

5

Unit

Loving family



The Philippine poet Denn A. Meneses defines home as a magical place that “stays at the core of our being no matter where our life’s journeys take us.” Indeed, a home, or more exactly a strong and healthy family, is the harbor of our soul where we seek comfort, love, happiness and support. But what makes a happy and healthy family? Apart from those important qualities such as communication, appreciation, or coping with crisis, commitment and spending time together are also crucial qualities. However, it seems normal today for kids to complain that their parents are fully occupied with work, and for adult children to make excuses that they are too busy to visit their elderly parents. So, to be in each other’s memories, do we have to be in their lives today? Is investment of time and energy vital to a loving family? The following two stories happen to offer perspectives on this quality from a daughter, a mother, a father and a son. Read on to see what you can get from the stories.

Scenario

Your college is going to hold the Annual English Drama Festival. The theme of this year is “Family love.” You are going to participate in this festival and join in groups to perform a play about your unforgettable experience with your parents. How will you describe your experience? How will you perform it on stage emotionally? You will be able to complete the task better after the study of this unit.

Learning objectives

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- talk about family and love using new vocabulary
- identify the six basic elements in story telling
- narrate your unforgettable experience with your parents
- clarify the significance of spending time together with the family
- perform a play about your unforgettable experience with your parents

Viewing

To some people, traditional family reunion is no longer an important way to get connected with their family members thanks to modern communications technologies. Is spending time with the family still necessary and rewarding? Watch the video clip and see what are the speakers' views on that.



1 Fill in the blanks with the clues from the video clip.

Reasons to get together with the family

- Young man** The strongest happiest moments that I've ever sought in my life are when I'm with my 1) _____ and when I'm with my 2) _____.
- Young woman** It's really good to 3) _____ together and reconnect. If we ever need anything, we are always there 4) _____.
- Old woman** If they are happy, if they have problems, we all 5) _____ it together. We all 6) _____ together.
- Old man** Successful marriages and families are established and maintained on principles of 7) _____, 8) _____, compassion, work and wholesome recreational activities.

2 Speakers in the video clip say that family members are always there for each other. If they have problems, they solve them together. Would you talk with and seek help from your family when you run into trouble? Why or why not?

Reading

In our saddest moments, we are likely to seek help from someone else. Some turn to close friends. Others rely on those who are wiser. But for the author of the following text, nothing is quite as helpful as a lunchtime walk with a loving mother. On the walk they talked a lot and afterward her mother gave her a precious gift which she had kept until now. What were they talking about on this walk? What was the mother's gift? Read the text and you will find the answers.

- 1 I grew up in a small town where the elementary school was a ten-minute walk from my house and in an age when children could go home for lunch.
- 2 At the time, I did not consider this a luxury, although today it certainly would be. I took it for granted that mothers were the sandwich-makers and the homework monitors. I never questioned that this ambitious, intelligent woman, who had had a career before I was born, would spend almost every lunch hour throughout my elementary school years just with me.
- 3 I only know that when the noon bell rang, I would race breathlessly home. My mother would be standing at



My Mother's Gift

the top of the stairs, smiling down at me with a look that suggested I was the only important thing she had on her mind. For this, I am forever grateful.

- 4 One lunchtime when I was in the third grade will stay with me always. I had been picked to be the princess in the school play, and for weeks my mother had painstakingly rehearsed my lines with me. But no matter how easily I delivered them at home, as soon as I stepped onstage, every word disappeared from my head.
- 5 Finally, my teacher explained that she had written a narrator's part to the play, and asked me to switch roles. I didn't tell my mother what had happened when I went home for lunch that day. But she sensed my unease, and instead of suggesting we practice my lines, she asked if I wanted to walk in the yard.
- 6 It was a lovely spring day and the rose vine on the trellis was turning green. Under the huge elm trees, we could see yellow dandelions popping through the grass in bunches, as if a painter had touched our landscape with a little gold.
- 7 I watched my mother casually bend down by one of the clumps. "I think I'm going to dig up all these weeds," she said, pulling a blossom up by its roots. "From now on, we'll have only roses in this garden."



- 8 “But I like dandelions,” I protested. “All flowers are beautiful — even dandelions.”
- 9 My mother looked at me seriously. “Yes, every flower gives pleasure in its own way, doesn’t it?” she asked thoughtfully. I nodded, pleased that I had won her over. “And that is true of people too,” she added. “Not everyone can be a princess, but there is no shame in that.”
- 10 Relieved that she had guessed my pain, I started to cry as I told her what had happened. She listened and smiled reassuringly.
- 11 “But you will be a beautiful narrator,” she said, reminding me of how much I loved to read stories aloud to her. “The narrator’s part is every bit as important as the part of a princess.” Over the next few weeks, with her constant encouragement, I learned to take pride in the role. Lunchtimes were spent reading over my lines and talking about what I would wear.
- 12 Backstage on the night of the performance, I felt nervous. A few minutes before the play, my teacher came over to me. “Your mother asked me to give this to you,” she said, handing me a dandelion. Its edges were already beginning to curl and it flopped lazily from its stem. But just looking at it, knowing my mother was out there and thinking of our lunchtime talk, made me proud.
- 13 After the play, I took home the flower. My mother pressed it between two sheets of paper towel in a dictionary, laughing as she did it that we were perhaps the only people who would press such a sorry-looking weed.
- 14 I often look back on our lunchtimes together, tasting the happy moments bathed in the soft midday light. A few months ago, my mother, now retired, came to visit. I took off a day from work and treated her to lunch.
- 15 “Mom, you must have been terribly bored staying at home when I was a child,” I said.
- 16 “Bored? Housework is boring. But you were never boring.”
- 17 I didn’t believe her, so I pressed. “Surely children are not as stimulating as a career.”
- 18 “A career is stimulating,” she said. “I’m glad I had one. But a career is like an open balloon. It remains inflated only as long as you keep pumping. A child is a seed. You water it. You care for it the best you can. And then it grows all by itself into a beautiful flower.”
- 19 Just then, looking at her, I could picture us sitting at her kitchen table once again, and I understood why I kept that flaky brown dandelion in our old family dictionary pressed between two crumpled bits of paper towel.

Understanding the text

1 In the author's memory, the dandelion story is as vivid as yesterday. How did the story happen? Read Paras. 4-18 and rearrange the statements in order in the timeline. Then fill in the blanks and try to retell what happened on the lunchtime walk.

- 1 I had a lunchtime walk with my mother in the yard.
- 2 My mother told me a child is like a flower seed.
- 3 My mother pressed the dandelion between two sheets of paper towel in a dictionary.
- 4 I received a dandelion from my mother.
- 5 I treated my mother to lunch.
- 6 I was asked to take a narrator's part.
- 7 We discussed about what I would wear in the play.
- 8 My mother helped me rehearse my lines for the princess.



It was 1) _____. Under the huge elm trees, we could see 2) _____ in the grass. My mother 3) _____ dandelions by their roots and said that she was going to 4) _____. I 5) _____ and said that even dandelions are beautiful. My mother looked at me 6) _____, confirming that every flower 7) _____, and so do people. She added that not everyone can be a princess, but there is 8) _____ in that. 9) _____ that my mother had guessed my pain, I 10) _____ as I told her what had happened. My mother listened and smiled 11) _____. She told me that the narrator's part is as important as the part of a princess and 12) _____ me to be a beautiful narrator. I learned to 13) _____ the role.

2 Decide whether the statements are true (T) or false (F) according to the text.

- 1 My mother was content to be a full-time housewife before I was born.
- 2 I was asked to give up the role of the princess because I could not deliver the lines onstage.
- 3 In each spring, my mother would clear away weeds and dandelions from our rose garden.
- 4 I cried because my mother understood I had been wronged by the teacher.
- 5 My mother asked the teacher to give me a dandelion to encourage me and relieve my nervousness.
- 6 My mother believes that, unlike a child, career demands constant attention to develop well.

3 Work in pairs and discuss the questions.

- 1 The author reveals her mother's gift by leading us to her childhood memory. What does the gift – a dandelion – symbolize? Illustrate your point in detail.
- 2 Have you ever received any precious gift from your parents? Could you share the story with your partner?

Sharpening your skills

Identify the six elements in the story "My mother's gift" by filling in the blanks.

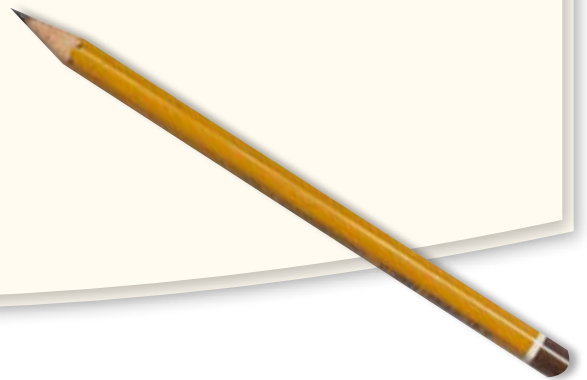
WRITING SKILLS

The five Ws and one H in telling a story

When you tell a story, your story should contain the six elements: the five Ws (who, when, where, what and why) and the H (how). These elements provide important details of the story and make your story informative and complete.



- 1 Who are the main characters?
_____ and _____.
Who else is involved?
_____.
- 2 What happened?
Mom and I had a _____ and she gave me _____ before my performance in the school play.
- 3 When did it take place?
When I was _____.
- 4 Where did it take place?
In the _____ of my home and _____ on the night of the performance.
- 5 Why did that happen?
I was _____ because I had to _____ from a princess to a narrator.
- 6 How was the problem solved?
My mother encouraged me by pointing out that even a dandelion can _____ in its own way. I learned to _____ the role.



Building your language

Words and expressions

1 Choose the expression that best explains the underlined word in each sentence.

- The parents kept their paralyzed (瘫痪的) son alive for 7 years by manually pumping air into his lungs.
A. removing something out of a certain place
B. forcing something to flow in a certain direction
- Our 9-year-old son Bobby is very intelligent and capable of doing good work in school.
A. smart
B. hard-working
- Barbara, Tad's mom, is terribly worried about his health.
A. extremely
B. fearfully
- The little girl sitting on the grass with two inflated balloons in her hand seems depressed.
A. made flat by pressing
B. filled with air
- Unseasonable (不合季节的) temperatures cause cherry blossoms to come out ahead of schedule.
A. leaves
B. flowers
- The family provides a stimulating environment for the development and growth of the child.
A. encouraging
B. boring

2 Complete the sentences with the expressions below. Change the form when necessary.

take it for granted

win over

(be) true of

look back on

have ... on one's mind

be bathed in

be grateful for

instead of

- How do we live a better life? Most people _____ this question _____.
- The tragedy has brought the family together _____ turning them against each other.
- Many parents _____ that they should save for their children's education, but they actually have some very valid (正当的) reasons not to.
- The pianist says he _____ to his parents _____ their encouragement and support.
- It's no secret that many children would be happier with their adoptive parents (养父母). That's especially _____ children who are badly treated by their biological parents.
- At first they didn't want to join us for dinner, but we finally _____ them _____.
- The yard _____ bright sunshine where my mother grew various kinds of vegetables.
- When I _____ my childhood, I can barely remember what I did or liked or watched.

Collocations

1 Complete the sentences with the verbs below. Change the form when necessary.

protest
deliver

relieve
take

care
remind

switch
treat

- Most people would prefer to be _____ *for* at home rather than in a hospital.
- I can well remember how proud I was when my mother was asked to _____ *a speech* at a parent-teacher conference.
- My parents are now so accustomed to Android (安卓操作系统) that they don't want to _____ *to* iPhone.
- Excited at success, I told my cousin that I would _____ him *to dinner* and he could name the restaurant.
- My mother is quite forgetful. I have to _____ her *of* her promise.
- Parents _____ *against* the government's decision to cut funding for high-school music programs.
- My parents _____ *pride in* my accomplishments which are stepping stones to my dreams.
- As he grew up, his parents were gradually _____ *of* the burden of planning for his future.

2 Complete the sentences with suitable expressions from the collocation box. Change the form when necessary. Sometimes more than one collocation is possible.

- Whenever my mother caught me reading in _____, she would warn me that it would ruin my eyesight.
- If your child has a bad cough, they may need to _____ and perhaps see a doctor.
- Words of _____, rather than punishment, have great power and kids will carry them for years.
- The curtain suddenly drawn, a(n) _____ shone in and I had to close my eyes.
- My brother is a musician. I am so proud that he _____ to a lot of people through his creativity.
- At the end of the book the author expresses his thanks to his family for their _____ and unselfish devotion.



Verbs which often go before:

school attend leave skip
pleasure give bring take

Adjectives which often go before:

light soft dim bright
encouragement constant
positive slight

Vocabulary learning strategies

We often use two nouns together (noun + noun) forming a compound noun to refer to a thing, a person, an idea, etc. The first noun is like an adjective – it tells us what kind of thing, person or idea it is. For example, the word “lunchtime” means the time when lunch is served. You can scan the QR code to learn more about compound nouns.



Language focus

In the text, the expression “tasting the happy moments bathed in the soft midday light” (Para. 14) functions as an adverbial of attendant circumstance (伴随状语). You can scan the QR code to learn more about the *-ing* participles (分词) functioning as the adverbial.



Banked cloze

Complete the passage with suitable words from the word bank. You may not use any of the words more than once.

encouragement	plant	reminds	remembers	company
casual	questioned	pleasure	play	stimulating
switch	seed	wonder	quit	show

When the author treats her mother to a lunch, she 1) _____ again her childhood lunchtimes her mother devoted only to her. After her birth, her mother 2) _____ her job and stayed home, taking care of her. Her mother would spend almost every lunch hour with her throughout her elementary school years. She had never 3) _____ that and took everything for granted. As an adult, she is wrong to assume she matters less than a(n) 4) _____ career to her mother. In fact, her mother enjoyed their time together because a child is like a(n) 5) _____ which grows all by itself into a beautiful flower as long as one cares for it.

The pressed dandelion kept in the family dictionary 6) _____ her of the most unforgettable lunchtime with her mother. Being told that she had to 7) _____ roles in a school play, she felt quite uneasy. During the walk in the yard, the mother made her realize everybody has their own existence value just as all flowers give 8) _____ in their own way. With her mother's constant 9) _____, she learned to take pride in the role and spent the lunchtimes reading over her lines and talking about what she would wear. Her mother's 10) _____ during lunchtimes and the dandelion her mother gave her on the night of the performance mean much to her.

Viewing

Like the girl in the text in iExplore 1, people have colorful childhood memories. They can stay with a little pressed dandelion in an old family dictionary. They can also be placed in the room in which one grew up. Watch the video clip to know about the speaker's childhood room.

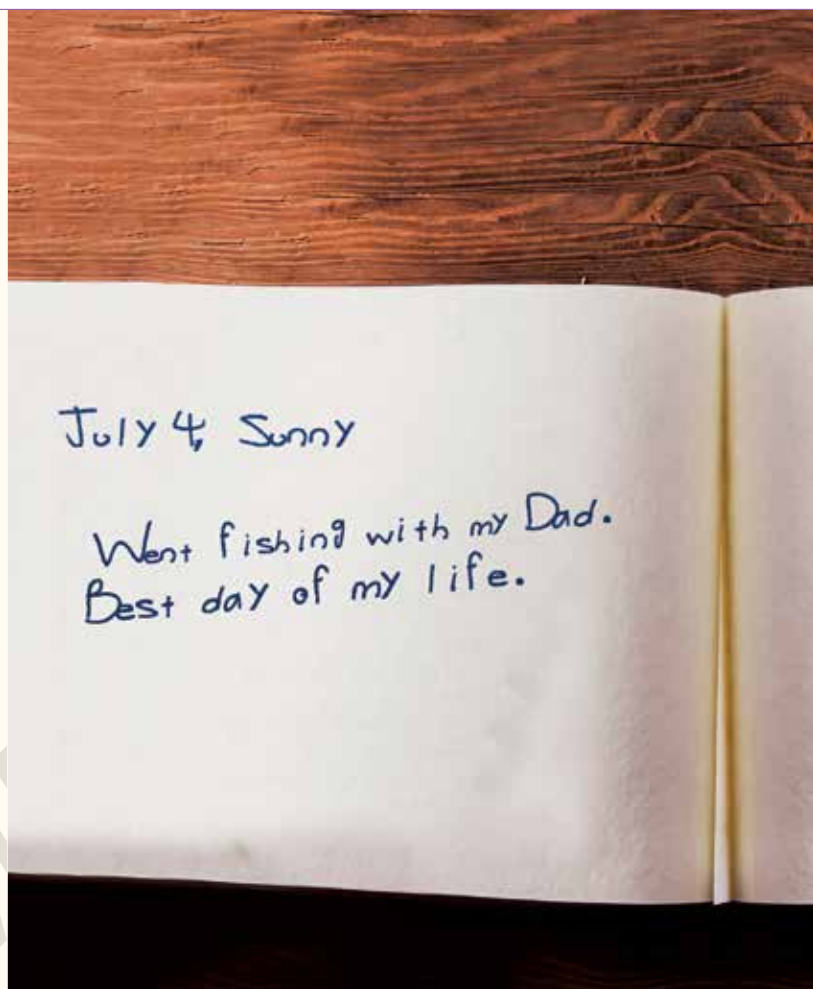


Video clip

1 Check the things which are in the speaker's childhood room.

- 1 soft animals
- 2 books
- 3 a *Harry Potter* poster
- 4 a pure black wall
- 5 a CD rack

2 The speaker's childhood room is filled with memories of the past. If possible, what would you like to place in your childhood room?



Reading

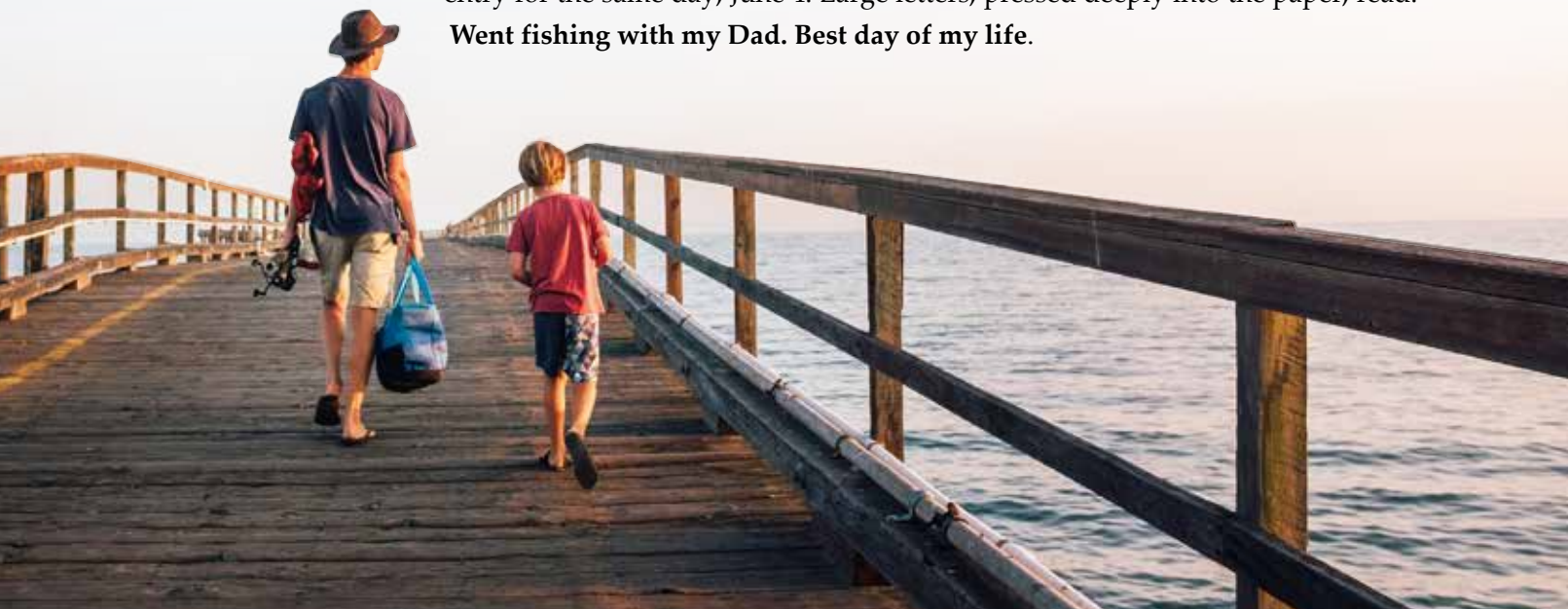
To most people, it's never too much to say how precious things from their childhood can be. These things not only witness the children's growth, but also bear the memories of the family. In the following text, an old father happened to find out his son's best day of life in a yellowed journal, which made him lost in thought. What happened on that day? What memories did the journal bring back to the old father? Read on to figure out the answers.

BEST DAY *of* MY LIFE



- 1 In the faint light of the attic, an old man, tall and stooped, bent his great frame and made his way to a stack of boxes that sat near one of the little half-windows. Brushing aside a bit of a spider's web, he pointed the top box toward the light and began to carefully lift out one old photograph album after another. Eyes once bright but now dim searched longingly for the source that had drawn him here.
- 2 It began with the fond memory of the love of his life, long gone, and somewhere in these albums was a photo of her he hoped to rediscover. Silent as a mouse, he patiently opened the long buried treasures and soon was lost in a sea of memories. Although his world had not stopped spinning when his wife left it, the past was more alive in his heart than his present aloneness.
- 3 Setting aside one of the dusty albums, he pulled from the box what appeared to be a journal from his grown son's childhood. He could not recall ever having seen it before, or that his son had ever kept a journal. Why did Elizabeth always save the children's old junk? He wondered, shaking his white head.

- 4 Opening the yellowed pages, he glanced over a short reading, and his lips curved in an unconscious smile. Even his eyes brightened as he read the words that spoke clear and sweet to his soul. It was the voice of the little boy who had grown up far too fast in this very house, and whose voice had grown fainter and fainter over the years. In the utter silence of the attic, the words of an innocent six-year-old worked their magic and carried the old man back to a time almost totally forgotten.
- 5 Entry after entry stirred an emotional hunger in his heart like the longing a gardener feels in the winter for the fragrance of spring flowers. But it was accompanied by the fact that his son's simple memories of those days were far different from his own. But how different?
- 6 Reminded that he had kept a daily journal of his business activities over the years, he closed his son's journal and turned to leave, having forgotten the cherished photo that originally triggered his search. Trying to avoid bumping his head, the old man stepped to the wooden stairs that led to the study.
- 7 Opening a glass cabinet door, he reached in and pulled out an old business journal. Turning, he sat down at his desk and placed the two journals beside each other. His was leather-bound with his name printed neatly in gold, while his son's had not been well kept and the name Jimmy had been nearly erased from its surface. He ran a long skinny finger over the letters, as though he could restore what had been worn away with time and use.
- 8 As he opened his journal, the old man's eyes fell upon a passage that stood out because it was so brief in comparison to other days. In his own neat handwriting were these words: **Wasted the whole day fishing with Jimmy. Didn't catch a thing.**
- 9 With a deep sigh and a shaking hand, he took Jimmy's journal and found the boy's entry for the same day, June 4. Large letters, pressed deeply into the paper, read: **Went fishing with my Dad. Best day of my life.**



Understanding the text

- 1 The search in the attic arouses mixed feelings of the father. How does the father show his emotions through his facial expressions and actions? Fill in the blanks and then match the descriptive sentences with the emotions.

Facial expressions and actions	Emotions
1 In the _____ of the attic, an old man, _____, bent his great frame and make his way ...	a cherishing
2 _____ as a mouse, he _____ opened the long buried treasures ...	b lonely
3 ... his lips curved in _____ ...	c sweet
4 Even his eyes _____ as he read the words ...	d mixed: regretful, excited and eager
5 He _____ a long skinny finger _____ the letters ...	
6 With a _____ sigh and a _____ hand ...	

- 2 Decide whether the statements are true (T) or false (F) according to the text.

- 1 The old man often climbed into the attic to enjoy the photograph albums.
- 2 The old man was excited to find his son's journal as he helped his son form the habit of keeping a journal.
- 3 The old man had no idea why his wife liked to keep their children's old stuff.
- 4 The more the old man read his son's journal, the more he would like to discover what happened when the son was still young.
- 5 The old man put his journal and his son's beside each other, comparing the details.
- 6 Both the son and the father enjoyed the fishing day although they caught nothing.

- 3 Work in pairs. Read the sentences from the text and discuss the questions.

- 1 *It began with the fond memory of the love of his life, long gone, and somewhere in these albums was a photo of her he hoped to rediscover. (Para. 2)*
How do you keep photos of your life? Do you often go through these pictures?
- 2 *Why did Elizabeth always save the children's old junk? He wondered, shaking his white head. (Para. 3)*
Why did Elizabeth save the children's old junk? Do you save anything about your childhood?
- 3 *Reminded that he had kept a daily journal of his business activities over the years, he closed his son's journal and turned to leave ... (Para. 6)*
Do you think it a good habit of keeping a journal? Why?
- 4 *Large letters, pressed deeply into the paper, read: **Went fishing with my Dad. Best day of my life.** (Para. 9)*
Which day is the best day of your life so far? Share more details with your classmates.

Building your language

Words and expressions

1 Complete the sentences with the words below. Change the form when necessary.

glance faint innocent cherish trigger skinny

- 1 Her grandmother was always insisting that she was too _____ and never tired of trying to force more food on her.
- 2 They kept the house in darkness and only left the _____ light of candles, in order to make a birthday surprise to their little sister.
- 3 When they were talking about the education of children, his remarks on strict discipline _____ heated debate.
- 4 He sat quietly, _____ through a magazine, while his daughter was playing with her favorite doll.
- 5 Show your care to people you _____ most and let them feel they are important in your life.
- 6 He seemed so young and _____ that no one expected he'd do things like that.

2 Replace the underlined expressions with the correct form of the expressions below.

set aside wear away stand out
in comparison to make one's way be accompanied by

- 1 His writing was prominent in his class for rich imagination and beautiful language.
- 2 I cannot idle around and see my youth disappear gradually.
- 3 The boy walked with care noiselessly to open the door to go out, trying not to be noticed by his mother.
- 4 If you can save one hour each day to stay together with your child, both you and your child will benefit from this one hour.
- 5 The children went together with their parents and teachers on their field trip on the Children's Day.
- 6 She looks very short compared with other children of the same age.

Collocations

1 Choose the correct words in brackets to collocate with the measure words.

- 1 a sea of (information / news)
- 2 a mountain of (people / debts)
- 3 a stack of (buildings / textbooks)
- 4 an album of (stamps / notes)
- 5 a bunch of (flowers / fruits)
- 6 a clump of (stairs / trees)

2 Complete the sentences with suitable collocations from above.

- 1 I had to bury myself in _____ before the final exams, while my mother would always get me a glass of milk when I was tired.
- 2 We parked beneath _____ a hundred meters from the entrance of the museum.
- 3 He always brought with him _____ for his mother when he came home.
- 4 In fact, without a clear searching target, you might be drown in _____ when surfing online.
- 5 The couple have _____ from all over the world which make them remember their traveling in their early years.
- 6 Start budgeting and saving to repay student loans so you won't face _____ for years.

Measure words

Measure words usually collocate with uncountable nouns to make expressions, such as "a bottle of water," "a piece of advice." Sometimes they can also be used with countable nouns, for example "a stack of boxes" and "a sea of memories," as used in the text of iExplore 2.

Vocabulary learning strategies

If you look up an unfamiliar word in a dictionary, you may find there are often several meanings offered. It is important to identify the right meaning for the context you are dealing with. You can scan the QR code to learn more about the strategy - identifying the right meaning of a word for a specific context.



Translation

1 Translate the sentences into Chinese.

- 1 I grew up in a small town where the elementary school was a ten-minute walk from my house and in an age when children could go home for lunch.
- 2 It was the voice of the little boy who had grown up far too fast in this very house, and whose voice had grown fainter and fainter over the years.
- 3 Although the 5- and 6-year-old children remembered a higher percentage of the events, their narratives (叙述) of these events were less complete. The older children remembered fewer events, but the ones they remembered had more details.
- 4 In the developed world, people are scarcely happier than they were in the 1960s. The evidence for this claim consists of surveys in which people rate their happiness on a scale.

2 Translate the sentences into English.

- 1 家庭对中国人来说极其重要；随着时代的发展，中国人的家庭观念也在发生着变化。
- 2 在中国，一个人孝顺自己的父母长辈，不仅仅是个人的道德行为，也是对社会承担的一份责任。(moral behavior; commitment to the society)
- 3 中国人在情感表达方面比较含蓄，但这并不代表我们不真挚，不热烈。(implicit; sincere)
- 4 年夜饭是中国人重要的情感寄托，吸引着世界各地的中国人回家庆祝春节。(reunion dinner; bear; from all corners; celebrate the Spring Festival)



Translation
skills



Unit project

Performing a play

My unforgettable experience with my parents

From different perspectives, the two texts in this unit recall some precious memories between kids and parents. Did you have a special experience with your parents?

Your college is going to hold the Annual English Drama Festival. The theme of this year is "Family love." You are going to participate in this festival and join in groups to perform a play about your unforgettable experience with your parents. The following steps may help you with the project.



Step 1

Develop your story

An attractive story is the basic element of a good play. Work in groups of four and share with each other your own unforgettable experience with your parents.

When you tell your story, use the questions in the following table to help develop it. For the six key elements of telling an informative and complete story, you can refer to "Sharpening your skills" in iExplore 1 for help.

The five Ws and one H in telling a story
Who were involved in the story? Answer:
What happened between you and your parents? Answer:
When did the story take place? Answer:
Where did the story take place? Answer:
Why did it happen? Answer:
How was the problem solved?

Decide on the story that you would like to act out as a group.

Step 2 Work on dialogues for the play

Dialogues play an important part in a script. Dialogues between the characters can make the play interesting and lively. For example, the conversation between the author and her mother in the text in iExplore 1 presents a vivid scene when they had a lunchtime walk in the yard.

Decide who will play the different roles and discuss what you will say. When you create the dialogues, think about:

- How to reveal the plot through the dialogues
- How to show your roles through the dialogues
- How to express your feelings through the dialogues

Step 3 Add stage directions

Stage directions remind you of the emotional states and give you directions on how to act and say your lines. For example:

- Emotional state: [Anxiously], [Nervously], [as though disgusted by ...]
- Actions: [The son stands up and paces], [The daughter chews her nails], [Picks up the dirty shirt]
- Conversation cues: [long, awkward silence]

Now think about the characters' feelings and actions and add stage directions to your script. You can use italics (斜体字) or brackets to set your stage directions apart from the spoken dialogues. For the description of emotions and actions, you can refer to the text and "Understanding the text" in iExplore 2 for help.

Step 4 Design the narration part

Narration is usually used to give the audience information they can hardly get from the dialogues and actions. It generally appears:

- at the beginning of the play to give background information about the characters, events, or setting
- in the middle of the play when the setting changes

Write the narration part for your script from a third-person perspective, and decide who will be the narrator of your play.

Step 5 Rehearse and perform your play

Practice your script in your group until you feel comfortable with your lines. Then perform your play to the class. After the performance, invite the audience to give suggestions. You may use the following checklist to improve your performance.

Checklist

OK Needs improvement

- 1 The opening scene of our play is interesting.
- 2 The narration of our play is clear enough.
- 3 The body of our play is logically developed.
- 4 The dialogues of our play are vivid.
- 5 Our play ends with a clear message.
- 6 Our facial expressions are natural.
- 7 We have made proper use of gestures and actions.



YOU CAN
UPLOAD YOUR
PRESENTATION
VIDEO OR
MATERIAL TO
THE ONLINE
COURSE AFTER
FINISHING IT.

SAMPLE

Vocabulary

iExplore 1

New words

elementary /ˌelɪ'ment(ə)ri/ a. simple or basic 简单的; 基本的

Even such an elementary requirement as correct spelling is difficult to meet in some writing.

elementary school n. [C] a school in the US that is typically for the first six years of a child's education (美国的) 小学

I seem to be an elementary school student, in the face of some adults of rich social experience.

luxury /'lʌkʃəri/ n.

1 [U, sing.] sth. that gives you a lot of pleasure but cannot be done often 奢侈; 奢望

In his early years, he did not have the luxury of working in a first-class lab.

2 [U] great comfort, esp. as provided by expensive and beautiful things 奢华; 奢侈

She was brought up in an atmosphere of luxury and wealth.

monitor /'mɒnɪtə/ n. [C] sb. who checks to see that sth. is done fairly or correctly 监督员

The health monitors ensured that the food was distributed fairly.

intelligent /ɪn'telɪdʒ(ə)nt/ a. an intelligent person has a high level of mental ability and is good at understanding ideas and thinking clearly 有智慧的; 聪明的; 悟性强的

Susan is an intelligent woman who knows what she wants clearly.

breathlessly /'breθləsli/ ad. being not able to breathe easily 气喘吁吁地

The elevator went wrong and we climbed the stairs breathlessly.

painstakingly /'peɪnz,teɪkɪŋli/ ad. in a way that is extremely careful and correct, and involves a lot of effort 精心地; 费尽心思地

She had painstakingly copied an 18th-century painting.

rehearse /rɪ'hɜːs/ v. to practice or make people practice sth. such as a play or concert in order to prepare for a public performance (使) 排练, (使) 排演 (戏剧或音乐会)

The singer is coming here to rehearse for his concert tomorrow.

line /laɪn/ n. [C, usu. pl.] words that sb. has to learn and say as part of a play or performance 台词

After 30 years on the stage, I still forget my lines.

onstage /'ɒn,steɪdʒ/ ad. onto or on a stage for a performance 上台演出地; 在台上表演地

The audience cheered as the band walked onstage.

narrator /nə'reɪtə/ n. [C] a person in some books, plays, etc. who tells the story (书、戏剧等中的) 叙述者, 解说人

Marcel is the first-person narrator of the novel.

switch /swɪtʃ/ v. to change from doing or using one thing to doing or using another 转换; 转变; 改变

He was switched to do a new job.

unease /ʌn'iːz/ n. [U] a feeling of worry or slight fear about sth. 不自在; 忧虑; 不安

I was trying to ignore a growing sense of unease.

vine /vaɪn/ n. [C] the long thin stem of a plant that grows along the ground or up a tree, wall, etc. 藤蔓

trellis /'treɪlɪs/ n. [C] a frame made of long narrow pieces of wood that cross each other, used to support climbing plants (支撑攀缘植物的) 棚, 架
Every house in this village has a trellis of vines outside it.

elm /elm/ n. [C] 榆树

dandelion /'dændɪ,ləɪən/ n. [C] 蒲公英

casually /'kæʒuəli/ ad. in a relaxed and informal way 漫不经心地

After the supper we casually approached to the library.

bend /bend/ v. (**bent, bent**) to move your body or part of your body so that it is not straight 弯腰

Ashley bent down to pick up her pen.

clump /klʌmp/ n. [C] a group of trees, bushes, or other plants growing very close together (树、灌木或其他植物的) 丛, 簇, 群

The roses were planted in clumps across his garden.

weed /wi:d/ n. [C] 野草; 杂草

protest /prə'test/ v. to say sth. forcefully or complain about sth. 声言; 抗议

At the news of moving, he protested that he could not be ready on time.

thoughtfully /'θɔːtf(ə)li/ ad. in a way that shows you are thinking seriously about sth. 有所思地

She turned back around, staring thoughtfully into the distance.

relieved /rɪ'li:vɪd/ a. feeling happy because you are no longer worried about sth. 宽慰的; 不再忧虑的
She felt relieved that Nick would also be there.

reassuringly /,ri:ə'ʃʊəriŋli/ ad. in a way that makes you feel less worried 安慰地; 鼓励地
"Sure, I'll help you," he looked at me, and laughed reassuringly.

encouragement /ɪn'kʌrɪdʒmənt/ n. [C, U] words or actions that give sb. confidence or hope 鼓励; 鼓舞
It was lucky that she gained so much encouragement from her parents and teachers.

backstage /,bæk'steɪdʒ/ ad. behind the stage in a theater, esp. in the dressing rooms 在后台; (尤指) 在演员化妆室
Backstage before the opening show, he handed me the microphone.

curl /kɜ:l/ v. to form a curved or round shape, or give sth. this shape 卷; (使) 弯曲
Sam tried to control his anger with his hands curled up into fists.

flop /flɒp/ vi. to hang or fall loosely in an uncontrolled way 松散地下垂
Her long hair flopped down over her eyes.

lazily /'leɪzli/ ad. in a way that does not involve much energy or activity 无精打采地
The dog curled up and blinked lazily at the fire.

stem /stem/ n. [C] the long thin part, from which leaves, flowers, or fruit grow (植物的) 茎; 梗, 柄
He cut the stem with his knife and handed her the flower.

paper towel /,peɪpə 'taʊəl/ n. [U] 厨房用卷纸

bathe /beɪð/ vt. (often passive) to fill an area with light (光) 照耀; 使笼罩
It's equally pretty when the sun or fog bathes the city.

midday /,mɪd'deɪ/ n. [U] the middle of the day, at or around 12 o'clock 中午; 正午
By midday, we were really feeling the heat.

retired /rɪ'taɪəd/ a. having stopped working, usu. because of your age 退休的
My father will spend afternoons fishing when he is retired.

terribly /'terəbli/ ad. very or extremely 很; 非常; 极度
The only thing that occurred to me to say was that I was terribly sorry.

press /pres/ v. to try hard to persuade sb. to do sth., esp. by asking them many times 敦促; 逼迫; 催促
The more she pressed him for an explanation the more he kept silent.

inflated /ɪn'fleɪtɪd/ a. filled with air or gas 充气的
The yellow thing before his eyes was his inflated life-saving jacket, which had saved him.

pump /pʌmp/ v. to make liquid or gas move in a particular direction, using a pump (用泵) 输送
The heart pumps blood round the body.

seed /si:d/ n. [C] 籽; 种子

flaky /'fleɪki/ a. tending to break into small thin pieces 易碎裂成薄片的
One traditional moon cake in Beijing is quite distinctive in appearance with flaky skin.

crumpled /krʌmpld/ a. crushed into a smaller bent shape 皱的; 扭曲的
The boy flattened the crumpled paper on which several lines of poems were written.

Phrases and expressions

have sth. on one's mind to be worrying about sth. 有心事; 牵挂; 担心
I had much on my mind, and I wanted to think over about my problems.

dig up to remove sth. from the earth by digging 挖出; 掘出
The farmers are digging up potatoes.

win over to persuade sb. to agree with you or to be friendly to you 说服; 把...争取过来
He's not sure about the idea of the project, but I'm sure we'll win him over in the end.

every bit as equally as 也同样...
He was every bit as good-looking as she had thought he was.

come over to come to a place, move from one place to another, or move toward sb. 过来; (从一地) 来到另一地; (向某人处) 挪动
The family will come over from Greece for the wedding.

look back on to think about sth. that happened in the past 回忆起; 回顾
Looking back on it all, I'm amazed how we managed to do it on time.

be bathed in light / sunshine, etc. an area or building that is bathed in light has light shining onto it in a way that makes it look pleasant or attractive 沐浴在光线 / 阳光等之中

At dawn the small village is bathed in the warm light of the rising sun.

take sth. off to spend time away from work 休假
He has to take some time off from school owing to the illness.

iExplore 2

New words

faint /feɪnt/ a. difficult to see, hear, smell, etc. 不清楚的; 模糊的

He held her hand and came closer, trying to see her eyes in the faint light.

attic /'ætɪk/ n. [C] a space or room under the roof of a house, often used for storing things 阁楼; 顶楼
These stairs will take you up to the attic.

stooped /stu:pt/ a. bent forward and down 弯腰的; 驼背的

A stooped man was walking slowly across the road.

frame /freɪm/ n. [C]

1 the general shape formed by the bones of sb.'s body 体格; 身躯; 骨架

In contrast to his strong brother, he had a rather small frame.

2 a structure that surrounds sth. such as a picture or window and holds it in place 框架; 边框

This is a nice picture – you should put it in a frame.

stack /stæk/ n. [C] a neat pile of things (叠放整齐的) 一叠, 一堆, 一摞

There were stacks of books and CDs on the shelf.

spider /'spaɪdə/ n. [C] 蜘蛛

album /'ælbəm/ n. [C] a book in which you put photos, stamps, etc. (收存照片、邮票等的) 簿, 册

In a good mood, the host got an album of family photos for us.

longingly /'lɒŋŋɪŋli/ ad. in a way that shows that you want sb. or sth. very much 渴望地

The little patient looked longingly to the sunlit garden out of the window.

fond /fɒnd/ a. happy and loving 快乐美好的; 深情的
Many of us have fond memories of our childhood.

rediscover /,ri:di'skʌvə/ v. to find sth. that has been lost for a long time 重新发现; 重新找到

bury /'beri/ vt.

1 to put sth. in a place where it is difficult or impossible to find or see 埋住; 隐藏

Much relieved, I found my phone buried under a stack of books.

2 to put sb. who has died in a grave 埋葬; 安葬

Robin Hood is said to have been buried at the spot where his final arrow landed.

spin /spɪn/ v. (spun, spun) to (cause to) turn around and around very quickly (使) 快速旋转

Spin the globe and find the Solomon Islands.

dusty /'dʌsti/ a. covered with dust 布满灰尘的
Fred drove along the dusty road in the town.

journal /'dʒɜ:nl/ n. [C] a written record of the things you do, see, etc. every day 日志; 日记

He has kept a journal for more than 30 years.

recall /rɪ'kɔ:l/ v. (fml.) to remember sth. 回忆; 回想起
He recalled the city as it had been when he lived there as a child.

junk /dʒʌŋk/ n. [U] old or unwanted objects that have no use or value 废旧杂物

You may clear out all this junk when you move to the new dorm room.

glance /glɑ:ns/ vi. to look quickly at sb. or sth. 瞥一眼; 扫视

The two men glanced at each other nervously.

lip /lɪp/ n. [C] 嘴唇

curve /kɜ:v/ v. to bend or move in the shape of a curve, or to make sth. do this 弄弯; (使) 弯曲

The track curves round the mountain.

unconscious /ʌn'kɒnʃəs/ a. (of feelings, thoughts, etc.) existing or happening without you realizing or being aware 无意识的; 自然流露的

The movie is full of unconscious humor.

soul /səʊl/ n. [C] a person's inner character, containing their true thoughts and feelings 心性; 内心; 心灵

The understanding in his eyes reached out to her, warming the frozen places in her soul.