

**Group : Gist**

**Group Leader: Feng Zhenhua (冯振华)**

## **第四次作业 , 2023 年 4 月 17 日**

**Discussion leader: 陈洁妮**

1. In this article, what is the author's attitude towards floods in London?

The author is in a very optimistic state of mind about the flooding of London. Because he was in the countryside and could not see the flooded London with his own eyes, he thought that the water would add to the charm of the London landscape and could not feel the romance of London at this time and felt an almost savage envy.

2. Why don't little boys complain about waiting for the train at the train station?

For the matter of waiting for the train, your subjective consciousness thinks that waiting for the train to arrive is a boring and uninteresting thing. But little boys do not think so, because they are curious about everything in the train station and the exploration of the unknown. So if we change our mindset, we can have a different mood.

3. What is the theme of "On Running After One's Hat" by G.K. Chesterton?

Every little thing of difficulty and inconvenience must be taken with an optimistic outlook in accordance to G.K. Chesterton. Any situation being inconvenient is absolutely constructed by one's mind. In other words, an inconvenience is an inconvenience only if the mind considers it to be so.

He gives an example of a particular friend of his who grumbled every day because his drawer would not open easily and would make noise. He explains that this is an inconvenience only because our mind considers that the drawer "should, could and would" open easily. If we rather take it as an adventure, there is no place for grumbling.

With a similar logic, he explains that there is nothing wrong with considering a flood a romantic and beautiful happening, for it is this mind or the sentiment that judges a situation often in a negative light. Yet, it is easy for us to mold our mind for optimistic considerations. "An adventure is an inconvenience rightly considered and an inconvenience is an adventure wrongly considered," in his own words.

**Summarizer: 刘新宇**

In this article, the author first shows that he is jealous of this matter through the example of London being flooded, which arouses my curiosity as a reader. The author then expresses his thoughts on how poetic it is when a region becomes an island.

In the second natural paragraph, the author elaborates on his romanticism, that everyone will encounter bad things, which is inevitable, optimists always find pleasure in it, and most people will seize the opportunity to complain. The author argues that both attitudes to life are reasonable, but the former seems wiser.

In paragraph 3.4.5 of the article, the author explains the rationality of his romanticism by chasing his hat. The author thinks that chasing hats is a bad thing because people think that they are unseemly when doing it, but many things in life are funny, but often these funny things are what we need to do the most. When we figure this out, we can all look at the things that originally made us feel bad with a happy mood, and you suddenly feel that this thing is not so bad, or even quite interesting.

Finally, the author summarizes his own point of view, things happen objectively, but looking at things is subjective, when we think in the right direction, bad things are risky and interesting, when we think in the wrong direction, risks will also become bad things.

**Connector: 曹雪婷**

The author begins with the London flood, which the author imagines as a romantic event. This leads to his view that it is just as practical to treat these inconveniences from the wasteist point of view as it is from the other. A true optimist sees in these things an opportunity to have fun. The author then gives several examples to prove this point. First of all, as for the matter of waiting for the bus at the station, adults often feel annoyed because they have to wait for the bus at the train station with nothing to do. Children, on the other hand, see it as fun to wait for a bus. Most people would regard it as a shameful thing to pick up a hat, but if you think of picking up a hat as a happy hunter chasing a wild animal, it will no longer feel funny. The author later gives several other examples to prove his point. All of these examples show that all of these annoyances depend on one's mood, and if one can put it in perspective, it can make a difference.

In our daily life, we will also encounter a lot of things that annoy us. The reason why things annoy us may not be caused by the things themselves, but our psychological effect. It may be that our thinking makes things upset us, which leads to our bad mood. When we are in trouble, we can change our thinking and imagine things as something full of fun or a sense of achievement. In this way, we can be full of fighting spirit to overcome the troublesome things and reduce our bad mood. For example, imagine a difficult situation as a brave soldier fighting. We can also think of something relaxing when we are worried. For example, fishing by ourselves in a river can also calm us down and calm us down. In a word, when we are in trouble, we should learn to change our thoughts, or shift our attention, learn to regulate our emotions and be the master of our emotions.

**Word Master: 冯振华**

**splendor:/'splendə'/** 第1段第4行

1. [uncountable] impressive beauty, especially of a large building or large place
2. splendours [plural] impressive beautiful features, especially of a large building or place

**gondola /'gɒndələ'/** 第1段第7行

1. a long narrow boat with a flat bottom and high points at each end, used on the canals in Venice in Italy
2. the place where passengers sit that hangs beneath an airship or balloon
3. the enclosed part of a cable car where the passengers sit

**oar /ɔ:/** 第1段第8行

1. a long pole with a wide flat blade at one end, used for rowing a boat ⇨ paddle



2. put/stick/get your oar in British English informal to get involved in a conversation or situation when the other people do not want you to:

We were getting along fine until you stuck your oar in.

**shriek** /fri:k/ 第2段15行

1. [intransitive] to make a very high loud sound, especially because you are afraid, angry, excited, or in pain SYN scream:

They were dragged from their homes, shrieking and weeping.

2. [transitive] to say something in a high loud voice because you are excited, afraid, or angry SYN scream:

I'll kill you,' Anne shrieked at him.

3. a loud high sound made because you are frightened, excited, angry etc SYN scream:  
Ella let out a piercing shriek.

**Nuisance** /'nju:səns / 第2段最后一行

1. [countable usually singular] a person, thing, or situation that annoys you or causes problems:

The dogs next door are a real nuisance.

2. [uncountable and countable] law the use of a place or property in a way that causes public annoyance:

The nightclub has been declared a public nuisance.

**Pursue** /pə'sju:/ 第4段第2行

1. to continue doing an activity or trying to achieve something over a long period of time  
⇒ pursuit:

Students should pursue their own interests, as well as do their school work.

2. pursue the matter/argument/question etc to continue trying to find out about or persuade someone about a particular subject:

Janet did not dare pursue the matter further.

3. to chase or follow someone or something, in order to catch them, attack them etc ⇒ pursuit:

Briggs ran across the field with one officer pursuing him.

4. to keep trying to persuade someone to have a relationship with you:

I was pleased, but somewhat embarrassed, when she pursued me.

**Benevolent** /bə'nevələnt, br'nevələnt/ 第4段倒数第3行

kind and generous:

A benevolent uncle paid for her to have music lessons.

**Passage Person: 刘婉莹**

Based on the article “on running after one's hat”, the author illustrates everything depending upon the emotional point of view. I think this article can be divided into four parts:

The first part (1): the author thinks that it is a pity that London has been flooded in absence, in particular for someone bored and grew up in a waterscape town.

The second part (2-4): in the second para, using being burnt at Smithfield or having a toothache, two kinds of people's attitude of waiting for a train, the author says that everything depends upon the emotional point of view. And in the third para and fourth para, the author applies the test to the typical nuisance of daily life.

The third part (5): the author puts the principle apply to other typical domestic worry, such as a man wants to get a fly out of the milk or a piece of cork out of his glass of wine, a drawer was jammed tight. However, the author said that if we can be optimistic to face this unhappiness and imagine ourselves that we are pulling against some powerful and oppressive enemy, the struggle will become merely exciting and not exasperating. Things will become better.

The last part (6): the author summarizes that inconvenience is only one aspect and the most unimaginative and accidental aspect of a really romantic situation.