social, the hospitable and the erotic. However, for me, none of them is friendship. All forms of it which are forged or fostered by pleasure or profit or by public or private necessity are much less beautiful or noble—and therefore so much the less “friendship”—in that they bring in some purpose, end or fruition other than the friendship itself.
- 2 From children to fathers it is more a matter of respect; friendship, being fostered by mutual confidences, cannot exist between them because of their excessive inequality; it might also interfere with their natural obligations: for all the secret thoughts of fathers cannot be shared with their children for fear of inviting an unbecoming intimacy; neither can those counsels and warnings which constitute one of the principal obligations of friendship be offered by children to their fathers.

- 3 The name of brother is truly a fair one and full of love. But sharing out property or dividing it up, with the wealth of one becoming the poverty of the other, can wondrously melt and weaken the soldier binding brothers together. Brothers have to progress and advance by driving along the same path in the same team: they must frequently bump and rival against each other. Father and son can be of totally different complexions: so can brothers. "He is my son, he is my kinsman, but he is wild, wicked or stupid!" And to the extent that they are loving relationships commanded by the law and the bonds of nature, there is less of our own choice, less "willing freedom." Our "willing freedom" produces nothing more properly its own than affection and loving-friendship.
- 4 You cannot compare with friendship the passion men feel for women, even though it is born of our own choice, nor can you put them in the same category. I must admit that the flames of passion are more active, sharp and keen. But that fire is a rash one, fickle, fluctuating and variable; it is a feverish fire, subject to attacks and relapses, which only gets hold of a corner of us. The love of friends is a generally universal warmth, temperate, moreover, and smooth, a warmth which is constant and at rest, all gentleness and evenness, having nothing sharp nor keen. As soon as passion enters the territory of friendship, it grows faint. To enjoy it is to lose it. Friendship on the contrary is enjoyed in proportion to our desire: since it is a matter of the mind, with our souls being purified by practicing it, it can spring forth, be nourished and grow only when enjoyed.
- 5 Certainly, the only point I concede to the Academy³ is that it was a love-affair which ended in friendship, which is consistent with the Stoic⁴ definition of love: "love is the striving to establish friendship on the external signs of beauty."
- 6 Moreover, what we normally call friends and friendship are no more than acquaintances and familiar relationships bound by some chance or some suitability, by means of which our souls support each other. In the friendship which I am talking about, souls are mingled and blended that they erase the seam (縫隙) which joins them together so that it cannot be found. If you press me to say why I loved my friend La Boétie⁵, I feel that it cannot be expressed except by replying: "Because it was him; because it was me."
- 7 Not only did I know his mind as well as I knew my own but I would have entrusted myself to him with greater assurance than to myself. Let nobody place those other common friendships in the same rank as this. In those other friendships you must proceed with wisdom and caution, keeping the reins in your hand: the bond is not so well tied that there is no reason to doubt it. "Love a friend," said Chilo⁶, "as though some day you must hate him: hate him, as though you must love him." Aristotle⁷ often repeated: "O my friends, there is no friend!"
- 8 In the noble relationship, the services and good turns which foster those other friendships are not even worth being taken into account: that is because of the total interfusion of the wills. Common friendships can be shared. In one friend one can love beauty; in another, amiability; in another, generosity; in another, a fatherly affection; in another, a brotherly one; and so on. But in this friendship love takes possession of the soul and dominates there with full sovereign power: that cannot possibly be duplicated. If two friends asked you to help them at the same time, which of them would you dash

to? If they asked for conflicting favors, who would have the priority? If one entrusted to your silence something which it was useful for the other to know, how would you get out of that? The unique, highest friendship loosens all other bonds. That secret which I have sworn to reveal to no other, I can reveal without betrayal to him who is not another: he is me.

- 9 In Antiquity Menander⁸ pronounced a man to be happy if he had merely encountered the shadow of a friend; he was certainly right to say so, especially if he had actually tasted friendship.
- 10 Since the day I lost my friend, I merely drag wearily on. The very pleasures which are proffered me do not console me: they redouble my sorrow at his loss. In everything we were halves: I feel I am stealing his share from him. I was already so used and accustomed to being, in everything, one of two, that I now feel I am no more than a half. "... my brother, dearer than life itself. Certainly I shall love you always."

(999 words)

Notes

- 1 This article is selected and adapted from one of Penguin's Great Ideas series: *On Friendship* (《论友谊》).
- 2 Michel de Montaigne (1533–1592) is a French writer and philosopher, whose essays established a new literary form. In his essays he wrote one of the most captivating and intimate self-portraits ever given, on a par with (与……同级) Augustine's and Rousseau's. Deeply critical of his time and deeply involved in its preoccupations and its struggles, Montaigne chose to write about himself in order to arrive at certain possible truths concerning man and the human condition.
- 3 The Academy (学院派): the Platonic Academy is often seen as the prototype of a new kind of educational organization. Plato began leading and participating in discussions at the Academy's grounds in the early decades of the fourth century BC. In the Academy, Plato encouraged doctrinal (学说的) diversity and multiple perspectives. Plato reflected Socrates' willingness to discuss and debate ideas rather than to teach students mastery of a particular subject matter.
- 4 Stoicism (斯多葛学派) is a school of philosophy founded by Zeno (芝诺) about 300 BC, holding that the wise man should be free from passion, unmoved by joy or grief, and submissive to natural law.
- 5 La Boétie (1530–1563) was a distinguished French civil servant, humanist scholar and writer, an acquaintance of Montaigne. Montaigne called his bond with La Boétie perfect and indivisible, vastly superior to all other human alliances.
- 6 Chilo's chilling judgment was normally attributed to Bias (毕亚斯), one of the Seven Sages of Greece (希腊七贤), whose famous motto was "Most men are bad."
- 7 Aristotle (384 BC–322 BC) was an ancient Greek philosopher and scientist, one of the greatest intellectual figures in Western history.
- 8 Menander (342 BC–291 BC) was born in Athens, a Greek dramatist and the chief representative of the New Comedy.

New Words

- affective** *adj.* relating to or having an effect on the emotions 情感的
- erotic** *adj.* involving sexual excitement (引起) 性欲的, 色情的
- forge** *v.* to develop something new, especially a strong relationship with other people, groups, or countries 形成, 缔造 (尤指牢固的关系)
- foster** *v.* to help a skill, feeling, idea etc. develop over a period of time 促进, 培养
- invite** *v.* to encourage something bad to happen, especially without intending to (尤指无意地) 招致 (不好的事)
- unbecoming** *adj.* behavior that is unbecoming is shocking or unsuitable (行为) 过分的, 不合适的
- wondrously** *adv.* impressively, surprisingly 美妙地, 令人惊叹地
- solder** *n.* a soft metal, which can be melted and used to join two metal surfaces, wires etc. 焊料, 焊锡
- complexion** *n.* the general character of something (事物的) 性质, 特性
- rash** *adj.* if you are rash, you do things too quickly, without thinking carefully about whether they are sensible or not 急躁的, 鲁莽的
- fickle** *adj.* someone who is fickle is always changing their mind about people or things that they like, so that you cannot depend on them (含贬义) 善变的, 变化无常的
- fluctuate** *v.* if a price or amount fluctuates, it keeps changing and becoming higher and lower (价格或数量) 波动, 起伏
- feverish** *adj.* very excited or worried about something 兴奋的, 十分焦虑的
- relapse** *n.* a failure to maintain a higher state 故态复萌, 倒退
- temperate** *adj.* calm and sensible 温和的, 心平气和的
- concede** *v.* to admit that something is true or correct although you wish it were not true (不得不) 承认
- entrust** *v.* to make someone responsible for doing something important, or for taking care of

someone 委托, 交付

- interfusion** *n.* mixture, blending 混入, 混合
- amiability** *n.* the quality of being friendly and easy to like 和蔼可亲, 友善
- sovereign** *adj.* having the highest power in a country (国家内) 权力至高无上的
- duplicate** *v.* to copy something exactly 复制
- antiquity** *n.* ancient times 古代
- wearily** *adv.* to the extent of feeling very tired, especially after you have been working hard or doing something for a long time (尤指长时间努力工作后) 疲倦地, 疲惫地
- proffer** *v.* to offer something to someone, especially by holding it out in your hands 端给, 递给
- console** *v.* to make someone feel better when they are feeling sad or disappointed 安慰, 慰藉

Phrases and Expressions

- bring in** to make or earn a particular amount of money 赚得, 挣
- share out** if you share out an amount of something, you give each person in a group an equal or fair part of it 分摊, 均分
- subject to** if someone or something is subject to something, especially something bad, it is possible or likely that they will be affected by it 易受某人 (某事) 的影响, 可能会……的
- get hold of** to find something that you want or need 找到所需要的东西
- at rest** not moving 静止, 不动
- in proportion to** agreeing in amount, magnitude, or degree 与某事物成比例
- spring forth** to grow, flood, expand 涌出, 生长, 发展
- strive to** to take effort to do 力图, 力求
- keep a rein in one's hand** to control something 对某人 / 某事控制
- take possession of** to occupy; to enter on 占领, 夺取
- get out of** if you get out of doing something that you do not want to do, you succeed in avoiding doing it 摆脱, 逃避
- be accustomed to** to make yourself/somebody familiar with something or become used to it 使习惯于

Exercises

The following tasks are based on Text B.

Task 1 Match the following words in Column A with the accurate explanations in Column B.

Column A

1. fluctuate
2. temperate
3. concede
4. foster
5. feverish
6. unbecoming

Column B

- A. calm and sensible
- B. to develop a skill, feeling or idea over a period of time
- C. to keep changing and becoming higher and lower
- D. very excited or worried about something
- E. shocking or unsuitable
- F. to admit something is true

Task 2 Complete the following sentences with the expressions in the box. Change the form where necessary.

affective

intimacy

invite

wearily

entrust

assurance

amiability

console

1. Students soon grow _____ of listening to a parade of historical facts.
2. They called for _____ that the government would be committed to its education policy.
3. Such comments are just _____ trouble.
4. We're not on _____ terms with our neighbors.
5. _____ thinking belongs to non-rational thinking and has its own characteristics.
6. Nothing could _____ him when his wife died.
7. I couldn't _____ my children to strangers.
8. I watched my master's face pass from _____ to sternness (严厉).

Task 3 Decide whether the following statements are True (T) or False (F) according to the text.

- () 1. According to Montaigne, friendship motivated by pleasure or usefulness is genuine friendship.
- () 2. Montaigne's friendship means to love someone for his/her "own sake."

- () 3. According to Montaigne, brothers can't become friends, because it is a free and deliberate choice of love of a person.
- () 4. In common friendships, you must use your wisdom and caution to manage them, in case you may lose your friends some day.
- () 5. In the noble friendship, the relationship is tied by some suitability and support for each other.

Task 4 Translate the following sentences into Chinese.

1. All forms of it which are forged or fostered by pleasure or profit or by public or private necessity are much less beautiful or noble—and therefore so much the less “friendship”—in that they bring in some purpose, end or fruition other than the friendship itself. (Para. 1)

2. The love of friends is a generally universal warmth, temperate, moreover, and smooth, a warmth which is constant and at rest, all gentleness and evenness, having nothing sharp nor keen. (Para. 4)

3. Not only did I know his mind as well as I knew my own but I would have entrusted myself to him with greater assurance than to myself. (Para. 7)

4. But in this friendship love takes possession of the soul and dominates there with full sovereign power: that cannot possibly be duplicated. (Para. 8)

5. Since the day I lost my friend, I merely drag wearily on. The very pleasures which are proffered me do not console me: they redouble my sorrow at his loss. (Para. 10)

Task 5 Work in groups and answer the following questions.

1. Do you think friendship can exist between children and parents?
2. According to Montaigne, erotic love can't be compared to friendship. Do you think there is pure friendship between men and women? And do you think it is probable to develop friendship between husband and wife?
3. It is said that a friend is just like a mirror that is the reflection of oneself, because human beings have affection toward those who resemble them. Do you agree? Why or why not?
4. When being asked why Montaigne loved his friend La Boétie so much, he replied: "Because it was him; because it was me." What did he mean?
5. Aristotle often repeated: "O my friends, there is no friend!" What's his implied meaning? Do you think you have a bosom friend?

Task 6 Work in groups and discuss.

Healthy friendship lifts one up to be his highest and best, while corrupt friendship pulls him down to his lowest and worst. Work in groups and discuss with your partners the following questions.

1. Have you ever evaluated your friendships to see what they're doing to your soul?
2. Do your friends risk your relationship to correct you when you're wrong?
3. "Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." (朋友互相砥砺, 犹如以铁锉铁) But it's also true that the wrong man can also dull (蒙蔽) another. That is, there's great beauty in friendship and great danger. How do you go ahead courageously?

Further Exploration

Read the following story about the famed friends.

Thomas Jefferson and James Madison met in 1776. They worked together to further American Revolution and later to shape the new scheme of government. From the work sprang a friendship that lasted 50 years.

Four and a half months before he died, Jefferson wrote to his longtime friend: “The friendship which has subsisted between us now half a century, the harmony of our political principles and pursuits have been sources of constant happiness to me through that long period. ... To myself you have been a pillar of support throughout life. Take care of me when dead and be assured that I should leave with you my last affections.”

Task 1 Analyze the friendship between Thomas Jefferson and James Madison. You may search online for further information about Madison’s reply of the letter and their life stories. Then share your thoughts on the following questions.

1. What is the basis of friendship between Jefferson and Madison?
2. How many kinds of friendship are there? Do you agree the greatest friendship is based on love for the community?
3. How do your friendships enrich your lives?

Task 2 Suppose you were to give a presentation at an academic forum, sharing your understanding of the greatest friendship. You may choose an example to illustrate or talk in general about the relationship between the greatest friendship and the greatest love.

Edgar Snow was an American journalist and writer and the first Western journalist to visit Yan'an, then the “red capital” of China. His wife Helen Foster Snow also enjoyed certain fame in China. Their love and life stories demonstrate the full meaning of love and friendship. Read the following passage about Helen Foster Snow and search the internet for further information. Write an article about your understanding of love based on the passage. Your article should include:

1. The definition of love;
2. Different types of love;
3. Your understanding of love.

Edgar and Helen Snow: Couple Once, Soulmate Forever

Helen Foster Snow, wife of Edgar Snow and author of *Inside Red China*, followed the footsteps of her husband to northwestern China in 1937. There she interviewed Communist army leaders as well as average soldiers, women and children, leaving behind a treasure trove of interview notes, pictures and writings.

Helen constantly encouraged and even goaded Edgar into action; and she insisted that Edgar give a fuller and more authentic account of Mao Zedong and his fellow Communists in his hit book, one that's not subject to much literary change that Edgar had originally planned.

For many decades Helen remained and still remains in the long shadow Edgar had cast. Although they divorced in May 1949, she's fondly remembered as Edgar's wife by friends and family in the United States and China.