

Letter to



student

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14 钟宜

17 谢丙杰

18 洪琳

19 叶晨阳



Part1. line1 ~ line8

Part2. line9 ~ line23

Part3. line24 ~ line41

Part 4. line42 ~ line55

Part5. line 56~line59

Part1. line1 ~ line8

Reading&Summary (Nigi)

We live in a society where winning is not the most important thing, but the only thing.

Clarification (Sunny)

Line 2 **climate[n]: a general attitude or feeling; an atmosphere or situation which exists in a particular place**

Line 3 **eligibility[n]: qualification**

Line 3 **graduate school: a part of a college or university where you can study for a second or further degree**

Line 4 **go round: to be enough for everyone to have one or some**

Line 4 **a zero-sum game: a game in which whatever is gained by one side is lost by the other**

Line 5 **offset[v]: to use one cost, payment or situation in order to cancel or reduce the effect of another**

Line 6 **gospel[n]: a set of ideas that sb believes in and tries to persuade others to accept**

Line 8 **shrug away: to push sb/sth back or away with your shoulders**

Question (Starcy)

Line 1 “Your final grade for the course is B”.这句话中为什么用介词for 不用介词of?

line 4 “there’s never enough of it” What does “it” refer to?

line 5 "one person's joy offset by another's disappointment" 这部分在句子中做什么成分?

Translation (Jeremy)

Line4-6 The essence of success is that there's never enough of it to go round in a zero-sum game where one person's wining must be offset by another's losing, one person's joy offset by another's disappointment.

成功的本质是在这个有得有失的游戏里，不会任何人都成功，一个人成功的背后必定存在着另一个失败的人，一个人喜悦的背后也一定有个人黯然神伤。

Connection (Summer)

- ◆ eligibility
- ◆ offset
- ◆ shrug away

In my mind, parents are someone who love me best. Although they did not give me a wealthy family, they would try their best to make me lead a comfortable life and let me have **eligibility** to receive equal education like other children. When I was in a poisonous mood, they would patiently analyze the problem and do a table of delicious food for me to **offset** something unpleasant in my mind. As long as I **shrugged away** my disappointment, they would be really happy in their hearts.

Part2. line9 ~ line23

Reading&Summary (Jeremy)

My purpose in writing you is that I want everyone being aware of your grade is just a symbol on your college transcript, meaning the mastery of a specific course or a certain level of proficiency. Grade doesn't represent a judgment of your basic ability which matters a lot to our species.

Clarification (Starcy)

Line 9 put sth in perspective: compare sth to other things so that it can be accurately and fairly judged.

Line 11 face value: the superficial appearance or implication of sth.

Line 11 apt: [adj] likely or having a natural tendency to do sth.

Line 13 transcript: [n]an official record of a student's work that shows the courses they have taken and the marks they have achieved.

Line 17 assumption: [n]a belief or feeling that sth is true or that sth will happen, although there is no proof.

Line 19 precise: [adj]clear and accurate.

Line 19 fuzzy: [adj]confused and not expressed clearly.

Line 23 garment: [n]clothing.

Translation (Summer)

line13-line20:
paragraph 4

作为在你成绩单上的一个象征，你的成绩只能表明你已经成功地完成了特定课程的学习，达到了一定程度的熟练。你对课程的掌握程度由你在非常传统的任务的表现决定：参加考试、写论文、写报告等等。你的表现普遍认为应该与所掌握知识的多少相一致，但是我们都知知道这种假设是值得推敲的，有可能你学到的比成绩单上反应出来的要多，也有可能要少。在缺少更精准的测量工具的情况下，我们只能认为你的B等成绩充其量是个模糊的标志，它代表着一个值得推敲的判断——你对于这门学科的掌握程度如何。

Question (Nigi)

Line 9 "purpose in" Can I replace "in" with "on"?

Line9 My purpose in writing you is to put...这里to 后面是不是少了“tell you that you should”?

Line21 or of your character的of可否省略

Line23 breathing human being underneath什么意思？这句话怎么翻译和理解？

Connection (Sunny)

◆ Line 23 tag & garment

Every time after my roommates and I finish our lunch in Incity, we will have a look for **garments**. When I wander through garments, the only thing I do is to look the price **tag** on them. And usually after I seeing the price tag, I will put the garment back and walk away.

Part3. line24 ~ line41

Reading&Summary (Sunny)

The author learned from one of his instructors that he should make a clear distinction between the student as performer and the student as human being.

Clarification (Jeremy)

Line 26 norm[n]: the ways of behaving that are considered normal in a particular society.

Line 27 ritual[n]: a way of behaving or a series of actions which people regularly carry out in a particular situation, because it is their custom to do so.

Line 29 make a point of : to be or make sure you do sth because it is important or necessary

Line 29 frequent[v]: to visit a particular place often

Line 30 swap: to give sth to sb and receive sth in exchange

Line 34 flunk: in an exam or a course, fail to reach the required standard.

Line 35 resent[v] : to feel bitter or angry about sth, especially because you feel it is unfair

Line 36 coercive[adj]: measures are intended to force people to do something that they do not want to do.

Line31 : platoon[plə'tun] [n] a small group of soldiers that is part of a company[连队] and commanded by a lieutenant[中尉] （军队的）排



Line 31 sergeant ['sɑ:rdʒənt] [n] a member of one the middle ranks in the army and air force, below an officer 陆军（或空军）中士



Line 31: corporal ['kɔ:rpərəl][n]: a member of one of the lower ranks in the army the marine or British air force (陆军、海军陆战队或英国空军的) 下士



Line 32:lieutenant [lu:'tenənt]: an officer of middle rank in army, navy, or air force (陆军)中尉；（海军或空军）上尉



Line32 major: an officer of fairly high rank in the army or the US air force 少校





陆军

海军

空军

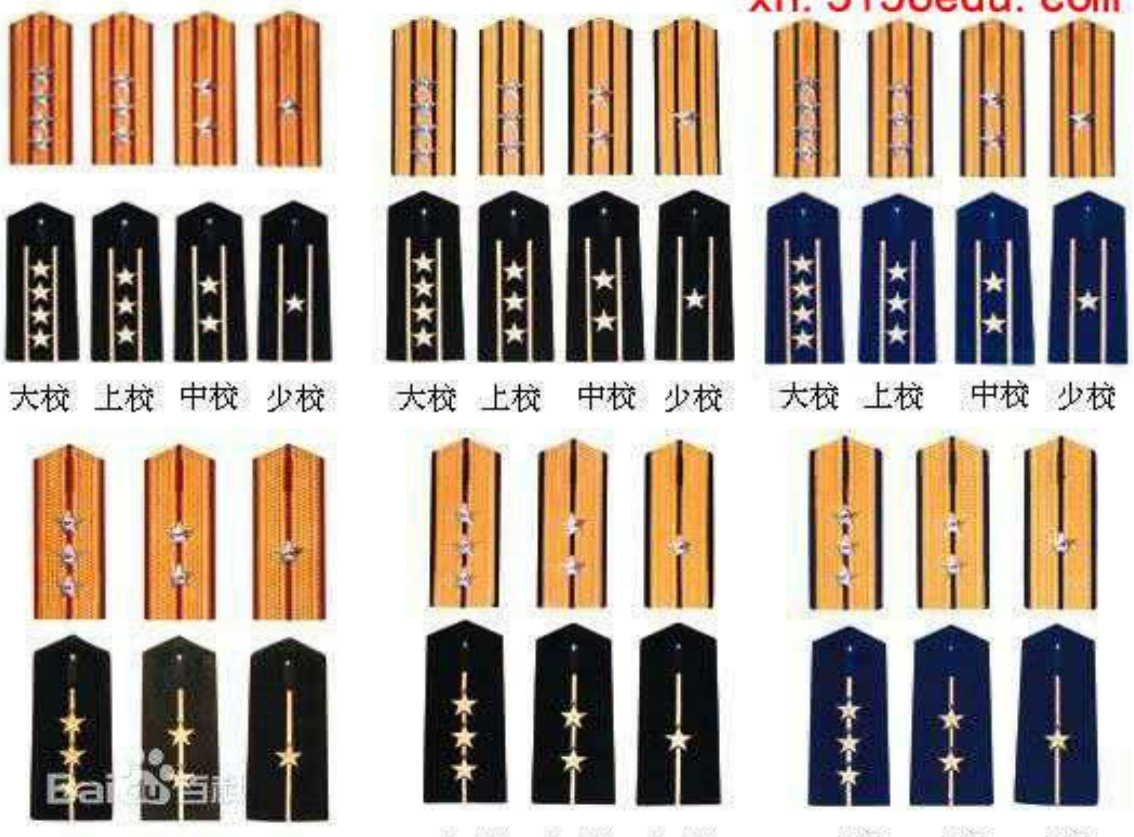


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上尉 中尉 少尉 上尉 中尉 少尉 上尉 中尉 少尉

Question (Summer)

Line24 The student as performer..... 其中as 是介词，那么这句话就没有谓语，还是一句完整的句子吗？

Line28-29 he would make a point of stopping in at a local bar frequented by many of the CI-Bill students. 这句话中in和at 为什么会连在一起，可以删掉其中一个吗？句子中的by有什么用处？

Line 30 “he would sit and drink, joke, and swop story.....”
“joke”后面的逗号可以不要吗？

Line 32majors—even a lieutenant.....中间的破折号是什么用法？

Line 33 as he their 怎么理解？

Line35 “gear” 在这里是什么意思？

Line 40 A good distinction to make .是一句完整的句子吗？

“—and your disappointment”前面的破折号的用法是什么？

Translation (Starcy)

Line 35-41 Oddly enough, the men whom he flunked did not resent it.....and your disappointment.

相当奇怪的是，那些挂了科的家伙并不为此感到怨恨，而对于他那从和蔼可亲突然转向了强硬严格的态度，他们也不觉得憎恶。更甚者，他们爱戴他。在时光飞逝的一个学期里，课内课外，他们不断刻苦学习，最终在经济学——这门他所执教的课程上，交出了一份完美的答卷。于我而言，这一种教书技巧还是有点儿难以解释，但我相信，这种技巧源于一种对学生身份的明确区分——是教室里的学习者，还是纯粹作为一个人？而拥有这样一种区分也是一件好事，有了它，你就能更加客观地看待你成绩单上的B等，以及心中那一份失落。

Connection (Nigi)

- ◆ Line 25 the services
- ◆ Line 29 make a point of doing something
- ◆ Line 31 sergeant
- ◆ Line 34 flunk

I once saw a TV serial named “I Am a Commando”. In the beginning of the serial, a group of rookie soldier got into **the services** from all walks of life. Regardless of the tough weather, the strict **sergeant made a point of** training them hardly. Nobody knew that he was choosing the top ones to join the Special Force until he **flunked** the vast majority of those soldiers and only selected about 10 people to undergo the special “Devil Training”.

Part 4. line42 ~ line55

Reading&Summary (Starcy)

One's future couldn't be decided by his academic work, while success depends on one's subjective initiative and mental strength.

Clarification (Summer)

line47: hamper[v]: to prevent sb from easily doing or achieving sth

line48: reluctant[adj]: hesitating before doing sth because you do not want to do

line 48: regarding[prep]: concerning sb/sth; about sb/sth

line 49: subsequent[adj]: happening or coming after sth else

line49: sportscaster[n]: a person who introduces and presents a sportscast

line 53: bounce back: to become successful or confident again after having difficulties

line 54: intangible: that does not exist as a physical thing

Question (Sunny)

Line 43 "I'm well aware ...to get A's" Please translate this sentence. What does "A's" mean?

Line45 "compared to" Can I replace "to" with "with"?

Line46 What's the meaning of "find your way about"?

Line 46-47 “later on you will have to shift for yourself, locating goals and opportunities in the same fog that hampers us all as we move towards the future. 这里的主语不一致，为什么？

Line52 What is “tattoo reading”? “ a permanent tattoo reading, “Born to Lose.”” 在句子中做什么成分？

Line54 “going for you ”在句子中做什么成分？

Line54 What is the structure of "Along with a fair ...at the right time"?

Translation (Nigi)

Line53-Line55 Motivation, persistence.....at the right time.

（学习的）动力、坚持、活跃的思维、重振旗鼓的能力，这些都是你所需要的、适合你的无形品质。（这些品质会）伴随着同样份额的好运在正确的时间、正确的地点降临到你的身上。

Connection (Jeremy)

◆ Line 54 intangible

Sometimes, our unconsciousness act may **intangibly** hurt someone we cherish. For example, I haven't called my dad even once since this semester as I will always connect with my mom when I have trouble. And it was until my mom called me and told me my dad always complained about my behavior of not calling him that I was aware of this problem. I just want to let you know that you should pay more attention to people who you love and communicate with your family more frequently.

Part5. line 56~line59

Reading&Summary (Summer)

We should not be disappointed with ourselves when we become a B student, because any grade is just a kind of measurement ,what's more, we should continue working hard.

Clarification (Nigi)

Line 56: Jolt[n]: a sudden strong feeling, especially of shock or surprise

Line 56 : break one's stride : slow or interrupt the pace at which one walks or moves

Line 57: perception[n] : an idea, a belief or an image you have as a result of how you see or understand something

Line 57: mesh[n]: to fit together or match closely, especially in a way that works well

Question (Jeremy) No question

Comment(Jeremy)

Comments about the last three sentences. I can't agree more about the author's centre idea that it has limitations to measure a student by their grades. But it is also true we live in a crucial and competitive society. You want be admitted to a good school? You want to be hired by a famous company? Then, unfortunately, you must have a good GPA. So, my point is maybe we can not deny that we may have other talents but failed in exams, and we are disappointed, we feel this is unfair. Actually, I think, it is fair. If we have already try our best to do something that we can do, then there is nothing we may regret.

Translation (Sunny)

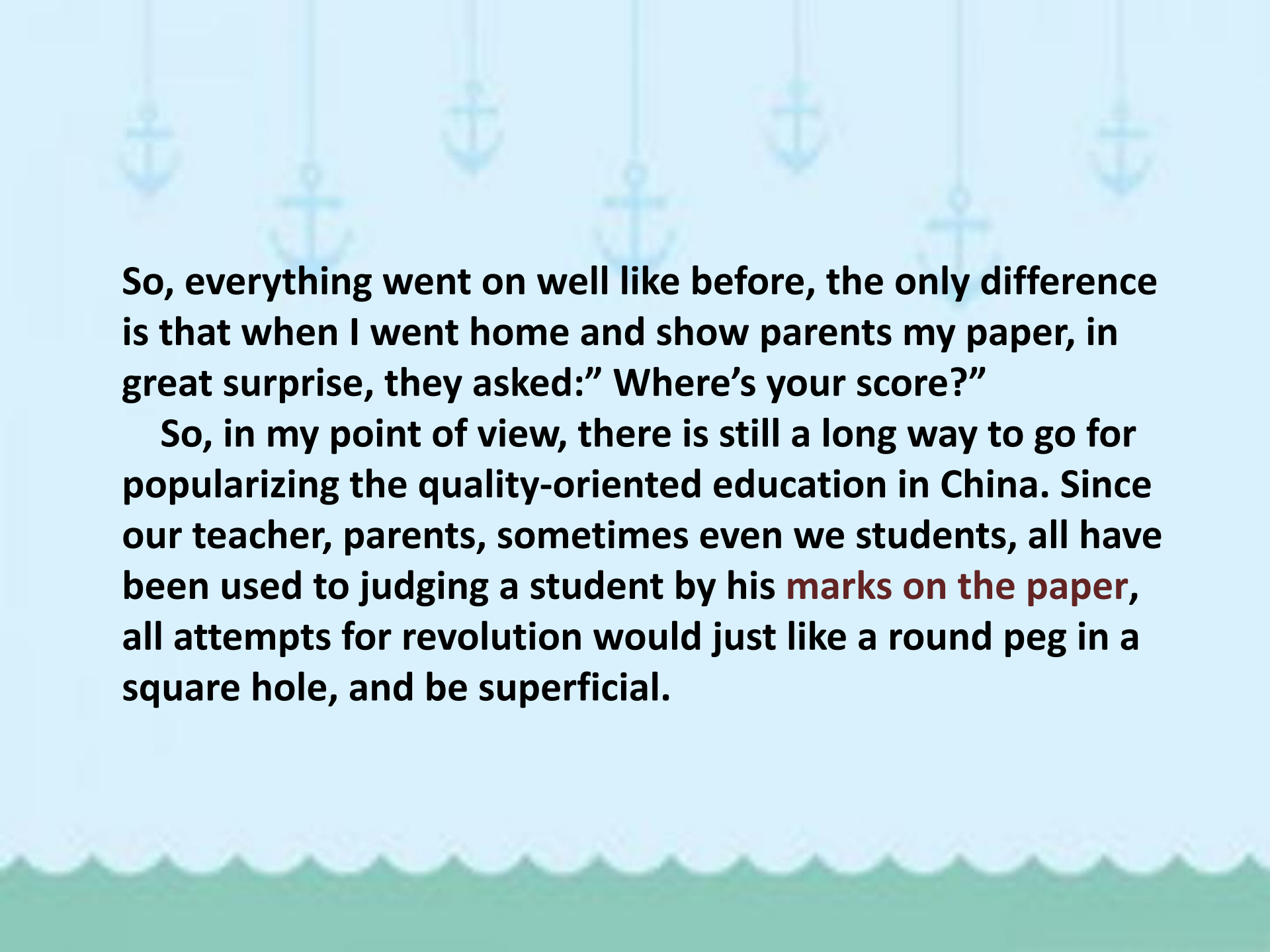
Last paragraph

我知道，你的B等成绩使你吃惊，但我希望这不足以阻碍你前进的脚步。我也希望我们对课程的理解能足够吻合，那么成绩对你来说看起来也公平些。最重要的是，我希望我所说的能帮助你明白，任何成绩的限制就只是一个衡量你是谁，以及你能做什么的工具。这是一个标志，只是一张纸上的一个记号。其它并没有什么。

Connection (Starcy)

Line 59 “It’s a symbol, a mark on a piece of paper.”

When I was in junior high school, there’s a routine that the official from Education Bureau would make an inspection of the school in the every end of semester. In consequence, during the “Inspection Week”, on our text-paper you would see red and large ABCD instead of exact scores to divide the works students did.. It seemed that our headmaster wanted to show the official that school had advocated quality-oriented education very well. However, secretly, teachers would count and register the marks in a notebook.



So, everything went on well like before, the only difference is that when I went home and show parents my paper, in great surprise, they asked:” Where’s your score?”

So, in my point of view, there is still a long way to go for popularizing the quality-oriented education in China. Since our teacher, parents, sometimes even we students, all have been used to judging a student by his **marks on the paper, all attempts for revolution would just like a round peg in a square hole, and be superficial.**

Thank you!

