重视短文复习，在文章中加深对单词短语的印象。

重视熟悉短语和意群，不要一味地只背单词，只背单词并不能直接提高理解能力。短语和意群是提高理解能力的必经之路。

**20190709 Unit 2B 课文注释**

Cindy glanced nervously at the clock on the kitchen wall. 辛蒂紧张地看了看厨房墙上的钟

Five minutes before midnight. 距离午夜还有5分钟

"They should be home any time now," 现在他们随时会到家

she thought 她想

as she put the finishing touches 当她把最后的装饰

on the chocolate cake she was frosting. 放在她涂抹糖霜的蛋糕上

It was the first time 这是第一次

in her 12 years 她12年里

she had tried to make a cake 她尝试做蛋糕

from scratch, 从零开始

and to be honest, 老实说

it wasn't exactly an aesthetic triumph. 蛋糕看上去并不漂亮

The cake was…well, lumpy. 蛋糕，嗯，有点凹凸不平

And the frosting was bitter, 糖霜有点苦

as if she had run out of sugar or something, 就好像她已经用完糖了似的

which, of course, she had. 她的确用完糖了

And then there was the way the kitchen looked. 然后是厨房的样子

Imagine a huge blender 想象一个巨大的搅拌机

filled with all the fixings for chocolate cake 装满了做巧克力蛋糕所需要的配料

— including the requisite bowls, pans and utensils. 包括必要的碗，锅和其他厨具

Now imagine that the blender is turned on. 现在想象一下搅拌机还开着

High speed. 高速旋转着。

With the lid off. 盖子也没有盖着。

Do you get the idea? 你明白我的意思吗?

But Cindy wasn't thinking about the mess. 但是，辛蒂并不没有想这乱七八糟的场景

She had created something, 她创造了某个东西

a veritable phoenix of flour and sugar 由面粉和糖制成的名副其实的凤凰

rising out of the kitchen clutter. 从杂乱的厨房里升起

She was anxious for her parents to return home from their date 她焦急地等着父母约会完回家

so she could present her anniversary gift to them. 就可以把结婚纪念日的礼物送给他们

She turned off the kitchen lights 她关掉了厨房的灯

and waited excitedly in the darkness. 在黑暗中兴奋地等待着

When at last she saw the flash of the car headlights, 终于她看到汽车前灯的光

she positioned herself in the kitchen doorway. 她站到厨房门口

By the time she heard the key sliding into the front door, 当听到钥匙插进门锁的声音时

she was THIS CLOSE to exploding. 她的心几乎要蹦出来了！explode爆炸

Her parents tried to slip in quietly, 她的父母想悄悄地溜进来

but Cindy would have none of that. 但是辛蒂不允许他们那样做

She flipped on the lights dramatically and trumpeted: “Ta-daaa!" 她快速打开灯，吹着喇叭：哒哒！

She gestured grandly toward the kitchen table, 她用郑重的手势指向厨房桌子

where a slightly off-balance two-layer chocolate cake 那里有个稍微倾斜的双层巧克力蛋糕

awaited their inspection. 等着他们检阅

But her mother's eyes never made it all the way to the table. 但是，妈妈的眼睛根本没朝桌子那边看

"Just look at this mess!" 瞧瞧这乱糟糟的样子

she moaned. 她抱怨着

"How many times have I talked to you about cleaning up after yourself?" 我跟你说过多少次事后要自己打扫干净？

"But Mom, I was only… " 但是，妈妈，我只是……

"I should make you clean this up right now, 我应该让你马上清理的

but I'm too tired to stay up with you 但是我实在太累了，不能和你一起熬夜

to make sure you get it done right," 确保你做对了

her mother said. 她妈妈说着

"So you'll do it first thing in the morning." 所以你明天早晨第一件事就是打扫干净

"Honey," 亲爱的

Cindy's father interjected gently, 辛迪的父亲温和地插了一句

"take a look at the table." 看一看桌子

"I know — it's a mess," 我知道，就是一团糟

his wife said coldly. 他的妻子冷冷地说

"The whole kitchen is a disaster. 整个厨房就是一场灾难

I can't stand to look at it." 我实在看不下去了

She stormed up the stairs and into her room, 她气呼呼地上楼了，走进房间

slamming the door shut behind her. 砰地一声把门关上了

For a few moments 有一会儿

Cindy and her father stood silently, 辛蒂和爸爸静静地站着

neither one knowing what to say. 谁也不知道该说什么

At last she looked up at him, 最后她抬头看了看爸爸

her eyes moist and red. 眼睛又湿又红

"She never saw the cake," she said. “她都没看见蛋糕，”她说

Unfortunately, 不幸的是

Cindy's mother isn't the only parent 辛蒂的妈妈并不是唯一...的父母

who suffers from Situational Timbercular Glaucoma 患有情绪阻塞型青光眼

— the occasional inability to see the forest for the trees. 偶尔只见树木不见森林

From time to time 时不时

we all allow ourselves 我们允许自己

to be blinded to issues of long-term significance 对有长期重要性的事视而不见

by stuff that seems awfully important right now, 被当下看似重要的事

but isn't. 但事实上并不重要

Muddy shoes, 泥泞的鞋子

lost lunch money 失去了午饭钱

and messy kitchens 和脏乱的厨房

are troublesome, 都很麻烦

and they deserve their place among life's frustrations. 它们在生活的挫折中也应该占有一席之地

But what's a little mud 但是一小块泥巴

— even on new carpet — 即使是在新地毯上

compared to a child's self-esteem? 跟孩子的自尊心比起来又算得了什么呢？

Is a lost dollar more valuable than a youngster's emerging dignity? 丢失的一美元比年轻人的尊严更有价值吗？

And while kitchen sanitation is important, 虽然厨房卫生很重要

is it worth the sacrifice of tender feelings and relationships? 但值得牺牲掉孩子脆弱的情感和关系吗？

I'm not saying 我并不是说

that our children don't need to learn responsibility, 我们孩子们不需要学习承担责任

or to occasionally suffer 或者（不需要）偶尔遭受

the painful consequences of their own bad choices. 他们自己错误选择的痛苦后果

Those lessons are vital, 那些经验教训是很重要的

and need to be carefully taught. 需要仔细地教给孩子们

But as parents, 但是作为父母

we must never forget 我们决不能忘记

that we're not just teaching lessons 我们并不仅仅是在教经验教训

— we're teaching children. 我们是在教育孩子

That means 这意味着

there are times 有时候

when we really need to see the mess in the kitchen, 我们确实需要看到厨房的脏乱

and times 有时候

when we only need to see the cake. 我们只需要看到蛋糕