

Unit 1

Bearing Friendship in Mind

Passage A Mr. Gillespie

When I was in seventh grade, I was a candy striper at a local hospital in my town. I volunteered about thirty to forty hours a week during the summer. Most of the time I spent there was with Mr. Gillespie. He never had any visitors, and nobody seemed to care about his condition. I spent many days there holding his hand and talking to him, helping with anything that needed to be done. He became a close friend of mine, even though he responded with only an occasional squeeze of my hand. Mr. Gillespie was in a coma.

I left for a week to vacation with my parents, and when I came back, Mr. Gillespie was gone. I didn't have the nerve to ask any of the nurses where he was, for fear that they might tell me he had died. So with many questions unanswered, I continued to volunteer there through my eighth-grade year.

Several years later, when I was a junior in high school, I was at the gas station when I noticed a familiar face. When I realized who it was, my eyes filled with tears. He was alive. I got up the nerve to ask him if his name was Mr. Gillespie, and if he had been in a coma about five years ago. With an uncertain look on his face, he replied yes. I explained how I knew him, and that I had spent many hours talking with him in the hospital. His eyes welled up with tears, and he gave me the warmest hug.



He began to tell me how, as he lay there comatose, he could hear me talking to him and could feel me holding his hand the whole time. He thought it was an angel, not a person, who was there with him. Mr. Gillespie firmly believed that it was my voice and touch that had kept him alive.

Then he told me about his life and what happened to him to put him in the coma. We both cried for a while and exchanged a hug, said our good-byes and went our separate ways.

Although I haven't seen him since, he fills my heart with joy every day. I know that I made a

difference between his life and his death. More importantly, he has made a tremendous difference in my life. I will never forget him and what he did for me: he made me an angel.

New Words

| | | |
|----------------|------------|---------------------|
| 1. angel | <i>n.</i> | 天使 |
| 2. candy | <i>n.</i> | 糖果 |
| 3. coma | <i>n.</i> | 昏迷 |
| 4. comatose | <i>a.</i> | 昏迷的 |
| 5. condition | <i>n.</i> | 情形, 状况 |
| 6. firmly | <i>ad.</i> | 坚定地 |
| 7. gas | <i>n.</i> | 汽油 |
| 8. hug | <i>n.</i> | 拥抱 |
| 9. joy | <i>n.</i> | 欢乐, 喜悦 |
| 10. junior | <i>n.</i> | (美国中学或四年制大学的) 三年级学生 |
| 11. local | <i>a.</i> | 当地的 |
| 12. nerve | <i>n.</i> | 胆量, 勇气 |
| 13. occasional | <i>a.</i> | 偶然的, 非经常的 |
| 14. respond | <i>v.</i> | 回答, 作出反应 |
| 15. separate | <i>a.</i> | 分开的, 各自的 |
| 16. squeeze | <i>n.</i> | 捏 |
| 17. striper | <i>n.</i> | 佩带条纹标志的人 |
| 18. tremendous | <i>a.</i> | 极大的, 巨大的 |
| 19. volunteer | <i>n.</i> | 志愿者 |
| 20. well | <i>v.</i> | 涌出 |

Notes

1. candy striper: 志愿当护士助手的小姑娘; 医院的志愿工作者 (得名于志愿者红白相间的条纹制服与甘蔗相似的缘故)

2. I didn't have the nerve to ask any of the nurses where he was, for fear that they might tell me he had died. So with many questions unanswered, I continued to volunteer there through my eighth-grade year.

我没有勇气去问护士他在哪里, 因为我害怕她们可能会告诉我他已经死了。带着许多未解的疑问, 上八年级期间我继续在那里当志愿者。

have the nerve to do sth.: 有勇气做某事

for fear (that)....: 生怕 (某事) 发生

3. Mr. Gillespie firmly believed that it was my voice and touch that had kept him alive.
吉莱斯皮先生坚信是我的声音和抚摸支撑他活了下来。

It was...that...: it+动词be+强调部分+who(m)或that+其他部分是英语中的强调结构。

Exercises

1. Choose the best answer.

- 1) Why did the author spend most of the time in hospital with Mr. Gillespie?
 - A. Because she had nothing else to do.
 - B. Because they were close friends.
 - C. Because Mr. Gillespie was in danger of losing his life.
 - D. Because Mr. Gillespie had no visitors and nobody seemed to care about him.

- 2) Which of the following statements is TRUE according to the passage?
 - A. Mr. Gillespie couldn't hear the author's voice because he was in a coma.
 - B. Mr. Gillespie left the hospital because he couldn't afford the medical treatment.
 - C. The author couldn't recognize Mr. Gillespie when they happened to meet several years later.
 - D. The author was a kind and compassionate person.

- 3) Why didn't the author ask the nurses where Mr. Gillespie was when she found he was gone?
 - A. Because she didn't care about Mr. Gillespie any more.
 - B. Because she thought the nurse wouldn't tell her the truth.
 - C. Because she was afraid that the nurse might tell her the bad news.
 - D. Because she knew Mr. Gillespie had fully recovered and was discharged from hospital.

- 4) According to Mr. Gillespie, who saved his life?
 - A. The nurses.
 - B. His relatives.
 - C. The author.
 - D. An angel.

- 5) Why did the author say that Mr. Gillespie made her an angel?
 - A. Because helping Mr. Gillespie brought her happiness and changed her life.
 - B. Because she was glad to nurse Mr. Gillespie back to health.
 - C. Because Mr. Gillespie thought it was an angel, not a person, who was with him.
 - D. Because an angel is generous and helpful.

2. Complete the statements that follow the questions.

- 1) How did the author help Mr. Gillespie in the local hospital?
She spent many days there _____ and talking to him, helping with anything that needed to be done.
- 2) Why couldn't Mr. Gillespie respond to the author with a word?
Because he was _____.
- 3) Why was the author moved to tears when she met Mr. Gillespie at the gas station?
Because she found Mr. Gillespie _____.
- 4) In Mr. Gillespie's belief, what had kept him alive?
It was the author's _____ that had kept him alive.
- 5) What did the author mean by saying "he has made a tremendous difference in my life" ?
Helping Mr. Gillespie brought _____ to the author.

3. Match the following words with the definitions below and then fill in the blanks with their proper forms.

local condition respond nerve fear
realize alive touch exchange separate

- 1) (*verb*) make a reply; answer
I offered him a drink but he didn't _____.
- 2) (*noun*) a mode or state of being
_____ in the office made concentration impossible.
- 3) (*adjective*) of or relating to a city, town, or district rather than a larger area
My brother went to the _____ school.
- 4) (*verb*) understand or become aware of
I don't think you _____ how important this is to her.
- 5) (*noun*) courage, determination, and self-control
He lost his _____ at the last minute.
- 6) (*noun*) the bad feeling that you have when you are in danger, or when sth. bad might happen
Being alone is my greatest _____.

7) (*noun*) the act of touching

I felt a gentle _____ on my arm.

8) (*adjective*) having life; living

The fish we caught is still _____.

9) (*verb*) give sth. in return for sth. received

We took the opportunity to _____ experience with them.

10) (*adjective*) not shared; individual

The suite consists of four _____ rooms.

Reading Skills

Preview

预览

在正式阅读前，先快速预览一下全文是很有必要的，特别是遇到篇幅较长的文章时。快速预览的目的在于了解文章结构和大意，为接下来的阅读做思想准备。

文章中需要进行预览的内容一般有：1) 标题及小标题、副标题；2) 插图、图表；3) 黑体字、斜体字、底部划线字；4) 每个段落的第一句话；5) 文章第一段及最后一段概括全文的内容。

[例] 预览本单元的 Passage A

预览标题：标题Mr. Gillespie提示这是一篇叙述人物故事的文章，文章的情节会紧紧围绕这个人物展开。因此在阅读时要特别关注文章中有关这个人物的细节，以便在做阅读理解题时能做到心中有数，快速找到答案。

预览第一段：第一段讲述了作者在医院做志愿者，悉心照顾处于昏迷状态的吉莱斯皮先生的经历。从预览中可以得知故事的背景，主要人物之间的关系，故事展开的缘由等等。

预览最后一段：最后一段对故事进行了总结，作者改变了吉莱斯皮先生的命运，而吉莱斯皮先生的赞美让作者收获了关爱他人带来的喜悦与幸福。从预览中可以得知故事的结局和文章的主旨大意。

通过短短的篇章预览，我们大致了解了整篇故事的情节和主题：吉莱斯皮先生和作者有着很不一般的友谊，彼此都把对方铭记在心。通过这样的预览，稍后的仔细阅读就会比较容易和顺畅。

Exercises

1. Preview Passage B in this unit and choose the best answer.

- 1) From the title we know this passage is mainly about _____.
A. a tale of two friends on a journey
B. the importance of making friends
C. a lifelong friendship
D. a journey which builds friendship

- 2) By previewing the first paragraph, we know the author _____ his friendship with his friend.
A. trusted B. was proud of C. enjoyed D. valued

- 3) By previewing the last paragraph, we learn that _____.
A. Curt is highly ranked at a motor company
B. the author is doing his best to promote motor sales
C. the friendship between the author and Curt will last forever
D. the author trusts his clients and has a harmonious relationship with them

2. Preview Passage A in Unit 2 and fill in the following blanks with necessary information.

- 1) How many characters are there in the passage?
There are mainly _____.

- 2) What's the plot of the story in the passage?
 - a) The author received a _____ on her birthday every year from the time _____.
 - b) She didn't know who sent the flower to her, so she wanted to _____.
 - c) Her mother helped her to _____.
 - d) After her mother's death, the white gardenia _____, and she finally knew the sender was _____.

- 3) What is the passage mainly about?
It is mainly about _____.

Passage B A Journey of Friendship

Read the passage and judge whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

- 1) The author and Curt were classmates and they knew each other for many years.
- 2) Curt was good at sports, so was the author.
- 3) Curt married a few years earlier than the author.
- 4) The author was a man named Steve.
- 5) Curt drove the car instead because the author shouldn't drive after having some alcohol.
- 6) Curt was an experienced driver and the author believed in him.
- 7) Curt lost his eyesight in an accident.
- 8) Although Curt was blind, he drove home safely alone.
- 9) Curt was successful in his career despite his physical defect.
- 10) The author admired Curt very much because Curt was always right.

Curt and I have the kind of friendship that I wish everyone would be able to experience. It embodies the true meaning of partnership—trust, caring, risk-taking and all else that friendship could embrace in our hurried and harried lives (在我们忙碌坎坷的生活中友谊所能包含的一切).

Our friendship began many years ago. We met while attending different high schools, through competitive sports, and we had a mutual respect for each other's sports abilities. As the years progressed, we became the best of friends. Curt was best man (伴郎) in my wedding, and I was his a few years later when he married my sister's roommate. He is also the godfather of my son, Nicholas. And yet the event that most exemplified (体现) our partnership and solidified (坚固) our friendship happened over 25 years ago, when we were young and in our carefree 20s.

Curt and I were attending a pool party at the local Swim and Racquet Club (游泳和球类俱乐部). He had just won the door prize, a beautiful new watch. We were walking to the car, joking about the party, and Curt turned to me and said, "Steve, you've had a few cocktails, buddy—maybe I should drive." At first I thought he was joking, but since Curt is definitely the wiser of us, I respected his sober judgement.

"Good idea," I said, and handed him the keys.

Once I was settled in the passenger seat and Curt behind the wheel, he said, "I'm going to need your help because I'm not sure how to get to your house from here."

"No problem," I responded.

Curt started the car and we were off—not without the usual first-time shifting jerks and stalls, stops and



starts (一路上免不了新手开车遇到的换挡时车身颠簸, 嘎然熄火, 重新启动等问题). The next 10 miles seemed like a hundred as I prompted Curt with directions—left now, slow down, right pretty soon, speed up and so on. The important thing is that we got home safely that night.

Ten years later at my wedding, Curt brought tears to the eyes of 400 guests as he told the story of our partnership and how we drove home together that night.

Why such a remarkable story? We've all, I

hope, offered our keys when we knew we shouldn't drive. But you see, my friend Curt is blind. He has been so since birth and never sat behind the wheel of a car before that night.

Today, Curt is one of the top executives at General Motors (通用汽车公司高层管理人员) in New York, and I travel around the country inspiring salespeople to form long-lasting partnerships and friendships with their clients (顾客). Our willingness to take risks and trust in each other continues to bring meaning and joy to the journey of friendship.

Reading Comprehension from PRETCO*

Task 1

Directions: After reading the following passage, you will find 5 questions or unfinished statements. For each question or statement there are 4 choices marked A, B, C and D. You should make the correct choice and mark the corresponding letter with a single line through the center. (2004. 06)

People today are still talking about the generation gap (代沟). Some parents complain that their children do not show them proper respect, while children complain that their parents do not understand them at all.

What has gone wrong? Why has the generation gap appeared?

One important cause is that young people want to choose their own life style. In more traditional societies, when children grow up, they are expected to live in the same area as their parents, to marry people that their parents like, and often to continue the family occupation.

*PRETCO: Practical English Test for Colleges

Parents often expect their children to do better than they do, to find better jobs, to make more money, and to do all the things that they were unable to do. Often, however, the high wishes that parents place on their children are another cause of the generation gap.

Finally, the high speed of social changes deepens the gap. In a traditional culture, people are valued for their wisdom, but in our society today the knowledge of a lifetime may be out of use overnight (隔夜).

- 1) According to the passage, children today expect their parents to _____.
 - A. give them more independence
 - B. choose a good job for them
 - C. live together with them
 - D. make more money

- 2) Parents often hope that their children will _____.
 - A. make as much money as they do
 - B. be more successful than they are
 - C. choose jobs according to their own will
 - D. avoid doing what their parents can't do

- 3) The generation gap has become wider than before because of _____.
 - A. the increasing dependence of children on parents
 - B. the influence of traditional culture on children
 - C. the rapid changes of modern society
 - D. the missing of lifelong occupation

- 4) In today's society, the knowledge of a lifetime _____.
 - A. is still very much valued
 - B. becomes out of date quickly
 - C. is essential for continuing family occupations
 - D. helps the young generation to find a better job

- 5) A proper title for this passage would be _____.
 - A. Parents' Viewpoints on Generation Gap
 - B. Relationship between Family Members
 - C. Generation Gap between the Young and the Old
 - D. Difference between Traditional Culture and Modern Knowledge

Task 2

Directions: *The following is an advertisement on the Internet in the form of a letter. After reading it, you are required to complete the statements that follow the questions. You should write your answers in no more than 3 words on the Answer Sheet correspondingly. (2002. 06)*

Dear Friends,

Do you like learning English? I hope so. Of course, learning a language isn't easy. That's why Studio Classroom and Let's Talk in English are here! We want to help you discover the joys of learning English!

Take some time to browse (浏览) around our site. We've added links to several very useful Websites (网址) where you can actually learn and practice your English—ONLINE! Read the description of each site and then visit the ones that sound interesting to you.

You can also hear Studio Classroom and Let's Talk in English teaching programs on the Internet. When you visit the SinaNet Website, you can read our monthly articles and listen to our programs. Be sure to read the instructions on SinaNet about how to download (下载) RA player. Then you'll be able to hear Studio Classroom and Let's Talk in English through the Web!

Thanks for coming to our Website. Please write to us if we can help you in any way. Remember: We're your "FRIEND FOR LIFE" !

Your friend,
International Director

- 1) In what way will Studio Classroom and Let's Talk in English help English learners?
To help them enjoy _____.
- 2) How can learners of English choose the Website of their interest before visiting them?
They can first read the _____ of each Website.
- 3) How can one learn English on the SinaNet?
By reading _____ and listening to the programs.
- 4) What should you do if you are going to download RA player?
You should look at _____ on the Website.
- 5) What is introduced in this advertising letter?
A very useful _____ called SinaNet.

Reading for Fun

A New Friend of Doziest Sleepers

Can't get out of bed in the morning? Scientists at MIT's Media Lab in the United States have invented an alarm clock called Clocky to make even the doziest sleepers, who repeatedly hit the snooze button, leap out of bed. After the snooze button is pressed, the clock, which is equipped with a set of wheels, rolls off the table to another part of the room. "When the alarm sounds again, simply finding Clocky ought to be strenuous enough to prevent even the doziest owner from going back to sleep," *New Scientist* magazine said Tuesday.

