**The Round Table**

**by Wang Yan**

*Directions: Here comes the sharing based on the following 2019 prize-winning speech The Round Table by Wang Yan. Please watch the speech video with the help of the following speech script. Please get ready for class sharing on April 8th(Next Friday).Your sharing should be based on the following questions.*

[2019年外研社·国才杯英语演讲冠军：王嫣-我记忆中的圆桌\_哔哩哔哩\_bilibili](https://www.bilibili.com/video/BV1V54y1B72a/?spm_id_from=333.788.recommend_more_video.-1)

[2019“外研社·国才杯”演讲大赛冠军，华东师范大学王嫣决赛视频CUT\_哔哩哔哩\_bilibili](https://www.bilibili.com/video/av99159990/)

**Questions for discussion**

1)What do you associate with the topic of the speech--- the Round Table?

2)What is the purpose of this speech? / What outcome does the speaker want to get after her speech?/What impact does the speaker want to work out on her audience?

3) What knowledge do her audience need to have for her to achieve that purpose?

What emotion do her audience need to experience for her to achieve that purpose?

4) Does the speaker do a good job in clarifying her point? What is the point/message?

5) How does the speaker build a bond with her audience throughout the speech?

6) How is the speech organized? Do you think the transition of her ideas is natural and smooth? How does it work?

7) How does the speaker support her claim that “In China almost everything can be solved over a round table.”?

8) How does the speaker conclude her speech?

9)What rhetorical devices does the speaker employ in her speech?

10)Please make an analysis of the nonverbal message: the speaker’s voice variety (tone/speed/pause/stress) and body gestures. Are they effective and why?

**Speech Script:**

The most affectionate memory of my childhood is about a round table. ***When I was*** still a little, my entire family would reunite on almost every traditional festival to have dinner. While ***the grownups*** were discussing about something beyond our comprehension, we ***kids* would be scuttling around or even crowd under the table to play, hide and seek.**

**When I got a bit older**, my aunt brought back her boyfriend. A tall and shy man and my grandma joyfully added another seat to the round table. **It seems a little bit more crowded, but we all felt closer to this new family member.**

**When I was twelve,** my grandpa passed away because of cancer. But when the entire family reunite once again, **his chair his bowl and his chopsticks** remain the same, even though his seat was empty，but I felt like that he had never left us.

We all have **a table like this** in our homes, **It is a symbol of a reunion of our families representing our sentiment, and an attachment to our families.**

But as a matter of fact**, in china, almost everything can be solved over a round table.** Then that *marriage bells between a loving couple, the morning of the deceased, the negotiations between business partners and a state banquet* to another president from other country, can all happen on a same round table.

So I start to wonder **what is this round table to us, what it has been doing to us and this true significance starts to unfold in front of me. *The food*** on the table may change with time. ***The people*** sitting besides it may come and go. ***The reason*** why we come together may be various, but the ***sensation*** behind it remains year after year ***the same***.

**And that is our tolerance of different people or willingness to embrace different culture and artistic forms or our care, and love, and respect for not only our family, but also for a community, our nation and even the whole world.**

In less than two months，an annual **epic migration** world take place in china，hundreds of people, men and women, young and old, the rich and the poor the dead like my grandpa and the alive. **Well find a way to go back home and go to the round table to reunite with their families.**

**The power that drives them to do so** has been the power that has been sustaining ***Chinese civilization*** for thousands of years, and ***the lives of us*** or even ***the history of our nation*** has been the stories of looking for or running to the round table to which we belong. **The round table has been a symbol of the Chinese sensation. It was，it is and will always be.**

**Group Reading Task**

*Please identify the rhetorical devices used in the following two speeches and give a brief analysis of the effect or function of such rhetorical devices*.

**Gettysburg Address**

Abraham Lincoln 1863

Delivered at the dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth, on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate—we can not consecrate—we can not hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Abraham Lincoln

November 19, 1863.

**Democratic National Convention Keynote Address**

Barack Obama 27 July 2004

On behalf of the great state of Illinois, crossroads of a nation, Land of Lincoln, let me express my deepest gratitude for the privilege of addressing this convention.

Tonight is a particular honor for me because, let’s face it, my presence on this stage is pretty unlikely. My father was a foreign student, born and raised in a small village in Kenya. He grew up herding goats, went to school in a tin-roof shack. His father -- my grandfather -- was a cook, a domestic servant to the British. But my grandfather had larger dreams for his son. Through hard work and perseverance my father got a scholarship to study in a magical place, America, that shone as a beacon of freedom and opportunity to so many who had come before. While studying here, my father met my mother. She was born in a town on the other side of the world, in Kansas. Her father worked on oil rigs and farms through most of the Depression. The day after Pearl Harbor my grandfather signed up for duty; joined Patton’s army, marched across Europe. Back home, my grandmother raised a baby and went to work on a bomber assembly line. After the war, they studied on the G.I. Bill, bought a house through F.H.A., and later moved west all the way to Hawaii in search of opportunity.

And they, too, had big dreams for their daughter. A common dream, born of two continents.

My parents shared not only an improbable love, they shared an abiding faith in the possibilities of this nation. They would give me an African name, Barack, or ”blessed,” believing that in a tolerant America your name is no barrier to success. They imagined -- They imagined me going to the best schools in the land, even though they weren’t rich, because in a generous America you don’t have to be rich to achieve your potential.

They're both passed away now. And yet, I know that on this night they look down on me with great pride.

They stand here, and I stand here today, grateful for the diversity of my heritage, aware that my parents’ dreams live on in my two precious daughters. I stand here knowing that my story is part of the larger American story, that I owe a debt to all of those who came before me, and that, in no other country on earth, is my story even possible.

Tonight, we gather to affirm the greatness of our Nation -- not because of the height of our skyscrapers, or the power of our military, or the size of our economy. Our pride is based on a very simple premise, summed up in a declaration made over two hundred years ago:

*“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.*”

That is the true genius of America, a faith -- a faith in simple dreams, an insistence on small miracles; that we can tuck in our children at night and know that they are fed and clothed and safe from harm; that we can say what we think, write what we think, without hearing a sudden knock on the door; that we can have an idea and start our own business without paying a bribe; that we can participate in the political process without fear of retribution, and that our votes will be counted -- at least most of the time.

This year, in this election we are called to reaffirm our values and our commitments, to hold them against a hard reality and see how we're measuring up to the legacy of our forbearers and the promise of future generations.

And fellow Americans, Democrats, Republicans, Independents, I say to you tonight: We have more work to do -- more work to do for the workers I met in Galesburg, Illinois, who are losing their union jobs at the Maytag plant that’s moving to Mexico, and now are having to compete with their own children for jobs that pay seven bucks an hour; more to do for the father that I met who was losing his job and choking back the tears, wondering how he would pay 4500 dollars a month for the drugs his son needs without the health benefits that he counted on; more to do for the young woman in East St. Louis, and thousands more like her, who has the grades, has the drive, has the will, but doesn’t have the money to go to college.

Now, don’t get me wrong. The people I meet -- in small towns and big cities, in diners and office parks -- they don’t expect government to solve all their problems. They know they have to work hard to get ahead, and they want to. Go into the collar counties around Chicago, and people will tell you they don’t want their tax money wasted, by a welfare agency or by the Pentagon. Go in -- Go into any inner city neighborhood, and folks will tell you that government alone can’t teach our kids to learn; they know that parents have to teach, that children can’t achieve unless we raise their expectations and turn off the television sets and eradicate the slander that says a black youth with a book is acting white. They know those things.

People don’t expect -- People don't expect government to solve all their problems. But they sense, deep in their bones, that with just a slight change in priorities, we can make sure that every child in America has a decent shot at life, and that the doors of opportunity remain open to all.

They know we can do better. And they want that choice.

It is that fundamental belief -- It is that fundamental belief: I am my brother’s *keeper*. I am my sister’s *keeper* that makes this country work.

It’s what allows us to pursue our individual dreams and yet still come together as one American family.

E pluribus unum: "Out of many, one."

Now even as we speak, there are those who are preparing to divide us -- the spin masters, the negative ad peddlers who embrace the politics of "anything goes." Well, I say to them tonight, *there is not* a liberal America and a conservative America -- *there is* the United States of America. *There is not* a Black America and a White America and Latino America and Asian America *-- there’s* the United States of America.