



Kids and the Power of the Spoken Word

背诵对孩子有何好处

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New educational standards in Georgia and Arkansas include **modest**-sounding requirements that are in fact revolutionary.

佐治亚州和阿肯色州新推出的教育标准包含了一些看起来不起眼，但实际上具有革命性的要求。

In Georgia students will be required to build “background knowledge” by reciting all or part of significant poems and speeches. The Arkansas plan **calls for** students to recite a passage from a well-known poem, play or speech. That’s it: an **old-fashioned** demand that students memorize the **Gettysburg Address** or **Hamlet**’s “To be or not to be” or **Gwendolyn Brooks**’s “We Real Cool” and recite it to an audience.

在佐治亚州，学生需要通过背诵全部或部分重要诗歌和演讲来构建“背景知识”。阿肯色州的计划要求学生背诵一段著名的诗歌、戏剧或演讲。让学生背下来葛底斯堡演说、《哈姆雷特》中的“生存还是毁灭”、格温多林·布鲁克斯的《我们真的很酷》，并背给观众听，这是一种老旧的要求。

Most parents would probably call this a worthy exercise, **fostering** the courage to speak in public and firing the adolescent imagination. Who could object to **lodging** memorable words in teenage heads otherwise packed with short videos?

大多数父母可能会认为这个练习很有价值，能培养孩子在公共场合讲话的勇气，激发他们的想象力。谁会反对让青少年铭记隽永的言辞，避免短视频挤占大脑呢？

English teachers, that’s who. Modern educators view

435 Words

modest [ˈmaːdɪst] *adj.* 些许的，不太大（或贵、重要等）的；谦虚的，谦逊的；朴素的，端庄的 | She had saved a modest amount of money. 她攒了小小的一笔钱。

call for 要求，呼吁；需要；去接（某人） | The ceasefire resolution calls for the release of all prisoners of war. 停火决议要求释放所有战俘。

old-fashioned *adj.* 旧式的，老式的，过时的；保守的，守旧的 | The idea seems rather old-fashioned now. 这种观念现在看来似乎相当落伍了。

Gettysburg Address 葛底斯堡演说（发表于美国南北战争期间，是美国前总统林肯最著名的演说）

Hamlet 《哈姆雷特》（莎士比亚创作的一部悲剧作品）

Gwendolyn Brooks 格温多林·布鲁克斯（非洲裔美国诗人，用诗歌的语言来增强人们对美国黑人文化的了解）

foster [ˈfɒstər] *v.* 促进，培养，鼓励；抚育，照料 | This approach will foster an understanding of environmental issues. 这种方法会

memorization as empty repetition, mechanical and **prescriptive** rather than creative or thoughtful. Reciting texts from memory, they say, merely drops information into students' minds. It's **rote** learning instead of critical analysis.

答案就是英语老师。现代教育工作者认为背诵是空洞的重复，僵化灌输，缺乏创意和思考。他们说，背诵课文只是把信息丢进学生的脑子里，属于死记硬背，而不是批判性的分析。

That's wrong. Recitation allows students to experience a text as a living thing, ready to be taken up by a new generation. **Committing** a poem or speech **to memory** means **stepping into** the author's **shoes** and **pondering** what he meant. Deciding which words to stress when reciting means thinking about what those words mean. This is why public speaking was once a requirement at many colleges and universities.

事实并非如此。背诵可以让学生切身体会具有时代价值的文本。背一首诗或一篇演讲意味着站在作者的角度思考他的意图。背诵时要强调哪些单词意味着要思考这些单词的意思。这就是为什么公众演讲曾经是许多学院和大学的必修课。

In our age of social media and artificial intelligence, the practice of recitation has never been more needed. Memorizing classic words reminds us that they are alive.

在这个社交媒体和人工智能时代，背诵比以往任何时候都更加重要。背诵经典让我们记得它们是鲜活的。

Arkansas and Georgia have something even stronger than **pedagogical** theory to **justify** the new—or, rather, old—standards. Watch the faces of parents as they listen to their children urging us all toward what **Martin Luther King Jr.** called “a dream deeply rooted in the American dream,” or saying with **Robert Frost**, “I have been one **acquainted with** the night,” or with Shakespeare, “Tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow ...”

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促进对环境问题的理解。

lodge [lɑːdʒ] v. 固定，卡住；存放；安置；正式提出（声明等） n. 小屋；传达室 | She lodged the number firmly in her mind. 她把号码牢牢记在心中。

prescriptive [priˈskriptɪv] adj. 指定的，规定的；规范的 | prescriptive methods of teaching 灌输式教学法

rote [roʊt] n. 死记硬背 | Rote learning does not really give people any insight into their subject. 死记硬背式的学习不能让人真正理解所学的课程。

commit sth. to memory 记住，把……记牢 | I'll repeat that so you can commit it to memory. 我会重复一下，好让你们记住。

step into one's shoes 接替……的位置（或工作）

ponder ['pɑːndər] v. 沉思，考虑，琢磨 | He continued to ponder the problem as he walked home. 他一边往家走一边继续思考那个问题。

pedagogical [ˌpedəˈɡɒdʒɪkl] adj. 教学法的，教育学的

justify ['dʒʌstɪfaɪ] v. 证明……正确（或正当、有理）；对……作出解释，为……辩解 | Her success had justified the faith her teachers had put in her. 她的成功证明了老师对她的信任是正确的。

Martin Luther King Jr. 马

阿肯色州和佐治亚州有比教学理论更有力的理由来证明这个新标准，或更确切地说是老旧的标准。当孩子们敦促我们朝着马丁·路德·金所说的“深深地根植于美国梦中的一个梦想”前进，或者说出罗伯特·弗罗斯特的“我早就已经熟悉这种黑夜”，或莎士比亚的“明天，明天，再一个明天……”时，看看他们父母的表情。

When young reciters return to their seats, they know they have made **ageless** words their own. What parents and students feel at that moment **transcends** a good grade. For a few minutes, striving teens become King, Frost or Shakespeare.

当背书的青少年回到座位上时，他们知道自己已经把这些不朽的语句内化于心了。家长和学生在那一刻的感受远胜于得到一个好成绩。在短短几分钟内，奋进的青少年变成了金、弗罗斯特或莎士比亚。

“Every man is an **orator**,” **Ralph Waldo Emerson** wrote. “The **eloquence** of one stimulates all the rest . . . to a degree that makes them good receivers and **conductors**.” Reciting classic lines brings past eloquence into the present, turning us into receivers and conductors. When we weigh the words of influential men and women and realize they are still useful, we all benefit. Georgia and Arkansas understand this. Let’s hope many more states **follow** their **lead**.

“每个人都是演说家，”拉尔夫·沃尔多·爱默生写道，“一个人的言辞能激励其他人……使他们接收他的观点，再传递出去。”背诵经典语句，在当下重现过去的言辞，把我们变成了接收者和传递者。当我们权衡有影响力的男性和女性的话语，并意识到它们仍然是有用的，能让我们都受益。佐治亚州和阿肯色州明白这一点。希望更多的州效仿它们。

丁·路德·金（非裔美国人，黑人
民权运动领袖）

Robert Frost 罗伯特·弗罗斯特
（20 世纪最受欢迎的美国诗人之一）

be acquainted with sth. 熟悉
某事物，了解某事物 | She was
well acquainted with classical
literature. 她对古典文学很熟悉。

ageless [ˈeɪdʒləs] *adj.* 永恒的，长
存的；永不衰老的

transcend [trænˈsend] *v.* 超出，
超越 | These issues transcend the
limits of language study. 这些问题
超出语言研究的范围

orator [ˈɔːrətər] *n.* 演说家，演讲
家，雄辩家

Ralph Waldo Emerson 拉尔
夫·沃尔多·爱默生（美国思想家、
文学家、诗人，是确立美国文化精
神的代表人物）

eloquence [ˈeləkwəns] *n.* 口才

conductor [kənˈdʌktər] *n.* 导体；
指挥；售票员 | Metals are good
conductors of electricity. 金属都是
良导体。

follow sb's example/lead 效
仿 | Canada may follow the EU's
example by banning these products.
加拿大可能会仿效欧盟禁止这些产
品。

► 脉络梳理

Para. 1-2 引出话题：佐治亚州和阿肯色州的新教育标准要求**学生背诵经典诗歌和演讲**

Para. 3-4 介绍父母和教师对背诵的不同态度

Para. 5-8 分析背诵经典的好处

Para. 9 总结全文，呼吁更多州效仿

► 长难句拆解

主语 疑问词加不定式作 deciding 的宾语 时间状语从句

Deciding which words to stress when reciting

谓语+宾语 宾语从句, 作 about 的宾语

means thinking about what those words mean.