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Lesson 1

Face to Face with Hurricane Camille

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I Background Knowledge (背景介绍)

1. Hurricane (飓风)

A hurricane is a tropical storm in which winds attain speeds greater than 75 miles per hour (about 121 km/h). The term is often restricted to those storms occurring over the North Atlantic Ocean. Incipient hurricanes usually form over the tropical North Atlantic Ocean and mature as they drift westward. Hurricanes also occasionally form off the west coast of Mexico and move northeastward from that area. An average of 3.5 tropical storms per year eventually matures into hurricanes along the east coast of North America, usually over the Caribbean Sea or the Gulf of Mexico. Maximum sustained winds in the strongest hurricane have been estimated at about 195 miles per hour (about 314 km/h).

Similar storms occurring over the West Pacific Ocean and the South China Sea are called typhoons and those over the Indian Ocean are called tropical cyclones.

2. Hurricane Camille (飓风“卡米尔”)

Hurricane Camille hit Mississippi and Louisiana for two days, August 17–18, in 1969. It was the strongest tropical cyclone during the 1969 Atlantic hurricane season, the strongest landfalling tropical cyclone recorded worldwide, and one of the only four tropical cyclones worldwide ever to achieve wind speeds of 190 miles per hour (about 306 km/h). Camille killed 258 people.

3. Hurricane Betsy (飓风“贝齐”)

The hurricane lashed Florida, Mississippi and Louisiana in 1965 during September 7–10. It was a Category 4 hurricane of the 1965 Atlantic hurricane season which caused enormous damage in the Bahamas, Florida and Louisiana. Betsy made its most intense landfall near the mouth of the Mississippi River, where it destroyed almost every building, causing the deaths of 74 people.

4. Hurricane Names (飓风的名称)

Names have been given to Atlantic hurricanes for a few hundred years. Hurricanes in the West Indies were often named after the particular saint's day on which the hurricane occurred. In the early days of meteorology in the United States storms were named with a latitude/longitude designation representing the location where the storm originated. These names were difficult to remember, difficult to communicate and subject to errors. During the Second World War military meteorologists working in the Pacific began to use women's names for storms.

That naming method made communication so easy that it was adopted by the US National Weather Service in 1953. Meteorologists for the Atlantic Ocean began using men's names in 1979. Today, there are six lists of both women's and men's names in alphabetical order used for hurricanes. These lists rotate, one each year; the list of this year's names will not be reused for six years. The name of a devastating storm is taken off the list and another name is added to replace it.

5. the Salvation Army (救世军)

The Salvation Army is a Protestant religious body known for its extensive philanthropy and charity work. It is an international movement that has its international headquarters (IHQ) in London and currently works in more than one hundred countries and areas. It was founded in London by William Booth, with the assistance of his wife Catherine Booth. The movement was originally known as the East London Revival Society, soon renamed the Christian Mission, and finally in 1878 designated the Salvation Army, a military form of organization, with uniforms and other distinctive features. The army operates hospitals, community centers, alcohol and drug rehabilitation programs, emergency and disaster services, social work centers and recreation facilities. Support of the vast undertakings in all parts of the world depends upon voluntary contributions and profits from the sale of publications.

6. the Red Cross (红十字会)

The full name is International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, an international organization for the alleviation of human suffering and the promotion of public health. Jean Henry Dunant (1828–1910), a Swiss citizen, urged the formation of voluntary aid societies for relief of war victims. In 1864, delegates from 16 nations met in Switzerland and signed the Geneva Convention of 1864 for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick of Armies in the Field. It provided for the neutrality of the personnel of the medical services of armed forces, the humane treatment of the wounded, the neutrality of civilians who voluntarily assisted them, and the use of an international emblem to mark medical personnel and supplies. In honor of Dunant's nationality a red cross on a white background—the Swiss flag with colors reversed—was chosen as the symbol, which is replaced by a red crescent in Islamic areas. The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement consists of three parts: the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

II Language Points (语言要点)

1. Glossary (词汇汇编)

Para. 1

hurricane *n* [C] a storm that has very strong fast winds and that moves over water 飓风

pummel *v* [T] to hit someone or something many times quickly, especially with one's fists 反复猛击, [尤指]用双拳连续地打

endanger *v* [T] to put someone or something in danger of being hurt, damaged, or destroyed 使处于险境

Para. 2

course *n* [C, usually singular] an action or series of actions that you could take in order to deal with a particular situation [处理事件的]行动方式, 处理方式

Para. 3

demolish *v* [T] to completely destroy a building 拆毁，拆除 [建筑物]

Para. 4

batten *v* **batten down the hatches** to prepare yourself for a period of difficulty or trouble 作做好准备面对困境

Para. 5

methodically *adv* orderly, systematically 秩序井然地，有条理地

main *n* [C] a large pipe or wire carrying supply of water, electricity, or gas [供水、电或煤气的]总管道；干线
电缆

Para. 7

scud *v* [I, always + adv/prep] *literary* if clouds scud over the sky, they move quickly 【文】 [云在空中]飞掠

Para. 8

overwhelming *adj* having such a great effect on you that you feel confused and do not know how to react 难以抗拒的，令人不知所措的

disintegrate *v* [I, T] to break up, or make something break up, into very small pieces (使)碎裂，(使)分裂，(使)解体

Para. 9

fling *v* [T, always +adv/prep] **fling something open:** to open a door or window roughly, using a lot of force 猛力推开门 [窗]

douse *v* [T] to stop a fire from burning by pouring water on it 浇灭 [火]

Para. 11

brigade *n* [C] a group of people who are organized to do something [为做某事而组织起来的]队

Para. 12

scramble *v* [I, always + adv/prep] to climb up, down, or over something quickly and with difficulty, especially using your hands to help you [迅速而吃力地]爬，攀登

litter *n* [C] a group of baby animals that a mother gives birth to at the same time [同时出生的]一窝 [小动物]

Para. 13

shudder *v* [I] to shake for a short time because you are afraid or cold, or because you think something is very unpleasant [因恐惧、寒冷或认为某事令人不愉快而]打颤，颤抖

collapse *v* [I] if a building, wall etc. collapses, it falls down suddenly, usually because it is weak or damaged 倒塌，塌下

Para. 14

clutch *v* [T] to hold something tightly because you do not want to lose it 紧握，抓紧

Para. 17

crushing *adj* [usually before noun] very hard to deal with, and making you lose hope and confidence 惨重的；使人难以承受的

ferocity *n* [U] the state of being very violent and severe 凶暴，残暴

Para. 18

swipe *n* [C] when you hit or try to hit someone or something by swinging your arm very quickly [挥臂的]重击，猛击

crumble *v* [I] if something, especially something made of stone or rock, is crumbling, small pieces are breaking off it 碎裂，崩裂

maroon *v* [T, usually passive] to be left in a place where there are no other people and where you cannot escape [在

无人的地方]被困住, 无法逃脱

Para. 19

devastate *v* [T] to damage something very badly or completely 严重破坏, 彻底破坏, 摧毁

swath *n* [C] a long thin area of something, especially land 长条形地区 [尤指土地]

mooring *n* [C] the ropes, chains, anchors etc. used to fasten a ship or boat to the land or the bottom of the sea [船只的]系泊用具, 锚定设备

beach *v* [T] to pull a boat onto the shore away from the water 把 [船] 拖上岸

Para. 20

virtually *adv* almost 实际上, 几乎 = **practically**

vantage *n* [C] a good position from which you can see something [能观察某物的]有利地形

perish *v* [I] *formal or literary* to die, especially in a terrible or sudden way 【正式或文】死亡 [尤指惨死或猝死]

Para. 21

huddle *v* [I, T] if a group of people huddle together, they stay very close to each other, especially because they are cold or frightened [尤因寒冷或恐惧]挤成一团

slash *v* [I, T always + adv/prep] to cut or try to cut something violently with a knife, sword etc. [用刀、剑等]猛削, 劈

implore *v* [I, T] *formal* to ask for something in an emotional way 【正式】恳求; 哀求

bar *n* [C] a group of notes and rests, separated from other groups by vertical lines, into which a line of written music is divided [乐曲中的]小节

Para. 22

debris *n* [U] the pieces of something that are left after it has been destroyed in an accident, or explosion etc. 碎片; 残骸

sanctuary *n* [C, U] a peaceful place that is safe and provides protection, especially for people who are in danger 避难所, 庇护所

Para. 24

extinguish *v* [T] *formal* to make a fire or light stop burning or shining 【正式】熄灭 [火或光]

waver *v* [I] to move gently in several different directions 摇曳, 摇摆

topple *v* [I, T] to become unsteady and then fall over, or to make something do this (使)倒塌

Para. 25

lean-to *n* [C] a small roughly-made building that is built against the side of a larger building [靠着高大建筑物所建的]单坡屋顶小屋

Para. 26

sprawl *v* [I, always +adv/prep] to lie or sit with your arms or legs stretched out in a lazy or careless way [懒洋洋地]伸开四肢躺 (或坐) 着

tilt *v* [I, T] to move or make something move into a position where one side is higher than the other (使)倾斜着移动

cower *v* [I] to bend low or move back because you are frightened 畏缩, 退缩

hinge *v* [T, usually passive] to attach something, using a hinge 给……装铰链

Para. 27

diminish *v* [I, T] to become or make something smaller or less (使)减少, (使)减小

recede *v* [I] if water recedes, it moves back from an area that it was covering (水)退去

Para. 28

strew *v* [T, usually passive] to scatter things around a large area 撒, 散播

festoon *v* [T, usually passive] to cover something with flowers, long pieces of material etc., especially for decoration
结彩于, 给……装饰花彩

spaghetti *n* [U] a type of pasta in very long thin pieces, that is cooked in boiling water 意大利粉

Para. 30

staffer *n* [C] *AmE* someone who is paid to work for an organization 【美】雇员; 职员

Para. 32

rake *v* [T] to point something such as a gun, camera, or strong light, and keep moving across an area [用枪、照相机或强光] 扫射

rampage *v* [I] to rush about in groups, acting in a wild or violent way 横冲直撞

Para. 35

wreckage *n* [singular, U] the parts of something such as a plane, ship, or building that are left after it has been destroyed in an accident [飞机、船或建筑物被毁后的] 残骸

salvage *v* [T] to save something from an accident or bad situation in which other things have already been damaged, destroyed, or lost [从事故或糟糕的情形中] 抢救出 [某物]

wrath *n* [U] *formal* extreme anger 【正式】愤怒, 狂怒

Para. 36

afflict *v* [T] *formal* to affect someone or something in an unpleasant way, and make them suffer 【正式】使痛苦, 折磨

2. Useful Expressions (实用表达)

- 1) **reason out (Para. 2):** to find an explanation of or a solution to a problem (通过推理) 解决
e.g. The expert reasoned out a solution to the problem. 这位专家分析推断出解决这个问题的办法。
- 2) **ride out (Para. 4):** if you ride out a difficult situation, you are not badly harmed by it 安然度过 (难关)
e.g. Most large companies should be able to ride out the recession. 大多数大公司应能安然度过经济衰退期。
- 3) **power failure (Para. 5):** a period of time when there is no electricity supply 断电
e.g. A power failure plunged the house into darkness. 断电使房子陷入一片黑暗之中。
- 4) **on the rising wind (Para. 6):** by the increasingly strong wind 借助渐强的风势
- 5) **sit out the storm (Para. 6):** stay where you are and do nothing till the end of the storm 一直呆到暴风雨结束
sit out: to stay till the end of (a performance etc.) 一直呆到 (演出等) 结束
e.g. She was prepared to sit out the years of Jack's jail sentence. 她准备熬过那些年直到杰克刑满释放。
- 6) **storm-shattered panes (Para. 7):** sheets of window glass broken by the storm 被暴雨击碎的窗格玻璃
- 7) **mount to a roar (Para. 7):** the sound of the wind gets louder as the force of the wind increases 狂风咆哮起来
- 8) **French doors (Para. 8):** a pair of glass doors which open into a garden or a balcony 落地窗
- 9) **curl up (Para. 12):** to move so that you are lying or sitting with your arms and legs close to your body 蜷缩
e.g. Sarah was curled up on the sofa. 萨拉蜷缩在沙发上。

- 10) **inch one's way up (Para. 13):** to move or cause to move slowly or by small degrees 慢慢移动, 渐进
e.g. I inched my way up along the ground. 我蹭着地缓缓向前挪动。
- 11) **on the verge of (Para. 14):** to be at the point where something is about to happen 濒于, 将
e.g. Jess seemed on the verge of tears. 杰丝似乎差点就要哭了。
- 12) **in one mighty swipe (Para. 18):** in one big, hard sweeping blow 快速重击
- 13) **vantage point (Para. 20):** a good position from which you can see something 有利位置
e.g. From my vantage point on the hill, I could see the whole procession. 从我在山上的有利位置我可以看到整个游行队伍。
- 14) **trail away (Para. 21):** if someone's voice trails away or trails off, it becomes gradually quieter and then stops [说话的声音] 减弱
e.g. She trailed away, silenced by the look Kris gave her. 她看到克里斯给她的眼色, 说话声音变得越来越小。
- 15) **give way (Para. 26):** to collapse 坍塌
e.g. The bridge gave way under the heavy load. 桥梁由于负载过重而倒塌了。
- 16) **break up (Para. 32):** (of clouds) to disperse (乌云) 消散
- 17) **pitch in (Para. 33):** to join others and help with an activity 投入, 参与
e.g. If we all pitch in, we'll have it finished in no time. 我们大家一起帮忙的话, 很快就可以完成了。

3. Study of Key Words and Expressions (词汇学习点拨)

- 1) **lash:** *v* [T] if the wind, sea etc. lashes something it hits it with violent force 猛击
常见搭配: **lash against/down/across** 猛击, 拍打 *The wind lashed violently against the door.* 风猛烈地吹打着大门。**lash out (at)** 猛烈抨击, 痛斥 *He lashed out at the opposition's policies.* 他猛烈地抨击反对派的政策。**lash back** 反击 *He lashed back at those who accused him of corruption.* 他对指控他贪污腐败的人进行了回击。
- 2) **trail:** *v* [I, T] to pull something behind you, especially along the ground, or to be pulled in this way 拖、拉
常见搭配: **trail something in/across/through** 拖、拉、拖在后面 *He was leaning out of the boat trailing his hand through the water.* 他把身体探出船外, 一只手在水中拖着。**trail behind/around** 慢吞吞地走 *Susie trailed along behind her parents.* 苏茜慢吞吞地走在父母身后。**trail away/off** (声音) 不断变小减弱 *Her voice trailed away to a whisper.* 她的声音越来越小, 变成了耳语。
- 3) **Word Choice (词语辨析): throw/fling/toss**
throw: to make an object such as a ball move quickly through the air by pushing your hand forward quickly and letting the object go 多指迅速将某物投掷出去 *He threw a stone at a car.* 他朝汽车扔了一块石头。
fling: to throw something somewhere using a lot of force 带有用力过大、过猛之意, 也可指由于受感情支配而动作失控、粗野 *She flung back the covers and got up.* 她一掀被子, 起了床。
toss: to throw something, especially something light, with a quick gentle movement of your hand 多指投掷物较轻, 投掷者较随意或漫无目标 *She tossed the letter into the fire.* 她把信扔进了火里。

4. Sentences to Be Memorized (靓句背诵)

- 1) We're elevated 23 feet. (Para. 3)
我们现在住的这幢房子海拔 23 英尺。

- 2) We're a good 250 yards from the sea. (Para. 3)
我们家离大海足足有250码远。
- 3) We can batten down and ride it out. (Para. 4)
我们可以做好必要的准备，安然度过这次风暴。
- 4) The children went from adult to adult like buckets in a fire brigade. (Para. 11)
孩子们像救火队的水桶一样从大人手上依次被递了过去。
- 5) The wind sounded like the roar of a train passing a few yards away. (Para. 13)
狂风就像从身边呼啸而过的列车一样发出震耳欲聋的响声。
- 6) The hurricane, in one mighty swipe, lifted the entire roof off the house and skimmed it 40 feet through the air. (Para. 18)
一阵强风把整个屋顶掀到了空中，将其抛到了40英尺之外。
- 7) Pop Koshak raged silently, frustrated at not being able to do anything to fight Camille. (Para. 24)
科谢克老爸心里十分恼火，深为自己在飓风面前无能为力而感到懊丧。
- 8) Strips of clothing festooned the standing trees, and blown-down power lines coiled like black spaghetti over the roads. (Para. 28)
未被飓风刮倒的树上像结彩似的挂满被风撕成布条的衣服，吹断的电线像黑色的意大利面条一样一圈一圈地散落在路面上。
- 9) Each salvage item represented a little victory over the wrath of the storm. (Para. 35)
每一件未被毁坏的东西都代表他们战胜狂风的一个小小的胜利。
- 10) But the blues did occasionally afflict all the adults. (Para. 36)
可是，成年人偶尔也会感到沮丧。
- 11) Let's not cry about what's gone. We'll just start all over. (Para. 37)
事已至此，抱怨也没有用。一切都重新开始吧。
- 12) We lost practically all our possessions, but the family came through it. (Para. 39)
咱们的财物实际上损失殆尽，可一家人全都活了下来。

III Text Analysis (篇章分析)

1. Theme of the Text (文章的主题)

The essay is to stress the importance of life in face of the greatly destructive and irresistible natural disaster—the hurricane, and the possibility of a little triumph out of persistence when humans care for each other and strive together in crisis.

2. Structure of the Text (文章的段落)

Part I: Paras. 1–6

It tells the time and place of the invasion of the hurricane, characters in face of the natural disaster, and the relevant background.

Part II: Paras. 7–27

It depicts in detail the whole process in which people encounter the hurricane face to face helplessly but still persistently. On the one hand, the author delineates the details of how the characters fight hard with the hurricane; on the other hand, he inserts into the part the tremendous loss of life and property that the hurricane brings to the

whole region.

Part III: Paras. 28–39

It narrates the irretrievable loss undergone and the hopeful confidence built upon the departure of the hurricane, with the theme of the text revealed eventually—life is more important than anything else.

3. Text Appreciation (文章的赏析)

1) stylistics (体裁)

This is a piece of narration. The narrated story includes an opening, development, climax and denouement, and the text is unfolded according to this order and in a chronological sequence.

The opening of the story involves a series of actions taken and material and psychological preparations made by the relevant inhabitants before the coming of the hurricane.

The development and climax of the story form the main body of the text. When narrating the process of the characters encountering the hurricane, the author focuses mainly on how hard those people strained to keep others and themselves alive, and how desperately helpless they felt every now and then, during which breath-taking suspense was created until the climax of the story—the characters of the story remained alive.

The denouement of the story tells the tremendous loss of property, the mental scars left to people and even the sad loss of life. As for the Koshaks, the safety and union of the family is their greatest comfort. This too points out the theme of the text: Life is more valuable than everything.

2) Perspective (视角)

Third-person point of view is applied to make the narrator omniscient, which displays the panorama of human beings fighting and struggling with natural disasters vividly and in detail.

3) Writing Skills (写作手法)

Lexically, the effective use of many verbs, like *lash*, *pummel*, *demolish*, *lap*, *swipe*, *skim*, *swath*, *snap*, *smash*, *fling*, *shove*, *seize*, *crack*, *whip*, is to embody vividly the ferocity of the hurricane.

Syntactically, elliptical sentences and short simple sentences in dialogues, like “Back to the house”, “Count the children”, “Count nine”, “Everybody on the stairs”, are to indicate the increasingly heightened tension and sense of danger and urgency.

Rhetorically, the vivid use of simile, metaphor and personification, like “The children went from adult to adult like buckets in a fire brigade” (simile), “The wind sounded like the roar of a train passing a few yards away” (simile), “Wind and rain now whipped the house” (metaphor, personification), is to demonstrate the images of how fierce the invasion of the hurricane is and how hard people exert themselves against it.

IV Detailed Study of the Text (课文注释)

1. (Title) “Face to Face with Hurricane Camille”: Headings and titles are generally succinct. The aim is to present the article, story, etc. as vividly and as forcefully as possible to attract the attention of would-be readers.
face to face: The phrase in this context means “confronting one another”. This phrase connotes a sense of urgency and danger. The confrontation is generally with something dangerous, difficult or hard to resolve. face to face 有“面对面、与……对抗”的意思，通常指面临危险、困难或难以解决的问题，并且事态紧迫且危险。本文的题目可译为：直面飓风“卡米尔”的来袭或迎战“卡米尔”飓风或迎战飓风“卡米尔”。

e.g. *face to face* with the enemy/the tiger/the problem

2. (Para. 1) **John Koshak, Jr.:** Jr. is the abbreviation of junior. This term is generally used in the United States and is put after the name of a son to indicate he has the same first name as his father, as in Martin Luther King, Jr. The term Sr. (senior) is sometimes put after the name of the father. This is done only with men's names. Sometimes people use Roman numeral II for the son with the same name. If the name continues into the third generation, Roman numeral III is used. This happens mainly, but not exclusively, among big, rich, upper class families.
e.g. John Rockefeller *I*, John Rockefeller *II*, and John Rockefeller *III*
3. (Para. 1) **Radio and television warnings...Gulf of Mexico.:** The National Hurricane Center of the National Weather Service of the United States broadcast warnings of potential hurricanes.
 - 1) **warnings had sounded:** Radio and television had broadcast warnings about the hurricane.
 - 2) **Gulf of Mexico:** Most hurricanes in this area are formed over the Caribbean Sea and they move over the Gulf of Mexico to strike the Gulf States of the United States—Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, etc.
4. (Para. 1) **It was certain to pummel Gulfport, Miss, where the Koshaks lived.:**
 - 1) **Miss.:** abbreviation for the state of Mississippi
 - 2) **the Koshaks:** When an “s” is added to a surname and used with the definite article “the”, the term, then, stands for the whole family.
e.g. the Koshaks: the Koshak family, all the Koshaks in the family
the Browns: the Brown family
the Lis: the Li family
5. (Para. 1) **...nearly 150,000 people fled inland to safer ground.:** Nearly 150,000 people ran away to the interior of the country (away from the coast) where they would be safer.
6. (Para. 2) **...he talked with his father and mother, who had moved into the ten-room house with the Koshaks a month earlier from California.:** John Koshak's grandparents left California and came to Gulfport to live with their son, John Koshak, Jr. In Western countries children, when they grow up and start working, generally live away from their parents. In old Chinese traditions, it was common for an extended family to live together.
7. (Para. 3) **John, 37—whose business was right there in his home (he designed and developed educational toys and supplies, and all of Magna Products' correspondence, engineering drawings and art work were there on the first floor)—was familiar with the power of a hurricane.**
 - 1) **all of:** every one, every bit of, every piece of. It is used with a plural verb.
 - 2) **Magna Products:** name of the company owned and run by John Koshak Jr. 马格纳公司, 约翰·科谢克创办的一家公司名称, 其主要业务是设计、开发教学用具和设备。
 - 3) **engineering drawings:** diagrams and sketches for machines
 - 4) **art work:** designs, models, pictures for the various toys
 - 5) **first floor:** in the US, the ground floor; in Europe and Great Britain, the floor above this
8. (Para. 3) **Koshak had moved his family to a motel for the night.:**
motel: a blend or portmanteau word, formed by combining parts of [mo (torist) + (ho) tel]. 此种构词法被称为拼缀法, 即对原有的两个词进行剪裁, 取舍其中的首部或尾部, 然后连成一个新词。
e.g. boat + hotel = boatel 汽艇游客旅馆
smoke + fog = smog 烟雾
breakfast + lunch = brunch 早餐和午餐并作一顿吃

再如: psywar, medicare, telequiz, telecast, Oxbridge, sitcom, hi-fi, hi-tech 等

9. (Para. 3) **“and we’re a good 250 yards from the sea.”**: We’re at least 250 yards distant from the sea.
a good: a general intensive, meaning “at least”, “full”
e.g. The interview was scheduled for 30 minutes, but it lasted *a good* three hours.
长度单位 foot 和 yard 是美国人常用的长度单位, 其换算方法可参见注释 29。
10. (Para. 4) **“We can batten down and ride it out...”**: a metaphor, comparing the house in a hurricane to a ship fighting a storm at sea. We can make the necessary preparations and survive the hurricane without much damage. We can batten down to prepare for any difficulty.
ride it out: to stay afloat during a storm without too much damage; to survive or outlast (a storm). 此处作者运用了暗喻的修辞手法, 将飓风中的房屋比作航行中的船只。Batten down 原指水手在风暴来临前用油布封住舱口, 以防进水, ride out 的意思是抵挡住(狂风、巨浪等的)袭击, 不受多少损伤, 并坚持到最后脱离险境。
11. (Para. 5) **Since water mains might be damaged, they filled bathtubs and pails.**: They were afraid the water supply might be cut off so they filled the bathtubs and pails with water.
main: a principal pipe, conduit, or line in a distributing system for water, gas, electricity, etc.
12. (Para. 6) **...gray clouds scudded in from the Gulf on the rising wind.**
1) **scudded in**: driven inland by the wind
2) **Gulf**: the Gulf of Mexico, bounded on the northeast, north and northwest by the Gulf Coast of the United States, on the southwest and south by Mexico, and on the southeast by Cuba
13. (Para. 7) **As the wind mounted to a roar, the house began leaking, the rain seemingly driven right through the walls.**
mounted to a roar: The sound of the wind gets louder as the force of the wind increases.
14. (Para. 7) **With mops, towels, pots and buckets the Koshaks began a struggle against the rapidly spreading water.**: The house was leaking very badly. The Koshaks had to use all the utensils they could lay their hands on (mops, towels, pots, buckets) to hold the leaking water.
15. (Para. 7) **At 8:30, power failed and Pop Koshak turned on the generator.**
1) **power failed**: Electricity was cut off.
2) **Pop**: (*slang*) father; also a familiar term of address to any elderly man
16. (Para. 8) **The French doors in an upstairs room blew in with an explosive sound, and the group heard gun-like reports as other upstairs windows disintegrated.**
1) **blew in**: burst open by the storm, the two adjoining doors (of the French doors) flew inwards
2) **gun-like reports**: loud explosive noises like guns being fired
report: a loud, resounding noise, especially one made by an explosion
3) **windows disintegrated**: Windows broke into pieces.
17. (Para. 10) **“Everybody out the back door to the cars!”**: an elliptical sentence gives a sense of tension and urgency of the moment. The full sentence might read: “Everybody go out through the back door and run to the cars.” 这是一个无动词祈使句。在请求、命令和口号中, 无动词祈使句经常得以运用。这种祈使句实际上是省略了动词, 从而使语句更加简洁有力。这样的例子俯拾皆是, 如 This way, please! 请这边走! Just a minute, please! 请稍等!
e.g. “Back to the house!” (Para. 11)
“Everybody on the stairs!” (Para. 12)
“You won’t have to.” (Para. 15)

“Up the stairs—into our bedroom!” (Para. 21)

“Into the television room!” (Para. 22)

18. (Para. 10) **“Count them! Nine!”**: elliptical, “Count them! There are nine children!”
19. (Para. 11) **The children went from adult to adult like buckets in a fire brigade.**: simile, comparing the passing of children to the passing of buckets of water in a fire brigade when fighting a fire
20. (Para. 11) **the electrical systems had been killed by water.**: The electrical systems in the car (e.g. the battery for the starter) had been put out by water (just as the generator in the house was doused).
kill: (*American English*) to cause (an engine, etc.) to stop
21. (Para. 12) **“Everybody on the stairs!”**: elliptical, “Everybody go and sit on the stairs!”
22. (Para. 15) **...he told her, with outward calm.**: When he said this, he appeared calm but was really worried in his mind.
23. (Para. 16) **...and his voice lacked its usual gruffness.**: The lack of gruffness showed the old man’s sincerity and solemn feeling. In this critical situation the old couple tenderly expressed their mutual love.
24. (Para. 17) **John watched the water lap at the steps, and felt a crushing guilt.**: As John watched the water inch its way up the steps, he felt a strong sense of guilt because he blamed himself for endangering the whole family by his wrong decision not to flee inland.
crushing guilt: overwhelming guilt
25. (Para. 17) **“Get us through this mess, will You?”**: The capital “Y” in “You” shows that the words were addressed to God. “Will you” is an informal form of request. Here it indicates a request made out of desperation. 大写的 You 指上帝。句中虽未提及上帝，但前面的 pray（向上帝祈祷）一词，已让读者想到了上帝。这是他们在危险和绝望中的祈求，充分说明此时他们处境的险恶和情势的危急。
mess: a state of trouble or difficulty
26. (Para. 18) **A moment later, the hurricane, in one mighty swipe, lifted the entire roof off the house and skimmed it 40 feet through the air.**: personification, the hurricane acting as a very strong person lifting something heavy and throwing it through the air
1) **in one mighty swipe**: in a big, hard, sweeping blow
2) **skim**: to throw so as to cause to bounce swiftly and lightly; it usually refers to a surface—to *skim* off a layer, to *skim* a text (to read superficially).
27. (Para. 18) **the marooned group**: a group of people who were helpless and isolated by the storm, unable to escape
28. (Para. 19) **...The National Hurricane Center in Miami, Fla.:**
1) **Miami**: Located in Southeast Florida, the city is one of the most famous and popular resorts in the US, attracting 13 million visitors each year.
2) **Fla.**: Florida
29. (Para. 19) **In its concentrated breadth of some 70 miles it shot out winds of nearly 200 mph....**: The hurricane was concentrated within a breadth of about 70 miles and in this area the hurricane threw or hurled out winds that reached nearly 200 mph.
1) **mph**: miles per hour (每小时英里数)
2) **mpg**: miles per gallon (每加仑英里数)
3) **rpm**: revolutions per minute (每分钟转数)
4) **gpm**: gallons per minute (每分钟加仑数)

5) **fps**: feet per second (每秒英尺数)

涉及度量衡时, 进入高级阶段的英语学习者需要了解: 中国人习惯使用公制 (metric system), 美国人习惯使用英制 (imperial system), 因此, 我们也需熟悉常见的度量衡的换算。

1 pound (磅) = 0.454 kg (千克)

1 yard (码) = 3 feet (英尺) = 0.9144 m (米)

1 foot (英尺) = 12 inches (英寸) = 30.48 cm (厘米)

1 mile (英里) = 1.609344 km (公里)

1 gallon (加仑)[美] = 3.785 liters (升)

另请注意: 在英国和加拿大所使用的加仑和在美国所使用的加仑并不一样: 1 英制加仑 = 1.2 美制加仑

30. (Para. 19) **It seized a 600,000-gallon Gulfport oil tank and dumped it $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles away.**: personification, the hurricane acting as a very strong person lifting something very heavy and dumping it $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles away. 作者运用了拟人的修辞手法, 把飓风的威力比作一个壮实的汉子轻而易举地抓起一件笨重的物体一样。
31. (Para. 19) **It tore three large cargo ships from their moorings and beached them.**: Three large cargo ships were torn free from the cables and anchors that held them and were grounded on the beach.
32. (Para. 19) **Telephone poles and 20-inch-thick pines cracked like guns as the winds snapped them.**: The telephone poles and pine trees of 20 inches in diameter were split by the winds with a sudden noise which was similar to that of the firing of guns.
Simile, the sound of the snapping poles were compared to the firing of guns. 这里作者运用了明喻的修辞手法, 将电话线杆和松树断裂时所发出的声音比喻成枪声。
33. (Para. 20) **Several vacationers at the luxurious Richelieu Apartments there held a hurricane party to watch the storm from their vantage point.**: The people who were spending their vacation held a party to enjoy the unusual and impressive spectacle of the hurricane in the fancy Richelieu Apartments from where they believed they would be safe and be able to observe the process of the natural phenomenon closely with a clear and broad view.
34. (Para. 21) **“Up the stairs—into our bedroom!”**: elliptical, “Everybody hurry up the stairs and go into our bedroom.”
35. (Para. 22) **With two walls in their bedroom sanctuary beginning to disintegrate, John ordered, “Into the television room!”**: Because the two walls of the bedroom where they were seeking shelter were breaking up, John ordered everyone to go into the television room.
1) **with**: as the result of, because of
e.g. *With* the staff greatly reduced, they had to stop work.
2) **into the television room**: elliptical, “Everybody go into the television room.”
36. (Para. 23)...**“Dear Lord, give me the strength to endure what I have to.”**: Janis prayed to God to give her courage to face what she had to face. She, her husband and her children might die in the storm.
37. (Para. 24) **Pop Koshak raged silently...**: Grandfather Koshak was furiously angry, but he kept silent. He didn't shout and curse the hurricane.
38. (Para. 24) **Without reason, he dragged a cedar chest and a double mattress from a bedroom into the TV room.**: He did not drag the two pieces of furniture into the TV room for a special purpose. He did it mechanically and subconsciously, perhaps he felt he shouldn't stand there doing nothing. The mattress, however, came in handy later on.
1) **a cedar chest**: a box made of cedar wood

2) **a double mattress:** a bed mattress for a double bed, which is designed or made for two people
 欧美床的尺寸主要有四种，床垫相应地也是四种。一般以英寸为单位，折合成厘米大致如下：

king size: 80 (英寸) × 76 (英寸) = 203 (厘米) × 193 (厘米)

queen size: 80 (英寸) × 60 (英寸) = 203 (厘米) × 152 (厘米)

double size: 74 (英寸) × 54 (英寸) = 188 (厘米) × 137 (厘米)

twin size: 74 (英寸) × 39 (英寸) = 188 (厘米) × 99 (厘米)

39. (Para. 26) **Spooky flew off the top of a sliding bookcase and also disappeared.:** The cat on the top of the bookcase was also carried away by the wind.

a sliding bookcase: The bookcase was sliding because the floor tilted.

40. (Para. 26) **“If the floor goes,” he yelled at his father, “let’s get the kids on this.”:** If the floor disintegrates, let’s put the children on this wooden door. (The wooden door will help to keep the children afloat in the water.)

41. (Para. 27) **The main thrust of Camille had passed.:** The direct and forceful attack of the hurricane had passed.

42. (Para. 29) **...trying to absorb the shattering scenes before their eyes.:** trying to fully understand the extensive damage and destruction which they saw all round them.

43. (Para. 29) **“What do we do?” they asked. “Where do we go?”:** These questions, which they asked themselves and each other, revealed their helplessness and desperate plight. The hurricane destroyed their house, and they lost all their possessions. Not knowing where to go or what to do, they felt helpless.

44. (Para. 30) **Before dawn, the Mississippi National Guard and civil-defense units were moving in to handle traffic, guard property, set up communications centers, help clear the debris and take the homeless by truck and bus to refugee centers.:** A series of verbs are used here to show how rapidly the rehabilitation work was carried out.

the Mississippi National Guard: 密西西比州国民警卫队。国民警卫队是美国的一种民兵组织，平时隶属于各州政府，战时则由联邦政府改编入正规军。

45. (Para. 30) **By 10 a.m., the Salvation Army’s canteen trucks and Red Cross volunteers and staffers were going wherever possible to distribute hot drinks, food, clothing and bedding.:** Relief work was also started very quickly by the Salvation Army and the Red Cross.

1) **canteen trucks:** trucks distributing food and drink to the refugees

2) **staffers:** members of staff, especially in political organizations or in journalism. Here it refers to staff members of Red Cross.

e.g. The Sky News TV Station is largely run by ex-BBC *staffers*.

46. (Para. 31) **The federal government shipped 4,400,000 pounds of food, moved in mobile homes, set up portable classrooms, opened offices to provide low-interest, long-term business loans.:** The federal government also quickly supplied food, mobile homes, classrooms and loans to the stricken area. In these two paragraphs the writer tries to show how rapidly and efficiently relief and rehabilitation work is carried out in the US. He also tries to show the support for the hurricane-stricken people given by the different strata of American society from the federal government to individual volunteers. Again, a series of verbs are used to show that the relief work is being carried out in an efficient and orderly manner.

low-interest, long-term business loans: 低利息的长期商业贷款

47. (Para. 32) **Camille, meanwhile, had raked its way northward across Mississippi, dropping more than 28 inches of rain into West Virginia and southern Virginia, causing rampaging floods, huge mountain slides and 111 additional deaths before breaking up over the Atlantic Ocean.:**

- 1) **raked its way:** metaphor. The word “rake” is used figuratively here meaning to attack and devastate as it moved along. To rake its way means to move its way as if by using a rake, making the place level.
- 2) **rampaging floods:** violent, raging floods
- 3) mountain slides: the fall of a mass of rock, snow, earth, etc. down a mountain slope; avalanche
- 4) **breaking up over the Atlantic Ocean:** the storm clouds finally dispersing as the hurricane reached the Atlantic Ocean

48. (Para. 33) **...and he pitched in with Seabees...** He set to work energetically with the Seabees.

pitched in: (*informal*) join and help with an activity

e.g. Many non-governmental organizations as well as individual volunteers *pitched in* with rescue and relief work after the earthquake.

Seabees: Seabees are members of the United States Navy construction battalions. The word “Seabee” is a proper noun that comes from the initials of Construction Battalion, (CB) of the United States Navy. The Seabees have a history of building bases, bulldozing and paving thousands of miles of roadway and airstrips, and accomplishing myriad other construction projects in a wide variety of military theaters dating back to World War II.

49. (Para. 34) **The children appeared to suffer no psychological damage from their experience; they were still awed by the incomprehensible power of the hurricane...** Although the children were still frightened by the force and power of the hurricane which they could not understand, psychologically it seemed they had not suffered in any way from their experience.

50. (Para. 34) **Janis had just one delayed reaction.** Janis displayed rather late the exhaustion brought about by the nervous tension caused by the hurricane. (A few nights after the storm, she awoke suddenly at 2 a.m., went outside and began to cry softly.) 从这句话中，读者可以清楚地看出飓风给人留下巨大的心灵创伤。

51. (Para. 35) **It could have been depressing...wrath of the storm.** Going through the wrecked home and picking up things could have had a depressing effect, but it didn't. When they picked up some useful things they felt as if they had won some kind of a victory over the storm.

52. (Para. 36) **But the blues did occasionally afflict all the adults.** But sometimes the grown-up people felt a bit unhappy and depressed. Psychologically, adults went through unbearable pains.

the blues: (*informal*) a sad and depressed feeling

Note “the blues” also mean a type of music which was developed by African American musicians in the southern America, characterized by a slow tempo and strong rhythm.

e.g. Some people who get *the blues* tend to drink too much alcohol.

53. (Para. 37) **“Let's not cry about what's gone...”:** Let's not complain uselessly (express vain regrets) about what's already happened.

54. (Para. 37) **“...We'll just start all over.”:** We'll just start doing everything again from the beginning.

55. (Para. 39) **“We lost practically all our possessions, but the family came through it. When I think of that, I realize we lost nothing important.”:** These two sentences are important, for they express the theme of this essay—human lives are important and material possessions are not. 这两句话揭示了全文的主题，即人的生命是最可贵的。和人类生命相比，物质财富并不重要。

V Key to Exercises (练习答案)

I. Oral Presentation

Suggested Presentation Outline:

1. Hurricane Katrina

Students may choose different perspectives of Hurricane Katrina rather than a mere general introduction to the Hurricane itself. The following are suggested perspectives:

General introduction:

Since it might be the most intense hurricane in the US, Hurricane Katrina has been estimated as the costliest in history to strike the United States. It affects areas including southern Florida, Louisiana (especially the Greater New Orleans area), Mississippi, Alabama, the western Florida, western and north Georgia.

Different perspectives:

Political Influence: President Bush was facing a political hurricane as he was criticized for slow response to Hurricane Katrina. The Bush administration was also under blame for delaying a research on how to protect New Orleans from a catastrophic hurricane. Relevant issues such as climate change and US environmental policies also concerned environmental personnel and agencies in the States.

Economic influence:

The cost of Iraqi War resulted in undercut of fund in emergency.

Hurricane-related accidents: car accidents, fires, health issues.

Health concerns: the prolonged lack of water, food, shelter and sanction facilities and relative health concerns such as dehydration and food poisoning, and possible outbreaks of diarrhea and respiratory problems.

Relief works:

US Department of Homeland Security

national guard

federal fund

volunteering aid

international aid

public reaction

the failure evacuation and relocation of low-income residents

public responses to insufficient rescuing and Iraqi War

2. My experience of an earthquake (or a flood, or a typhoon, or a bad accident, etc.)

Outline:

a general introduction to what has happened

detailed description of the earthquake when it was happening (following the pattern of the text).

description of your feelings (scare, consolation, etc.) and how you recovered

Other Research Topics:

climate change

the hurricane

psychological impact of natural disasters

2011 Japan earthquake: nuclear leak
post-disaster reconstruction
prediction and warning system of natural disaster (earthquake, tsunami, hurricane)

II. Questions

A. Questions on the Content:

1. John Koshak believed that the chance of his house surviving the storm was not slim for the following reasons: For one thing, the house was 23 feet above sea level, much higher than his former home which was demolished by Hurricane Betsy; for another, he was reluctant to abandon his home because his business was right there; that is, the supplies and other stuff related to his business were all stored in the house.
2. They filled bathtubs and pails in case that the water mains were damaged. Besides, they checked out the batteries for radio and flashlights and the fuel for the lantern as they might need them in the event of power failure. A generator was necessary because they could wire light bulbs to it and prepared a connection to the refrigerator.
3. They found it impossible to escape both by car and on foot. The car's electricity system had been killed by water and the water was rising inch by inch up the steps as the first-floor outside walls collapsed so that the water became too deep for them to flee on foot.
4. As John watched the water inch its way up the steps, he felt a strong sense of guilt because he blamed himself for underestimating the power of the hurricane and thus endangering the whole family by his wrong decision not to flee to safer inland.
5. Grandmother Koshak knew how frightened the children were and she tried in vain to boost their spirit by leading them to sing.
6. A hurricane party was the one held by vacationers to enjoy the unusual and impressive spectacle of the hurricane in the fancy Richelieu Apartments from where they believed they would be safe and be able to observe the process of the natural phenomenon closely with a clear and broad view. It happened that these vacationers were eventually found missing and the Richelieu Apartments ceased to be their refuge from the hurricane. Rather, the powerful hurricane smashed the apartments apart.
7. The hurricane caused great property loss, but the whole family survived the hurricane. What Grandmother Koshak meant is that human lives are more important and valuable than material possessions.
8. They managed to make their life return to normal and started rebuilding their community without delay.

B. Questions on Structure and Style:

1. The actions, incidents and events in this piece of narration are presented in a chronological order, following the natural time sequence of the happenings. The first six paragraphs are introductory paragraphs, giving the time, place and background of the conflict between man and hurricane.
2. The writer focuses mainly on action but he also clearly and sympathetically depicts the characters in the story, such as the protagonist John Koshak, Jr.
3. The conflict develops between man and nature—hurricane.
4. The writer builds up and sustains the suspense in the story by describing in detail, and vividly, the incidents showing how the Koshaks and their friends struggled against each onslaught of the hurricane.

5. The insertion of Paragraphs 19 and 20 serves as proof of the ravaging power of the other opposing force—the hurricane in the conflict so that man’s eventual triumph over the hurricane becomes more amazing and admirable.
6. The story reaches its climax in Paragraphs 26 and 27 and from then on the story moves rapidly to its conclusion.
7. Yes, it is important. Because the writer states his theme or the purpose behind his story in the reflection of Grandmother Koshak: “We lost practically all our possessions, but the family came through it. When I think of that, I realize we lost nothing important.” After all, human lives are more valuable than material possessions.
8. The writer uses many elliptical and short simple sentences as he narrates the family’s response to each onslaught of the hurricane.

Elliptical sentences:

“Everybody out the back door to the cars!” (Para. 10)

“Back to the house!” (Para. 11)

“Everybody on the stairs!” (Para. 12)

“You won’t have to.” (Para. 15)

“Up the stairs—into our bedroom!” (Para. 21)

“Into the television room!” (Para. 22)

Short simple sentences:

“Stay away from the windows.” (Para. 7)

“It’s bound to end soon.” (Para. 15)

“Get us through this mess, will You?” (Para. 17)

“Let’s get that mattress up!” (Para. 25)

By using the elliptical and short sentences, the writer tries to display how tense the atmosphere becomes as the hurricane strikes at the house and how decisive and determined the protagonist appears in face of the disaster.

III. Paraphrase

1. Our house is 23 feet above sea level.
2. The house was built in 1915, and since then no hurricane has done any damage to it.
3. We can make the necessary preparations and survive the hurricane without much damage.
4. Water got into the generator, it stopped working. As a result all lights were put out.
5. Everyone go out through the back door and get into the cars!
6. The electrical systems in the cars had been destroyed/ruined by water.
7. As John watched the water inch its way up the steps, he felt a strong sense of guilt because he blamed himself for endangering the family by making the wrong decision not to flee inland.
8. Oh, God, please help us to get through this dangerous situation.
9. She sang a few words alone and then her voice gradually grew dimmer and stopped.
10. Janis didn’t show any fear on the spot during the storm, but she revealed her feelings caused by the storm a few nights after the hurricane by getting up in the middle of the night and crying softly.

IV. Practice with Words and Expressions

A.

1. main: a principal pipe, conduit, or line in a distributing system for water, gas, electricity etc.
2. sit out: to stay until the end
3. report: a loud, resounding noise, especially one made by an explosion
4. douse: to put out (a light, fire, generator etc.) quickly by pouring water over it
5. kill: to destroy, to end
6. litter: the young borne at one time by a dog, cat, or other animals which normally bear several young at a delivery
7. swath: a broad strip, originally the space or width covered with one cut of a scythe or other mowing device
8. bar: a measure in music; the notes between two vertical lines on a music sheet
9. lean-to: a shed or other small outbuilding with a sloping roof, the upper end of which rests against the wall of another building
10. break up: to disperse; be brought to an end
11. pitch in: to join and help with an activity
12. the blues: sad and depressed feelings

B.

1. pummel: f. to beat or hit with repeated blows, especially with the fist
2. scud: h. to run or move swiftly
3. roar: a. a loud deep cry
4. scramble: i. to climb, crawl or clamber hurriedly
5. swipe: j. a hard, sweeping blow
6. skim: l. to throw in a gliding path
7. perish: m. to die, especially die a violent or untimely death
8. beach: k. to ground (a boat) on the beach
9. slash: d. to cut or wound with a sweeping stroke as with a knife
10. sprawl: b. to spread the limbs in a relaxed, awkward or unnatural position
11. vanish: g. to go or pass suddenly from sight
12. thrust: c. to push with sudden force
13. wrath: e. intense anger

V. Translation

A.

1. Each and every plane must be checked out thoroughly before taking off.
2. The residents were firmly opposed to the construction of a waste incineration plant in their neighborhood because they were deeply concerned about the plant's emissions polluting the air.
3. Investment in ecological projects in this area mounted up to billions of *yuan*.
4. The dry riverbed was strewn with rocks of all sizes.
5. Although war caused great losses to this country, its cultural traditions did not perish.
6. To make space for modern high rises, many ancient buildings with ethnic cultural features had to be demolished.

7. In the earthquake the main structures of most of the poor-quality houses disintegrated.
8. His wonderful dream vanished into the air despite his hard efforts to achieve his goals.

B.

1. 但是，和住在沿岸的其他成千上万的居民一样，约翰不愿舍弃家园，除非他的家人——妻子珍妮丝和他们的七个孩子，大的11岁，小的才3岁——明显处于危险之中。
2. 随着一声巨响，楼上一个房间里的法式双开门砰的一声被风吹倒了。大家听到楼上其他玻璃窗破碎时发出的像开枪一样的啪啪的响声。
3. 大家都吓坏了，喘不过气来，全身都湿透了。他们坐在楼梯上，楼梯的两侧有内墙保护着。
4. 谁都清楚已经无路可逃，是死是活他们只能留在房子里了。
5. 过了一会儿，一阵强风把整个屋顶掀到了空中，将其抛到了40英尺之外。
6. 在飓风中心约70英里宽的范围内，风速接近每小时200英里，掀起的海浪高达30英尺。
7. 未被飓风刮倒的树上像结彩似的挂满被风撕成布条的衣服，吹断的电线像黑色的意大利面条一样一圈一圈地散落在路面上。
8. 在废墟里寻找残留物品本应会令人沮丧，可事实上并非如此，因为每一件未被毁坏的东西都代表他们战胜狂风的一个小小的胜利。

C.

第24段

科谢克老爸心里十分恼火，深为自己在飓风面前无能为力而感到懊丧。也说不清为什么，他跑进一间卧室将一只杉木箱和一个双人床垫拖进了电视室。就在此时，一面墙壁被风刮倒了，提灯也给吹灭了。另外又有一堵墙在晃动。查尔斯·希尔试图以身子撑住它，结果没有顶住，墙塌在他身上，砸伤了他的背。房子在颤动摇晃，已从地基上挪开25英尺。整个世界似乎都要分崩离析了。

第25段

“让我们把床垫竖起来！”约翰对父亲大声叫道。“把床垫斜靠着挡挡风。让孩子躲到垫子下面，我们可以用头和肩膀把垫子撑住！”

第26段

大一点的孩子趴在地板上，小一点的趴在他们背上，大人们弯着腰，把这九个孩子护在他们身下。地板倾斜了。盛着一窝小猫的盒子从架上滑下来，一下子就在风中消失了。猫妈妈斯普琪从一个活动书柜顶上被吹走，也消失得无影无踪。邻居的狗紧闭双眼，缩成一团。又一堵墙塌了。水拍打着倾斜的地板。约翰抓住一扇还连在壁柜墙上的门，对他父亲大声叫道：“如果地板塌了，咱们就把孩子放到这面门板上。”

VI Read, Think and Comment

This passage is a piece of narration. It tells how an accident happens. The writer narrates the actions in the order of their occurrence. The first sentence of the paragraph gives the setting of the accident: the time and place. It then introduces the character, or the protagonist, to whom the accident is to happen. A few words are given to pave the way for the main action. The second paragraph focuses on the action, namely the accident. The vividness of the narration is achieved through the writer's accurate description of details and effective use of specific verbal phrases. The third paragraph tells the result, which is unexpected and rather bizarre. The man who was wounded fatally in the head did not die, but miraculously he was able to speak and walk.

VII Translation of the Text (全篇译文)

迎战飓风“卡米尔”

——约瑟夫·P·布兰克

① 小约翰·科谢克知道，飓风“卡米尔”来势必定凶猛。就在去年8月17日那个星期天，当飓风“卡米尔”越过墨西哥湾向西北进袭之时，收音机和电视里整天不断地播放着飓风警报。科谢克一家居住的地方——密西西比州的格尔夫波特——肯定会遭到这场飓风的猛烈袭击。路易斯安那、密西西比和亚拉巴马三州沿海一带的居民已有将近15万人逃往内陆安全地带。但是，和住在沿岸的其他成千上万的居民一样，约翰不愿舍弃家园，除非他的家人——妻子珍妮丝和他们的七个孩子，大的11岁，小的才3岁——明显处于危险之中。

② 为了分析和找出应对这场飓风的最佳对策，他与父母商量过。两位老人早在一个月前就从加利福尼亚迁到这里，与科谢克一家住在那幢有十个房间的日子里。他还就此征求过从拉斯韦加斯开车来访的老朋友查尔斯·希尔的意见。

③ 约翰的公司就开在自己的家里（他开办的马格纳制造公司设计、开发各种教育玩具和教育用品。公司的一切往来函件、工程设计图纸和艺术制品全都放在一楼）。37岁的他对飓风的威力是深有体会的。四年前，他原先位于格尔夫波特以西几英里外的那个家就曾毁于飓风“贝齐”（那场风灾前夕科谢克已将全家搬到一家汽车旅馆过夜）。不过，当时那幢房子所处的地势偏低，高出海平面仅几英尺。“我们现在住的这幢房子海拔23英尺，”他对父亲说，“而且我们家离大海足足有250码远。这幢房子建于1915年，迄今为止还没有飓风对它造成破坏。我们呆在这儿恐怕是再安全不过了。”

④ 老科谢克67岁，是个性急热情、技术精湛的机械师。他对儿子的意见表示赞同。“我们可以做好必要的准备，安然度过这次风暴。”他说，“一旦发现危险信号，我们还可以赶在天黑之前撤离。”

⑤ 为了对付这场飓风，几个男人有条不紊地做着准备工作。自来水管可能遭到损坏，他们把浴盆和提桶都盛满水。飓风也可能造成断电，所以他们仔细检查了手提式收音机和手电筒里的电池以及提灯里的油。约翰的父亲将一台小型发电机搬到楼下的门厅里，接上几个灯泡，并做好把发电机与电冰箱接通的准备。

⑥ 那天下午，雨一直下个不停，乌云随着越来越猛的暴风从墨西哥湾上空席卷而来。全家早早地吃了晚饭。一位丈夫在越南打仗的邻居跑来看，她和她的两个孩子是否能与科谢克一家一起躲避风灾；另一位准备向内陆转移的邻居也跑来问科谢克家能否替他照看一下他的狗。

⑦ 不到七点钟，天就黑了。狂风暴雨抽打着屋子。约翰让大儿子和大女儿上楼去取来被褥和枕头给几个小一点的孩子。他想把全家人都集中在同一层楼上。“不要靠近窗户！”他警告说，担心被飓风震碎的玻璃会飞来伤人。风凶猛地咆哮起来，屋子开始漏雨——那雨水好像能穿墙透壁，直往屋里灌。一家人都操起拖把、毛巾、盆罐和水桶，与迅速漫延的水展开了战斗。到八点半，电源中断，科谢克老爹便启动了小型发电机。

⑧ 飓风的咆哮声排山倒海。房子摇晃着，起居室的天花板一块块掉下来。随着一声巨响，楼上一个房间里的法式双开门砰的一声被风吹倒了。大家听到楼上其他玻璃窗破碎时发出的像开枪一样的啪啪的响声。雨水没过了他们的脚踝。

⑨ 接着，前门开始与门框分离。约翰和查尔斯用肩膀抵住门，但一股巨浪冲过来，撞开了大门，把两人都掀倒在地板上。发电机泡在水里，电灯熄灭了。查尔斯舔了舔嘴唇，对着约翰大声喊道：“我想这回我们真的碰到麻烦了。这水是咸的。”海水已经涌到房子跟前，水位仍在不断上涨。

⑩“大家都走后门到汽车那儿去!”约翰大声喊道。“我们把孩子们一个个递过去,数一数!一共九个!”

⑪孩子们像救火队的水桶一样从大人手上依次被递了过去。可是汽车发动不起来,它的电路系统被水泡坏了。水深风急,不可能靠两只脚逃命。“回屋里去!”约翰高声喊道,“数一数孩子,一共九个!”

⑫等他们连滚带爬地回到屋里时,约翰又命令道:“都到楼梯上去!”大家都吓坏了,喘不过气来,全身都湿透了。他们坐在楼梯上,楼梯的两侧有内墙保护着。孩子们把一只取名为斯普琪的猫和一个装着四只小猫仔的盒子放在楼梯平台上。斯普琪心神不定地打量着自己的幼仔,邻居的那条狗已蜷起身子睡着了。

⑬狂风就像从身边呼啸而过的列车一样发出震耳欲聋的响声。房屋摇晃着,开始位移。一楼的外墙坍塌了,海水渐渐漫上了楼梯。大家沉默无语,谁都清楚已经无路可逃,是死是活他们只能留在房子里了。

⑭查尔斯·希尔对那位邻居和她两个孩子多少尽了一点责任。那位母亲几乎是惊恐万状。她紧紧地抓住他的胳膊连声说道:“我不会游泳,我不会游泳啊!”

⑮“你没有必要,”他强装镇定地安慰她道,“一会儿它就过去了。”

⑯科谢克老奶奶伸出胳膊搂着丈夫的肩,把嘴凑到他的耳边说,“老爷子,我爱你。”他扭过头来也说“我爱你”——说话声已不像平日那样粗声粗气了。

⑰约翰望着海水拍打着台阶,心里感到非常内疚。都怪他低估了飓风“卡米尔”的凶猛程度,一直认为未曾发生过的事情绝不可能发生。他两手抱着头,默默地祈祷着:“上帝啊,保佑我们渡过这个难关吧!”

⑱过了一会儿,一阵强风把整个屋顶掀到了空中,将其抛到了40英尺之外。楼梯底层的几级台阶断裂开来。有一堵墙开始摇摇欲坠,砸向这群无路可逃的男女老少。

⑲罗伯特·H.辛普森博士是设在佛罗里达州迈阿密的国家飓风研究中心主任,他将飓风“卡米尔”列为“有史以来袭击西半球有人居住地区的最猛烈的一场飓风”。在飓风中心约70英里宽的范围内,风速接近每小时200英里,掀起的海浪高达30英尺。在墨西哥湾沿海地区,飓风所过之处,所有东西都被摧毁。19,467户人家和709家小企业不是完全被毁,便是遭到严重的破坏。高尔夫波特一个60万加仑的储油罐被狂风刮起,扔到了3.5英里以外的地方。三艘大型货轮被刮离停泊区,推上海滩。电线杆和20英寸粗的松树一遇狂风便像放枪似的啪啪地爆裂开来。

⑳位于高尔夫波特以西的帕斯克里斯琴安镇几乎被夷为平地。住在该镇豪华的黎塞留公寓的一些度假旅客为目睹飓风的奇观专门举行了聚会,从他们所在的有利地位观赏飓风的壮观景象。结果黎塞留公寓像被一只巨大无比的拳头砸得粉碎,26人因此丧生。

㉑科谢克家的屋顶一被掀掉,约翰就高声喊道:“快上楼——进卧室!数数孩子。”在暴雨中,大人们围成一圈,让孩子们挤在中间。科谢克老奶奶恳求道:“孩子们,咱们唱歌吧!”孩子们都吓坏了,根本没有一点反应。老奶奶独个儿唱了几句,然后她的声音就渐渐消失了。

㉒起居室的壁炉和烟囱坍塌了,瓦砾横飞。眼看他们避难的那间卧室也有两面墙壁行将崩塌,约翰立即命令大家:“进电视室!”这是距风头最远的一个房间。

㉓约翰拥抱了一下他的妻子。珍妮丝明白了他的意思。由于风雨交加和恐惧,她不住地发抖。她一面拉过两个孩子紧贴在自己身边,一面默默地祈祷着:“亲爱的主啊,赐给我力量,让我经受住必须经受的一切吧”。她心里怨恨这场飓风。“我们一定不会让它得胜。”

㉔科谢克老爸心里十分恼火,深为自己在飓风面前无能为力而感到懊丧。也说不清为什么,他跑进一间卧室将一只杉木箱和一个双人床垫拖进了电视室。就在此时,一面墙壁被风刮倒了,提

灯也给吹灭了。另外又有一堵墙在晃动。查尔斯·希尔试图以身子撑住它，结果没有顶住，墙塌在他身上，砸伤了他的背。房子在颤动摇晃，已从地基上挪开25英尺。整个世界似乎都要分崩离析了。

②5 “让我们把床垫竖起来！”约翰对父亲大声叫道。“把床垫斜靠着挡挡风。让孩子们躲到垫子下面，我们可以用头和肩膀把垫子撑住！”

②6 大一点的孩子趴在地板上，小一点的趴在他们背上，大人们弯着腰，把这九孩子护在他们身下。地板倾斜了。盛着一窝小猫的盒子从书架上滑下来，一下子就在风中消失了。猫妈妈斯普琪从一个活动书柜顶上被吹走，也消失得无影无踪。邻居的狗紧闭双眼，缩成一团。又一堵墙塌了。水拍打着倾斜的地板。约翰抓住一扇还连在壁柜墙上的门，对他父亲大声叫道：“如果地板塌了，咱们就把孩子放到这面门板上。”

②7 就在这时，风势稍稍缓和了一些，水也不再上涨。随后水开始回落。飓风“卡米尔”直接而强有力的袭击已经过去。科谢克一家和他们的朋友都幸免于难。

②8 天刚破晓，格尔夫波特的居民便开始陆续返回家园。他们看到了遇难者的尸体——密西西比河沿岸就有130多名男女和儿童丧生——海滩和公路上有些地方到处都是死狗、死猫和死牲畜。未被飓风刮倒的树上像结彩似的挂满被风撕成布条的衣服，吹断的电线像黑色的意大利面条一样一圈一圈地散落在路面上。

②9 那些返回家园的人们都慢慢地走着，没有人高声说话。他们怔住了，停下脚步，力图理解眼前这次飓风造成的范围广泛的损失和破坏。他们问道：“我们该怎么办？”“我们上哪儿去？”

③0 这时，该地区的一些团体，实际上还有全美国的人民，都向沿海受灾地区伸出了援助之手。天还没亮，密西西比州国民警卫队和一些民防队便开进灾区，管理交通，保护财物，建立通讯联络中心，帮助清理废墟并将无家可归的人用卡车和公共汽车送往难民收容中心。上午十时，救世军的流动快餐车和红十字会志愿者及工作人员已前往所有能够到达的地方分发热饮料、食品、衣服和卧具。

③1 全国各地的数百个城镇募集了数百万美元的捐款送往灾区。各种家用和医疗用品通过飞机、火车、卡车和轿车源源不断地运进灾区。联邦政府运来了440万磅食品，还运来了活动房屋，建起了活动教室，并设立办公室发放低息长期商业贷款。

③2 在此期间，飓风“卡米尔”横扫密西西比州后继续北进，给西弗吉尼亚州和弗吉尼亚南部带来了28英寸以上的降水，致使洪水泛滥，巨大的山体滑坡，另外还造成111人丧生，最后才在大西洋上空慢慢消散。

③3 像许许多多格尔夫波特的其他家庭一样，科谢克一家很快便开始重新组织生活。约翰把一家人分到两个朋友家里寄居，邻居和她的两个孩子进了难民收容中心，查尔斯·希尔则租了一间屋子住下。到了星期二，查尔斯背部的伤好了些，便劲头十足地与海军工程大队队员一道干上了最艰苦的一项志愿工作——搜寻尸体。风灾过后三天，他决定不回拉斯韦加斯，而是“留在格尔夫波特帮助当地居民重建家园”。

③4 第一周快要过去的时候，一个朋友让出自己的公寓给科谢克一家居住。于是，科谢克全家又团聚了。孩子们经历这一场大难后心理似乎并没有受到什么伤害。虽然他们对于飓风那不可思议的威力还是心有余悸，但却津津乐道地描述他们在那个可怕的夜晚的所见所闻，珍妮丝对于这场经历的反应则过了一段时间后才表现出来。风灾过了好几天后，她在凌晨两点蓦然惊醒，不声不响地起床走到屋外。她仰望着天空，不知不觉地轻轻哭了起来。

③5 与此同时，约翰同老爸及查理一起清理房子的废墟，看看还有什么有用的东西。在废墟里寻找残留物品本应会令人沮丧，可事实上并非如此，因为每一件未被毁坏的东西都代表他们战胜狂风的一个小小的胜利。那只狗和猫突然出现在他们面前。它们并没有死，只是饿坏了。

③⑥ 可是，成年人偶尔也会感到沮丧。有一次约翰就曾情绪低落地对父亲说，“我原本希望你们搬到这里来，我们可以合家团聚，您二老也可以含饴弄孙。没想到发生了这种事情。”

③⑦ 他父亲早已打定主意等生活恢复正常以后开办一个电焊铺。他说道：“事已至此，抱怨也没有用。一切都重新开始吧。”

③⑧ “您真了不起，”约翰说道。“这镇上有许多了不起的人物。这里一定会比过去更美好。”

③⑨ 后来，科谢克老奶奶沉思道：“咱们的财物实际上损失殆尽，可一家人全都活了下来。这样一想，我就觉得我们并没有损失什么重要的东西。”

(摘自 P. 约瑟夫·卡纳万所著《修辞与文学》)