

Warming-up Questions

- Why did you come to universities?
- What do you expect to learn in universities?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of formal education at school.



Suggested Answers:

- University students are expected to develop in an all around way.
 - University students should be an avid readers and learners that are armed with the best of mankind's techniques and spiritual resources.
 - You should also cultivate the spirit of teamwork, the abilities to handle emergencies and to work under pressure.
-

Quotes from Chinese Newspaper

- 让年轻人凭借自身具有的洞察力，坦荡和同情心，在共同的学习生活，自由的交谈和辩论中得到受益一生的思维训练，这才是大学所要完成的任务。
- 传播知识已不太重要，重要的是让学生学会如何做人，如何思考。
- 更多的人读书出于功利，热衷于获取各种证书和技能，不具备基本的科学理论，关于人生、社会的基本素养几乎空白。
- 世界上真正的大学，都十分强调人文学习，大学对学生人文素质的培养才是大学教育中无法取代的部分。它不仅有助于我们在专业领域更具有创造性，还使我们变得更善于深思熟虑，更有理想，更有洞察力。

Advantages:

1. a systematic mastery of the knowledge required by the public education.
2. an access to an atmosphere which is full of competition
3. opportunities of being together with those whom you share the similar experience
4. teachers are professionals in the field of education and can provide with what we expect from them;

Disadvantages:

1. formal education pays much attention to similarity rather than individuality;
 2. those with special talents cannot exert their potentiality at a formal school;
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Another School Year--- What For?



About the author John Ciardi

- **John Anthony Ciardi** (June 24, 1916 - March 30, 1986) was an American poet, translator, and etymologist (n. 语源学家). John Ciardi was primarily a poet, but he also translated Dante's *Divine Comedy*, wrote several volumes of children's poetry, pursued etymology, contributed to the *Saturday Review* as a columnist and long-time poetry editor.
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- **Dante** (1265 - 1321), commonly known as a Florentine poet of the Middle Ages. His central work which took him about 10 years to finish, the *Divine Comedy* is often considered the greatest literary work composed in the Italian language and a masterpiece of world literature.



- The *Divine Comedy*, a long poem, describes Dante's journey through **Hell** (*Inferno* 地狱), **Purgatory** (*Purgatorio* 炼狱), and **Paradise**.



The illustration shows Dante standing in front of the mountain of Purgatory, with hell on his right and heaven on his left.

Background Information

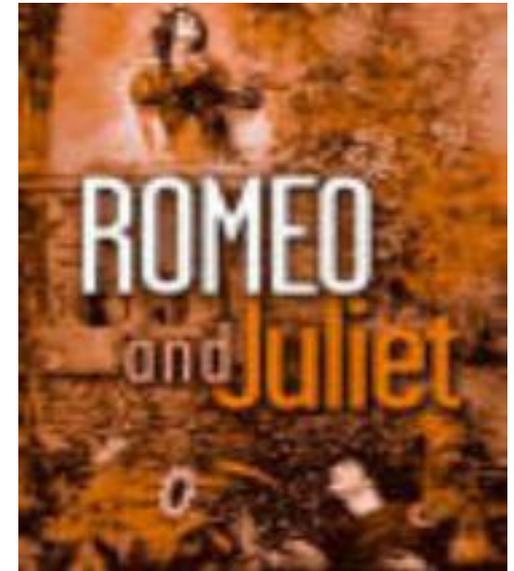
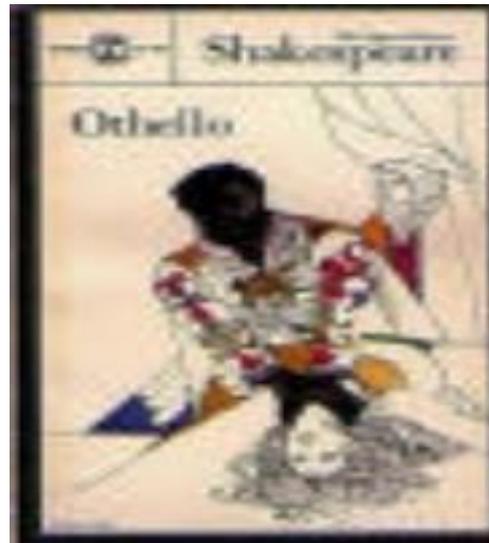
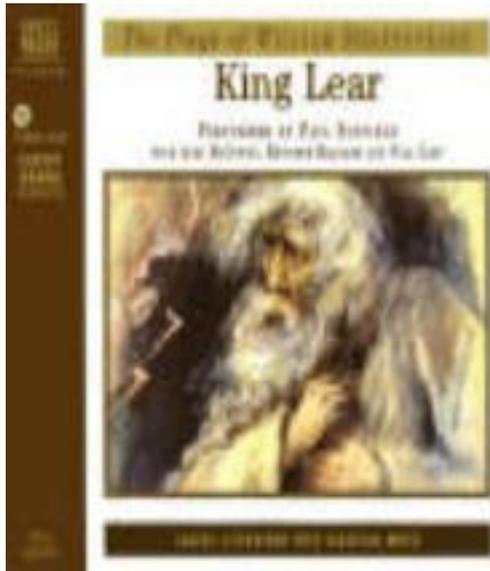
- Shakespeare (Hamlet)
- Bach
- Homer
- Virgil
- Aristotle
- Chaucer



William Shakespeare-the most famous poet and playwright

William Shakespeare (1564-1616) is the most famous poet and playwright in the English-speaking countries, if not in the world. He is said to have written 39 plays and more than 154 sonnets, many of which have become masterpieces for students of arts and literature all over the world.





Tragedies:

- (1) 'Hamlet', 'Macbeth', 'King Lear', 'Othello';
- (2) 'Romeo and Juliet', 'Julius Caesar' etc.

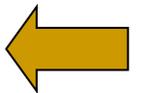
Shakespeare

- **Comedies**
 - **‘As You Like It’**
 - **‘The Winter's Tale’,**
 - **‘The Merchant of Venice’ ,**
 - **Twelfth Night,**
 - **‘Much Ado about Nothing’ ,**
 - **‘Cymbeline’ ,**
 - **‘A Midsummer Night’ s Dream**
-

Famous quotes from Shakespeare

- To be or not to be, that's a question.
 - 生存还是毁灭，那是个值得思考的问题。
 - A light heart lives long.
 - 豁达者长寿。
 - The time of life is short ; to spend that shortness basely, it would be too long .
 - 人生苦短，若虚度年华，则短暂的人生就太长了。
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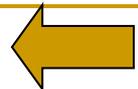
- The empty vessels make the greatest sound .
■ 满瓶不响，半瓶咣当。
- The course of true love never did run smooth.
■ 真诚的爱情之路永不会是平坦的。
- Words can not express true love, loyalty behavior is the best explanation.
■ 真正的爱情是不能用言语表达的，行为才是忠心的最好说明。
- Love is a woman with the ears, and if the men will love, but love is to use your eyes.
■ 女人是用耳朵恋爱的,而男人如果会产生爱情的话,却是用眼睛来恋爱。



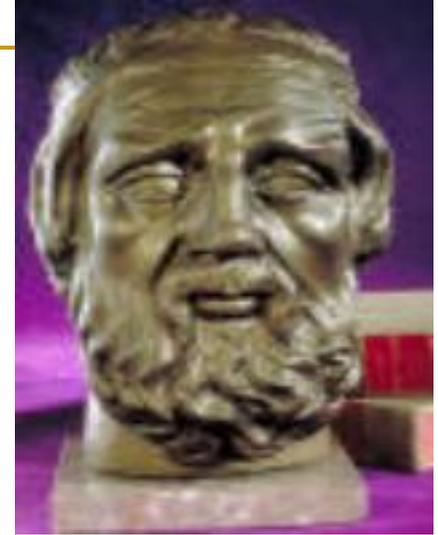
Bach



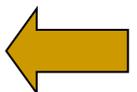
- Bach (1685-1750) is a German composer. Although he was in his won time chiefly known as an organist, he is now universally recognized as one of the greatest composers in the history. Much of Bach's music was religious in inspiration as he wrote more than 200 church cantatas.



Homer



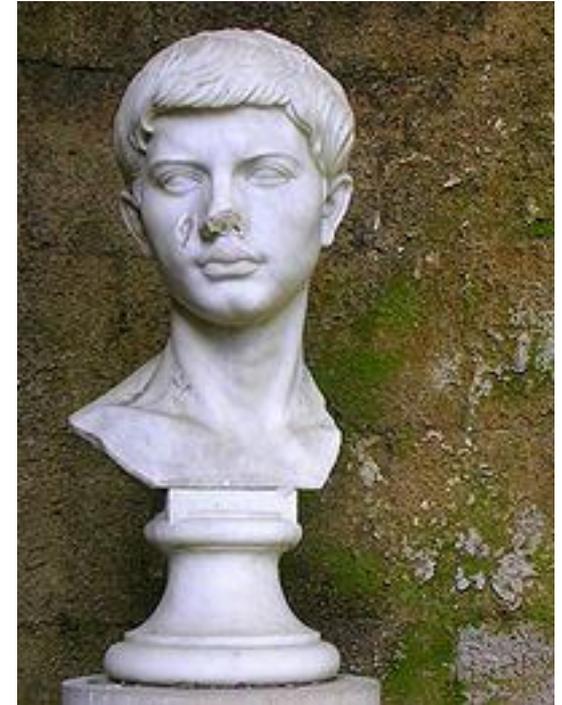
- Homer, name traditionally assigned to the author of the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*, the two earliest epic poems in Greek literature about the Trojan War.



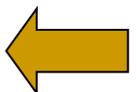
Virgil

(70-19 BC).

- The greatest of the Roman poets, is best known for his epic poems describing the fall of Troy and the founding of the Rome. Virgil, was not a Roman by birth. His early home was on a farm in the village of Andes. His father was a farmer, prosperous enough to give his son the best education. The young Virgil was sent to school at Cremona and then to Milan. At the age of 17 he went to Rome to study. There he learned **rhetoric** and philosophy from the best teachers of the day.



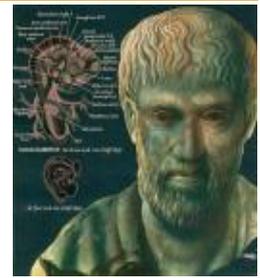
Statuary of Virgil



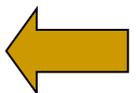


Aristotle

(384-322 BC).



- One of the greatest thinkers of all time, an ancient Greek philosopher. His work in the natural and social sciences greatly influenced virtually every area of modern thinking.
- Aristotle was born in 384 BC. His father was a friend and the physician of the king of Macedonia, and the lad spent most of his boyhood at the court. At 17, he went to Athens to study. He enrolled at the famous Academy directed by the philosopher Plato.
- Aristotle threw himself wholeheartedly into Plato's pursuit of truth and goodness. Plato was soon calling him the "mind of the school." In later years he rejected some of Plato's theories and went far beyond him in breadth of knowledge.



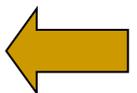
Geoffrey Chaucer



- Called the Father of the English Language, Geoffrey Chaucer, after six centuries, has retained his status as one of the three or four greatest English poets.

- He was the first to commit to lines of universal and enduring appeal a vivid interest in nature, books, and people. As many-sided as Shakespeare, he did for English narrative what Shakespeare did for drama. If he lacks the profundity of Shakespeare, he excels in playfulness of mood and simplicity of expression.

- His last, longest, and most famous work was the 'Canterbury Tales'. His writing dominated English poetry up to the time of Shakespeare.



Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), one of the world's leading research universities, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. In 1865 the school was opened in Boston by geologist William Barton Rogers, who became its first president.



Throughout its history M.I.T has held a worldwide reputation for teaching and research. It was among the first schools to use the **laboratory** method of instruction, develop the modern profession of chemical engineering, and offer courses in **aeronautical** and electrical engineering and applied physics.



Introduction to the Text

- The essay is adapted from _____ a speech Professor Ciardi presented to the College of Men at Rutgers University as an Associate Professor of English at the opening ceremony of 1954 school year. What he tries to **drive home** is what students come to a university for. He points out that a university purpose is not only to give its students sufficient training for a career, but also the techniques and spiritual resources of mankind. This way, they will become specialists and civilized members of society as well.



Text Structure

The text can be conveniently divided into two parts.

Part I (*para.1 – 8*)

describes the writer's encounter with one of his student. He tried but failed to convince the students that a pharmacy major needs to read great writers.

Part II (*para. 9 – 14*)

restates what the writer still believes to be the purpose of a university: putting its students in touch with the best civilizations that the human race has created.



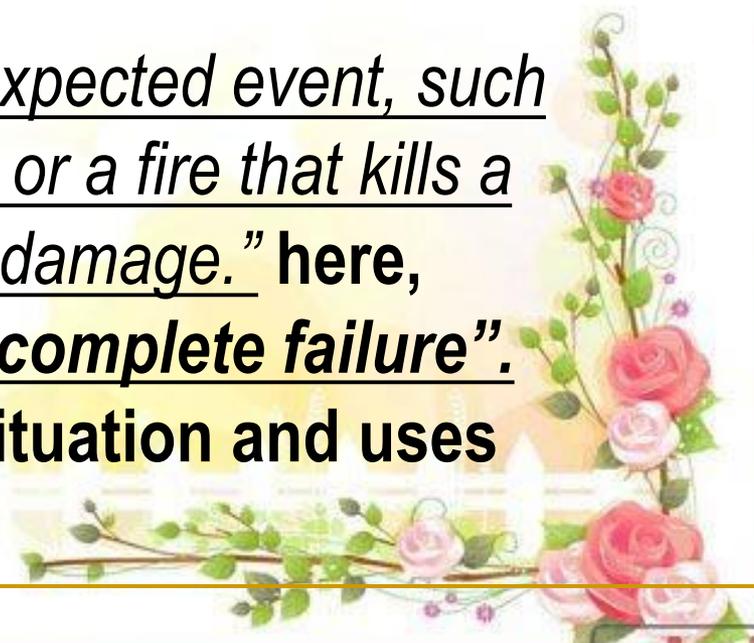
Style

- As it is originally a talk, the writer adopts a basically colloquial and familiar style. As you read, you feel as if the professor is talking to you face to face.



Detailed Discussion of the Text

- Let me tell you one of the earliest disaster in my career as a teacher.
- *Let me tell you one of the unhappy experience I had when I first became a teacher (in the first days of my teaching career).*
- **disaster:** often means “an unexpected event, such as a very bad accident, a flood or a fire that kills a lot of people or causes a lot of damage.” here, used informally, it means “a complete failure”. The writer exaggerates the situation and uses the word humorously.



be fresh out of / from sth.

- *To have just come from a particular place; to have just had a particular experience.*
- Fresh out of college, I got my first job as a tester.
- 刚走出大学校门的时候，我得到了第一份工作：测试员
- People fresh from their holidays
- Athletes fresh from their success at the 2008th Olympic Games



body

1. **whole physical structure of a human being or an animal**

dead body

a strong body

2. **main part of sth.**

the body of a ship

the main body of the book

3. **object**

heavenly bodies

a foreign body

4. **group of people working or acting as a unit**

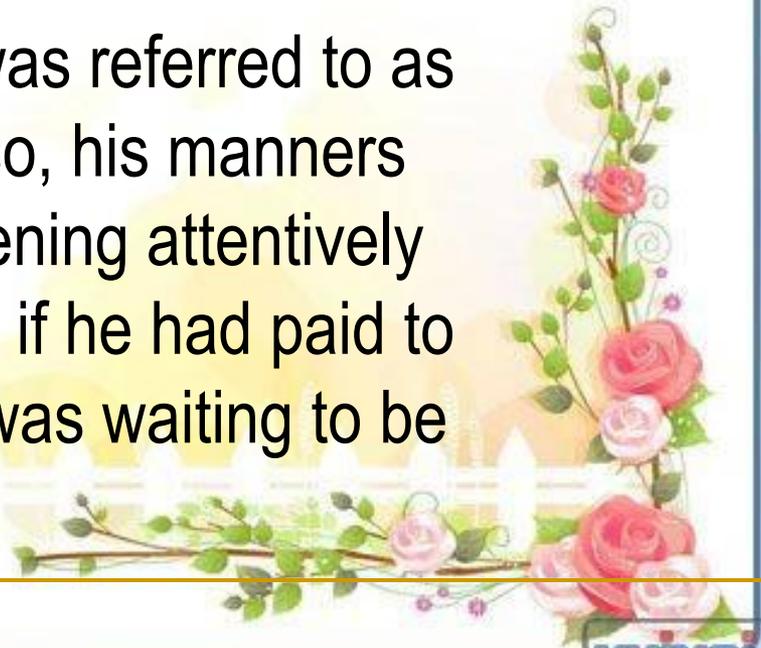
a body of troops

a legislative body

the governing body of the university

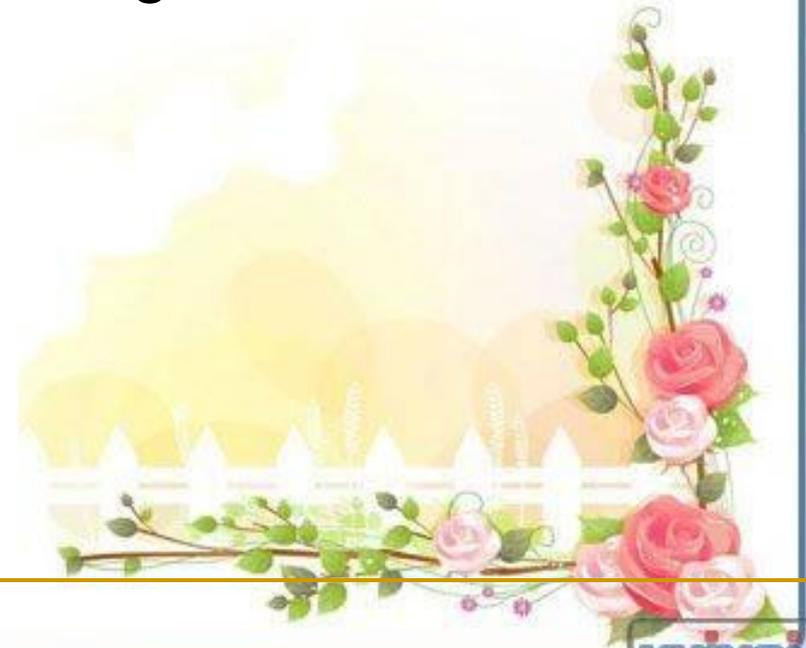


- **The student body:** all the students of the university
- **Part of the student body:** one of the students.
- **beanpole:** a pole farmers use as a support in growing bean. Here, means “a tall thin person”
 - The sentence tells us what an unfavorable impression the students left on the writer the first day he came to class. First, he was referred to as “a beanpole with hair on top”; also, his manners irritated the writer: instead of listening attentively and taking notes, he behaved as if he had paid to watch a show of some sort and was waiting to be entertained.



...with his hands on his hips...

This shows that the student wasn't carrying anything, and what's more, this stubborn young man came to challenge his instructor, like a customer questioning the goods or service he/she has bought.

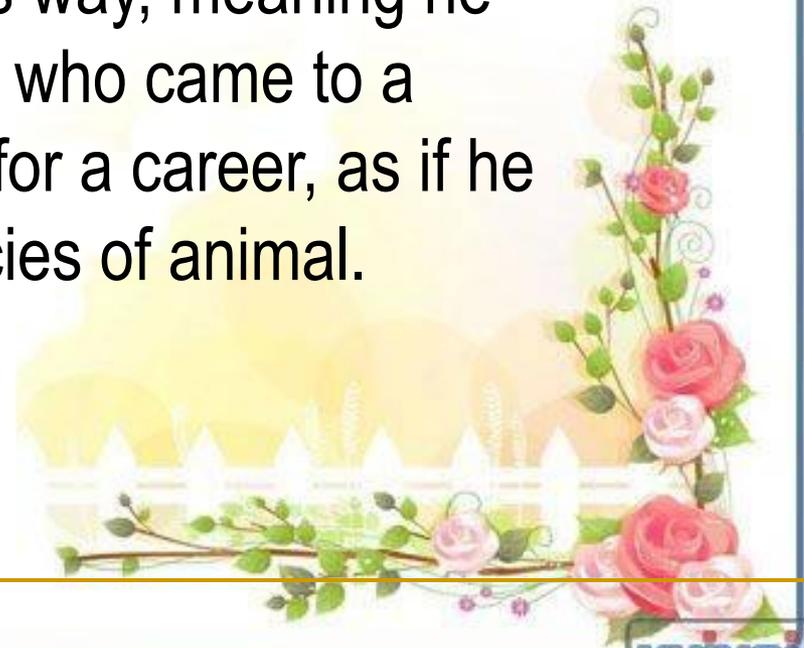


specimen

- ***an example regarded as typical of its class***
- The traveler brought back some specimens of the rocks from the mountains.
- 那位旅行者从山上带回了一些岩石标本。
- specimens of copper ore
- insect specimen
- ***an individual; a person of a specified sort***
- 某种类型的人, 家伙, 怪人
- He is an odd specimen in our school.
- What a specimen! / a disagreeable specimen

New as I was to the faculty, I could have told this specimen a number of things...

- Note that the writer now referred to the student as a specimen in a humorous way, meaning he was typical of those students who came to a university just to get training for a career, as if he were typical of a certain species of animal.



certify

- *to state officially, to testify, especially in writing*
- E.g: This is to certify that ... studied in Hainan University from Sep. 2009 to July 2012.
- I hereby certify that the above information is true and correct.

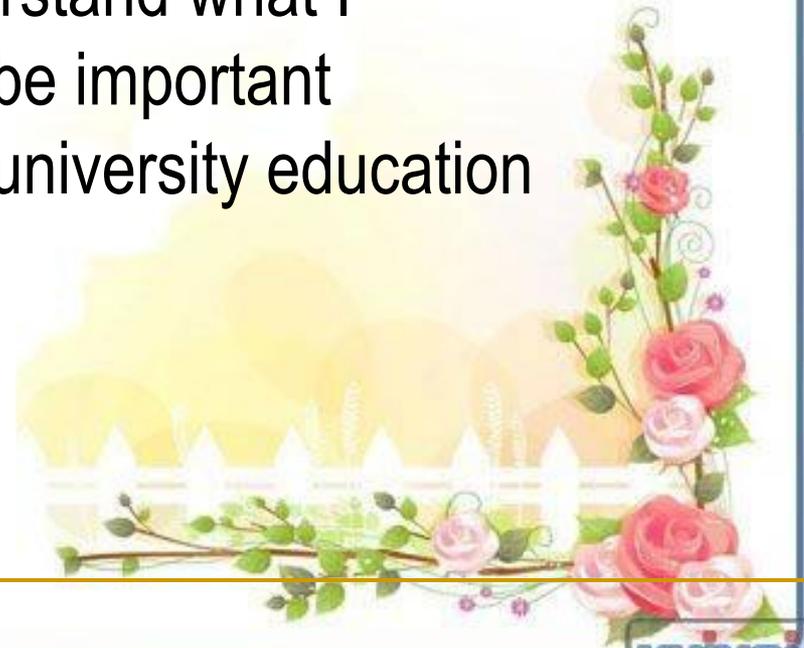


to specialize (in)

- *to limit all or most of one's study, business, etc. to a particular activity or subject.*
- 专门研究，专门从事
- Professor Liu specializes in American culture.
- 刘教授专门从事美国文化的研究。
- Here is a restaurant that specializes in seafood.
- 这个饭店专营海鲜。



- ***I could have told him all this, but it was fairly obvious he wasn't going to be around long enough for it to matter.***
- I didn't actually say all this to him, because it was quite clear that he would not stay too long and wouldn't have the time to understand what I wanted to tell him. (it wouldn't be important whether or not I told him what university education was for).



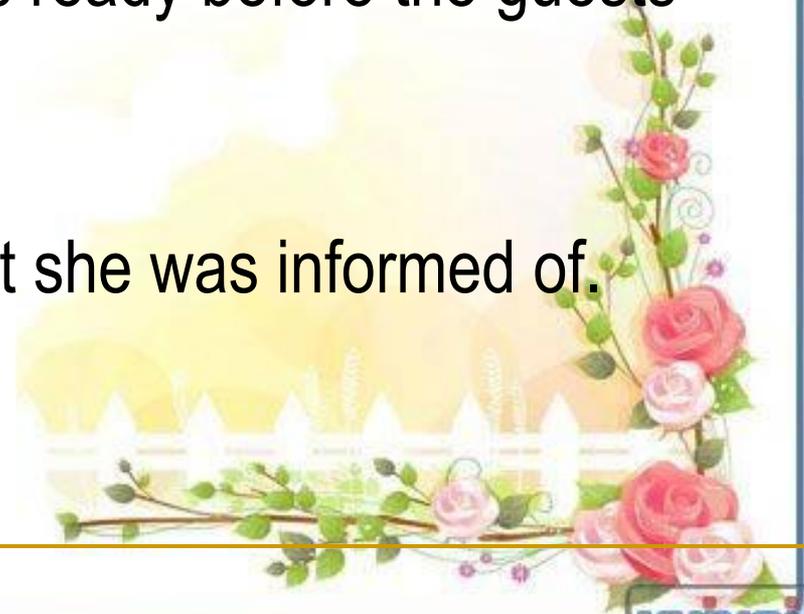
to average out to

- *(informal) to come to an average, esp. after being higher or lower* 平均为
- e.g Meals at the university average out to about 10 yuan a day.
- 他们的收入平均一个月5000元。
- Their income averages out to 5,000 yuan a month.

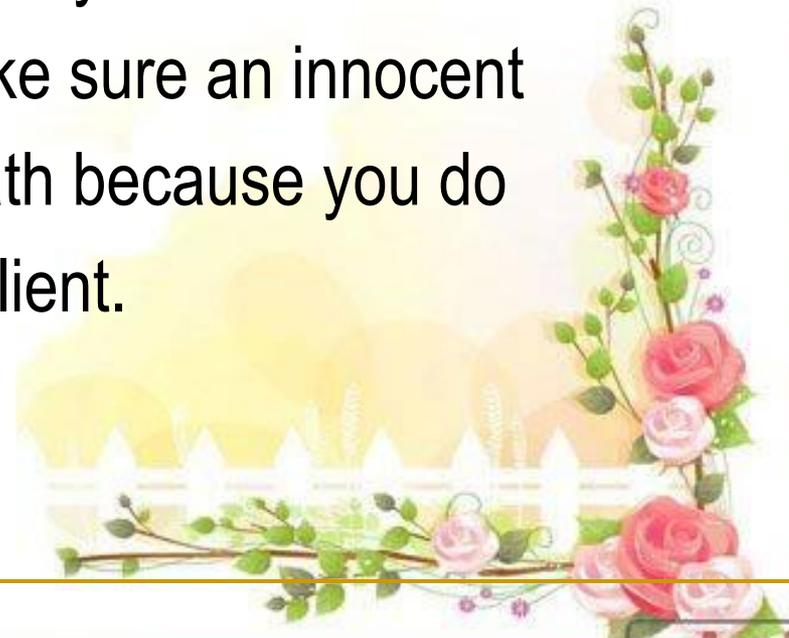


to see to it that

- e.g: Can you see to it that all the invitations are delivered today?
- ***to make sure that***
- 我必须确保在客人来之前一切都准备好。
- I will see to it that everything is ready before the guests arrive.
- 我必须确保她被告知此事。
- I should have to seen to it that she was informed of.

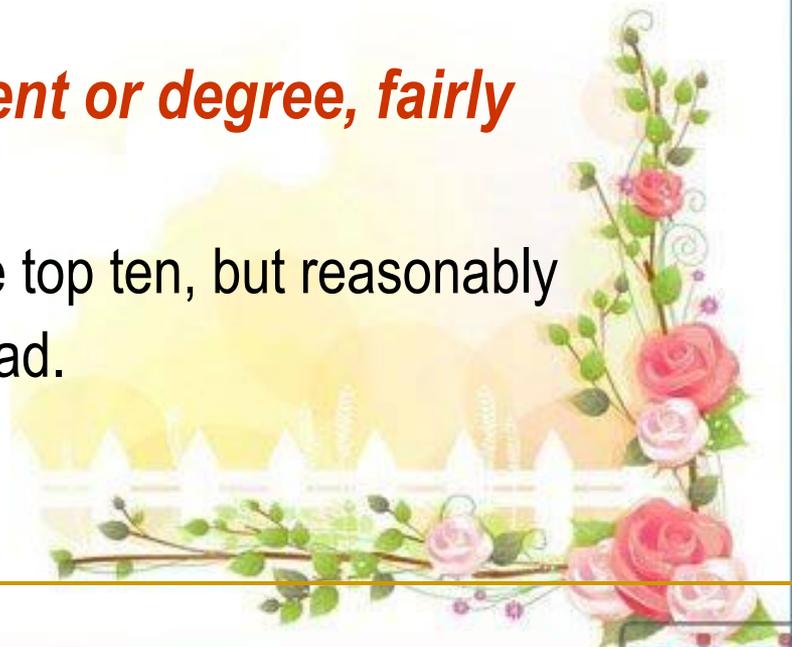


- For a pharmacist, or an engineer, or a lawyer. As a pharmacist, you should at least make sure that your medicine is not mixed up with poison. If you are an engineer, you should at least be able to make a fence to keep out wild animals. If you become a lawyer, you should at least make sure an innocent person is not sentenced to death because you do not know how to defend your client.



reasonably

- ***in a sensible and reasonable way*** 合理地，公道地
- From this study we can reasonably infer that this behavior is inherited.
- 根据这项研究我们可以合理地推断出这种行为是遗传的。
- You are not behaving reasonably.
- 你的行为不合情理。
- ***to a moderately sufficient extent or degree, fairly***
- 适度地，过得去
- e.g: Our university is not one of the top ten, but reasonably well known both at home and abroad.
- Be that reasonably clear?
- 这差不多清楚了吗？



- penetrating idea: an idea that requires the ability of understanding clearly and deeply (showing the ability to understand things quickly and completely)
- 深刻的思想、见解
- Will the children ever be exposed to a reasonably penetrating idea at home?
- = *Will your children ever hear you talk about sth. profound at home?*



- He is the boss, and he presides over the company.
- **preside over**: *to be in charge or to control a meeting or an event, to be the head of, here used humorously.*
- 主持，主管
- **maintain contact with**: *to keep in touch with*
- **the great democratic intellect**: *the great democratic thinking/ spirit?*
- *Will you be head of a family who brings up the kids in a democratic spirit?*



Famous Literature Works

- Will there be a book in the house?
- ***here, the book refers to some serious book, some famous literature works, such as:***
- *The romance of three kingdoms*
- *Journey to the west*
- *A dream in red mansions*
- *Water margin*



- *Will there be a a painting a reasonably sensitive man can look at without shuddering?*
- ***= will you have a painting in your house that show some taste?***

- *Will the kids ever get to hear Bach?*
- ***= will the kids ever have the chance to get in touch with some fine arts and classic music?***



symphony

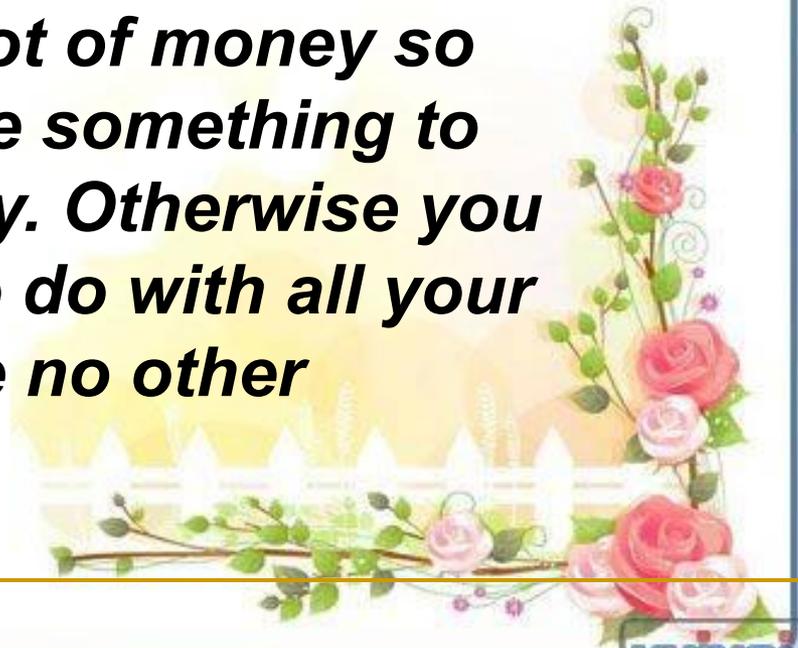
be out to do sth./for sth.

- ***to be trying to get or do sth.***
- 决心做某事，力图做某事
- *Look out for such end-of-year sales. These shops are out to trick you into buying what you don't need.*
- 公司决定本年度打入欧洲市场。
- *The company is out to break into the European market by the end of this year.*



to be stuck for sth.

- I **got stuck** on the second question.
- In the middle of the speech, he was stuck for words. (=he didn't know how to go on)
- **Not to know what to do in a particular situation.**
- *I hope you will make a lot of money so that you'll at least have something to do to keep yourself busy. Otherwise you wouldn't know what to do with all your idle time since you have no other interest.*



to have no business doing sth

- *to have no right to do sth., shouldn't have been/ be doing sth.*
- 无权做某事
- You have no business telling me what to do.
- 他没有权力检查她的私事。
- He has no business going through her private things.
- 父母没权力读你的信件。
- Parents have no business reading your mail.



on the/one's way to

- ***On the point of experiencing or achieving; soon becoming***
- e.g She is on the way to becoming a full professor.
- 这个有前途的年轻人即将要成为公司的销售部经理了。
- That bright young man is on his way to being the sales manager of the company.



- New species of mechanized savage: ***new type of humans who are primitive and uncivilized although they can work machines.***
- The push-button Neanderthal: ***an uneducated, ignorant person who can only operate machines by pushing the buttons.***

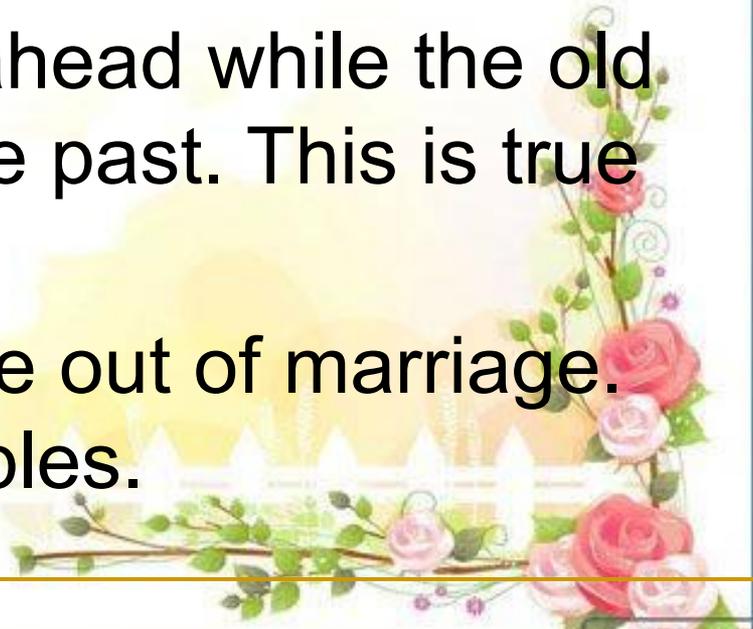


(just)as...so...

- As the body needs regular exercise, so does the mind need to be refreshed from time to time.
- *as...so...:正如.....,.....也是如此。表示两个具有相似性或者相关联的事件或情境,“as”和“so”后面接从句。*
- Confucius said: just as bitter medicine cures sickness, so unpalatable advice benefits conduct.
- 子曰:良药苦于利于病,忠言逆耳利于行。
- Just as the French people enjoy their wine, so the British enjoy their beer.
- 美国人喜欢喝啤酒就如法国人嗜葡萄酒一样。

be true of (a person or a situation)

- It' s a wonderful opera. The music is superb. The same *is true of* the acting.
- *to apply to* 对.....适用, 符合于
- 年轻人倾向于向前看, 而老人更喜欢回忆旧时光。任何一个国家的人都如此。
- The young tend to look ahead while the old like to look back upon the past. This is true of all nations.
- Romance may have gone out of marriage. This is true of many couples.



- **if you are too much in a hurry:** *if you are too anxious to leave school early (so that you can start to make money).*
- **(or if you are) too arrogantly proud of your own limitations:** *too stupidly proud of your plans which actually show your limitations.*
- **accept as a gift to your humanity some pieces of the mind of Aristotle...:** *to accept some of the thinking of Aristotle, ...as something that will help cultivate in you the quality of being a true man.*

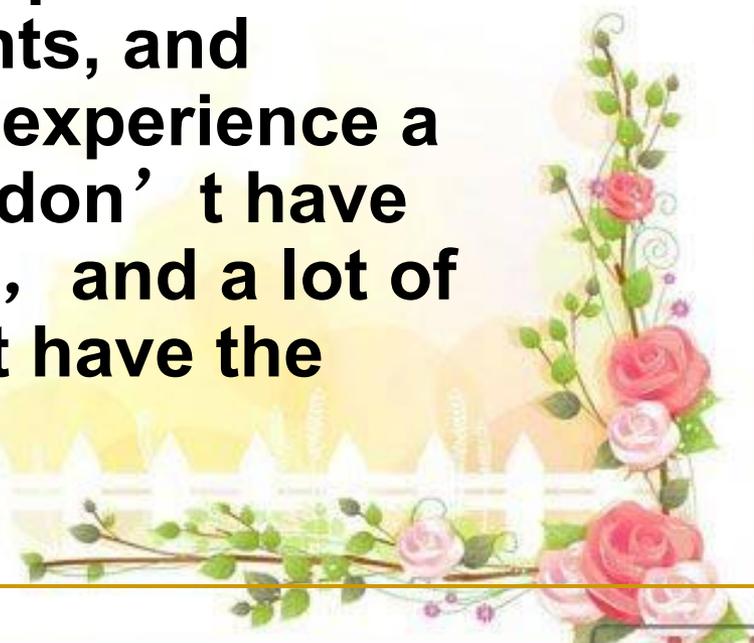


- if you are too anxious for leaving school early so that you can start to make money, and if you are too stupidly proud to realize your own limitation, then you won't have the chance to read Aristotle, or Chaucer, or Einstein, then you can never accept some of the thinking of these great minds. However, these are the gifts that will help you to become a true man.
- Therefore, if you failed to read these spiritual resources, failed to accept them as a gift, you are neither a educated or civilized human, nor a useful citizen of a democratic country. That is to say, you are a new species of mechanized savage, and the push-button Neanderthal.

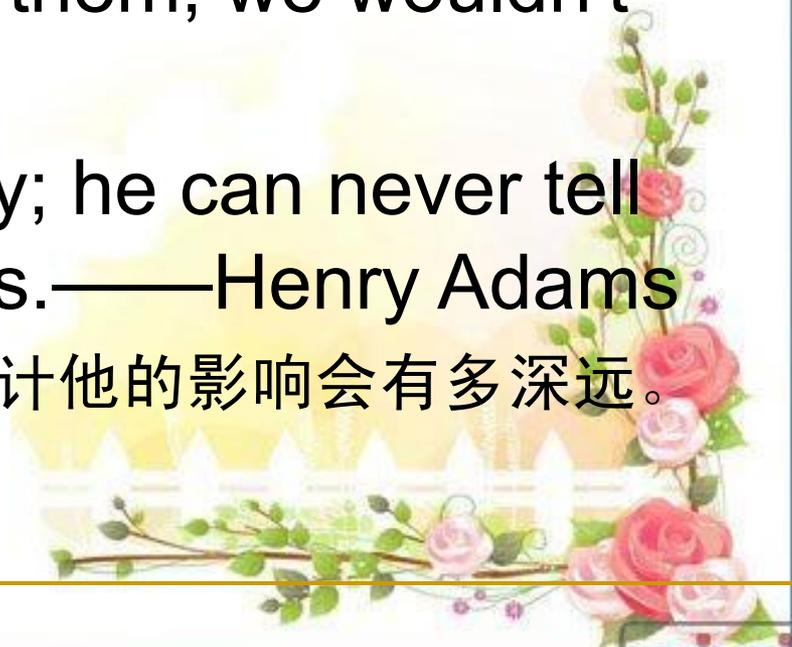
- ...both as specialists and as humans...
- “specialists” here mean people who have acquired some practical skills for a particular profession; “humans” mean civilized creature with ability to think.



- **The existence of the faculties of the universities itself says in an implied way: we got a lot of help from many people and books, present and past. And we are here, to make our best, to pass these human experience that we got to young students, and enable our students to experience a variety of life that they don't have time to live themselves, and a lot of worlds that they don't have the time to travel in reality.**



- A good teacher is like a candle - it consumes itself to light the way for others.
- Teachers are those who help us in resolving problems which, without them, we wouldn't have.
- A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.——Henry Adams
- 教师的影响是永恒的；无法估计他的影响会有多深远。



IV. Reflection Question

In the author's mind, what are the purposes of college education?

- 1. To give students sufficient training for a career.**
- 2. To put them in touch with the best of what the human race has achieved – both the techniques and spiritual resources of mankind.**

Let's have an interview

- Please interview one classmate, find out his/her ideas about:
- Is education for a living or making a living? or what are the purposes of college education?

