

# 大学英语能力进阶：

## 阅读教程

### 第二册

### (网课学习简化版 U1-U4)

#### Unit One Short Stories

#### Text A The Foreigner

Francis Steegmuller

If it hadn't been raining as I came out of the cinema, I should have walked home: My apartment was nearby and the route anything but complicated---straight down the boulevard<sup>1</sup>, crossing two streets and turning right on the third, the Rue<sup>2</sup> de Grenelle, for about half a block. As it was, however, I hailed a taxi, and it was scarcely a moment before I realized that its driver, a *ruddy*-faced old man, was in the midst of an attack of *perversity* and nerves. "No! No!" I cried, as he started to turn up the *first* street, the Rue St. Dominique. "Two more blocks!" He muttered something, swung down the boulevard again, and in a moment he was turning up the *second* street, the Rue Las Cases. "No! No!" I cried again. "The next one, please! The next street is mine! The Rue de Grenelle!" At this he turned around and gave me a *baleful* stare; then he spurted ahead, didn't turn up my street at all, and continued rapidly down the boulevard, as though forever. "but now you have passed it!" I cried. "You should have turned to the right, as I said! Please turn around, and drive up the Rue de Grenelle to Number 36. "

To my horror, the old man made a noise like a snarl. Spinning his car around in a U turn on the slippery pavement, he speeded back, crossed the boulevard, and stopped at the corner of my street with a jerk. "Get out !" He almost screamed, his face red with rage. "Get out of my automobile at once! I refuse absolutely to drive you any further! Three times you have treated me like an idiot! Three times you grossly insulted me! My automobile is not for foreigners, I tell you! Get out at once!"

"In this rain?" I cried, indignantly. "I shall do nothing of the kind. I did not insult you even once, Monsieur, let alone three times. You know quite well I did nothing but urge you, in vain, to drive me home. Now kindly do so. I shall give a good *pourboire*<sup>3</sup>." I added, more amiably, "and we

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<sup>1</sup> boulevard: (French) a wide street in a city, usually with trees along each side

<sup>2</sup> Rue : (French) street

<sup>3</sup> pourboire: (French) tip

shall take leave of each other in a friendly fashion.”

He barely waited for me to finish. “Get out!” he cried. “Get out, I tell you! You have insulted me too often, and you will get out!”

I glanced at the rain. “Indeed I will not,” I said.

His manner calmed ominously. “Either you will leave my taxi,” He said in an even, hoarse tone, “or I shall drive you to the commissariat<sup>4</sup> of police, where I shall demand the recompense due<sup>5</sup> me for such insults as yours. Choose!”

“In such weather as this,” I replied, “I have no choice. To the commissariat, by all means.” And there we went.

The commissariat, only a few doors from mine, was not unfamiliar to me. I had been there several times before, on less quarrelsome matters, and as the driver and I entered the bare room side by side, the *commissaire*<sup>6</sup>, sitting in lonely authority behind his desk, greeted me as an acquaintance. “Good afternoon, Monsieur<sup>7</sup>,” he said, calling me by name. “I can help you? What is it you wish?”

But the old man, to whom the *commissaire* had barely nodded, gave me no chance to speak. “It is I who wish!” he cried. “It is I who wish to complain against this foreigner! Three times he has treated me like an idiot, Monsieur! Three times he has insulted me grossly! I demand justice, Monsieur!”

The *commissaire* stared at me, his face expressionless: I felt that he, like me, was wondering in just what condition the old man was; then, turning to me, he asked me if I would have the kindness to make my *deposition*. He took up a pen, opened a large blank book, and as I spoke, took down my story in a flowing, plummy hand. The giving of my address to the driver, the two incorrect turns, the mutterings, the missing of my street, the rage, the *ultimatum*; all the *commissaire* inscribed *imperishably* in whatever the French call the *Spencerian*<sup>8</sup> style; once or twice he interrupted me to *reprimand* the driver, who muttered beside me at various portions of my testimony. When I had finished, the *commissaire* continued to write for a moment, ended with a particularly fancy flourish, *blotted* his last line, and thanked me. Then he turned to the driver. “and now you,” he said impatiently. “You depose, too, so that I may make up my mind on this perplexing question.”

The old man, however, had no deposition to make. “Three times !” was still all he could say, in his thick, angry voice, gesturing at the *commissaire* and glaring at me. “Three times, Monsieur! Three times treated like an idiot, and three times grossly insulted! By this foreigner! It is not to be borne, Monsieur!”

The *commissaire* looked up crossly from his notebook, where these accusations had been duly inscribed. “But the circumstances? Describe in detail what took place while you were with this gentleman. If the circumstances which he has related are not true,” he said, casting me a glance of apology, “correct them.”

But once again “Three times!” was all my accuser could say, and *commissaire* laid down his

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<sup>4</sup> commissariat of police: (French) police station

<sup>5</sup> due: due to (non-standard English spoken by a French taxi driver)

<sup>6</sup> commissaire: (French) police officer

<sup>7</sup> Monsieur: (French) Mr

<sup>8</sup> Spencerian Script: ~ is a script style that was used in the United States from approximately 1850 to 1925 and was considered the American standard writing style for business correspondence prior to the widespread adoption of the typewriter.

pen rather briskly. "It is entirely clear," he said in a very definite voice, "that it is you, Monsieur, who are the injured party in this affair, and I shall be happy to indicate my decision by requiring this person to drive you to your door without charge. If Monsieur will now have the goodness to grant me the favor of a brief glance at his papers--a formality required by law in such cases as these--I shall dispose of the matter at once. Your *carte d'identite*<sup>9</sup>, Monsieur, if you please."

Like a plummet, my heart sank. In my mind's eye I saw the desk in my study, and lying on it, forgotten, the identification card which foreign residents are required by French law to carry at all times. "Due to the penetrating rain, Monsieur," it hastily occurred to me as the only thing to say, "I have left my card at home, lest the moisture of the weather *permeate* it, and perhaps destroy it completely. In the morning I can easily bring it to you, Monsieur, and I hope that this will satisfy your requirements, which I realize are strict and necessary."

But I had done the unforgivable, and everything was changed and over with. "That will not satisfy the requirements," the *commissaire* said sternly, his face like stone. "It is true that you will bring your card here tomorrow morning, but in view of the present circumstance I am forced to alter my judgment in this affair. Due to the fact that it is raining, I shall request this gentleman to drive you to your door, but I shall require you to pay him not only for the entire journey from beginning to end but also for the time which he has lost by coming to this bureau. I assume, Monsieur," he said to the old man, "that you have left your meter running?"

The driver nodded, and the *commissaire* rose. "Then *au revoir*<sup>10</sup>, Monsieurs," he said, unsmiling. "Monsieur will not forget tomorrow morning," and side by side, as we had entered, we left the commissariat. I had seen a gleam come into my accuser's eyes when the judgment had been reversed, but apart from that he had given no signs of triumph, and he continued to give none: he drove me home without a word. It was only when we arrived, and I handed him the exact fare, carefully counted out, that he spoke. "Monsieur has no doubt forgotten his promise of a good *pourboire*, that we might part in friendly fashion?" he said.

(1310 words)

**Task 1 Choose the best answer to each question based on TEXT A.**

1. Why did the narrator hail a taxi after getting out of the cinema?
  - A. Because my apartment was far away.
  - B. Because there was no bus so late at night.
  - C. Because it was raining.
  - D. Because I had female companion.
2. Why did the taxi driver get the narrator to the commissariat of police rather than his apartment?
  - A. The taxi driver didn't know the complicated route to the narrator's apartment.
  - B. The taxi driver thought the narrator had grossly insulted him three times.
  - C. The taxi driver thought the narrator was a wanted suspect.
  - D. They had an unsettled argument over the taxi fee.
3. What's the attitude of the commissaire's toward them?

<sup>9</sup> *carte d'identite* : (French) identification card

<sup>10</sup> *au revoir*: (French) good-bye

- A. firstly friendly and supportive of the narrator but then supportive of the taxi driver.
  - B. firstly friendly and supportive of the taxi driver but then supportive of the narrator.
  - C. friendly and supportive of the narrator all the time.
  - D. friendly and supportive of the taxi driver all the time.
4. Why did the commissaire change his attitude toward them?
- A. Because the taxi driver had a fit of perversity and nerves.
  - B. Because he was sympathetic with the taxi driver.
  - C. Because the narrator, a foreigner, has not brought his ID along as required by French law.
  - D. Because he has prejudice against foreigners.
5. How was the ending?
- A. Echoing the narrator's promise to take leave of each other in a friendly fashion.
  - B. Unexpected and ridiculous
  - C. Surprising and ironical.
  - D. All of the above.

**Task 2 Replace the underlined words below with appropriate paraphrases from TEXT A.**

1. (            ) Shortly after the narrator got into a taxi he felt that the taxi driver was stubborn and oversensitive in temper.
2. (            ) The narrator originally wanted to say goodbye to the taxi driver in a friendly way.
3. (            ) The taxi driver wanted to demand the compensation due to him for the insults from the narrator.
4. (            ) The police officer politely asked the narrator to give his testimony first.
5. (            ) The police officer settled the conflict in an unexpected way.

**Task 3 Complete each sentence with the correct ending.**

1. Scan TEXT A to locate the information in the sentence beginnings (1-4).
  2. Read the relevant part of the passage carefully, then choose the best sentence endings (A-F).
1. The narrator had a conflict with the taxi driver because
  2. The taxi driver insisted that the narrator has insulted him grossly because
  3. The police officer's dramatic change of attitude was not to be blamed because
  4. The story reaches its climax when
- A. the narrator found that he forgot to carry his ID card with him as required by the French law.
  - B. the narrator, a foreigner, had instructed him, a local taxi driver, how to drive to his apartment three times.
  - C. the taxi driver didn't follow the narrator's advice on the route back to his apartment
  - D. the taxi driver deliberately asked the narrator to get off the car before arriving at his destination.
  - E. the police officer immediately changed his attitude from being friendly to being stern toward the narrator though the latter was considered the injured party at first.
  - F. it's mainly based on the precondition that narrator's forgetting to bring his ID as a foreigner.

## Text B A Piece of Sky

Ronald Frame

2004's was the wettest August since 1912.

"We'll cheer ourselves up," Gavin said. In a good old-fashioned stationer's shop in Carnbeg<sup>11</sup> he'd bought a five-hundred-piece jigsaw. A view of Princes Street in Edinburgh<sup>12</sup>.

"Take it back!" Suzanne told him. "they'll give your money back, won't they?"

She hadn't tackled a jigsaw since she was child. She was thinking, the man who's asked me to relocate my job and move in with him likes *jigsaws*! How come I never guessed?

"Too late!" Gavin laughed.

He'd opened the box, and with a *flourish* he tipped out the content onto a big table in the hotel's winter garden.

Somehow, they both instinctively felt, this was a pursuit for a public place. Sure enough, in the course of the afternoon other guests stopped to look and offer encouragement.

Suzanne didn't stop reminding him how ridiculous this was as they sat side-by-side making sense of chaos. An activity for two grownups? Jigsaw just devoured your time. But gradually *she* was the one who became *engrossed* by it.

She looked carefully at the accumulating panorama of Edinburgh on the table-top, continually referring back to the lid of the box. Edinburgh was her city and London was his. In her imagination he was walking along *Princes Street*<sup>13</sup>, or off it and up to the *Royal Mile*<sup>14</sup> and on to the *Castle Esplanade*<sup>15</sup>.

She liked to be orderly, and worked in turn on the spiky Scott Monument, then the bandstand and the *trim* Gardens, and then the Castle sprawling on its forbidding cliff.

"You thought I'd get nostalgic?" She asked him. "So you bought this one?"

"Well, I didn't think you'd want a couple of Bugattis<sup>16</sup>."

"True," she admitted unwillingly.

"Or *Beachy Head Lighthouse*<sup>17</sup> either. It was the best of a bad bunch really."

No, that wasn't the reply she'd been anticipating. She felt her mouth settling, in spite of herself, to a neat straight line.

She left the sky till last.

In London you were hardly aware of the sky. Edinburgh's sky was its true crowning glory, she felt. Clouds scudded briskly across it; you could almost *see* the wind.

The sky was the most difficult part of the puzzle. Every so often she would glance up and see Gavin *smirking* at her concentration. He obviously thought he'd managed to have her *succumb*.

After however long it have taken them, the end was in sight. She wanted to finish the job before

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<sup>11</sup> Carnbeg: a city of Ireland

<sup>12</sup> Edinburgh: capital of Scotland

<sup>13</sup> Princes Street: one of the major thoroughfares and the main shopping street in central Edinburgh, Scotland.

<sup>14</sup> Royal Mile: a succession of streets forming the main thoroughfare of the Old Town of the Edinburgh, Scotland.

<sup>15</sup> Castle Esplanade: ~ was laid out as a parade ground, in 1753, using spoil from the building of the Royal Exchange (now the City Chambers) in Edinburgh, Scotland.

<sup>16</sup> Bugattis: a brand name of French classical car.

<sup>17</sup> Beachy Head: a Chalk headland in East Sussex, England.

it got dark. An idiotic way to spend an interminable wet afternoon, yes. Suddenly, another forty years on in time, she was hearing him say “D’you remember that first jigsaw we did? Beachy Head Lighthouse.”

“No, it wasn’t. It was Edinburgh.”

“Was it?”

“Princes Street Gardens.”

“Was it?”

“Don’t you believe me, then?”

Did she have a *premonition* as she was thinking it? Was this really an omen?

The sky had been taking shape under their hands for half-an-hour. She had been telling him what went where. These were the final remaining pieces. A dozen. Six. Four. Two.

Then one, the very last piece.

But two blanks of sky in the picture still left to fill. “There’s one missing,” She told him.

They looked everywhere. They couldn’t find it.

“There must’ve been one short,” he said.

She showed him the peel-off sticker on the box. CHECKED BY B42.

“Then B42 wasn’t up to the job.”

“Don’t blame B42,” she said.

“You’re taking his side?”

“No, I’m not.”

“*Her* side, then?”

Something about the tone of his voice. She was *riled*.

“Why does it have to be human error?” she asked him. “Human mischief, more like.”

“Meaning—?”

“What d’you think I mean, Gavin?”

She went on to say quite a lot of other things---to-the-point, personal, hard-hitting. She was conscious as she was doing so that she might regret them later, but persisted nevertheless. A dam seemed to have burst.

As she got up to leave, to walk out, she caught a final glimpse of Edinburgh---and the missing blank of sky---all that wasted, cheated labor. It was as if that one small absence on the table-top swallowed up all the rest of the picture, and nothing else mattered.

“You’ve got this all out of proportion,” Gavin was saying.

Maybe I have, she was thinking. But she couldn’t allow him to win such a big point.

She’d had no intention as she walked off through the winter garden of making this the do-or-die showdown it almost immediately became. But he didn’t come running after her, and it was that fact which altered the situation for her. She was changing her mind even as she got into the lift, and up in the bedroom---as the minutes passed, with no apologetic knock on the door---she decided. It was over.

He slowly broke up the jigsaw, and returned the pieces to the box.

He’d realized what she was implying. That he’d kept one of the pieces back, hidden it. Why the hell would he do that? Understandable that she’d be pissed off because that one last piece was missing, to finish the sky and the whole picture. But was that good enough reason to go flying off?

He didn’t see her leave the hotel with her luggage and get into a taxi. He was in the bar. After a

couple of strongish drinks up on a stool at the counter, he felt a *mite* unsteady and moved to one of the low sofas, in a darker corner. He sank into the cushions, spilling a little of drink number three. Shit! It had splashed onto the calves of his trousers, onto the cuffs. He was adjusting the turn-ups when his fingers fidgeted with the cloth at one point. From inside the fold he extracted...

A piece of jigsaw! He flipped it over, turned it this way and that to see better. The missing portion of sky, the final one-five-hundreth of the whole. It must have fallen in. Something accidental. Now he could go and find Suzanne and tell her.

He tried to get up, but straightaway fell back. On second (woozy) thoughts... What was he going to say? And what was *she* going to say? "Oh, *what* a surprise, you've found it after all!" She would call *him* a "rotter", that damning putdown she used for others. She would assume he'd deliberately hidden it from her, and that finding it was no happy accident. "In the turn-up of your trousers? Seriously?"

"Yes."

"I've only got *your* word."

"Yes."

"Look, Gavin, what d'you take me for?"

From his sofa in the *tartan*-dressed cocktail bar he didn't hear the Edinburgh train whistling its way into Carnbeg and then out again. He couldn't foresee that a friend of a friend of hers would meet Suzanne at Haymarket station, and they'd go off for a late meal, and hey, that would be the start of something romantic and very special in her life and Ronan's. From Carnbeg he would hear her mobile ringing in her bag, and the phone in the flat, and he would leave quite *garbled* messages for her on both and not sense that, in the words he'd used at the beginning of the afternoon, it was too late now.

Much too late.

He sat with the fragment of jigsaw in his hand, turning it over and over. It was just a piece of sky. To Suzanne, unbeknown to him, it had been blue (*sensibly* blue), breezy, bracing Edinburgh sky, with traces of high fleecy cloud blown Fifewards<sup>18</sup>: a one-and-only kind of sky, and oh how she was *pinning* for it.

He would hold on to that one piece when he'd thrown out the box with the other four hundred and ninety-nine in it. He would carry it around in his pocket for many months, until the card began fraying at its edges and the picture started to fade.

Suzanne would only ever tell Ronan she had a phobia about jigsaws, laughing about it, and she would wonder to herself—once in every long while—what could possibly have got into her that wet afternoon in Carnbeg.

Gavin would learn to recognize and catch glimpses of that precise chilly blueness of sky from an aircraft window, or look up through the car windscreen for it once he was safely married and driving home, with his past very nearly put behind him.

(1398 words)

**Task 1 Decide whether the following statements are true (T), false(F) or not given(NG) based on the information given in TEXT B.**

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<sup>18</sup> Fifewards: in the direction of Fife---the peninsula surrounded by the sea, north of Edinburgh, Scotland.

1. Gavin and Suzanne went to Edinburgh for travelling in Aug. 2004.
2. Suzanne was gradually attracted to do the first jigsaw since her childhood though she was unwilling at first.
3. Suzanne had agreed to Gavin's request of her relocating her job and moving in with him.
4. The couple broke up because of one last missing piece of the jigsaw.
5. Both Gavin and Suzanne were too self-centered and proud to do the jigsaw together.

**Task 2 Choose words from the box to complete the following summary of the text. You may change the form of the word.**

burst	deliberate	engross	interminable	mischievous
deliberately	sensible	succumb	tackle	pine

This is a story about a young couple. Gavin bought a five-hundred-piece jigsaw in order to kill the time of a 1 wet afternoon in a hotel of Carnbeg with his girlfriend Suzanne. Although Suzanne hadn't dealt with a jigsaw since she was a child, she gradually became 2 by it because the jigsaw is a view of Princes Street of Edinburgh, her home town. Out of the desire not to be 3 to the challenge posed by Gavin, Suzanne determined to 4 the jigsaw to show Gavin the blue sky of Edinburgh that she has been 5 for. However, because the last piece of the sky in the jigsaw was missing, she could not finish the job. While Gavin kidded about the missing piece of the jigsaw, Suzanne was riled by his tone, lost her temper, complained a lot to Gavin like a 6 dam and left the spot in a fit of rage. Getting no apologies from Gavin, she decided to leave him. Later on, in the bar Gavin happened to find out the missing piece of the jigsaw in the turn-up of his trousers. Nevertheless, he is a bit too drunk and hesitant to tell Suzanne in person the truth which would make her even more suspicious of his 7 --- hiding the piece 8 from her so as to make her unable to finish the jigsaw and lose face. Although he left the messages on both her mobile and the phone in the flat afterwards, it was too late then because Suzanne had already left. With "a piece of sky" missing from the jigsaw, they missed each other's "sky" forever.

**Task 3 Translate the following sentences into Chinese.**

1. In London you were hardly aware of the sky. Edinburgh's sky was its true crowning glory, she felt. Clouds scudded briskly across it; you could almost *see* the wind.
2. She'd had no intention as she walked off through the winter garden of making this the do-or-die showdown it almost immediately became.
3. From Carnbeg, he would hear her mobile ringing in her bag, and the phone in the flat, and he would leave quite garbled messages for her on both and not sense that, in the words he'd used at the beginning of the afternoon, it was too late now.
4. To Suzanne, unbeknown to him, it had been blue (*sensibly* blue), breezy, bracing Edinburgh sky, with traces of high fleecy cloud blown Fifewards: a one-and-only kind of sky, and oh how she was pining for it.
5. Gavin would learn to recognize and catch glimpses of that precise chilly blueness of sky from an aircraft window, or look up through the car windscreen for it once he was safely married and driving home, with his past very nearly put behind him.



## Reflection and Critical Thinking

Question:

1. How has the fact of the narrator being a foreigner caused his unhappy experience in the story “A Foreigner”? Can we learn any lesson from the story of being a foreigner when we travel or study abroad?
2. Whose fault is it that led to the break-up of Gavin and Suzanne’s romantic relationship?

## Word Bank

baleful	a. (literary) threatening to do sth evil or to hurt sb 威吓的; 凶恶的; 恶意的
blot	v. remove liquid from a surface by pressing soft paper or cloth on it (用软纸或布)吸干液体
deposition	n. a formal statement, taken from sb. and used in court 宣誓作证, 证词
engross	v. attract all of sb’s attention 使全神贯注
flourish	n. an exaggerated movement to make sb. notice 夸张的动作
garbled	a. confused (指信息) 混乱的, 引起误解的
imperishable	a. that will last for a long time or forever 不会腐烂的; 不坏的; 不朽的
mite	n. a small amount of sth. 少量
permeate	v. spread to every part of an object or a place 弥漫; 遍布; 渗入
perversity	n. showing deliberate determination to behave in a way that most people think is wrong or unacceptable 不通情理; 任性; 刚愎
pine	v. want it very much, especially when it is unlikely that you will be able to have it 渴望, 苦苦盼望
premonition	n. a feeling that sth. is going to happen, especially sth. unpleasant(不详的)预感
reprimand	v. scold angrily 训斥; 惩戒; 谴责
rile	v. annoy sb. or make them angry 惹恼; 激怒
ruddy	a. looking red and healthy 红润健康的
smirk	v. smile in a silly or unpleasant way that shows you are pleased with yourself 自鸣得意地笑; 坏笑
succumb	v. to not be able to fight an attack, an illness, a temptation, etc. 屈服; 抵挡不住
tartan	n. a pattern of squares and lines of different colors and widths that cross each other at an angle of 90°, used especially on cloth, originally from Scotland (尤指源自苏格兰织物的)花格图案, 方格花纹
trim	a. something that is trim is neat, tidy, and attractive 美观整洁的
ultimatum	n. a final warning 最后通牒

## Unit Two Products

### Text A Google Clips

Stanley Goodner

The Google Clips camera is an artificially intelligent camera that automatically shoots photos of your life from wherever it's placed. The Google Clips camera is meant to be a hands-free accessory that takes *candid* photos without any intervention. It can replace the need for selfie sticks and/or a dedicated photographer (to an extent).

One of the Clips camera's biggest strengths is its simplicity, which also means a number of situational limitations.

Google Clips is not a point-and-shoot camera: You can turn the Clips camera on/off as well as initiate recording through the manual button on the front. But that's it. There is no LCD screen, no viewfinder, nor settings/controls to adjust. Everything – particularly captured content – is performed automatically by the internal hardware and software.

Google Clips is not a security/spy camera or nannycam: The Clips camera records "motion photos" (without audio, due to lack of microphone) at 15 frames-per-second (FPS) for only several seconds at a time. Home security cameras continuously record video with audio at 30 FPS. Google Clips has a white exterior, visible LED that glows while recording, and only lasts up to three hours per charge, which makes it a poor substitute for a security/spy/nanny camera.

Google Clips is not cloud-/network-connected: The Clips camera features Wi-Fi Direct and Bluetooth LE, which allows direct pairing to smart phones in order to view/share videos (via the Clips app for Android/iOS). Unlike *surveillance* cameras that require a network connection for recording, replays, and/or real-time monitoring, Clips is completely self-contained, private, and secure. All data stays on the unit until sent to a mobile device (the transfer is also *encrypted*).

Google Clips is not (really) an action/lifelogging camera: Although the Clips camera can be worn (via the included clip stand), it performs best when placed in a fixed location – stable shots tend to have better focus for more photos worth saving. The clip stand allows for spontaneous and unique perspectives (e.g. attached to the backs of chairs, ends of tables, strollers, etc.) without having to engineer a solution.

Google Clips is not for trips or vacations (yet): The Clips camera features Google's Moment IQ machine learning *algorithm*, which is designed to recognize (e.g. lighting, framing, facial expressions, etc.) and capture great photos. The algorithm focuses on people and pets, especially those seen more often. As of yet, Google Clips is inadequate for taking pictures of landscapes, buildings, random objects, or strangers.

Google Clips won't work with all phones: Clips is compatible only with select Android (running Android 7.0 **Nougat**<sup>19</sup> and higher) and iOS (running iOS 10 or higher) smart phones.

Using Google Clips is simple. Simply twist the lens to turn the camera on, set/mount it somewhere facing people/pets, and then let it do its thing. The 12 *megapixel* (MP) lens has a 130-degree field of view (FOV), so there's little need for precise aiming. If you want to manually trigger a recording, press the shutter button below the lens.

Given the specialized hardware – Intel's **Movidius Myriad 2**<sup>20</sup> vision processing unit (VPU)

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<sup>19</sup> **Nougat**: 2016 年 7 月，谷歌宣布新版安卓操作系统正式命名为 Nougat，并于 8 月正式推出。

<sup>20</sup> **Movidius Myriad 2 VPU**: 美国英特尔的子公司 Movidius 推出的 Movidius Myriad 2 视觉处理器。

– along with Google’s Moment IQ machine learning algorithm, one should expect Clips to record more quality content than not.

The Google Clips camera is not meant to replace smart phone or digital DSLR/mirrorless camera photography. Instead, it’s more of an accessory to help people capture *candid* moments they wouldn’t have been able to otherwise. Given its pocket-portable size, it’s easy to carry and place Google Clips almost anywhere.

For example, imagine that you want photos of the family having fun together on game night. As the photographer with a smart phone or digital camera, you’re likely to be excluded unless you set a timer or use a remote shutter – you may also need a *tripod*. The former option disrupts ongoing play while also negating the whole "candid" element. The latter hinges on remembering to press the remote as well as pure luck of capturing worthwhile images. Google Clips is a product of convenience. It does away with awkward situations while capturing in-the-moment memories. Instances that the Clips camera can prove useful are: Parents and kids engaged together in activity; People and pets engaged together in activity; Kids doing cute kid things; Pets doing cute pet things.

Google Clips is designed to automatically decide what moments to record and learn over time. Overall success of the Google Clips hinges on its artificial intelligence (AI). The camera is designed to automatically decide what moments to record while learning to recognize familiar faces over time. It offers:

Face detection/tracking: Snapchat and all the alternatives with face-tracking filters use face detection technology in real-time to apply fun animations to your selfies. Samsung Galaxy smart phones feature Smart Stay technology – the front-facing camera senses when you’re looking at the device, thereby keeping the screen on despite timeout settings. And if you upload photos to social media, Facebook’s facial recognition feature will pre-tag familiar friends for you.

Eye/smile detection/tracking: Advanced digital cameras commonly feature eye/smile detection/tracking. When enabled, it helps the camera lock on and follow subjects (particularly helpful when they’re in motion). This feature is usually tied to the shutter release, which means the camera takes the picture the instant it senses open eyes, big smiles, and great expressions.

Picture worthiness: Photo editing apps can identify/highlight objects, sharpen/blur, adjust brightness, contrast, *saturation*, and more. Many feature some form of one-touch auto-enhance that corrects everything at once. So it would be no stretch of the imagination to program a camera with thresholds, allowing it to take photos when subjects/faces are in focus (i.e. auto-focus) and areas are well-lit, among other various contextual/artistic criteria that make for interesting pictures.

Where Google Clips pushes the boundary of *leveraging* artificial intelligence is through its ability to recognize faces without needing internet access for instruction or assistance. Everything is processed on the device itself, completely offline (i.e. secure for those concerned about privacy). As the Clips camera sees more of the same faces, it learns to recognize those as ones that should be recorded more often.

(1005 words)

**Task 1 Choose the best answer to each question based on TEXT A.**

1. The Google Clips is designed to be a camera that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. saves local/cloud recordings and allows real-time monitoring
  - B. takes candid photos from wherever it's placed
  - C. is portable and typically captures images while worn on the body
  - D. replaces smart phones or digital camera photography
2. The following is a feature of the Google Clips except \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. direct pairing to smart phones through Wi-Fi Direct and Bluetooth LE
  - B. learning to recognize familiar faces over time
  - C. quick and simple settings to adjust
  - D. locking on and following subjects in motion
3. The success of the Google Clips rests mainly on \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. artificial intelligence
  - B. automation techniques
  - C. 130-degree field of view of the lens
  - D. superior vision processing unit
4. Who are the potential buyers of the Google Clips?
  - A. people who love travelling
  - B. dedicated photographers
  - C. people who have kids or keep pets
  - D. people who want to safeguard against burglars
5. How to keep the data on the Google Clips confidential?
  - A. Google clips is not cloud-/network- connected.
  - B. All the data is not encrypted when transmitted on line.
  - C. All the data has to be saved on the Google Clips alone.
  - D. The data on the Clips is forbidden to transfer to a mobile device.

**Task 2 Replace the underlined words below with appropriate paraphrases from TEXT A.**

- ( ) 1. The Google Clips can take candid photos without any interference.
- ( ) 2. The Clips camera catches worthwhile moments when the people and kids are engaged in activity.
- ( ) 3. Google Clips does away with embarrassing situations while taking photos.
- ( ) 4. You can turn Google Clips on as well as start recording through the manual button.
- ( ) 5. Whether you can take great photos depends on the pure luck.
- ( ) 6. Photo editing apps can emphasize objects, adjust brightness, contrast, and more.

**Task 3 Complete each sentence with the correct ending.**

1. Scan TEXT A to locate the information of the sentence beginnings (1-4).
  2. Read the relevant part of the passage carefully, then choose the best sentence endings (A-F).
    - ( ) 1. The camera takes the picture automatically
    - ( ) 2. Given that it's pocket-sized and pretty portable
    - ( ) 3. Considering Google Clips records "motion photos" at 15 FPS for only several seconds at a time and only lasts up to three hours per charge
    - ( ) 4. As everything is processed on the device itself, completely offline
- A. it fails to substitute for a security camera.
  - B. it is meant to be a hands-free accessory.
  - C. the instant it senses open eyes, big smiles, and great expressions.
  - D. Clips is completely self-contained, private, and secure.

- E. Google Clips is a product of convenience.
- F. it's easy to carry and place Google Clips almost anywhere.

## Text B Google's self-driving car

Samuel Gibbs

**A** Google unveiled a brand new self-driving car prototype on Tuesday; the first company to build a car without a steering wheel, accelerator or brake pedal. The car's arrival marks the next stage in Google's self-driving car project, which was born from the **DARPA Grand Challenges**<sup>21</sup> for robotic vehicles in the early 2000s. Google *kickstarted* its own self-driving car project in 2008, and it has been rumbling on ever since, first with modified Toyota Prius and then with *customised* Lexus SUVs, which took the car's existing sensors, such as the cruise-control cameras, and added a spinning laser scanner on the top.

**B** It is the first truly driverless electric car *prototype* built by Google to test the next stage of its five-year-old self-driving car project. It looks like a cross between a Smart car and a Nissan Micra, with two seats and room enough for a small amount of luggage. The car's cute looks and friendly "face" were created intentionally to be "very Googley" according to its designers, to put both other road users and passengers at ease with the new technology. The shell is also designed to give the sensors the best view of the surroundings.

**C** It is the first real physical *incarnation* of Google's vision of what a self-driving car of the near future could be. It operates in and around California, primarily around the Mountain View area where Google has its headquarters. It ferries two people from one place to another without any user interaction. The car is summoned by a smart phone for pick up at the user's location with the destination set. There is no steering wheel or manual control, simply a start button and a big red emergency stop button. In front of the passengers there is a small screen showing the weather, the current speed and a small countdown animation to launch. Once the journey is done, the small screen displays a message to remind you to take your personal belongings – reinforcing that this is not aiming to be a substitute for your personal car at the moment, but more like shared vehicles, possibly within a family or as a replacement for the taxi without the human driver.

**D** Very few people outside of Google have been allowed to ride in the new car. Most of the people depicted in Google's promotional videos for the new car described the experience as "smooth" and "nothing that feels the least bit threatening". Kara Swisher and Liz Gannes from technology site Recode were one of the few independent test riders, who described the car as having "ample" room despite being small, likely due to the lack of the normal controls taking up space in the cabin, and "that this felt a lot like a theme park ride".

**E** Google has designed the car from *scratch*, starting with the sensors and a frame to interconnect them, then adding a cabin that does not block any of the sensors or create blind spots and eventually the body shell. The manufacturing of the 100 or so prototype cars will be done by a firm in the Detroit area, but Google declined to comment on which.

**F** Powered by an electric motor with around a 100 mile range, the car uses a combination of sensors and software to locate itself in the real world combined with highly accurate digital maps.

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<sup>21</sup> **DARPA Grand Challenges: The DARPA Grand Challenge** is a prize competition for American autonomous vehicles, funded by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, the most prominent research organization of the United States Department of Defense.

A GPS is used, just like the satellite navigation systems in most cars, to get a rough location of the car, at which point radar, lasers and cameras take over to monitor the world around the car, 360-degrees. The software can recognise objects, people, cars, road marking, signs and traffic lights, obeying the rules of the road and allowing for multiple unpredictable hazards, including cyclists. It can even detect road works and safely navigate around them. The new prototype has more sensors fitted to it that can see further (up to 600 feet in all directions) and in greater detail than the ones available on the previous repurposed Lexus and Toyota vehicles.

**G** The new car is the next evolution of Google's self-driving car. While the new frame is untested, the company's previous versions have clocked up over 700,000 miles of testing on public roads, mainly around California, including over 1,000 miles of driving in the most complex situations and cities like San Francisco's hills and busy streets. The car itself is limited to 25 mph, which restricts it to certain roads, but also minimises the *kinetic* energy it could carry into a crash if one should happen. The front of the car is also made to be as kind to pedestrians as possible with a foam bumper and a flexible windscreen that is designed to absorb energy from an impact with a person's body. Seat belts are also provided – a safety requirement for vehicles on the road – while the car has redundant systems, a “fault-tolerant architecture” as Google calls it, for both steering and braking, should the primary systems fail; plus that emergency stop button that passengers can hit at any time. Google has also taken the data and behaviours it learned from its previous vehicles to create a defensive, considerate driving style that is meant to protect both the passengers and other road users. For instance, the car will wait a second after the traffic lights turn green before it moves off, although this could incur the anger of drivers stuck behind it. Google also says that making it drive in a natural and predictable way has been one of the key goals, so that it behaves in a familiar way on the road for other drivers.

**H** Google says it has gone as far as it can with the current customised vehicles and that a new platform is needed to take the project and technology to the next step and closer to a product people can actually use. For instance, the previous generation Lexus vehicle had blind spots right up against the car where the sensors couldn't see, something that needs to be eliminated in any vehicle open to the public. The cars will first be used to test the software driving the car and push its capabilities. Google says at some point, when it deems its software safe, it will start putting real people into the cars beyond Google engineers. It will use the cars in a similar manner to the company's Google Glass explorer programme, analysing how people use them and what works and what doesn't.

Google says the cars should be road-ready by early next year, but that testing would take more than two years. At that point the technology will be ready for the next stage, which is likely to be greater pilot testing. Current expectations are that these self-driving cars are at least five years away from being mature enough to create a real, non-prototype product, but it may be far longer until you can buy or hire one for personal use.

(1153 words)

**Task 1 Decide whether the following statements are true (T), false (F) or not given (NG) based on the information given in the text.**

1. Google's self-driving car prototype has no steering wheel, brake or accelerator pedals but it has more sensors than the previous versions.

2. The self-driving car is powered by a petrol motor and has a 25 mph speed limit.
3. The car has a foam bumper and a flexible windscreen on the front to protect pedestrians when a collision occurs.
4. Google's self-driving car has undergone pilot testing on the frame and software driving the car and the technology is mature enough to create real product for personal use in the near future.
5. There is still much to work out, primarily revolving around what a passenger in a self-driving car can and can't do.

**Task 2 Choose the correct heading for each paragraph from the list of headings (1-5) below.**

- ( ) 1. How does it work?
- ( ) 2. What does it look like?
- ( ) 3. How safe is it?
- ( ) 4. What does it feel like to ride in the car?
- ( ) 5. Google's self-driving car unveiled.

**Task 3 Choose the words from the box to complete the following text. You may change the form of the word.**

manual	hazard	unveil	launch	animation
identify	vision	substitute	promote	combine

Google \_\_\_\_1\_\_\_\_ a brand new self-driving car prototype on Tuesday. The company \_\_\_\_2\_\_\_\_ its own self-driving car project in 2008, and it has been rumbling on ever since. The new car represents Google's \_\_\_\_3\_\_\_\_ of what a self-driving car of the near future could be. It looks cute with two seats and room enough for a small amount of luggage. There is no steering wheel or \_\_\_\_4\_\_\_\_ control, simply a start button and a big red emergency stop button. The car uses sensors and software to locate itself in the real world \_\_\_\_5\_\_\_\_ with highly accurate digital maps and a GPS. The software can \_\_\_\_6\_\_\_\_ objects, people, cars, road marking, signs and traffic lights, obeying the rules of the road and allowing for multiple unpredictable \_\_\_\_7\_\_\_\_, including cyclists. It can even detect road works and safely navigate around them. Google says that this is not aiming to be a(n) \_\_\_\_8\_\_\_\_ for your personal car at the moment, but more like shared vehicles, or as a replacement for the driverless taxi. It's believed that there is a long way to go before Google can create a real, non-prototype product for personal use.

**Task 4 Translate the following sentences into Chinese.**

1. The car's cute looks and friendly "face" were created intentionally to be "very Googley" according to its designers, to put both other road users and passengers at ease with the new technology.
2. It is the first real physical incarnation of Google's vision of what a self-driving car of the near future could be.
3. Kara Swisher and Liz Gannes were one of the few independent test riders, who described the car as having "ample" room despite being small, likely due to the lack of the normal controls taking up space in the cabin, and "that this felt a lot like a theme park ride".

4. The car has redundant systems, a “fault-tolerant architecture” as Google calls it, for both steering and braking, should the primary systems fails; plus that emergency stop button that passengers can hit at any time.

### Reflection and Critical Thinking

1. What do you know about the high-tech products? Can you illustrate the changes that high technology has brought to our life?
2. Will you buy Google Clips camera? Why or why not? What do you think are the drawbacks of Google Clips?
3. What’s your vision of the self-driving car in the future?

### Word Bank

algorithm	n. a set of rules that must be followed when solving a particular problem. 算法
candid	a. (a photo) taken without the person in it knowing that they are being photographed. 偷拍的
customize	v. to make or change something to suit the needs of the owner 定制
encrypt	v. to put information into a special code so that only certain people can read it 把... 编码, 加密
hinge (on/upon)	(of an action, a result, etc) to depend on something completely 取决于
incarnation	v. one that represents a particular quality, a period of life in a particular form 化身
kickstart	v. to cause something to start quickly 启动
kinetic	a. of or produced by movement 运动的, 运动引起的
leverage	v. to influence the situation of sth. or people 影响
megapixel	n. one million pixels, used as a measure of the quality of the picture created by a digital camera, scanner, or other device 百万像素
prototype	n. a new type of machine or device which is not yet ready to be made in large numbers and sold 样本, 原型
rumble	v. to move slowly forward while making a low continuous noise 轰鸣着缓慢行进
saturation	n. the state or process that happens when no more of something can be accepted or added 饱和
scratch	v. (from) a point at which nothing has been done yet 从零开始
surveillance	n. the act of carefully watching a person 监视
tripod	n. a support with three legs for a camera, telescope, etc. 三脚架



## Unit Three Culture

### Text A Men Don't Cry. Why?

Sandra Newman

One of our most firmly *entrenched* ideas of masculinity is that a real man doesn't cry. Boys learn from an early age that shedding even one tear in public will make them look weak. Although a man might shed a *discreet* tear at a funeral, he is expected to quickly regain control. Sobbing openly is for girls.

This isn't just a social expectation. One study found that women report crying significantly more than men do—five times as often, on average, and almost twice as long per episode.

So it's perhaps surprising to learn that the gender gap in crying seems to be a recent development. Historically, men routinely wept, and no one saw it as feminine or shameful.

For example, in chronicles of the *Middle Ages*<sup>22</sup>, we find one ambassador repeatedly bursting into tears when addressing *Philip the Good*<sup>23</sup>, and the entire audience at a peace congress throwing themselves on the ground, sobbing and groaning as they listen to the speeches.

In medieval romances, knights cried purely because they missed their girlfriends. In *Chretien de Troyes*<sup>24</sup>'s *Lancelot*<sup>25</sup>, or, *The Knight of the Cart*<sup>26</sup>, no less a hero than Lancelot weeps at a brief separation from Guinevere. At another point, he cries on a lady's shoulder at the thought that he won't get to go to a big *tournament* because of his captivity. What's more, instead of being disgusted by this sobbing, the lady is moved to help.

There's no mention of the men in these stories trying to restrain or hide their tears. No one pretends to have something in his eye. No one makes an excuse to leave the room. They cry in a crowded hall with their heads held high. Nor do their companions make fun of this public weeping; it's universally regarded as an admirable expression of feeling.

The Bible is full of references to demonstrative weeping by kings, entire peoples, and God himself, as incarnated in Jesus. In fact, one of the most famous verses in the Bible, John 11:35, reads, "Jesus wept".

So where did all the male tears go? There was no anti-crying movement. No leaders of church or state introduced measures to discourage them. Nevertheless, by the Romantic period, masculine tears were reserved for poets. From there, it was just a short leap to the pokerfaced heroes of Ernest Hemingway, who, despite their poetic *leanings*, could not express grief by any means but drinking alcohol and shooting the occasional buffalo.

The most obvious possibility is that this shift is the result of changes that took place as we moved from a feudal *agrarian* society to one that was urban and industrial. In the Middle Ages, most people spent their lives among those they had known since birth. A typical village had around 250 to 300 inhabitants, most of them related by blood or marriage. If men cried, they did so with people who would empathize.

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<sup>22</sup> *Middle Ages* lasted from the 5th to the 15th century in the history of Europe

<sup>23</sup> *Philip the Good* was Duke of Burgundy of France as Philip III from 1419 until his death.

<sup>24</sup> *Chretien de Troyes* was a late-12th-century French poet known for his work on Arthurian subjects, and for originating the character Lancelot.

<sup>25</sup> *Lancelot* is one of the Knights of the Round Table in the Arthurian legend, King Arthur's greatest companion.

<sup>26</sup> *The Knight of the Cart* is an Old French poem by Chrétien de Troyes, one of the first Arthurian legend to feature Lancelot as a prominent character.

But from the 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, the population became increasingly urbanized, and people were living in the midst of thousands of strangers. Furthermore, changes in the economy required men to work together in factories and offices where emotional expression and even private conversation were discouraged as time wasting. As **Tom Lutz**<sup>27</sup> writes in *Crying: The Natural and Cultural History of Tears*, “You don’t want emotions interfering with the smooth running of things.”

Yet human beings weren’t designed to swallow their emotions, and there’s reason to believe that suppressing tears can be **hazardous** to your well-being. Research from the 1980s has suggested a relationship between stress-related illnesses and inadequate crying. Weeping is also, somewhat counterintuitively, correlated with happiness and wealth. Countries where people cry the most tend to be more democratic and their populations more extroverted.

You might also suffer if you simply hide your tears from others, as men are now expected to do. As we’ve seen, crying can be a tool to **elicit** care. While this might be inappropriate during a performance review, it could be an essential way of alerting others that you need support.

Taboos against male expressiveness mean that men are less likely than women to get help when they’re suffering from depression. This, in turn, is correlated with higher suicide rates (men are three to four times as likely to commit suicide as women), as well as higher rates of alcoholism and drug addiction.

It’s time to open the floodgates. Time for men to give up emulating the stone-faced heroes of action movies and be more like the emotive heroes of action movies and be more like the emotive heroes of Homer, like the weeping kings, saints, and statesmen of thousands of years of human history. When misfortune strikes, let us all—men and women—join together and cry until our sleeves are drenched. As the Old Testament has it: “They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.”

(803 words)

**Task 1 Choose the best answer to each question based on TEXT A.**

1. Lancelot, a hero in *Chretien de Troyes*’ works, King Arthur’s greatest companion, is raised as an example to show that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - E. knights were brave in the battlefield
  - F. knights were loyal to their King
  - G. knights were devoted to their girlfriends
  - H. knights were not ashamed to weep in public
2. Which one of the following figures is **NOT** mentioned as the examples of men’s public weeping without sense of shame?
  - A. God/Jesus
  - B. Poor men in the middle Ages
  - C. Statesmen in the middle Ages
  - D. Knights in the medieval Romance
3. When did the masculine tears start to be reserved?
  - A. By the Middle Ages
  - B. By the Renaissance
  - C. By the Romantic period

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<sup>27</sup> *Tom Lutz* (born March 21, 1953) is an American writer and literary critic, and founder and editor-in-chief of the Los Angeles Review of Books.

- D. By the Industrial Revolution
4. Why did men not cry historically?
    - A. There were anti-crying movements.
    - B. Some leaders of church or state introduced measures to discourage crying.
    - C. Men could express their grief by means of tippling and shooting.
    - D. Human society has moved from a feudal agrarian society to an urban and industrial one.
  5. The following are the benefits of men's crying **except for** \_\_\_\_ .
    - A. curing their depression
    - B. making men more extroverted
    - C. making their country more democratic
    - D. relieving their stress

**Task 2 Replace the underlined words below with appropriate words from TEXT A.**

1. (            ) That a real man doesn't cry is one of the deeply-rooted ideas of masculinity.
2. (            ) In the Bible, God himself, as embodied in Jesus, also wept.
3. (            ) In the feudal agrarian society, if men cried, they did so with people who would sympathize with them
4. (            ) Men are imitating the pokerfaced heroes of Ernest Hemingway not to express grief by means of weeping.
5. (            ) She cried until her sleeves are soaked with tears.

**Task 3 Complete each sentence with the correct ending.**

3. Scan TEXT A to locate the information in the sentence beginnings (1-4).
  4. Read the relevant part of the passage carefully, then choose the best sentence endings (A-F).
1. Men used to weep routinely when
  2. Men tended to hold tears back when
  3. **Tom Lutz** points out that modern people are discouraged to have emotional expression and private conversation in the working environment because
  4. Men's holding tears from others lead to higher rates of suicide, alcoholism and drug addiction because
- A. they are less likely to get help.
  - B. no one saw it as feminine or shameful.
  - C. men needed to work together in the factories and offices where emotional expression was discouraged as time wasting.
  - D. men were living in a feudal agrarian society with those acquaintances and relatives who they had known since birth and would empathize with them.
  - E. people were living in the midst of thousands of strangers in a increasingly urbanized society.
  - F. emotions may interfere with the smooth running of business.

## Text B Why We Cheer

### The triumph of the ‘us vs. them’ fan mindset

*Steve Almond*

I’ve been a hard-core sports fan as long as I can remember, the kind of kid who demanded that his birthday cakes be frosted with his favorite team’s colors. Generally, I’ve avoided thinking of my fandom as an unhealthy pattern.

But there are moments when the depth of my addiction has smacked me in the face. I am thinking, in particular, of the Sunday afternoon I spent in a deafening sports bar in Columbia, S.C.

I had ordered my pal Keith to drive me 35 miles to this establishment, because it was the only one in the area with a satellite TV that would allow me to watch my Oakland Raiders<sup>28</sup>, who were within striking distance of a playoff spot for the first time in years and were arranged to play the unlucky Miami Dolphins.

The score after three quarters: Miami 34, Oakland 0.

By all rights, this should have been my moment of clarity. But when I looked around that bar, at the crowds clustered around glowing screens, eyes shining with hope, what I experienced was closer to a moment of revelation. This bar was, for us fans, a kind of temple. We were members of a vast **congregation** who had come not just to rejoice or sympathize, but to worship.

Fandom, I realized, was a means of activating our faith. In a world that felt increasingly fragmented, it provided us with a sense of tribal identity. It allowed us to pay tribute to our heroes, to watch them make miracles with their bodies, to partake in collective ritual, to put on our own articles of faith.

And if this were all that fandom was, frankly, I wouldn’t feel so dang guilty about it. But there is a darker side to fandom: the manner in which it diverts time, attention, and money away from the rest of our lives.

After all, I had not traveled to South Carolina to watch the **Raiders**. I was there to catch up with Keith, an old friend whom I hadn’t seen for years. We had plenty to talk about. He was seeing his first son off to college, with mixed feelings. I was bracing myself for a third child that I wasn’t sure we could afford. We were both struggling.

Ironically, this was the very reason I had sought out that football game. Because a large part of me wanted to **dodge** all that adult struggle by retreating into a world that was simpler and more childlike, a world where the most important question wasn’t “What’s going on in your life?” but “How’s your team doing?”

As much as I still love watching sports, I’ve gradually come to see my fandom as a place of refuge, one that distracts me from my anxieties. More broadly, I worry that our global obsession with sports has distracted us from traditional sources of connection to our families, our civic duties, even our religious devotion.

Of course, our **allegiance** to sports has been around for as long as human beings have run and jumped and thrown **projectiles**. Pre-Columbian cultures such as the Maya played a game in which losing players were sometimes sacrificed. The ancient Greeks organized Olympiads and filled vast arenas. Like any successful species, we’re a competitive lot.

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<sup>28</sup> The *Oakland Raider*: ~ is a professional American football franchise based in Oakland, California.

What marks the modern era as unique is how pervasive and profitable sports have become. When I was growing up in the 1970s, games were something you watched on weekends and mostly read about in the newspaper.

These days, we have three or four channels devoted to round-the-clock coverage of sports, which includes not just game coverage but news about trades, injuries, contracts, and arrests. Almost as many Americans watch the *Super Bowl*<sup>29</sup> as vote in presidential elections. That's to say nothing of gambling interests or *fantasy*<sup>30</sup> leagues.

Taken as a whole, the athletic-industrial complex has become one of the largest, most profitable sectors of our economy.

The *mania* isn't limited to America. Sports have become the dominant force in global culture. And as we've become more emotionally and financially invested in our teams, our conduct has become more extreme.

Consider the sad fate of Andres Escobar, a player for the Colombian national soccer team. In 1994, he accidentally scored a goal against his own side in a game Colombia eventually lost to the United States. Days later, Escobar was shot multiple times outside a nightclub in Medellin<sup>31</sup>. After each shot, it was reported, the assailants yelled "goal."

This tragedy was not an isolated incident. League officials have strengthened security at stadiums around the world as fandom has given way to harassment, hooliganism, even *aggravated* assault. Some players come to believe they are above the law, hardly surprising given that they are treated as demigods by the rest of us.

In essence, what we've seen over the past century is an unmistakable shift in our relationship to athletics. Fewer and fewer people play sports, while more and more people watch them. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, Americans spend almost three hours per day watching television, and only about 20 minutes exercising. The proliferation of screens accounts for some of this. But I would argue that something deeper is at work.

Fandom provides us an instant source of social *legitimacy*, a way of plugging into a shared narrative that is unscripted, thrilling to watch, and most of all convenient.

I am not quarreling with the values imparted by playing sports, which include teamwork, discipline, perseverance, and so on. But it is much harder to argue that watching sports is ennobling.

My own sense is that fandom fosters a mindset that is both *aggrieved* and hyper-competitive. I base this observation on my *erstwhile* addiction to sports talk radio, which manages to channel the *id* of most sports fans.

What is most striking about listening to the hosts and callers of these programs is the uncontrolled rage they express – at opposing players and coaches, at their own team, at virtually anyone who offends them.

Even if you don't watch sports, the fan mindset has profoundly shaped our popular culture. Americans, in particular, have turned virtually everything into a sport: singing, dancing, cooking, even courtship.

Much of our political coverage has adopted the *tropes* of an athletic event. *To wit*: Almost none of the political news is about policy. It's about which candidate is winning in the polls, in the

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<sup>29</sup> *Super Bowl*: ~ is the annual championship game of the National Football League (NFL).

<sup>30</sup> A *fantasy sport* is a type of online game where participants assemble imaginary or virtual teams of real players of a professional sport.

<sup>31</sup> *Medellin*: ~ is the second-largest city in Colombia

fundraising game, in the media arena itself.

More disturbing is the research suggesting that Americans are increasingly retreating from social interactions. This was the premise of **Robert Putnam's** seminal 2000 book, *Bowling Alone*, in which he cited a host of statistics indicating a decline in participation within civic and social clubs, local politics, and religious organizations.

Fandom offers a much easier (and more passive) path to belonging. All you have to do is sit on your couch and watch the **high-def** spectacles unfold.

Of course, fandom does connect us to friends, family, our **alma maters**, even our hometowns. For some folks, sports may be the central means by which they bond with family.

But as a fan I have always felt these connections to be hollow. I do enjoy watching sports with my dad. We've rejoiced when our teams did well and (mostly) comforted each other when they lost.

If I'm honest, though, the reason I began watching sports with my dad was that I wanted to be close to him. The same thing is true of my kids. If the only way they can get close to me is to sit down while I'm watching a game, that's what they'll do. But they would much rather play a game with me. Or make art. Or have me read them a book. This is the main reason I've cut back on my fandom over the past few years.

Don't get me wrong. I can still happily **while** away an afternoon in front of a game. I'm still enchanted by the grace and courage of the athletes and the drama of their combat.

But I'm trying to keep in mind the big picture. We have limited time in our lives to connect with those we love and to engage with our communities. That's the score that should matter most.

(1390 words)

**Task 1 Decide whether the following statements are true (T), false(F) or not given(NG) based on the information given in TEXT B.**

1. The author has been so much deeply-addicted to sports that he ever demanded his birthday cakes be decorated with his favorite team's name.
2. Fandom provided people with a sense of belonging.
3. People's allegiance to sports has started with the appearance of modern Olympic Games.
4. In sports, fandom fosters a mindset that is crazy and irrational.
5. The effects of fandom on people are helpful and positive.

**Task 2 Choose words from the box to complete the following text. You may change the form of the word.**

allegiance	brace	divert	distract	dodge	engage	enchant
fandom	foster	identity	negative	retreat	virtual	trope

Steve Almond, a hard-core sports fan, expresses his own view on 1. Originally he has thought his fandom is a healthy pattern. It has been a means of activating fans' faith, provided them with a sense of tribal 2 or belonging. But he still feels guilty about it because there is a 3 side to fandom---it 4 time, attention, and money away from the rest of fans' life. The global obsession with sports has 5 fans from traditional sources of connection to their families, their civic duties, even their religious devotion, making them increasingly 6 from

social interaction. Fandom 7 a mindset that is both aggrieved and hyper-competitive, one that has profoundly shaped the popular culture and turned 8 everything into a sport. Therefore, the author suggests, while we can be still 9 by the grace and courage of the athletes and the drama of their combat, we should keep in mind that what matter most are the connection with those we love and the 10 with our communities.

### Task 3 Translate the following sentences into Chinese.

1. It allowed us to pay tribute to our heroes, to watch them make miracles with their bodies, to partake in collective ritual, to put on our own articles of faith.
2. What marks the modern era as unique is how pervasive and profitable sports have become.
3. Almost as many Americans watch the Super Bowl as vote in presidential elections. That's to say nothing of gambling interests or fantasy leagues.
4. Fandom provides us an instant source of social legitimacy, a way of plugging into a shared narrative that is unscripted, thrilling to watch, and most of all convenient.
5. This was the premise of Robert Putnam's seminal 2000 book, *Bowling Alone*, in which he cited a host of statistics indicating a decline in participation within civic and social clubs, local politics, and religious organizations.

### Reflection and Critical Thinking

Question:

1. What's the sensible attitude toward men's tears in modern age?
2. What's the sensible attitude toward fandom?

### Word Bank

aggravate	v. to make an illness or a bad or unpleasant situation worse	使严重；使恶化
aggrieved	a. feeling that you have been treated unfairly	愤愤不平的；感到受委屈的
agrarian	a. connected with farming and the use of land for farming	农业的；耕地的
allegiance	n. a person's continued support for a political party, religion, ruler, etc.	忠诚，拥护
alma mater	n. (especially North American English) the school, college or university that sb went to	母校
congregation	n. a group of people who are gathered together in a church to worship God	(教堂的) 会众
dodge	v. to move quickly and suddenly to one side in order to avoid sb./sth.	闪躲；回避；
discreet	a. careful in what you say or do in order to avoid causing embarrassment	谨慎的
elicit	v. to get information or a reaction from sb.	引出；诱出
entrench	v. to establish sth. very firmly	牢固确立
erstwhile	a. former	从前的
hazardous	a. involving risk or danger	危险的；有害的
high-def	a. using or produced by a system that gives very clear detailed images	高清晰度的；高分辨率的

id	n. the part of the unconscious mind where many of a person's basic needs, feelings and desires are supposed to exist 本我
leaning	n. a tendency to prefer sth or to believe in particular ideas etc. 倾向; 爱好
legitimacy	n. lawfulness by virtue of being authorized or in accordance with law 合法 (性)
mania	n. an extremely strong desire or enthusiasm for sth, often shared by a lot of people at the same time (通常指许多人共有的) 强烈的欲望, 狂热, 极大的热情
projectile	n. any object that is thrown as a weapon (作为武器的) 发射物; 导弹
tournament	n. a competition in the Middle Ages between soldiers on horseback fighting to show courage and skill (中世纪的) 骑士比武
to wit	namely; that's to say 也就是说
trope	n. Metaphor and simile 转义词语; 比喻词语
while (away)	v. spend time in a pleasant lazy way 逍遥自在地度过, 消磨 (时间)



## Unit Four People

### Text A Stephen Hawking

CBS/ The Associated Press

Stephen Hawking, the world-famous physicist who deepened our understanding of the universe while proving that any disability could be overcome, has died, a spokesman for his family confirmed Wednesday. He was 76. His three children Lucy, Robert and Tim, said in a statement, “We will miss him forever.” “We are deeply saddened that our beloved father passed away today. He was a great scientist and an extraordinary man whose work and legacy will live on for many years. His courage and persistence with his brilliance and humor inspired people across the world.”

Hawking was born in Oxford, England in 1942. He was a 21-year-old Ph.D student when he was diagnosed with **Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis**<sup>1</sup> (ALS), or **Lou Gehrig's**<sup>2</sup> disease -- and told he had just a year or two to live. Although he would be confined to a wheelchair and largely unable to speak except through a voice synthesizer, he lived a lot longer than that.

His 1988 book, “A Brief History of Time,” explaining the mysteries of the universe in layman’s language, became an international bestseller and made him an unlikely world-wide celebrity. The book sold more than 10 million copies. As one of Isaac Newton's successors as **Lucasian**<sup>3</sup> Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge University, Hawking was involved in the search for the great goal of physics -- a “unified theory.” Such a theory would resolve the contradictions between Einstein's General Theory of Relativity, which describes the laws of gravity that govern the motion of large objects like planets, and the Theory of Quantum Mechanics, which deals with the world of subatomic particles. For Hawking, the search was almost a religious quest -- he said finding a “theory of everything” would allow mankind to “know the mind of God.” “A complete, consistent unified theory is only the first step: our goal is a complete understanding of the events around us, and of our own existence,” he wrote in “A Brief History of Time.”

Hawking was one of former President Obama’s first recipients of the Medal of Freedom, awarded because he had overcome disability to push the boundaries of science. He may have been confined to a wheelchair, but his mind knew no limits. Always fascinated by space, he took a

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<sup>1</sup> **Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis:** (ALS) is a specific disease which causes the death of neurons controlling voluntary muscles. ALS is characterized by stiff muscles, muscle twitching, and gradually worsening weakness due to muscles decreasing in size. This results in difficulty speaking, swallowing, and eventually breathing.

<sup>2</sup> **Lou Gehrig:** also known as Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). It became well known in the United States in the 20th century when in 1939 it affected the famous baseball player Lou Gehrig.

<sup>3</sup> **Lucasian: Chair of Mathematics** is a mathematics professorship in the University of Cambridge, England; its holder is known as the Lucasian Professor. The post was founded in 1663 by Henry Lucas, who was Cambridge University's Member of Parliament from 1639–1640; and it was officially established by King Charles II on 18 January 1664. It was described by The Daily Telegraph as one of the most prestigious academic posts in the world and its former holders include Isaac Newton, Joseph Larmor, Charles Babbage, George Stokes, Paul Dirac and Stephen Hawking.

zero-gravity flight in 2007 -- the first time in 40 years he could move without the chair. He was a personality who transcended science and popular culture. "I fit the stereotype of a disabled genius in that I'm clearly disabled but I'm not a genius like Einstein was," Hawking told Bradley.

In later years, though, he suggested a unified theory might not exist. He followed up "A Brief History of Time" in 2001 with the more accessible sequel "The Universe in a Nutshell," updating readers on concepts like super gravity, naked singularities and the possibility of an 11-dimensional universe. Hawking said belief in a God who intervenes in the universe "to make sure the good guys win or get rewarded in the next life" was wishful thinking. "But one can't help asking the question: Why does the universe exist?" he said in 1991. "I don't know an operational way to give the question or the answer, if there is one, a meaning. But it bothers me."

The combination of his best-selling book and his almost total disability -- for a while he could use a few fingers, later he could only tighten the muscles on his face -- made him one of science's most recognizable figures. But he was also a popular genius and a media star. He had a role on "Star Trek." And he knew he had made it when his cartoon *avatar* had a *cameo* on "The Simpsons." He called the episode "very funny and now almost as many people know me through 'The Simpsons' as through my science."

In 1959, Hawking entered Oxford University and then went on to graduate work at Cambridge. Signs of illness appeared in his first year of graduate school, and he was diagnosed with ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. The disease usually kills within three to five years. According to John Boslough, author of "Stephen Hawking's Universe," Hawking became deeply depressed. But as it became apparent that he was not going to die soon, his spirits recovered and he bore down on his work. Biran Dickie, director of research at the Motor Neurone Disease Association, said only 5 percent of those diagnosed with ALS survive for 10 years or longer. Hawking, he added, "really is at the extreme end of the scale when it comes to survival."

Hawking married Jane Wilde in 1965 and they had three children, Robert, Lucy and Timothy. Jane cared for Hawking for 20 years, until a grant from the United States paid for the 24-hour care he required. He was *inducted* into the Royal Society in 1974 and received the Albert Einstein Award in 1978. In 1989, Queen Elizabeth II made him a Companion of Honor, one of the highest distinctions she can *bestow*. He won the **Wolf prize**<sup>4</sup>, the **Copley medal**<sup>5</sup>, and the Fundamental Physics prize. The Nobel prize, however, eluded him. He *whizzed* about Cambridge at surprising speed -- usually with nurses or teaching assistants in his wake -- traveled and lectured widely, and appeared to enjoy his fame. He retired from his chair as Lucasian Professor in 2009 and took up a research position with the Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics in Waterloo, Ontario. Hawking divorced Jane in 1991, an *acrimonious* split that strained his relationship with their children. Writing in her autobiographical "Music to Move the Stars," she said the strain of caring for Hawking for nearly three decades had left her feeling like "a brittle, empty shell." Hawking married his one-time nurse Elaine Mason four years later, but the relationship was *dogged* by rumors of abuse. Police investigated in 2004 after newspapers reported that he'd been beaten,

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<sup>4</sup> **Wolf prize** in Physics is awarded once a year by the Wolf Foundation in Israel. It is one of the six Wolf Prizes established by the Foundation and awarded since 1978. The Wolf Prizes in physics and chemistry are often considered the most prestigious awards in those fields after the Nobel Prize.

<sup>5</sup> **Copley medal:** is a scientific award given by the Royal Society, for "outstanding achievements in research in any branch of science." It alternates between the physical and the biological sciences. Given every year, the medal is the oldest Royal Society medal still awarded, and is the oldest surviving scientific award in the world.

suffering injuries and was left stranded in his garden on the hottest day of the year. Hawking called the charges “completely false.” Police found no evidence of any abuse. Hawking and Mason separated in 2006. Lucy Hawking said her father had an *exasperating* “inability to accept that there is anything he cannot do.” Hawking said, grinning widely, “I seem to manage to do anything that I really want.”

He’ll be remembered not just as one of the more remarkable personalities of the scientific world -- but as an inspiration figure. An authority on the past -- and the future. “I believe that the long-term future of the human race must be in space,” Hawking said. “Human race should not have all eggs in one basket, or in one planet.”

(1108 words)

**Task 1 Choose the best answer to each question based on TEXT A.**

1. Stephen Hawking is an inspiration figure to people across the world in that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. Hawking has deepened our insights into gravity, space and time.
  - B. Hawking has overcome disability to push the boundaries of science.
  - C. Hawking is a best-selling author as well as a media star.
  - D. Hawking is acknowledged as the Einstein’s successor and shaped modern cosmology.
2. Which of the following statements about Hawking is NOT true according to this passage?
  - A. Hawking was diagnosed with ALS when he was in graduate school at Cambridge.
  - B. Hawking was bound to a wheelchair and could speak through a voice synthesizer.
  - C. Hawking divorced his second wife because of physical abuse on him.
  - D. Hawking enjoyed playing a role in movies, through which he became more well-known.
3. What do we know about “A Brief History of Time” from this passage?
  - A. Hawking put forward “a unified theory” in this book.
  - B. Hawking explained the mysteries of the universe in simple and clear words in this book.
  - C. Hawking renewed concepts like super gravity, naked singularities and the possibility of an 11-dimensional universe in this book.
  - D. Hawking was in a religious quest and explored the meaning of the events around us, and of our own existence in this book.
4. The following is the achievements Hawing has made in science except that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. he became the Lucasian professor of mathematics at Cambridge, a post formerly held by Isaac Newton.
  - B. He became a member of the Royal Society in 1974 and received the Albert Einstein Award in 1978.
  - C. In 1989, Queen Elizabeth II conferred on him a Companion of Honor.
  - D. He won Nobel Prize for physics in 1982.
5. What can we infer from this passage?
  - A. Hawking was a miracle because he could survive for half a century after being diagnosed with ALS.
  - B. Hawking dismissed the comforts of religious belief and thus offended the religious.
  - C. Hawking’s intellect and his unremitting efforts in science, coupled with his illness, symbolized the unbounded possibilities of the human mind.
  - D. His best-selling book as well as his total disability made him a celebrity worldwide.

**Task 2 Choose ONE WORD ONLY from TEXT A for each answer.**

1. Stephen Hawking, whose insights shaped modern cosmology and \_\_\_\_\_ global audiences in the millions, died at 76.
2. Hawking was always \_\_\_\_\_ by the space and universe, and he challenged himself by taking a zero-gravity flight in 2007.
3. Their marriage was under great \_\_\_\_\_ and finally ended up with a divorce.
4. In the book "The Universe in a Nutshell", Hawking made some scientific concepts more \_\_\_\_\_ to common people.
5. A Companion of Honor, one of the highest distinctions, was \_\_\_\_\_ upon him by the Queen Elizabeth II.
6. "Music to Move the Stars" is Jane Wilde's \_\_\_\_\_ in which she related the story of a marriage with Hawking.

**Task 3 Look at the following statements and the list of people below. Match each statement with the correct person.**

- (    ) 1. He thought it's miraculous for Hawking to live so long with the disease.
- (    ) 2. He described the laws of gravity governing the motion of large objects like planets.
- (    ) 3. He wanted to find "a theory of everything" and gain a complete understanding of the universe.
- (    ) 4. He confirmed Hawking bounced back quickly and got down to work when he knew he wouldn't die soon.
- (    ) 5. She claimed that the stress and strains of caring for him for years made her feel like "an empty shell".
- (    ) 6. He argued that for humanity to survive human race must spread out into space.
- A. Jane Wilde                      B. Stephen Hawking                      C) John Boslough  
D. Albert Einstein                E. Biran Dickie                          F) Lucy Hawking

**Text B Cover Story: Emma Watson**

Derek Blasberg

Since her years as Hermione ended, Emma Watson has fought to assert her own identity. Now that she has found her voice—most notably as a U.N. ambassador—she's *revamping* a classic stereotype, the Disney princess, in Beauty and the Beast, the live-action musical coming out in March. Watson talks to Vanity Fair about her *metamorphosis* from child star to leading woman.

Watson is one of the most famous women in the world, the child star who *skyrocketed* to global fame at the age of 11 playing brainy Hermione Granger in the Harry Potter movies. Next month, she's back on the big screen as Belle in Disney's Beauty and the Beast, the big-budget live-action musical—she sings too!—which broke the record for most viewed new movie trailer. But today she's makeup-free, her hair shoved into a bun, and she's wearing a nondescript dark wool coat over a *baggy* black sweater, completely blending in with masses. Over coffee at a nearby café, Watson explains why she thinks reading is "sacred." There's the obvious, professional

reason: Harry Potter was a literary sensation before becoming the *blockbuster franchise* that made her famous and a millionaire many times over. But books are also rooted in her deepest personal experiences. “Books gave me a way to connect with my father,” she says. “Some of my most precious and treasured moments . . .” She trails off and, unexpectedly for someone who is known for her *composure*, tears up. Her parents divorced when she was young. “I just remember him reading to me before bed and how he used to do all the different voices. I grew up on film sets, and books were my connection to the outside world. They were my connection to my friends back at school because if I was reading what they were reading we’d have something in common. Later in life, they became an escape, a means of empowerment, a friend I could rely on.”

I first met Watson, during Paris Fashion Week more than a decade ago, when she was still a teenager and filming the fourth of the eight Harry Potter films. It was both a homecoming for the actress—she was born in Paris to British parents, both lawyers, and lived there until she was five—and a symbol of her maturity on-screen.

She was a shy teenager, but friendly, intelligent, and down to earth. Watson is described as much the same today: “She’s way more like a real person than a movie star,” according to Gloria Steinem. Hamilton creator Lin-Manuel Miranda, who met Watson backstage at a performance of the musical, sums it up: “She played this very smart, conscious, noble wizard—and then somehow we had the good fortune that she became a smart, conscious, noble woman.” (They did a video together to raise awareness for International Women’s Day.)

What few people knew when she enrolled at Brown University in 2009 was that she had a desire to give up acting and walk away from Hollywood altogether. “I was finding this fame thing was getting to a point of no return,” she remembers. “I sensed if this was something I was ever going to step away from it was now or never.” She loved performance and telling stories, but she had to reckon with the consequences of “winning the lottery,” as she calls getting the part of Hermione, when she was nine years old and literally still losing baby teeth. As an adult, “it dawned on me that this is what you’re really signing up for.”

The question most people ask when a celebrity moans about being famous: If you hate the fanfare so much, why keep making movies? Watson asked herself that all the time. “I’ve been doing this since I was 10 or 11, and I’ve often thought, I’m so wrong for this job because I’m too serious; I’m difficult; I don’t fit,” she says. “But as I’ve got older, I’ve realized, No! Taking on those battles, the smaller ones and the bigger ones, is who I am.”

For mostly better and occasionally worse, the Potter books and films not only captured the imagination of millions of people but, for many of them, changed their lives. It’s something Watson is deeply aware of. Since the first movie premiered, in 2001, when Watson was 11, there have been numerous incidents with *stalkers*. When she was at Brown, Watson went to a Harvard football game and The Harvard Voice, a student magazine, live-tweeted as its staff stalked her at the stadium. She’s not exaggerating her security concerns, either. “Privacy for me is not an abstract idea,” she says.

Back in college, Watson was like most 20-year-olds, struggling to carve out her own identity, only she did it in front of a *rabid* fan base and a never-ending celebrity-news cycle. She made international headlines when she chopped Hermione’s long locks into a closely shorn *pixie*. We don’t need Sigmund Freud to read into the symbolism of that haircut, and to this day Watson declares, “It’s the sexiest I’ve ever felt.”

She got into yoga and meditation; being the Type A person she is, though, she wasn’t content

just doing it. “Typical Emma,” says Harry Potter producer David Heyman, “She had to become a certified meditation teacher.”

Watson shied away from doing additional big-budget studio films and instead focused on smaller movies, like Stephen Chbosky’s *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* (2012), and sought out *auteur* directors, like Sofia Coppola with *The Bling Ring* (2013) and Darren Aronofsky with *Noah* (2014). She turned down big offers: from lucrative cosmetics deals to critically acclaimed scripts. Watson says. “People have looked at me and been like, ‘Is she insane?’ But what’s the point of achieving great success if you feel like you’re losing your freaking mind?”

What ultimately helped clarify her purpose was reading. Last January, Watson started Our Shared Shelf, her bi-monthly online book club. She used Twitter to crowd-source the name, and chose Gloria Steinem’s book *My Life on the Road* as her first selection. *All About Love: New Visions*, by Bell Hooks, was Watson’s March 2016 book-club selection. Watson traveled to Berea, Kentucky to meet Hooks, and the two quickly struck up a friendship based on, in the words of the writer, “the belief in the primacy of a spiritual foundation for life.” Hooks told me. “She’s a very different, new breed who are interested in being whole and having a *holistic* life, as opposed to being identified with just wealth and fame.”

In early 2014, U.N. Women, the United Nations’ department of gender equality, contacted Watson about becoming an ambassador. Everything clicked: she could focus the *prying* eyes of the world onto causes that she was passionate about, namely a new initiative called HeForShe, which aims to get men to co-sign on feminist issues. Watson stepped onto the *podium* and spoke passionately about women’s rights for a little more than 10 minutes. Her battle cry ended with: “I am inviting you to step forward, to be seen, and to ask yourself, If not me, who? If not now, when?”

(1185 words)

**Task 1 Decide whether the following statements are true (T), false (F) or not given (NG) based on the information given in the text.**

1. Emma Watson is a famous actress worldwide and she starred in the movies *Harry Potter* and *Beauty and the Beast*.
2. Watson loves reading because she thinks books are her connection to the outside world and help her find the purpose in life.
3. When Watson enrolled at Brown University in 2009, she couldn’t decide whether to quit acting and go back to campus life temporarily.
4. Almost all her acts such as her new haircut would gain public attention and make news headlines.
5. Watson’s speech on gender equality in her new role as the U.N. Women ambassador triggered hatred and protests among men.

**Task 2 Choose the words from the box to complete the following text. You may change the form of the word.**

skyrocket	shy	assert	enroll	stalk
revamp	acclaim	maturity	empower	emerge

Emma Watson, the British young actress and style icon, seems to transform a new generation both on and off screen. The child star 1 to global fame at the age of 11 when she played the part of Hermione Granger in the Harry Potter series. Now, she's 2 a classic stereotype, the Disney princess Belle in Beauty and the Beast. This new Belle, much of it by Watson's design, symbolizes her 3 on-screen. Watson is smart, conscious and down to earth. She's more like a real person than a movie star who only cares about fame and wealth. She 4 away from doing additional big-budget studio films and instead focused on smaller movies. She turned down lucrative cosmetics deals and highly 5 scripts. She is truly a heroine who listens to her inner voice and is in charge of her own destiny. She 6 at Brown University in 2009 and graduated from it with a degree in English literature. She started Our Shared Shelf, her bi-monthly online book club because she perceived books as a means of 7 and a spiritual foundation for life. As the youngest-ever appointed U.N. Women Goodwill Ambassador, Watson is the new face of gender equality and feminism. Since her Hermione Granger days, Emma Watson has fought to 8 her own identity.

### Task 3 Translate the following sentences into Chinese.

1. But today she's makeup-free, her hair shoved into a bun, and she's wearing a nondescript dark wool coat over a baggy black sweater, completely blending in with masses.
2. She loved performance and telling stories, but she had to reckon with the consequences of "winning the lottery," as she calls getting the part of Hermione, when she was nine years old and literally still losing baby teeth.
3. Back in college, Watson was like most 20-year-olds, struggling to carve out her own identity, only she did it in front of a rabid fan base and a never-ending celebrity-news cycle.
4. She made international headlines when she chopped Hermione's long locks into a closely shorn pixie.

### Reflection and Critical Thinking

1. Who is your role model? What traits do you want to seek in your role model? Or in what ways does he/she influence you?
2. Many celebrities have the experiences of being stalked by fans. What do you think of that?

### Word Bank

acrimonious	a. (of an argument, etc) bitter and angry 尖刻的, 激烈的
auteur	n. a film director who has a very strong artistic influence on the films they make 风格导演
avatar	n. a picture of a person or an animal that represents a person on a computer screen. 化身
baggy	a. (of clothes) fitting loosely 宽松的
bestow	v. to give or present something to somebody 授予, 赠与
blockbuster	n. something very successful, especially a very successful book or movie 轰动一时的电影或书
cameo	n. a small part in a film 小配角
composure	n. the state of being calm and in control of your feelings 冷静, 镇定

dog	v. (of a problem or bad luck) to cause you trouble for a long time. (长期)困扰, 折磨
exasperate	v. to annoy or irritate somebody very much. 使烦恼, 激怒
franchise	n. an authority that is given by an organization to someone, allowing them to sell its goods or services. 专卖权, 经销权
holistic	a. considering a whole thing 整体的,全面的
induct	v. to formally give somebody a job or position of authority, especially as part of a ceremony (尤指在典礼上)使正式就职
metamorphosis	n. a process in which something /somebody changes completely into something different 质变, 变形
pixie	n. a creature like a small person with pointed ears who has magic powers 小精灵, 小仙子
pry	v. to try to find information about other people's private lives in away that is annoying or rude 窥探, 刺探
podium	n. a small platform on which someone stands in order to give a lecture 讲台
rabid	a. (disapproving) (of a type of person) having very strong feelings about something and acting in an unacceptable way 极端的, 狂热的
revamp	v. to make changes to the form of something, usually to improve 改变, 修改, 翻新
stalk	v. to illegally follow and watch somebody over a long period of time, in a way that is annoying or frightening. 跟踪, 盯梢
skyrocket	v. to rise quickly to a very high level. 飞涨, 猛涨
whiz	v. to move quickly 高速移动



# Unit One

**Task 1:** 1. C      2. B      3. A      4. C      5. D  
**Task 2:** 1.perverse    2. fashion    3. recompense    4. deposition    5. disposed of  
**Task 3:** 1.CD      2. B      3. F      4.AE

**Task 1:** 1.F 2. T 3. NG 4. T 5. T

**Task 2:** 1. interminable 2. engrossed 3. succumbed 4. tackle  
5. pining 6. burst 7. mischief 8. deliberately

1. 在伦敦，你几乎察觉不到天空。而在她看来，爱丁堡的天空则是这个城市至高无上的荣耀。云朵轻快利落地掠过天空；让你几乎能“看”到风。
2. 当她穿过冬季的花园离开（拼图桌）时，她并没有打算把这事变成事关他俩关系成败的摊牌，而这事紧接着就几乎真地变成这样了。
3. 在卡恩贝格，他将会听到她放在包里的手机铃声和她公寓电话的铃声，他将在给她打的两个电话里留下容易引起误解的留言，而他自己却没有意识到“现在（再说）太迟了”，正如他在那个下雨的午后开始时对（想让他退掉刚买的拼图的）苏珊娜所说的那样。
4. 不为他所知的是，对苏珊娜来说，爱丁堡的天空是湛蓝湛蓝的（能让人感知到的湛蓝），清风吹拂，令人心旷神怡，微风拂过的朵朵白云高高地在空中向法夫岛飘去，留下丝丝痕迹。那真是一块绝无仅有的天空啊！哦！她是多么思念它！
5. 在加文妥妥地结婚，将过去几乎抛之脑后以后，他将学会辨认出那种凌冽的天空蓝，无论是他从机舱窗口得以瞥见几眼，还是驾车回家时透过汽车的挡风玻璃仰望天空之时。

1. How has the fact of the narrator being a foreigner caused his unhappy experience in the story “A Foreigner”? Can we get any hint from the story of being a foreigner while traveling or studying abroad?

**Sample Answer:** First of all, being a foreigner, the narrator urged the native taxi driver to drive him back to his apartment by following his suggestion of the route, which was considered by the driver as a gross insult and started the conflict between them. Secondly, being a foreigner, the narrator was requested by the police officer to pay the taxi fee twice more than necessary because he himself had forgotten to carry his ID with him as required by French law.

The lesson we can from the story can be best summarized by the old saying “When in Rome, do as Romans do.”

2. Whose fault is it that led to the break-up of Gavin and Suzanne's romantic relationship?

**Sample Answer:** It's the fault of both parties. On the Gavin's part, firstly, he had chosen to buy a

jigsaw with a view of Edinburgh. This was a choice which was half wrong and half right in Suzanne's eyes. It's wrong because she thought a jigsaw was a not suitable game for two grown-ups like them to finish in a public place. It's right because the view was of Edinburgh, her city. Nevertheless, Suzanne got to know that Gavin's choice was "the best of a bad bunch" rather than the well-chosen one because of Suzanne's nostalgia of her hometown. Secondly, Gavin talked with a sarcastic tone when they finally found one last piece of sky in the jigsaw missing, which made her lose her temper, complain a lot and leave him right away. Thirdly, Gavin didn't tell her the truth immediately and frankly when he happened to find the missing piece in the turn-up of his trousers afterwards so that she left him forever.

On the part of Suzanne, her major fault lies in the fact that she didn't communicate with Gavin in a genuine way. She couldn't speak out her true feelings directly to him to achieve mutual understanding and a harmonious relationship.

All in all, both of them wouldn't and couldn't be considerate of each other and communicate in a heart-to-heart way, which doomed to lead to the final break-up of their relationship.

## Unit Two

### Text A

**Task 1:** 1. B      2. C      3. A      4. C      5. A

**Task 2:** 1.intervention    2. captures    3. awkward      4. initiate      5. hinges    6. highlight

**Task 3:** 1.C      2. F      3. A      4.D

### Text B

**Task 1:** 1.T      2. F      3. T      4. F      5. NG

**Task 2:** 1.F      2. B      3.G      4.D      5. A

**Task 3:** 1. has unveiled      2. launched      3. vision      4. manual

5. combined      6.identify      7. hazards      8. substitute

### Task 4:

1. 车子外观可爱，用设计师的话说，非常“亲民”，带有明显的“谷歌式”风格，让其他司机和乘客对这项新技术更容易接受。
2. 这是谷歌第一次将未来无人驾驶车的理念实体化。
3. Kara Swisher 和 Liz Gannes 是极少数自由试驾者之一，他们认为车子尽管小却给人感觉空间够大，这可能是因为那些操作装置占据车厢内的空间，而且整个试驾感觉很像在主题公园里的游乐驾驶。
4. 当主要的系统失灵时，车子还有针对驾驶和制动的冗余系统，谷歌称之为“故障容忍装置”，此外还有乘客随时可按的紧急停止按钮。

### Reflection and Critical Thinking

1. What do you know about the high-tech products? Can you illustrate the changes that high technology has brought to our life?

**Sample answer:** High technology revolutionizes how people think, live and act. It has changed the world dramatically. Take Apple's iPhone for example, its invention must be a game-changing breakthrough and creates a new era of smart phones. Today's smart phone is more than a communication device, it can work as a computer and do many more things than we could imagine. Thanks to it, we can enjoy a convenient and productive life.

2. Will you buy Google Clips camera? Why or why not? What do you think are the drawbacks of Google Clips?

**Sample answer:** Google Clips can help people capture candid moments, that's unrivalled edge compared with other products, but it has many situational limitations. For example, Google Clips is inadequate for taking pictures of landscapes, buildings, random objects, or strangers. It can record only up to three hours per charge, etc. Personally I think customers prefer multifunctional electronic product to a camera which only focuses on pets and familiar faces.

3. What's your vision of the self-driving car in the future?

(omitted)

### Unit Three

#### Text A

**Task 1:** 1. B      2. B      3. C      4. D      5. A

**Task 2:** 1. entrenched    2. incarnated    3. empathize    4. emulating    5. drenched

**Task 3:** 1. BD      2. CE      3. F      4. A

#### Text B

**Task 1:** 1. F      2. T      3. F      4. NG      5. F

**Task 2:** 11 fandom    2 identity    3 negative    4 diverts    5 distracted  
6 retreat    7 fosters    8 virtually    9 enchanted    10 engagement

#### Task 3:

1. 它（对运动的狂热迷恋）让我们向体育英雄致敬，观赏他们用身体创造奇迹，参加一种集体仪式，遵守我们自己的信条。

2. 体育运动变得如此的无处不在、有利可图，让现在这个时代变得独一无二。

3. 美国人中观看“超级杯”的人数几乎与美国总统选举中的投票总数一样多。更不用说（除此之外）那些有兴趣参加相关的赌博的人数或是参加梦幻联盟的人数了。

4. 对体育运动的狂热迷恋给我们提供了一种使社交合法的快速来源，让我们能够收听/收看一个共享的故事。它无需事先准备好文稿，而且看起来令人兴奋不已，更重要的是它的便利性。

5. 罗伯特帕特南在 2000 年出版的极具影响的书《独自打保龄球》中写到这一前提。他在书中引用的众多的统计数据表明美国人在市民和社会俱乐部、地方政治和宗教组织中的参与程度都呈下降趋势。

### Reflection and Critical Thinking

Question:

1. What's the sensible attitude toward men's tears in modern age?

**Sample Answer:** Although most people still hold the traditional concept of masculinity, that is, a

real man doesn't cry, we should keep in mind that human beings aren't designed to conceal their emotions. Suppressing tears can be very harmful to our well-being. We had better adopt a more flexible and tolerant attitude to men's crying so as to relieve men from depression, save their lives from suicide, prevent them from involving in alcoholism and drug addiction, improve their sense of well-being. In a broader sense, let men open the floodgate so as to make the society more democratic and the population more extroverted.

2. What's the sensible attitude toward fandom?

**Sample Answer:** Fandom brings us both benefits and harm. On one hand, it provides us with a means of activating our faith, a sense of tribal identity, a place of refuge to distract us from our anxieties, an instant source of social legitimacy, a way of plugging into a shared narrative that is unscripted, thrilling to watch, and most of all convenient; on the other hand, it diverts time, attention and money away from the rest of our lives, distracts us from traditional sources of connection to our families, our civic duties, even our religious devotion. So, the sensible attitude toward fandom should be like this: we can be still enchanted by the grace and courage of the athletes and the drama of their combat, meanwhile we should keep in mind that what matter most are the connection with those we love and the engagement with our communities.

#### Unit Four

##### Text A

**Task 1:** 1. B          2. C          3. B          4. D          5. C

**Task 2:** 1.inspired          2. fascinated          3. strain  
4. accessible          5. bestowed          6. autobiography

**Task 3:** 1.E          2. D          3. B          4.C          5. A          6. B

##### Text B

**Task 1:** 1.T          2. T          3. F          4. T          5.NG

**Task 2:** 1. skyrocketed          2. revamping          3. maturity          4. shied  
5.acclaimed          6. enrolled          7. empowerment          8. assert

##### Task 3:

1. 但她今天没化妆，头发扎成一个圆髻，宽松的黑毛衣外面套着件普普通通的深色羊毛外套，混在人群中毫不起眼。
2. 那年她九岁，确切地说还在换牙期，她得到了赫敏这个角色，用她自己的话说，“中了彩票”。尽管喜欢表演和讲故事，但她不得不对像“中了彩票”这种事情的后果。
3. 回到学校，Watson 像大多数二十岁的同龄人那样，试图塑造自己的个性，只不过她面对的是疯狂的粉丝群和没完没了的名人新闻。
4. 她剪掉了赫敏时的一头长发，变身为一个短发小精灵，并因此上了各国的新闻头条。

##### Reflection and Critical Thinking

1. Who is your role model? What traits do you want to seek in your role model? Or in what ways

does he/she influence you?

**Sample answer:** My role model must be a person of integrity. He/she must have high self-esteem and a strong sense of social responsibility. He/she could exert positive influence on the people. In my eyes, he/she is like a beacon, giving us light and direction, especially when we get lost.

2. Many celebrities have the experiences of being stalked by fans. What do you think of that?

**Sample answer:** For most celebrities, the cost of being famous may be the invasion of their privacy. They have to live under the prying eyes of people, and they are even stalked by some crazy fans. I think it's really annoying and offensive. Celebrities can appeal to law if their privacy is severely violated or their security is threatened. For the fans, I think they need to keep calm. No matter how intense their love and admiration is, they need to respect people and keep an appropriate distance from their idols.

## 参考译文

### 第一单元 短篇小说

#### A 篇

#### 外国人

#### 弗朗西斯·斯蒂格穆勒

1 如果不是因为我走出影院时天下着雨的话，我本应该步行回家的。我的公寓就在附近，回家的路线一点也不复杂——沿着林荫大道笔直向前，越过两条大街，在第三个街口右拐到德格勒内勒街，走大约半个街区就到了。尽管如此，我还是叫了一辆计程车，没过一会儿我就意识到这位计程车司机，一个面色红润的老头，正处在乖僻倔强、神经过敏症的发作期。他开始拐向第一条大街，圣多米尼克街。“不！不！”我大声叫道，“再开两个街区！”他咕哝了一声，重又在林荫大道上摇摆而行。不一会儿，他又准备拐向第二条街，兰克斯街。“不！不！”我又大声叫道，“请在下一个街口转弯。下一个街口才通向我家。德格勒内勒街！”这当口他转过身，狠狠地瞪了我一眼；然后他加速前进，在我要求转弯的路口并没有拐弯，而是继续向前疾驰，就好像打算永远这样向前冲。“可是现在你已经错过那个该转弯的街口了！”我嚷道，“按我所说的，你本该向右转！请你掉头，把车开到德格勒内勒街 36 号。”

2 让我觉得恐怖的是，这老头发出如咆哮一般的声音。他把车在湿滑的路面掉了个头，快速返回，横穿过街道，猛地停在我要求到达的街角。“滚出去！”他几乎是在高声喊叫，他的脸因为愤怒而涨得通红。“马上滚出我的车！我坚决拒绝继续载你！三次被你当做一个傻瓜！三次被你极大地侮辱！我告诉你，我的计程车不是为外国人开的！立刻滚出去！”

3 “在这雨中？”我愤怒地叫道。“我是绝不会这么做（下车）的。我一次都没有侮辱你，先生，更别提三次了。你很清楚我除了徒劳地催促你载我回家，其它什么都没有做。现在请你好心地这么做。我会给你一笔不菲的小费。”我更加亲切地补充道，“而且我们会以友好的方式相互告别。”

4 他几乎不等我说完。“滚出去！”他叫道。“滚出去，我告诉你！你已经几次三番地侮辱了我，你给我滚出去！”

5 我看了一眼（车外的）雨。“我是绝不会下车的，”

6 他的态度不祥地平静下来。“要么你离开我的计程车，”他以一种平稳、嘶哑的语调说：“要

么我把你载到警察局，在那里我会要求你为刚才给我的侮辱进行我应得的赔偿。你选吧！”

7 “在这样的坏天气里，”我回答道，“我别无他选。你只管开到警察局去！”然后我们就到警察局去了。

8 警察局离我家只有几门之遥，对我来说也不是生疏之地。我曾经因为一些无关争吵的事情到过那里几次。当我跟计程车司机肩并肩走入警察局那空荡荡的房间，坐在桌子后面既具有权威而又显得孤独的警官把我当做熟人一样问候。“下午好，先生，”他说道，直呼我的大名。

“需要我的帮助吗？您需要什么样的帮助？”

9 但是我的计程车司机，那个警官几乎都没有跟他点头打招呼的老头，完全不给我说话的机会。“应该是我需要的是什麼！”他叫道。“是我希望投诉这个外国人。他三次把我当白痴一样对待，警官先生！足足三次他大大地侮辱了我。我要求公正，警官先生！”

10 警官盯着我，面无表情：我感觉他和我一样，很好奇这个老头究竟是处在什么状态；然后警官转向我，问我是否能好意地做一下我的证词。他拿起一支笔，打开一本巨大的空白笔记本，而且当我说话的时候，他用流畅的羽毛状的字形记录下我的故事。我如何给司机地址、司机如何转了两个错误的弯，司机如何咕咕哝哝地抱怨、如何错过了我的目的地所在的街道、司机如何（变得）狂怒和如何（给我）最后通牒；上述所有（细节）都被警官用斯宾塞字体不可磨灭地记录下来；在此期间，警官打断我一到两次以便谴责计程车司机，而在我身旁的司机在我提供证词的各个部分都会嘟嘟囔囔地抱怨。当我说完，警官继续写了一会儿，最后潇洒一挥、收笔结束，用吸墨纸吸干最后一句上的（多余）墨水，并感谢了我。然后，他转向计程车司机。“现在轮到你了，”警官不耐烦地说，“你也来提供证词，以便我能对这个令人困惑的问题做出裁决。”

11 这老头没有证词可做。“三次”仍然是他所能说的全部，用他那低沉愤怒的声音，跟警官比划着，同时怒视着我。“三次，先生！三次都被当做傻瓜，三次遭到如此大的侮辱！被这个外国人（侮辱）！这是让人无法忍受的！”

12 警官如实地在笔记本上记下这些指控，恼怒地抬起头（望向他）。“但是（你被侮辱的）情形呢？详细描述一下你跟这位先生在一起时究竟发生了什么。如果这位外国先生所提及的情形不真实的话，”他说，同时抱歉地瞥了我一眼，“你更正一下。”

13 然而，又一次，我的原告所能说的全部还是“三次”，警官快速地放下笔。“事情相当清楚了”他用确定的语气（对我）说，“正是您，先生，您是这起事件的受害方，我会很高兴地告诉您，我决定要求这位司机免费载您到住处。如果您能好意让我看一下您的证件——这是法律对这种情形所要求的正式手续——我将立刻处理这件事。请出示您的身份证，先生。”

14 我的心像铅锤一样，往下一沉。在我脑海中，我（仿佛）看到了书房里的书桌，桌子上面放着的被我遗忘的身份证。法国法律要求所有外国居民必须时刻携带身份证。“因为这让人湿透的雨，先生，”我脑海里唯一能想到的说辞冒出来，“我把身份证留在了家里，生怕雨水会渗入到身份证里，可能彻底地毁坏它。明天早上我可以轻而易举地把它带给您，警官先生。我希望这么做可以满足您的要求，当然我觉得这要求既严格也必要。”

15 但是，这么一来我已经做了难以饶恕的事，然后一切都因此完全逆转。“那样做不能达到法律要求，”警官沉着如石头般的脸，严厉地说。“你确实可以明天一早把你的身份证带来，但鉴于目前情况，我不得不改变我对这件事的裁决。由于下着雨，我将要求这位计程车司机先生载你回到你的公寓，但是我也会要求你支付整个行程的费用——不仅是从电影院到你的公寓从头至尾的行程费用，还包括他载你到警察局来所花费的时间成本。我想，先生，”他对老头说，“您一直让您的计程表开着的吧？”

16 司机点点头，警官站起来。“那么，再见，先生们，”他说道，面无表情。“先生不要忘了明天早上（送身份证过来），”然后，就像我俩刚才肩并肩走进警察局一样，我和司机肩并肩离开了警察局。当警官的裁决逆转的时候，我可以看到原告的眼里闪过一丝光亮，除此之外，

他没有露出而且也不再显露任何胜利的迹象：他一言不发地把我送回家。只是当我们到达后，我递给他精确的计程车费，他仔细地点清金额，开口说道：“先生，毫无疑问您是忘记了承诺要给我一笔不菲的小费，然后我们以友好的方式告别的事情了吧？”

## B 篇

### 一片天空

罗纳德·福瑞姆

1. 2004 年的八月是自 1912 年以来最潮湿的一个八月。
2. “我们可以自己打起精神来，”加文说。在卡恩伯格市一个不错的旧式文具店里他买一副含有五百片图块的拼图。拼图的图案是爱丁堡的王子大街。
3. “把它退回去！”苏珊娜告诉他。“他们会把钱退给你，不是吗？”
4. 她自打孩提时代开始就从未拼过拼图。她寻思着：这位要求我改换工作地并搬去和他一起住的男人（竟然）喜欢**拼图**！我怎么从未猜到？
5. “太迟了！”加文笑道。
6. 他打开包装盒，一挥手，把里面的图块倾倒在酒店的冬季花园里的一张大桌子上。
7. 不知怎地，他俩都本能地感觉到这成了把俩人的拼图活动示众的做法。果不其然，在一下午的时间里，其他客人都会驻足观看并且不吝鼓励之词。
8. 当他俩肩并肩地坐着从一堆杂乱无章的拼图块中理出头绪时，苏珊娜不停地提醒他，这么做是多么的可笑！这个（拼图活动）是（适合）两个成年人的活动吗？拼图会耗尽你的时间。但是，渐渐地，全神贯注于拼图活动的却是她。
9. 她仔细看着在桌面上的逐渐累积起来的爱丁堡的全景图，不停地参照着包装盒盖子（上面的爱丁堡全景图片）。爱丁堡是她的城市而他的城市是伦敦。在她的想象里，他沿着王子大街漫步，或者离开王子大街走到皇家大道，然后继续走到艾斯普兰纳德古堡阅兵场。
10. 她喜欢有条不紊，依次拼出有着长长的尖顶的苏格兰纪念碑，然后是室外音乐演奏台和修剪一新的公园，再接着是蔓延到令人生畏的悬崖边上的古堡。
11. “你认为我会思念家乡？”她问他。“所以就买了这个（拼图）？”
12. “噢，我认为你不会想要印有两辆“布加蒂”（老式）轿车图案的拼图。”
13. “对，”她不情愿地承认。
14. “或者印有“滩头灯塔”图案的拼图，你也不会想要吧？我选这副拼图实际上是‘艇子里面拔将军’。”
15. 不，那不是她一直所期待的答复。她感觉她的嘴，不由自主地，沉下来变成一条整齐的直线。
16. 直到最后一刻，她还是离开了那片天空。
17. 在伦敦，你几乎察觉不到天空。而在她看来，爱丁堡的天空则是这个城市至高无上的荣耀。云朵轻快利落地掠过天空：让你几乎能“看”到风。
18. 天空是这副拼图中最难的部分。时不时地她会抬头看看，就会发现加文对她全神贯注的样子自鸣得意地笑。他显然认为他已经让她屈服了。
19. 也不知到底花了多长时间，结局就在眼前。她想要在天黑前完成拼图。这（玩拼图）真是度过一个冗长的雨天下午的傻头傻脑的方式，确实如此。蓦然间，另外四十年倏忽而过，她（似乎正）听到他说：“你还记得我们玩的第一幅拼图吗？是‘滩头灯塔’。”
20. “不是。是爱丁堡。”
21. “是吗？”

22. “是（爱丁堡的）王子街花园”
23. “是吗？”
24. “怎么，你不相信我的话？”
25. 当她这么想象着（四十年后的对话情景）时她是否已经有（不详的）预感？这真的是一个不吉利的兆头吗？
26. 半小时后，（拼图中的）天空在他们手下正在成形。她一直不停地告诉他该把哪片拼图块放在哪个位置。这些是最后剩下的拼图块。十二片。六块。四片。两片。
27. 然后就剩一片，最后一块。
28. 但是（快要）拼好的图中却有两片空白需要填补。“有一片拼图不见了，”她告诉他。
29. 他们到处寻找，但是没找到。
30. “一定是少包装了一片，”他说。
31. 她给他看了包装盒的剥离贴纸。由 B42 检验。
32. “那么这位 B42 没有完成好他的工作。”
33. “不要责怪 B42，”她说。
34. “你站在他的那边？”
35. “不是，我没有。”
36. “那么，是她的那边，”
37. 他声音中的某种腔调，惹恼了她。
38. “为什么这个（结果）一定是人的错误？”她问他。“更像是，人的恶作剧，。”
39. “意思是——？”
40. “你觉得我是什么意思，加文？”
41. 她继续说了很多其它方面的事——一切中要害的、人身攻击的、直言不讳的。当她这么做时，她很清楚自己以后可能会后悔，但她还是继续说了下去。（就好像是）一座水坝已经决堤了一样。
42. 当她站起身离开走出去之时，她瞥了爱丁堡拼图最后一眼——天空中缺失的那一块——所有白白浪费了的、上当受骗的无用功。就好像桌面上那一小块空缺吞噬了整副拼图的其余所有部分一样，其它什么东西都不重要了。
43. “你把一切都夸大了，”加文说道。
44. 我或许是有些夸张了，她想。她不能允许他赢得这么大的一分。
45. 当她穿过冬季的花园离开（拼图桌）时，她并没有打算把这事（她离开）变成事关他俩关系成败的摊牌，而这事紧接着就几乎真的变成这样了。但他并没有跟在她身后追，而这一事实最终为她改变了事态发展。她在上电梯时、走进卧室时都在不停地改变着主意——当时间分分秒秒地过去，没有响起他来道歉的敲门声——她下定了决心。
46. 一切都结束了。
47. 他慢慢打乱拼图，把拼图块放回包装盒。
48. 他已经意识到她暗示的意思，他留下了一片拼图块，把它藏起来了。他到底为什么要这么做？最后一块拼图块不见了，以致让她不能完整拼出拼图中的天空和整幅图案，从而让她很生气，这是可以理解的。但是这个理由就可以足够合理到让她突然拂袖而去吗？
49. 他没有看到她带着行李离开了酒店，坐上了一辆计程车。他呆在酒吧里。在吧台的高凳子上坐着喝了两杯烈性酒之后，他觉得有些轻微的晕乎，就挪身到位于较黑暗的角落的一个矮沙发里。他落座陷入沙发垫里，把第三杯酒泼撒出了一点。妈的！洒出的酒溅到了他的裤子的小腿部位，还有裤子的外卷边里。他调整裤子的外卷边，手指头拨弄着裤子布料的某一处。这时，从裤子的外卷边的折叠处，他取出了……。



50. 一片拼图块！他把它翻转过来，又把它翻来覆去地想看得更清楚。（正是）失踪了的那一小片天空，整个拼图的最后五分之一。它一定是掉进裤子的外卷边的，纯属偶然地。现在他可以去找苏珊娜并告诉她（他找到这片失踪了的拼图块了）。
51. 他努力想站起来，但立刻又跌坐回去。（晕头转脑地）再一想，他打算怎么跟她说呢？她又会怎么说呢？“哦，真是让人惊喜啊，你终于找到它了！”她会叫他“混蛋”，那个她用来贬低别人的该死的称谓。她会认为他故意把那片拼图块藏起来让她找不到，现在找到它绝不是让人高兴的偶然。“在你的裤子的外卷边里？真的吗？”
52. “是的。”
53. “我只是（到现在）才听到你这话。”
54. “是的”
55. “喂，加文，你把我当成什么了？”
56. 他坐在这个用格子布装饰的鸡尾酒酒吧的沙发上，没有听到来自爱丁堡的火车呼啸着驶进卡恩伯格车站，然后又驶出。他不能预见到苏珊娜的一个朋友将在黑马克特车站接她，然后他们会出去吃一个有点儿晚的晚餐，然后，嘿，那个时刻将是（另一段）浪漫关系的开始，它将成为她和罗南的人生当中的特殊时刻。在卡恩伯格，他将会听到她放在包里的手机铃声和她公寓电话的铃声，他将在给她打的两个电话里留下容易引起误解的留言，而他自己却没有意识到“现在（再说）太迟了”，正如他在那个下雨的午后开始时对（想让他退掉刚买的拼图的）苏珊娜所说的那样。
57. 太迟了！
58. 他坐在那里，手里拿着那片曾经失踪了的拼图块，翻来覆去（地看）。它只是拼图中的一小片天空。不为他所知的是，对苏珊娜来说，爱丁堡的天空是湛蓝湛蓝的（能让人感知到的湛蓝），清风吹拂，令人心旷神怡，微风拂过羊毛般的白云，高高地在空中向法夫岛飘去，留下丝丝痕迹。那真是一块绝无仅有的天空啊！哦！她是多么思念它！
59. 当他将要把这副拼图的 499 片拼图块连同包装盒一起扔出去时，他会抓住这一小片拼图块不放。他将会把它随身携带在他的口袋里数月之久，直到这片拼图块的边缘被磨毛，图案开始褪色。
60. 苏珊娜将只会告诉罗南她有拼图恐惧症，自我嘲笑一番，然后独自思忖——每隔很长一段时间就有一会儿——在卡恩伯格的那个下雨的午后，她到底是怎么了？
61. 加文将会在妥妥地结了婚、把过去几乎抛之脑后以后，学会辨认出那种凛冽的天空蓝，无论是他从机舱窗口得以瞥见几眼，还是驾车回家时透过汽车的挡风玻璃仰望天空之时。

## 第二单元 产品

### A 篇

#### 谷歌卡片相机

Google Clips 是一款人工智能相机，它能在你所放置的任何地方自动捕捉人们生活中的瞬间。Google Clips 的设计是为了解放双手，在毫无干扰的情况下抓拍照片，它在某种程度上能替代自拍杆和专业摄影师的作用。

Google Clips 最大的优势在于简便性，但同时也意味着有一些使用的局限性。

Google Clips 并不是一款对焦-拍照“傻瓜”型相机：你打开/关上相机，按下前方的手动按钮开始录制，但仅此而已。这款相机没有 LCD 显示屏，没有取景器，也没有设置/控制功能来进行调节。所有的一切——特别是抓拍的内容——都是通过内置的硬件和软件来进

行控制。

Google Clips 不是一款监控/偷拍或保姆相机：它可以以每秒 15 帧的速度拍摄动图（因为没有麦克风所以无法发声），而且拍摄一次只能持续几秒时间。而家庭监控相机可以以每秒 30 帧的速度连续拍摄视频。Google Clips 有着白色的外观、拍摄时闪烁的可视 LED 屏。每次充电只能持续使用三小时，这使它很难取代监控/偷拍/保姆相机。

Google Clips 不能进行云连接或网络连接。Google Clips 的特点是通过 WiFi 和蓝牙直接和智能手机匹配，从而实现视频观赏或共享（需要使用安卓或苹果 iOS 系统的 Clips 的应用）。不像监控相机那样需要联网来录制视频、重播或进行实时监控，Clips 设备完全是独立的，保护个人隐私而且绝对安全。所有的数据在被转入到移动设备之前都储存在本机中（传送过程也是加密的）。

Google Clips 不是一款真正的活动/生活记录相机。尽管 Clips 可以通过附带的托架进行佩戴，但它在固定的位置拍摄效果会更好——稳定的拍摄更容易聚焦，从而拍出更多值得保存的照片。Clips 托架的设计也考虑到自然和独特的拍摄角度（譬如附在椅子背后，桌边，婴儿推车上等），而不需要设计特别解决方案。

Google Clips 目前并非为旅行或度假设计：Clips 相机以谷歌的即时 IQ 机器学习算法为特色，这一算法能够识别灯光、构图、面部表情等，从而捕捉完美画面。这一算法聚焦在人和宠物，尤其是熟悉的面孔。目前，Google Clips 在拍摄风景、建筑、随机目标或陌生人方面还是有着明显不足。

Google Clips 并不适用所有的手机：Clips 只能和特定的安卓系统和苹果 iOS 智能手机兼容（安卓系统需要运行 7.0 Bougat 和更高版本，iso 需要 10 或以上版本）。

操作 Google Clips 非常简单。只需旋转镜头，打开相机，将它对准人或宠物放置，其余的就由相机自行完成。一千二百万像素的镜头拥有 130 度的广角，因此不能需要精细瞄准。如果你想手动开启录制，只需按动镜头下的快门按钮。

考虑到专业化的硬件——英特尔的 Movidius Myriad 2 视觉处理器，以及谷歌的即时 IQ 机器学习算法，我们相信 Clips 能更多地拍摄高品质的内容。

Google Clips 相机并不是用来取代智能手机或数字单反/微单相机摄影。相反的，它更像是一个配件，帮助人们偷拍平时很捕捉到的画面。考虑到只有口袋大小，它便于携带，并能随处放置。

譬如，想象一下，你想拍摄一家人在夜间玩乐其乐融融的画面。摄影师是无法进入镜头的，因为你得拿着智能手机或数码相机进行拍摄，除非你设置定时器或使用遥控快门——你可能还需要三脚架。前者干扰了正在进行的玩乐场景，也消除了“偷拍”之感。后者得取决于你是否记得按下遥控按钮，而且能否捕捉到有价值的画面纯属运气。Google Clips 产品使用方便，它在捕捉瞬时画面时可以避免一些尴尬的场景。Google Clips 相机适合以下一些场景：父母和孩子一起参与活动时；人们和宠物一起玩乐时；孩子有趣活动瞬间；宠物有趣活动瞬间。

Google Clips 设计上能够自动决定何时抓拍，并能不断学习。总体来说，Google Clips 成功的关键在于它的人工智能。这款相机会自主决定录像的时刻，并能学会识别熟悉的人脸。它可以提供：

人脸检测/追踪。Snapchat 和其它具有人脸追踪滤除器的软件会利用实时人脸检测技术来给自拍照增加有趣动画。三星的 Galaxy 智能手机就是以智能休眠技术作为特色——前置摄像头如果检测到正在看手机，会自动保持屏幕亮度，尽管你设置了超时关屏。如果你想上传照片到社交媒体，Facebook 的人脸识别功能会将你熟悉的朋友提前标记给你。

眼睛/微笑检测/追踪：高级数码相机一般都有眼睛/微笑检测/追踪功能。开启后它可以帮助相机锁定并跟踪目标（特别是目标在移动状态下效果明显）。这个功能往往与快门释放

紧密相连，也就是说，当相机一旦检测到睁开的眼睛，灿烂的微笑和面部表情，就会自动拍照捕捉下来。

图片价值：图像编辑应用能识别/强化物体，锐化/模糊，调节亮度、对比度、饱和度等等。许多程序还有一键自动优化的功能，只需点击一下，所有的东西立马修复。所以现在给相机设置阈值是极没有想像力的，有些相机只允许目标对象/人脸在对准焦时（自动对焦），周围环境明亮时或其它一些场景或艺术参数达到拍摄要求时才可以拍照，这显然不合时宜。

Google Clips 不通过联网指导或求助便可识别人脸，进一步开拓了人工智能技术的新领域。Google Clips 产品所有处理都在本机上完成，完全线下实现（对于关注隐私的消费者来说极其安全）。而且当 Google Clips 相机更频繁地见到同一张脸后，会自动将其识别为需要更多记录的对象目标。

## B 篇

### 谷歌的无人驾驶汽车

周二谷歌正式揭开了新一代无人驾驶原型车的面纱：它没有方向盘、油门和脚刹，谷歌也是建造这种汽车的第一家公司。新车的问世标志着谷歌的无人驾驶汽车研发迈上了新台阶，这一项目最初诞生于 21 世纪初美国国防高级研究计划局举办的自动驾驶汽车挑战赛，2008 年谷歌正式启动自己的无人驾驶汽车项目，一直进展缓慢，最早将改进的丰田普锐斯作为测试车型，后又和定制版的雷克萨斯越野车合作。它采用了汽车现有的传感器，譬如定速巡航摄像机，并且在上端增加了旋转的激光扫描仪。

这是谷歌建造的第一台真正意义上的无人驾驶电动汽车原型车，为历时五年的无人驾驶汽车项目下一阶段的测试做好准备。它看起来像是奔驰的 Smart 汽车与日产的 Micra 车的合成成品，有两个座位，并有足够空间容纳少量行李。车子外观可爱，用设计师的话说，非常“亲民”，带有明显的“谷歌式”风格，让其它司机和乘客对这项新技术更容易接受。外壳的设计也是为了让传感器更好地感知周围的环境。

这是谷歌第一次将不久将来无人驾驶车的理念实体化。它的研发测试集中在加利福尼亚州及周边地区，主要是谷歌总部所在的山景区。这台车每次可以搭载两人往返两地之间，无须与用户交流。用户只须用智能手机设置目的地召唤汽车，它会到住处接你。车上没有方向盘或手动控制装置，仅仅有一个开始按钮和一个大大的红色紧急停车按钮。乘客前面会有一块小屏幕显示天气、目前的速度以及车辆启动倒计时动画。一旦旅行完成，小屏幕会出现一条信息，提醒你带好随身物品。无人驾驶汽车强化了这一概念：目前它不是用来取代你的私人汽车，它更像是可能适合一家人的共享汽车，或是无人驾驶的士的替代品。

谷歌以外的工作人员很少能被允许乘坐新车。谷歌新车宣传片中的大多数受访者将乘车体验描述为：“非常顺畅”，“一点都没感觉到威胁”。卡拉·斯韦瑟和利兹·加内是极少数自由试驾者之一，他们认为车子尽管小却给人感觉空间够大，这可能是因为那些操作装置占据车厢内的空间，而且整个试驾感觉很像在主题公园里的游乐驾驶。

谷歌无人驾驶汽车的设计工作是从零开始的，先是设计了传感装置和连结各部的框架，后来又增加了车厢，车厢不能阻碍任何传感设备或者制造盲点，最后是车体外壳。底特律的一家公司承接了生产工作，生产大约 100 辆左右的原型车，但谷歌拒绝透露是哪家公司。

这款车是电力驱动，续航里程为 100 英里。它运用了传感器和软件，在高度精确的数字地图的帮助下为自己定位。GPS 也被运用，它就像大多数车中的卫星导航系统，可以大致定位。为了精准定位，雷达、激光和摄像头这时发挥作用，全方位 360 度监控周围环境。软件可以识别物体、人、汽车、道路标志、指示牌，以及交通信号灯，还可以遵守道路交通规则、

考虑多种无法预料的危险状况，包括骑自行车的人。它甚至可以检测出道路施工，引导汽车安全避开。这款全新原型车和之前改进过的雷克萨斯和丰田车相比，车身安装了更多的传感系统，这也使它视线更远、更细致（可全方位探测至 600 英尺远）。

这款新车是谷歌无人驾驶汽车的又一次革新。尽管新车框架还没经过测试，但谷歌前几款试验车已在加州的公共道路上累计行驶超过 70 万英里，其中 1000 英里的测试里程是在最复杂的道路状况和城市完成的，譬如旧金山的山坡路和繁忙街道。无人驾驶汽车时速限制在 25 英里，这也导致它只能允许行驶在某些特定路段，而且一旦发生事故时，它的撞击力可以降至最低。车身前部的设计也是尽可能地为人考虑，安装了泡沫减震器，挡风玻璃也可以用来吸收与人体相撞所产生的冲击力。车上也提供安全带——这是对上路汽车的安全要求。如果主要系统失灵，车子还有针对驾驶和制动的冗余附加系统，谷歌称之为“故障容忍装置”，此外还有乘客随时可按的紧急停止按钮。谷歌还收集以前车辆的数据和车辆表现并加以分析，研制出了一种防御性的、为人着想的行车方式，也就是优先保护乘客和其他路人。比如，当绿灯亮时，无人驾驶汽车会等候一秒再启动，尽管这会让后面等待的司机非常生气。谷歌也表示他们主要的目标之一就是让汽车以一种自然的，可以预见的方式行驶，这样对马路上的其他司机而言，这种行车方式也是熟悉的。

谷歌表示目前在定制车这个领域，它们已经走得够远。现在需要一个新的平台，推动这个项目和技术往前进一步发展，并制造出接近人们能真正使用的汽车产品。比如，上一代产品雷克萨斯有盲区，导致传感系统无法感知，这一点在新车面世时需要解决。新车还将首先测试行车软件、改善其性能。谷歌表示，当认定软件安全时，他们会邀请谷歌工程师以外的其他人士进行试驾。他们会以“谷歌眼镜探索者”计划类似的方式使用汽车，分析人们的使用数据，找到哪些（方面）行之有效，哪些无用。

谷歌声称明年初无人驾驶汽车应该能上路，但检测至少得需要两年。那时，下一阶段更大规模的试点检测所需的新技术应该成熟。目前，大家估计到无人驾驶汽车技术真正成熟，生产出真正意义上的非原型车，至少还需要五年，但如果想购买或租用个人使用的无人车，可能需要更长久的时间。

### 第三单元 文化

#### A 篇

#### 男人不哭！为什么？

桑德拉·纽曼

- 1 我们关于阳刚之气的一个根深蒂固的观念就是“男人有泪不轻弹”。男孩们从很小的年纪起就知晓在公共场合流哪怕一滴眼泪，都会让他们看起来软弱。尽管男人们可能会在葬礼上谨慎地流下一滴眼泪，但是他们被期望能迅速地恢复控制力。公共场合哭泣是女孩们做的事。
- 2 这不仅是社会的期待。一项研究发现：女人反映她们哭的次数显著地比男人多得多——平均来说多五倍，每次哭的时长也多上一倍。
- 3 因而，如果得知哭泣的性别差距只是近代发展的结果，我们或许会感到惊讶。历史上，男人流泪也寻常，没人将其视作女性化的或是丢脸的行为。
- 4 比如在中世纪的编年史中，我们会发现某位大使在向勃艮第君主菲利普讲演时不断放声痛哭，而（本处于）安静集会的听众们则因听了他的（演讲）而倒伏在地、呜咽呻吟。
- 5 在中世纪浪漫故事中，骑士们哭泣纯粹只是因为他们思念自己的女朋友。在克雷蒂安·德·特罗耶斯所著的《兰斯洛特》或《马车骑士》中，兰斯洛特虽然因与吉尼维尔短暂分离而流泪，但他依然是英雄。而在另一时刻，他因为想到被囚禁而不能参加骑士比赛而伏在一位女士的肩头哭泣。更出奇的是，这位女士不因他的哭泣而心生厌恶，反而被感动得要

去帮助他。

6 在这些故事里，都没有提到这些人试图克制或隐藏他们的眼泪。没有人假装眼睛里进了什么东西。没有人制造一个借口离开房间。他们在挤满人群的大厅里高昂着头哭泣。他们的同伴也不拿这种公开的哭泣来取笑；哭泣被普遍认为是可贵的情感表达。

7 <<圣经>>里记载有各种关于国王、全体民众、化身为耶稣的上帝公开流露情感的哭泣。实际上，在<<圣经>>中的著名诗行约翰 11：35 写道，“耶稣哭了”。

8 那么这些男性的眼泪去哪儿呢？（历史上）从未有过反哭泣运动。没有任何教会或国家的领袖采用任何措施来阻止男人流泪。然而，到了浪漫主义时期，男性的眼泪就只留给诗人了。从那时直到海明威笔下面无表情的男主人公时期，就只是一小步跨越了。这些男主人公，尽管有着诗人的性情，但是他们除了酗酒和偶尔射杀水牛之外，没有其它表达自己的悲伤的方式。

9 这一转变最明显可能的原因是由于我们从封建农业社会发展为城市化和工业化的社会。在中世纪，大多数人终其一生都在自出生起就熟悉的人群中度过。一个典型的有着大约 250 到 300 人的村子，其中的大部分的人都有血缘或姻亲关系。如果男人哭了，他们是和一群有同感的人在一起。

10 但是从 18 世纪到 20 世纪，城市化人口越来越多，人们与成千上万的陌生人居住在一起。而且，经济的变化要求人们在工厂和办公室一起工作，而在这些场合，情绪的表达和私人的交谈都因浪费时间而不被提倡。“你不想让情绪影响事物的流畅运转”，就像汤姆·鲁兹在《哭泣：眼泪的自然史和文化史》一书中写到的那样。

11 但是人类（的基因）不是被设定吞下自己的情绪，人们也有理由相信抑制眼泪会对健康有害。20 世纪 80 年代的研究表明压力引起的疾病与哭得不够相关。与直觉预期相反，哭泣在一定程度上与幸福和财富相关联。哭得多的人们的所在的国家往往更民主，其民众（的性格）也更外向。

12 如果你像男人们现在所被期待的那样，把眼泪在人前藏起来的话，你也可能会遭受痛苦。正如我们所看到的那样，哭泣是可以引起别人关心的手段。哭泣或许在评估表现时是（被视作）不得体的，但它可以是让别人得到警示的重要途径，表明你需要支持/帮助。

13 对男性的情绪化的表达的禁忌意味着男性比女性更不可能在他们郁闷时获得帮助。这也相应地与高自杀率，高酗酒率和高滥用毒品率相关联（男性的自杀率可能是女性的 3 至 4 倍）。

14 （现在）是打开感情闸门的时候了。是时候让男人们放弃模仿动作电影中的面无表情的男主人公，更多地像荷马（史诗中）的善于表达感情的主人公一样哭泣，像人类历史上千百年以来那些哭泣的国王、圣人、政治家一样流泪。当厄运降临，让我们——男人和女人——一同哭泣到泪湿双袖。正如旧约所说：“那些播撒泪水的人将会收获喜悦。”

## B 篇

### 我们为什么欢呼喝彩？

#### “我们赢了他们”的球迷思维模式

史蒂夫·阿蒙德

1 就我记忆所知，我是一个铁杆运动迷，是那种就连生日蛋糕表面的糖霜都要求用自己最喜爱的球队的颜色来装饰的小孩。我一般避免去反思我对运动的迷恋是否是不健康的。

2 但是在有些时刻，我对运动的痴迷上瘾之深也造成直接打脸的（局面）。尤其是当我想到在南卡罗来纳州的哥伦比亚市的一个震耳欲聋的运动酒吧里度过的某个周日的下午。

3 我命令我的铁哥们凯斯驾车送我到 30 英里之外的这个建筑里，因为它是这片区域唯一一个有卫星电视的酒吧，让我能看到（我支持的）奥克兰突袭者队（的比赛）。它在多年以来

第一次可望赢得季后赛的席位，但不走运的是，被安排与迈阿密海豚队对阵。

4 四分之三场比赛之后，比分是：迈阿密队 34 分，奥克兰队 0 分。

5 按理来说，这个时刻应该是让我看清形势的时刻。但是当我环视酒吧，看着簇拥在发光的电视屏幕前、眼睛因希望而闪亮的人们，我所感受到的更像是得到了神启。这座酒吧，对我们球迷而言，是一座神殿。我们是庞大的教众群体的一员，来到此地的目的不仅仅是欢庆或同情，而是膜拜神明。

6 我意识到，对运动的痴迷是激活我们信仰的一种方式。在这个让人觉得正在日益碎片化的世界里，这份对运动的痴迷给我们提供了一个部落身份感，让我们能够向体育英雄们致敬，观赏他们用身体来创造奇迹，参与一种集体仪式，遵从我们自己的信条。

7 如果这是运动痴迷的全部（意义），坦率地说，我不会因此而心怀歉疚。运动痴迷还有阴暗的一面：它使得我们的时间、注意力和金钱都从我们生活的其余方面转移开来。

8 毕竟，我还从未到南卡罗来纳州去观看过突袭者队的比赛。我到那里去，是想与一个我多年未见的老朋友凯斯再叙友情。我们有很多要谈的心里话。他刚刚以复杂的心情把大儿子送去上大学。我即将迎来第三个孩子，我不确定是否能负担得起。我们俩都在（辛苦地）挣扎。

9 有讽刺意味的是，这正是我追寻那场球赛的原因。因为我内心在很大程度上想逃避成人世界的挣扎，退隐到一个更单纯、更孩子气的世界。在这个世界里，最重要的问题不是“你的生活过得如何？”，而是“你（支持）的球队怎么样了？”。

10 我仍然热爱观看比赛。我已经逐渐将我的这种对体育运动的痴迷视作一个能把我从焦虑中解救出来的避难所。更广泛地说，我担心这种全球性的对体育运动的痴迷会转移我们的注意力，不再关注各种源于传统的联系，包括我们与家庭的联系、我们承担的公民责任，甚至是对宗教的奉献。

11 当然，自人类能跑会跳、可以抛射物体开始，我们对运动的忠诚已经伴随我们左右很久了。哥伦布之前的文化，譬如玛雅文化中，有一种比赛，落败的那一方有时会被当作祭品。古希腊人举办奥林匹克运动会，观赛的群众挤满巨大的竞技场。就像其它成功的物种那样，我们也是一个竞争的物种。

12 体育运动变得如此的无处不在、有利可图，让现在这个时代变得独一无二。在我成长的 20 世纪 70 年代，体育赛事是我们在周末观看，在报纸上能够读到的项目。

13 而现在，我们有三到四个频道致力于 24 小时不间断报道体育运动，其中不仅包括比赛报导，还有关于转会、（运动员）受伤、签约和被捕等消息。美国人中观看“超级杯”的人数几乎与美国总统选举中的投票总数一样多。更不用说（除此之外）那些有兴趣参加相关的赌博的人数或是参加梦幻联盟的人数了。

14 总体而言，与体育运动相关的综合产业已经成为我们经济中最大最有利可图的一部分。

15 这种对运动的狂热迷恋不只限于美洲。体育运动已经成为全球文化中的支配力量。由于我们对自己拥护的队伍投入更多的情感和金钱，我们的行为也变得更加偏激。

16 想一想安德烈·埃斯科瓦尔，一名哥伦比亚国家足球队员的悲惨命运吧。在 1994 年哥伦比亚与美国队的比赛中，他意外地把球踢进了本方的球门，从而导致本队败给美国队。几天之后，埃斯科瓦尔在麦德林市的一个夜总会外遭到数次射击。据报道，每一次射击都伴随着射杀者的“射门得分”的叫喊。

17 这起悲剧不是孤立的事件。随着对体育运动的狂热痴迷沦为骚乱、流氓行为、甚至恶化成强暴动武，联赛官员已经加强了世界各地的体育馆的安保措施。鉴于我们把有些球员崇拜成了半神，几乎不足为奇的是这些球员也逐渐相信自己可以凌驾于法律之上。

18 实际上，我们在刚刚过去的世纪里所看到的是我们与体育运动之间关系无疑发生了转变。越来越少的人参加体育运动，而越来越多的人观看运动赛事。根据美国劳工部的调查，美国人每天花 3 小时看电视，只花 20 分钟锻炼。电视屏幕数量的增长说明了其中的一些原因。

但是我想说，有些深层原因在发挥作用。

19 对体育运动的狂热迷恋给我们提供了一种使社交合法的快速来源，让我们能够收听/收看一个共享的故事。它无需事先准备好文稿，而且看起来令人兴奋不已，更重要的是它的便利性。

20 我并不是在反对参加运动所传递出的价值观：比如团队精神、纪律观念、不屈不挠的精神等等。但是把观看比赛说成是高尚的（活动）恐怕很难。

21 我自己的感觉是人们对运动的狂热迷恋促成了一种既愤愤不平又高度竞争的思维模式。我的这个观点是基于我以前沉迷于电台的体育脱口秀节目的经历，这个节目旨在让多数球迷的“本我”得以疏导。

22 听节目主持人和打入电话的人之间的谈话，最引人注目的是他们表达出来的不加克制的愤怒，愤怒的对象包括对反方球员和教练、自己支持的球队、甚至是对任何冒犯了他们的人。

23 即使你不看体育比赛，球迷思维方式也深刻地塑造我们的大众文化。美国人，更是把一切几乎都变成了体育运动：唱歌、跳舞、烹饪、甚至求爱。

24 大部分政治新闻报导都采用了体育赛事用的修辞。也就是说：几乎没有一条政治新闻是关于政策的，而是关于哪个候选人正赢得民意调查，赢得募款，赢得媒体（舞台）本身。

25 （更）让人担忧的是研究表明美国人正在逐渐从社交交往中退缩。这是罗伯特·帕特南在他 2000 年出版的极具影响的《独自打保龄球》一书中提出的前提。他在书中引用的大量的统计数据表明美国人在市民和社交俱乐部、地方政治和宗教组织中的参与程度都呈下降趋势。

26 对体育运动的痴迷也为归属感提供了一个更容易（和更被动）的途径。你所需要做的就是坐在你的沙发上，然后看着高分辨率屏幕展现的（赛事）。

27 当然，对体育运动的痴迷的确将我们与朋友、家庭、母校甚至家乡联系起来。对某些人来说，体育运动是他们与家庭联系的重要纽带。

28 但是，作为球迷，我一直觉得这种联系是流于表面的。我的确很享受跟爸爸一起观看比赛（的时光）。当我们的队表现好的时候，我们欢欣不已；当他们失利时，我们多数时候互相安慰。

29 但是，老实说，我与爸爸看比赛的原因是我想与他更亲近一些。对于我和孩子也同样如此。如果他们能够接近我的唯一方法是在我看比赛时候跟我坐在一起，他们就会这么做。但是他们更愿意跟我一起玩游戏，或者进行艺术活动，或者让我给他们念一本书。这也是我这几年来减少沉迷于体育运动的时间的原因。

30 不要误解我。我还是可以开心地消磨一个下午看比赛，还是会为运动员们的魅力、勇气、以及他们比赛的戏剧性而着迷。

31 但是我努力在脑海里保持这样一幅宏图。我们终其一生只有有限的时间来与我们所爱的人和社区建立联系。这才是（对我们人生来说）最重要的得分。

## 第四单元 人物

### A 篇

#### 史蒂芬·霍金

全球知名的物理学家史蒂芬·霍金去世，享年 76 岁，其家族代言人周三证实了这一消息。霍金让我们对宇宙有了更加深入的认识，而且向世人证明任何残疾都能被克服。他的三个孩子露西、罗伯特、蒂姆在声明中表示：“我们将永远怀念他。”“我们敬爱的父亲今早离开了我们，我们深感悲痛。他是一个伟大的科学家，一位杰出的人，他的工作和遗产将长久留传

于世。他以其才华、幽默和勇气、毅力鼓舞了全世界的人们。”

霍金 1942 年出生于英国牛津。当他还是一个 21 岁的博士生时，他被诊断患上了肌萎缩侧索硬化症，也就是卢伽雷氏症，医生告诉他只可以活一两年。尽管他只能依靠轮椅，而且几乎不能说话，只能通过声音合成器发声，但他比医生预言多活了好多年。

1988 年，他在《时间简史》里，用通俗易懂的语言解释了宇宙的奥秘，这本书一经出版就成为了国际畅销书，并且也让他成为享誉全球的名人。这本书已售出 1 千万册。作为继牛顿之后被授予剑桥卢卡斯数学教授席位之一的科学家，霍金致力于探求物理学的宏伟目标——一套（可以完美解释整个宇宙现象的）“统一理论”。这一理论能解决爱因斯坦的相对论（描述了控制像行星这些大型物体运行的万有引力定律）和量子力学（着眼于亚原子粒子的研究）之间的矛盾。对霍金而言，科学研究如同宗教探寻之旅，发现一个“万物理论”能让人类“了解上帝的想法”。他在《时间简史》中写道：“发现一个完整的、一致的统一理论只是第一步，我们的目标是对我们周遭的世界，我们自身的存在有一个透彻的认识。”

霍金因为克服残疾推动科学的疆域而获得了前总统奥巴马颁发的自由勋章，他也是最早获得此项殊荣的人之一。尽管他这一生都离不开轮椅，但他的思想却没被禁锢，没有边界。他一直对太空都非常着迷，2007 年，他尝试了失重飞行——40 年来他首次可以不依靠轮椅而行动。他也是一个跨越科学和流行文化的人物。霍金曾告诉布拉德利：“我适合残疾的天才这一固定形象，残疾倒是真的，但我不是像爱因斯坦那样的天才。”

但是，后来霍金又表示统一的理论可能不存在。在 2001 年的《时间简史》之后，他又出版了更通俗易懂的姊妹篇《果壳中的宇宙》，让读者对一些概念如超重力、裸奇点和 11 维空间的可能性等有了新的认识。霍金说相信上帝能干预世界，让善者胜利或来生得到福报只是一种痴心妄想。“但人总是忍不住发问：“为什么这个宇宙会存在？”他在 1991 年谈到，“我不知道怎样能更具操作性地赋予这一问题或者答案意义，如果意义存在的话。这确实很困扰我。”

霍金的书非常畅销，加上他完全残疾——他一度只能动几根手指，后来也只能收紧脸部的肌肉，这些让他成为科学界最知名的人物之一。同时他也是大受欢迎的天才和媒体明星。他曾在“星际迷航”中出演。在“辛普森一家”中，以他的形象创造的卡通人物也担任了一个小角色，他知道他自己成功了。他称这一集“非常有趣，我的学术成就让很多人认识了我，而几乎同样多的人是通过辛普森一家认识我的”。

1959 年，霍金进入了牛津大学，后来又剑到剑桥读研究生。在他读研的第一年，他出现了疾病的症状，后来被诊断是肌萎缩侧索硬化症，也就是卢伽雷氏症。得了这种病，通常只能活三到五年。据《史蒂芬·霍金的宇宙》作者约翰·博斯洛所说，霍金得知这一消息后极度沮丧，但当他知道自己不会马上死去，他的情绪恢复过来，并且又全身心地投入到工作中。比朗·迪基，运动神经元病协会研究主任说，“只有百分之五得了此病的人能活十年或更久。霍金能活这么久，他实际上已达到生存年限的极限值了。”

霍金 1965 年与简·王尔德结婚，养育了三个孩子，名叫罗伯特、露西和提摩西。简照顾了霍金 20 年，后来由美国国家出钱给他提供所需的 24 小时看护。1974 年他正式入选皇家协会，1978 年获得阿尔伯特爱因斯坦奖。1989 年英女王伊丽莎白二世授予他英国荣誉勋爵，这是她颁发的最高荣誉之一。此外，他还获得了伍尔夫奖，科普利奖章、基础物理学奖，但诺贝尔奖却与他失之交臂。他在剑桥时四处快速游历，通常他醒着时都和护士或助教在一起，但他也经常到各地去旅行和做报告，而且似乎也很享受自己的盛名。2009 年他从卢卡斯教授职位退休，后来又在安大略省滑铁卢的 Perimeter 理论物理研究所担任了研究职务。1991 年霍金与简离婚，离婚闹得很不愉快，让他和孩子们关系紧张。简在自传《音乐移动群星》中提到她照顾霍金将近三十年，已经疲惫不堪，觉得自己脆弱无比，好似一具空壳。四年后霍金与曾经照顾他的看护伊莱恩·梅西结婚，但这段婚姻却饱受虐待传闻的困扰。2004 年有



新闻报道霍金被打受伤，并且在最热的一天被扔到花园里，随后警方介入调查。霍金称这些指控“全是虚假的”，警方也没有找到任何虐待的证据。2006年霍金与梅西离婚。露西·霍金曾说他父亲有个令人恼火的毛病，“他无法接受有什么事情是他无能为力的。”霍金咧着嘴笑着说：“我总是试图去完成我真正想做的事情。”

霍金作为科学界最杰出的人物之一，而且作为一个励志人物，他将永远被世界铭记。对于过去问题和未来发展，他都是一个权威。“我相信人类遥远的未来一定是在太空”，霍金说：“人类不应该把鸡蛋放在一个篮子里，或者寄希望于一个行星。”

## B 篇

### 封面故事：艾玛·沃特森

自赫敏的时代结束之后，艾玛·沃特森一直在积极寻找自己的定位。现在她再次受到瞩目——主要是作为联合国大使——还有她在三月上演的真人实拍音乐剧“美女与野兽”中，重新演绎了经典人物迪士尼公主。沃特森作客“名利场”，娓娓道来从童星到引领世界的女人这一路来的蜕变。

沃特森是世界最知名的女性之一，11岁时因主演“哈利波特”电影中聪明伶俐的赫敏而成为全球知名的童星。下月，她将以迪士尼“美女与野兽”中的贝拉重返银幕，在这部大制作的真人实景音乐剧中，她还一展歌喉！目前它的预告片已经创造了最多观影人数的新记录。但她今天没化妆，头发扎成一个圆髻，宽松的黑色毛衣外面套着件普普通通的深色羊毛外套，混在人群中毫不起眼。在附近的咖啡店里沃特森一边喝着咖啡，一边解释着为什么对她而言，阅读是件神圣的事情。既专业又明显的理由是哈利波特在成为畅销品牌之前，本身就是一部非常轰动的文学作品，哈利波特系列让她多次名利双收。书籍也根植于她最深刻的个人经历。“书让我和父亲联系在一起”，她说：“这是我记忆中最宝贵最珍惜的时刻……”她声音越来越小，热泪盈眶，对于一个以冷静自若示人的女孩来说有点出乎意料。在她很小的时候，父母就离婚了。“我只记得爸爸给我读睡前故事，他总是会模仿各种不同的声音。我在电影场长大，书是联结我与外界的窗口。回到学校它是我和朋友们之间的纽带，因为当我读着和朋友们同样的书时，我会觉得我们之间有着共同之处。后来，书成为我逃避的一种方式，它让我变得强大，是我深深依赖的朋友。”

我第一次遇见沃特森，是在十多年前的巴黎时装周上。当时她还只是一个少年，正在拍摄八部系列电影“哈利波特”中的第四部。对她而言，这不仅仅是回家之旅（她父母都是英国人，律师，但她生在巴黎，并且在这里长到5岁），而且也标志着她在银幕上的成熟。

那时她还只是一个腼腆的小姑娘，但非常友好，聪明，务实。今天人们对她也有着同样的评价。“她更像是个真实的人而不是一个电影明星”，格洛丽亚·斯泰纳姆说。“汉密尔顿”的制作人林-曼纽尔·米兰达在音乐剧演出后台见到了沃特森，他这样概括道：“她扮演了一个聪明高尚，清醒的魔法师——现在我们非常庆幸她已经成长为了一个聪明高尚，清醒的女人。”（她们为推广国际妇女节女性意识一起录制过一个视频。）

很少有人知道，2009年她去布朗大学读书时曾一度想放弃表演，彻底从好莱坞消失。“我发现名气这种事终归会一去不复返的。”她回忆说：“我当时觉得如果我要离开就得趁现在，否则将永远无法离开。”她九岁时，确切地说还在换牙期，她得到了赫敏这个角色，用她自己的话说，“中了彩票”。尽管喜欢表演和讲故事，但她不得不应对像“中了彩票”这种事情的后果。但作为一个成年人，“我突然意识到这是我真正从事的事业。”

当名人们抱怨被声名所累时，大多数人都会问：既然你讨厌被粉丝关注，那为什么持续

拍电影呢？沃特森也一直这样问自己。“从我 10 岁或 11 岁开始，我一直在拍电影。我总在想，我干这项工作是错误的，因为我太严肃了；我难相处，我压根儿不适合。”她说：“但我长大一点，我意识到，不对！勇敢地迎战，无论大大小小的挑战，都努力面对，这才是我！”

（哈利波特系列大多数口碑不错，偶尔会让人失望，但）不管怎样，哈利波特系列书籍和电影让无数的人为之痴迷，甚至改变了很多人的生活。这点沃特森深有体会。2001 年当第一部电影首映时，沃特森只有 11 岁，那时已爆出了无数的跟踪事件。当她在布朗大学观看哈佛橄榄球比赛时，《哈佛之声》，一家学生杂志派员工在体育馆里跟踪她，并在推特上现场直播。对她的安全顾虑，沃特森说：“隐私对我而言是一个抽象的概念”，这的确不是夸大其词。

回到学校，沃特森像大多数二十岁的同龄人那样，试图塑造自己的个性，只不过她面对的是疯狂的粉丝群和没完没了的名人新闻。当她剪掉了赫敏式一头长发，变身为一个短发小精灵，她上了各国的新闻头条。我们不需要对她的剪发进行弗洛伊德式的（心理）解读，探究它的象征意义。直到今天，沃特森仍然声称，“那是我感觉自己最性感的时刻。”

她尝试了瑜伽和冥想；但作为 A 型人，她不满足于此。哈利波特的制片人说：“依艾玛个性，她会成为一个有专业资质的冥想老师。”

沃特森避开了一些大成本的电影制作，却专注于小成本的电影，像史蒂芬·科博斯基的“壁花少年”（2012），她寻求与一些风格导演合作，如索菲亚·科波拉的“珠光宝气”（2013）和“达伦·阿伦诺夫斯基与诺亚”（2014）。她婉拒了一些高报酬的邀约，从获利颇丰的化妆品牌代言到广受好评的剧本邀约。沃特森说：“人们打量着我，好像在说‘她疯了吗？’但失去了自己疯狂的大脑，即使大获成功，又有什么意义呢？”

最终帮助她找到意义的是阅读。去年一月，沃特森开办了“我们的共享书架”——她的在线读书俱乐部，每月两次推介图书。她用推特来推广图书，让大众搜索这个名字。作为第一本推荐图书，她选择了格洛丽亚·斯泰纳姆的《我的人生在路上》，2016 年 3 月图书俱乐部推荐的是贝尔·胡克斯的《一切关于爱：新视野》。沃特森曾去肯塔基州的伯利亚拜会胡克斯，两个人很快惺惺相惜，成为了朋友，用作者的话说：“两人的友谊基于同样的信念，即精神世界是生命之本。”胡克斯告诉我：“她非常特别，是新兴人类，向往拥有完整充实的人生，而不是因财富和名声而被认同。”

2014 年初，联合国妇女署（联合国性别平等部门）联系了沃特森，邀请她成为亲善大使。一下子万众瞩目：她可以把全世界窥视的目光聚焦到她所热衷的事业上，即一项被称为“他为她”的新运动，旨在号召男性们为女性权益问题共同签名。沃特森走上讲台，做了十多分钟热情洋溢的演讲，为女性权益奔走呐喊，最后她呼吁：“我邀请大家走上前，参与进来，并且扪心自问，如果不是我，会是谁？如果不是现在，更待何时？”