

The Nightmare of Life Without Fuel

----14英语6班 第五组：朱惠芳、张宇哲、叶晨、胡芳芳、
戎伊丽

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- Part1: line 1- line 15
 - Part2: line 16-line 27
 - Part3: line 28-line 37
 - Part4: line 38-line 52
 - Part5: line 53-line 64

Part 1

Reading & Summary--Berry

- This part tells us how we go to work when the old ways are gone and why we would not use other resources when coal is too difficult to get and why the automobiles vanished.

Clarification--Fern

- Line 1 given: already arranged
- Line 3 slosh: to move around making a lot of noise or coming out over the edge of sth
- Line 5 demolition: the act of deliberately destroying it, often in order to build sth else in its place
- Line 8 nuclear fission: 核裂变
- Line 9 nuclear fusion: 核聚变

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- Line 11 dwindle: to become gradually less or smaller
 - Line 12 the well-to-do: wealthy people
 - Line 14 sacrifice: the fact of giving up sth important or valuable in order to get sth more important
 - Line 14 ration: a fixed amount of food, fuel, etc.

Question--Cenni

- Line2:Why is there no preposition "on "before "one morning"?
- Line5:Why does the author use "lucky" rather than "luckily"?
- Line8:Can we omit “in” here? It’s a little strange.....
- Line13:What does “filthy” mean here? Is it an adjective?
- Line7:The author uses comma when he states coal and nuclear.....

I think it’s wrong.

Translation--Andy

Line1-3(It's raining,...slosh and slide)

下雨了，你不得不再次走路去上班，地铁很拥挤，而且每五个早上里就有一个早上所有特定列车将会停开。公交车也开走了，而且像今天这样的下雨天骑自行车的话也会泥水四溅。

Line6-7(the fading...re-use the parts.)

一个正在衰败的城市中那些快要消失的结构正是这个国家巨大的矿井和五金店，将它们拆毁然后重新利用这些部分。

Connection --Elizabeth

- Line 3: slosh
- Line 8-9 : nuclear fission and nuclear fusion
- Line 13 : overturn

I was a science student in high school. There was a time when I had to do all kinds of papers from chemistry to physics everyday. I can still remember how tough the questions were, such as how does the nuclear fission or the nuclear fusion happen and please write down the specific formula. Or other questions like how much centripetal force(向心力) does the car need if it doesn't turnover on the next corner? The process of solving these questions is just like sloshing around in the mud. That is why I chose English in college, however, I found English is not easy at all ,either.

Part 2

Reading & Summary--Fern

- This part mainly tells us some advantages without fuel, such as cleaner air and fewer colds. Also, it tells us what happens in winter and what happens when the weather isn't too cold.

Clarification--Cenni

- Line24 furnace: a piece of equipment that can burn various fuels and is used for heating rooms
- Line 25 hoard: save up as for the future use
- Line26 lukewarm: slightly warm
- Line26 sponge: a piece of material that is soft and light and full of holes and can hold water easily, used for washing or cleaning
- Line26 lukewarm sponge bath: 温水擦身浴

Question--Andy

- Line17:What does "colds" mean here? Is it “寒流” or "感冒" in Chinese?
- Line20:How can we understand the sentence "walk everywhere far into the night ”?
- Line21:What does “sit out front” mean and 词性?
- Line26:How can we understand the sentence “lukewarm....are gone”?

Translation--Elizabeth

- Line24: As for winter—well, it is inconvenient to be cold.....the automobile fumes are gone.
- 至于冬天，天气很冷人们很不方便，因此把分发到的大部分炉用燃料贮存下来留着黎明时使用。毛衣是受欢迎的室内穿着，而每天淋浴却成为了一种不可能的奢侈享受。人们凑合着用海绵洗温水澡，虽然汽车废气已经消失了，但人们附近的空气却不总是那么芬芳了。

Connection--Berry

- Line20:mutual
- Line22:scarce
- Line26:lukewarm
- A good friendship is based on mutual trust and understanding. A bosom-friend scarcely breaks a promise, she will always be your backup , she will give you a glass of lukewarm milk when you are upset.

Part 3

Reading & Summary--Elizabeth

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- Any sort of energy should be made full use of, especially used in agriculture.

Clarification--Berry

- Line32:exclusively: without any others being included or involved
- Line32:huddle: gather together in a group
- Line33:breeze: a slight wind
- Line34:ameliorate: to make better
- Line35:some trickle of: some fallings of drops of liquid

Question--Fern

- Line 28: What energy is left cannot be directly into personal comfort.

What does this sentence mean? What作什么成分?

Translation--Cenni

- line32-36:We can huddle together when there is a lack of warmth,...each American to eat less.
- 如果不够暖和，我们可以抱成一团取暖，如果没有清凉的风，我们可以自己挥扇子，我们也可以趁没有光的时候睡觉——但是若没有了食物，我们却无能为力。如今虽然美国人口没有继续增长，虽然高昂的物价和食物分发的困难不得不让每个美国人吃得更少，但是在食物供应上必须要保证高水平。

Connection--Andy

- Line31 conserve: When I first saw the word "conserve", it occurred to me the things I learned on the history book that during a special time, like there is a war, food and energy must be conserved for the army so that they can win the war, for example, World War Two or the civil war in China happened in 1945~1949.
- Line32 exclusive: It's hard for people to imagine, that during a time when food supply was not sufficient, there was still a lot of food exclusive to officials only. But it did happen in the first few years when our country was reborn and so did The Soviet Union.

Part 4

Reading & Summary--Andy

- American people are lucky because they won't starve to death like the rest of the world and statistics show that there is a rapidly declining rate of population increase due to a high infant mortality while there are a lot of people who are permanently brain damaged as there is not enough food and some of them have been wiped out because they are seen as burden to the earth.

Clarification--Elizabeth

- Line39 cynic: a person who believes that people only do things to help themselves, rather than for good or sincere reasons
- Line41 not more than: not exceeding/at the best
- Line44 mortality: death rate
- Line49 undernutrition: a condition that results from eating a diet in which nutrients are not enough
- Line51 encumber: to make it difficult for sth to happen
- Line51 menace : a person or thing that is annoying or causes troubles

Question--Berry

- Line38:The rest of....is not Why does the author use “is ”here?
- Line40:Because earth’s population.... Why not use “the earth”?
- Line41:Not more than one in five. Could here use “no” instead?
- Line50:It has occurred to some that.... What’s the function of “that”?

Translation--Fern

- Line 48-53: It is estimated that.....horror tales.
- 据估计，现在世界上有近20亿的人，他们活着但他们的大脑由于营养不良受到了永久性的损伤，并且这个数字在一年年增加。有些人甚至已经想到，把这些人悄悄除掉，使世界摆脱威胁，这样将会更加“现实”。这种行为实际上已经在各地实施，美国的报纸没有报道，但是一些旅行者带回了恐怖传言。

Connection--Cenni

- Line51:menace
- IS organization released several videos a few months ago, which no doubt is a menace to the whole world. Countries around the world should make joint efforts to take steps to stop these extremists from carrying out terrorist acts. We don't want to see the tragedy happens anymore.

Part 5

Reading & Summary--Cenni

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- With energy continuing to decline, people are less likely to kill their leisure time in both the methods and time. And the author thinks it is too late to end this situation.

Clarification--Andy

- Line56 trinity:a group consisting of three closely related things.
- Line59 subsistence:the state of having just enough food or money to stay alive.

subsistence farming: 收成仅够自身口粮的自给农业

Question--Elizabeth

- Line60: Should there be a “where” after “world”?

Translation--Berry

- Line53-line57
- 随着能源不断减少，机器必须由人力和动物来代替。人们工作的时间更长了，相应地空闲时间就少了，但是那时候，电灯照明受到限制，电视一晚只能播三小时，电影一周只能看三次，新书越来越少并且被打印在了小版面上，那么还有什么事情可以用来放松娱乐呢？工作，睡觉，吃这三样是不可分离的整体，但现在只有前两件可以被保证。

Connection--Fern

- Line 55: restrict
- Line 59: subsistence
- When my grandma was young, food was restricted and distribution was on the basis of labor. So she and her blind father were always on the margin of bare subsistence.

Critical comments

- The layout of the whole passage is not very compact, such as part 1, it seems that they are talking about different things, which makes it difficult to make a summary, just jumping from one subject to another.
- And what the “fuel” refers to is a little confusing, for the first two parts, it means “燃料”， for the next parts, it seems to mean “食物”， so it takes time for us to dig it out.

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- However, the author does make a good supposition, life without fuel is possible in millions of years, it warns us that we should take immediate actions to save energy and hold the world together. If there is no transportation, we still have feet. If there is no air-conditioning, we still have hands. Therefore, maybe we should stop to think what is really needed and don't live just for personal comfort.

Thank you!!