

# Lesson 1

## Another School Year - What For?





和俺差不多  
念书有啥用?



用工单位

YOUKU 优酷  
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# Topic discussion:

1. Is college really useful?
2. What do you expect from your college life?





## About the author - John Ciardi (1916-1986)



- American poet and essayist.
- Best known for his translation of Dante's *Inferno*.
- The text is adapted from a speech he made at Rutgers University as an Associate Professor of English at the opening ceremony of the 1954 school year.





# Background Information

Try to match the works with their authors

*Hamlet* d.

*The Divine Comedy* a.

*Canterbury Tales* b.

*Rochefoucauld* e.

*Iliad* c.

Shakespeare

*Maxims*

a. Dante

b. Chaucer

c. La

d.

e. Homer



# William Shakespeare (1564-1616)



- Be widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language and the world's preeminent dramatist.
- Be called England's national poet and the "Bard of Avon"
- His surviving works: 39 plays, 154 sonnets, two long narrative poems, and several other poems

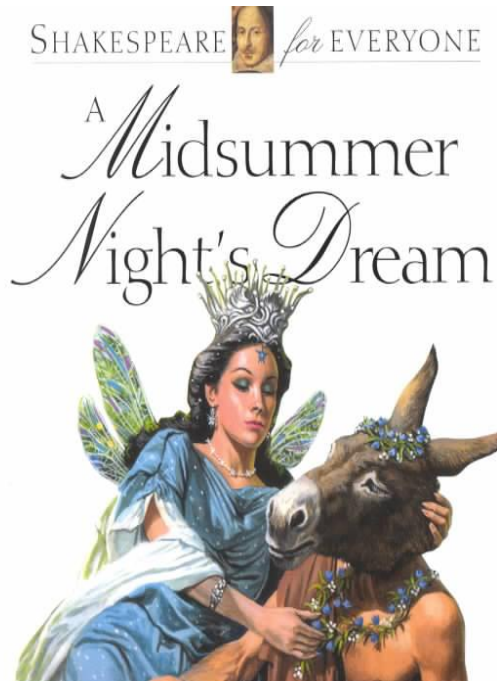




# Four Comedies

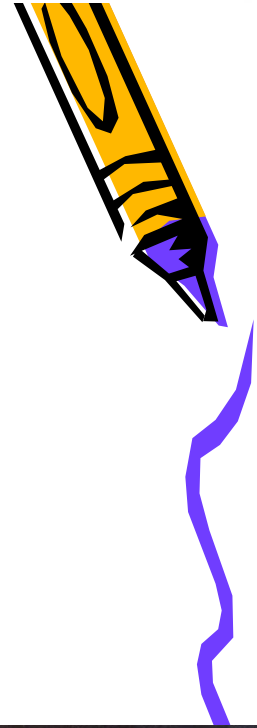


- A Midsummer Night's Dream
- The Merchant of Venice
- As You Like it
- Twelfth Night

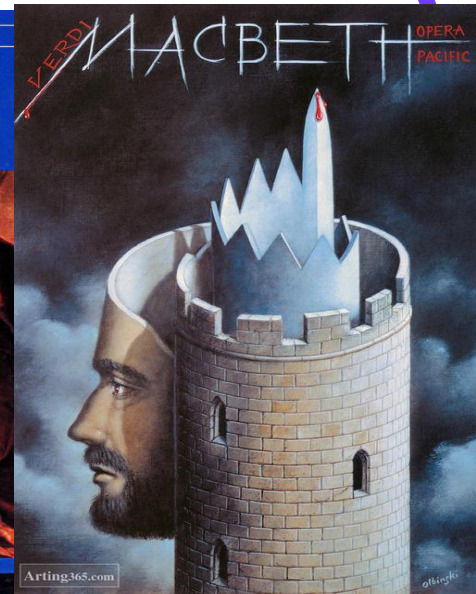
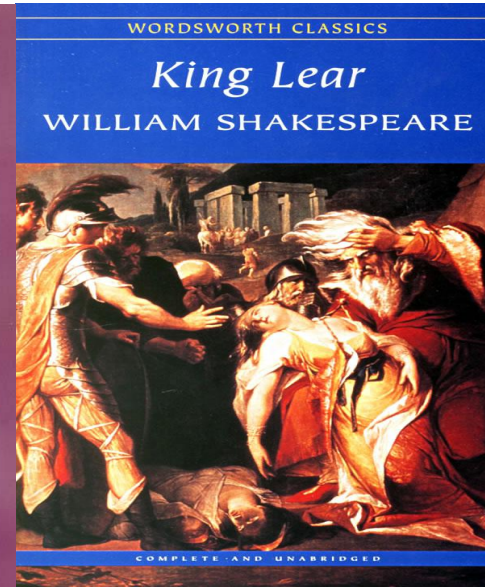
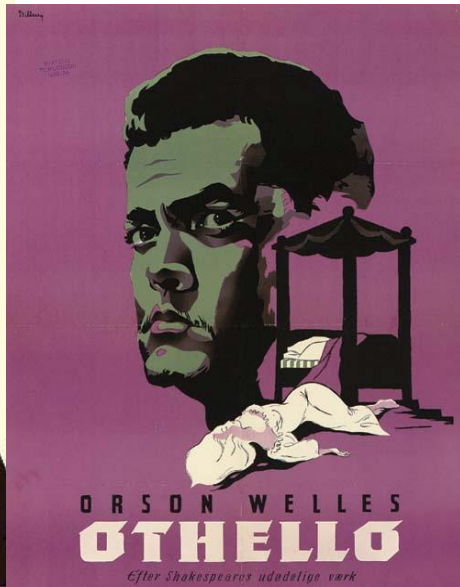
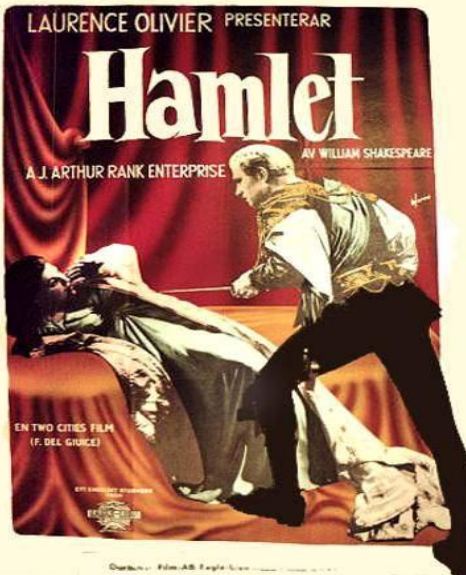




# Four Tragedies



- Hamlet
- Othello
- King Lear
- Macbeth





# Sonnet 18



Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?  
Thou art more lovely and more temperate:  
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,  
And summer's lease hath all too short a date:

Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,  
And often is his gold complexion dimmed;  
And every fair from fair sometime declines,  
By chance or nature's changing course untrimmed;  
But thy eternal summer shall not fade

Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow' st;  
Nor shall Death brag thou wander' st in his shade,  
When in eternal lines to time thou grow' st:

So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,  
So long lives this and this gives life to thee.



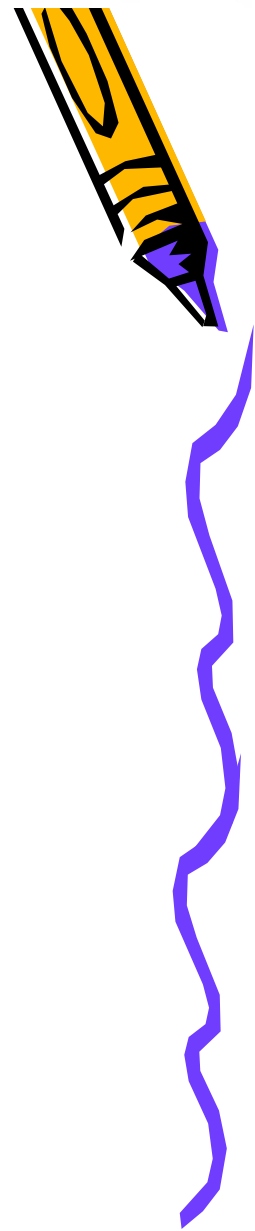


## 十四行诗第18首

我能否将你比作夏天？  
你比夏天更美丽温婉。  
狂风将五月的蓓蕾凋残，  
夏日的勾留何其短暂？

休恋那丽日当空，  
转眼会云雾迷蒙。  
休叹那百花飘零，  
催折于无常的天命。

唯有你永恒的夏日常新，  
你的美亦将毫发无损。  
死神也无缘将你幽禁，  
你在我永恒的诗中长存。只要世间尚有人类，尚有能看的眼睛，  
这诗就将流传，赋予你新的生命。





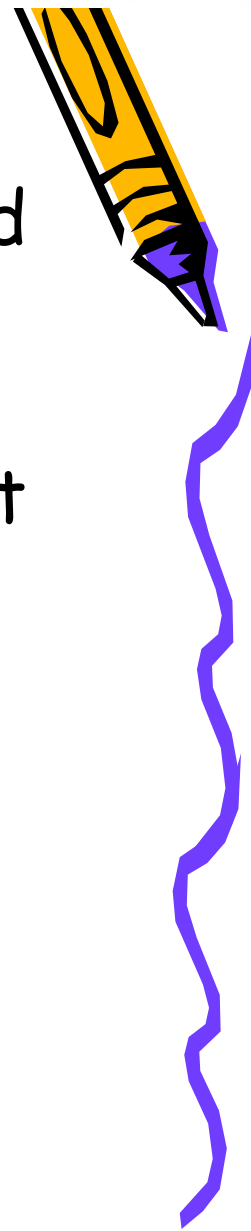
➤ accomplishment n.

- the act of finishing sth. completely and successfully; achievement 成就, 成绩

e.g. What is your most significant accomplishment?

- a skill or special ability 才艺, 专长

eg. a girl of many accomplishments





➤ accomplish v.

to succeed in doing or completing sth. 完成  
, 达到

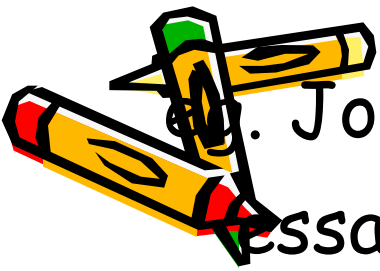
e.g. accomplish one's mission

accomplish one's object

➤ accomplished adj.

very good at a particular thing; having a lot  
of skills 才华高的, 技艺高超的

e.g. John Ciadi was an accomplished poet and  
essayist.





➤ assume v.

- to take as a fact; to suppose 假定，假设，认为

e.g. 他们以为最近价格会上涨，但事实是他们错了。

They had assumed that prices would rise these days, but in fact they were wrong.

- take responsibility

→ assume responsibility

to take or begin to have power or responsibility 承担（责任），取得（权利）

assumption n. 假设；承担





➤ certify v.

- to state that sth. is true or correct, esp. after some kind of test 证明, 证实

e.g. The paper certified that he was insane.

This is to certify that Li Zhi was born on March 16, 1992.

兹证明李林小姐于2005年1月至2010年6月在IBM北京公司工作。

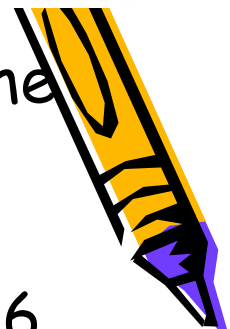
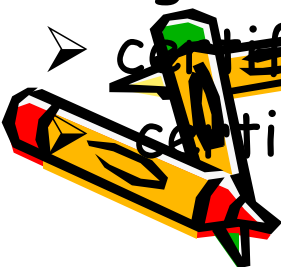
This is to certify that Ms. Li Lin worked at the IBM Beijing Office from January 2005 to June 2010.

- to give sb. an official document proving that they are qualified to work in a particular profession. 颁发 (授予) 专业合格证书

eg. certified accountant

➤ certification n. 证明

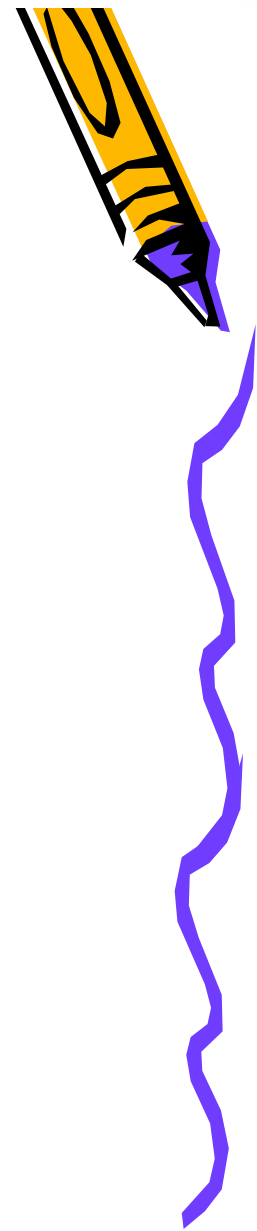
certificate n. 证书





➤ civilized adj.

educated and refined; having an advanced culture. 文明的, 开化的





➤ civil → civilize → civilization

● civil adj.

• connected with the people who live in a country 国的  
民的，平民的

e.g. civil war

• involving personal legal matters and not criminal law 民事的

e.g. civil court / civil law

• polite in a formal way but possibly not friendly 客气的，彬彬有礼的

● civilize v.

to educate and improve a person or a society 使文明，教化

civilization n.

state of human society that is very developed and organized 文明







- apology (n.) + ize → apologize (v.)
- modern (adj.) + ize → modernize (v.)
- central-centralize
- ideal-idealize
- social-socialize
- fertile-fertilize
- industrial-industrialize
- real-realize
- special-specialize





➤ expose v.

- to enable sb. to see or experience new things or learn about new beliefs, ideas, etc. 使接触, 使体验

e.g. 这对父母让他们的孩子们在家接受古典乐的熏陶。

The parents **exposed** their children to classical music at home.

- to put sb/sth. in a place or situation where they are not protected from sth harmful or unpleasant. 使暴露, 使遭受

e.g. 不要让小孩在阳光下暴晒。





➤ incompetence n.

- competent adj. (of people) having the necessary ability, authority, skill, knowledge, etc. 能胜任的, 能干的。

eg. a highly competent driver

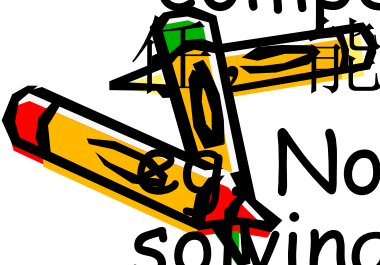
他照看不好孩子。

He's not competent to look after children.

He's not competent in/at looking after children.

- competence n. being competent; ability 胜任能力, 称职。

eg. No one doubts her competence in solving problems./to solve problems.





➤ liter- : letter, word

literal: adj. in the basic meaning of a word 字面意义的

literacy: n. the ability to read and write 读写能力

literature: n. 文学





➤ qualify v.

to reach the standard of ability or knowledge needed to do a particular job. 取得资格（学历）；合格



➤ qualified adj.

having suitable knowledge or experience for a particular job. 符合资格的，合格的  
e.g. 她工作干得十分出色。

She is extremely well qualified for the job.

a qualified doctor





➤ qualification n. 资格, 资历

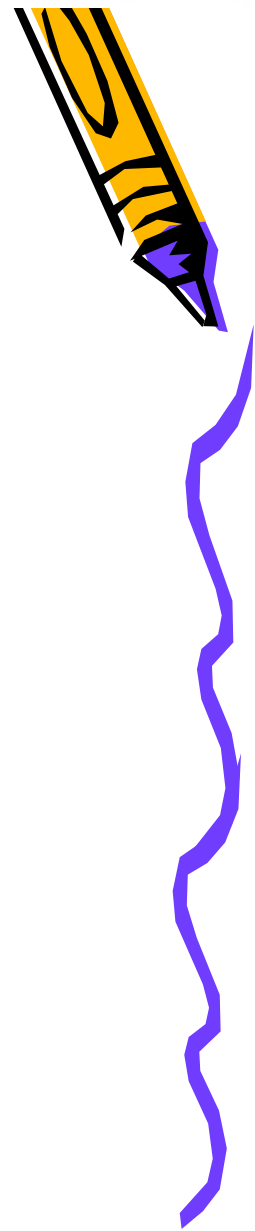
e.g. 她没有资格做导游.

She has no qualification to be a tour guide.

qualify-qualification

simplify-simplification

certify-certification





➤ rear

v. to care for a person or an animal until they are fully grown. 养育, 饲养

e.g. 她一个人撑起了一个五口之家。

She reared a family of five on her own.

n. the back part of sth. 后部

adj. at or near the back of sth. 后面的

e.g. rear door





- specialize v. to spend most of your time studying one particular subject. 专门从事, 专攻, 专注于



eg. My sister **specializes** in contract law.

在30岁的时候, 他开办了一家专做家用电脑生意的公司。

At age 30, he started a company **specializing** in home computers.

- n. specialization
- adj. specialized eg. specialized knowledge
- specialist n. 专家
- speciality n. 专长







➤ suffice v.

to be enough 足够, 足以

e.g. One warning sufficed to stop her doing it.

sufficient adj.

enough for a particular purpose 足够的, 充足的

e.g. 即使在干旱的年份, 这里的食物和水也很充足.

The food and water here is quite sufficient, even in a dry year.

sufficiency n. 充足





# Text Structure

- Part I (paras. 1-8): the writer describes his encounter with a student of his.

He tried but failed to convince the student that a pharmacy major needs to read great writers.

- Part II (paras. 9-14): he restates, fourteen years later, what he still believes to be the purpose of a university:

putting its students in touch with the best civilizations the human race has created.





# Questions for Paras.1-3



- Q1. What did the writer do after he was fresh from graduate school? What course did he teach?
- Q2. Why did the student come to see him in the office?
- Q3. What reason could the writer tell the student?
- Q4. Did he give the student this reason? Why?





- I was fresh out of graduate school...
- be fresh out of/from sth: to have just come from a particular place; to have just had a particular experience, e.g.

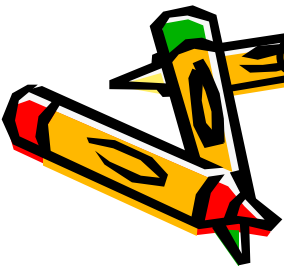
Students fresh from college should have a three-month probation in the company

undergraduate {  
freshman  
sophomore  
junior  
senior  
postgraduate or graduate





- Part of the student body was a beanpole with hair on top...as if to say “All right, teach me something.”
- body:
  - a group of people who work or act together, often for an official purpose, or who are connected in some other way, 集体, 团体, 群体
  - e.g. a law-making body
- part of the student **body**:
  - one of the students





- As attributives placed after the n/pronoun.

eg. China is country with a long history.

The man with a scar on his forehead is his father.

Soon he came to a river with a wooden bridge over it.

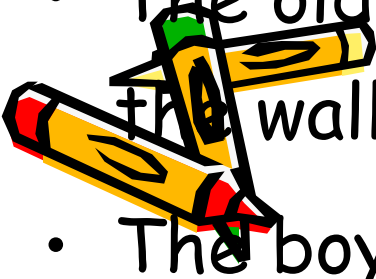




- (with) + n/pron+ present participle/ past participle

/ prepositional phrases/to-infinitive/adj/adv.

- The murderer was brought in, with his hands tied behind his back.
- He sat in front of the young people, his dusty face masking his age.
- The old man stood there, with his back against the wall.
- The boy raised his head with his eyes full of





- He left Italy with his heart broken.
- The naughty boy stood before his teacher with his head down.
- With ten minutes to go, you'd better hurry.



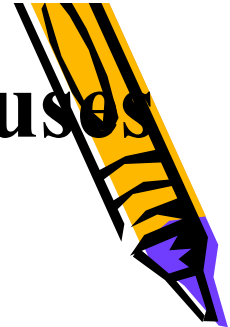




# as if + n/adj.(phrase)/to infinitive/ participle/prep. phrase/adverbial clauses of manner

- He acts as if a fool.
- The girl left the room hurriedly as if angry.
- He paused as if to let the sad memory pass.
- From time to time, Jason turned round as if searching for someone.
- Alice, very pale, was leaning against him as if for support.

as if he wanted to say...





- New as I was to the faculty, I could have told this specimen a number of things.
- New as I was to the faculty:  
Concessive clause, meaning  
“Although...”

More examples:

尽管这似乎很荒谬，但这个故事是真的。

Ridiculous as it seems, the tale is true.





- new to sth: not yet accustomed to sth;  
unfamiliar with sth  
eg. They are still new to the work.
- could have done: subjunctive mood  
e.g. 本来他可以通过考试，但他太粗心了。  
He could have passed the exam, but he was  
so careless.





- ..., but it would further certify that he had been exposed to some of the ideas mankind has generated within its history.
- be exposed to (usually, a new idea or feeling): to be given experience of it, or introduced to it, e.g.

Studying abroad, he was exposed to a new way of life.

想要更了解我们生活的这个世界，我们得接触不同的文化。

To learn more about the world we live in, we should be exposed to different cultures.





- 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.

- matter:

n. affair, topic or situation 事情, 问题, 情况

v. to be important or have an important effect on sb./sth., e.g. 重要, 要紧

It hardly matters what you learn, as long as it deeply interests you and helps to broaden your horizon.

你同不同意已经不重要了. 我已经决定了.

It doesn't matter whether or not you agree. My mind is made up.





## Questions for Paras.4-8



Q1. What reason did the writer finally give?

Q2. Do you think the student was convinced?





- ...your days are going to average out to about twenty-four hours.  
average adj.
- found by calculating the average  
eg. The average age of the students is 19.
- He is not a child of average intelligence.  
→ average: of the ordinary or usual standard





average out : (infml) to come to an average or ordinary level or standard, esp. after being higher or lower,

e.g.

The restaurant's monthly profits averaged out at 30% last year.

这对夫妇的收入平均是5000元每月。

The couple's joint income averages out to 5,000 yuan a month.







- ...but the average will tend to hold.  
hold = hold good (idm): remain true or valid 仍然适用，仍然有效  
The same argument doesn't hold good in all cases.





- For eight of these hours, more or less you will be asleep.

more or less:

- approximately, e.g.

She works 12 hours a day, more or less.

- basically, essentially, almost, e.g.

We have more or less reached an agreement on the matter.

我基本上写完作文了。

I've more or less finished my composition.





- ...be usefully employed.

be employed in doing sth.: (written) to spend your time doing sth., e.g.

The old man's days were employed in reading, writing, and doing Chinese boxing.

这个老太太在忙着给她的孙子们织毛衣。

The old lady was busily employed in knitting sweaters for her grandchildren.





- ...you will be using your professional skills.

Future continuous tense: shall/will be doing sth. It is used for ongoing future actions.

eg. Will you be presiding over a family that...?

I'll be waiting for you at the eastern gate of the university.

我们的同学小梁下周二会出现在一个电视脱口秀节目里。

Our classmate Xiao Liang will be appearing on a TV talk show next

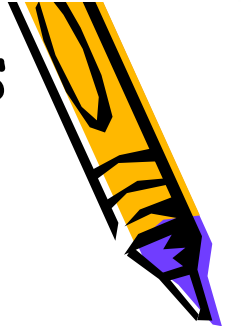




- You will see to it that the cyanide stays out of the aspirin, ...  
see it to that: to make sure that, e.g.  
I' ll see to it that everything is ready before the guests arrive.

你能保证今天把所有请贴都送完吗?

Can you see it to that all the invitations are delivered today?





- They will be your income, and may it always suffice.

In formal English, "may" is used to express a hope or wish.

eg. *May you success.*

祝愿我们的国家繁荣昌盛，人民幸福安康。

。

*May our country be prosperous and our people happy.*





- But having finished the day's work, what do you do with those other eight hours?  
do with: (in questions with "what" ) to take action with regard to, e.g.

What shall we do with the children when we're away?

他们不知道该怎么处理这里的垃圾。

They do not know what to do with all the garbage here.





- Will the children ever be exposed to a reasonably penetrating idea at home?
- reasonably: to a degree that is fairly good but not very good, e.g.  
She wants to find a place reasonably close  
(=not far from) to her university.







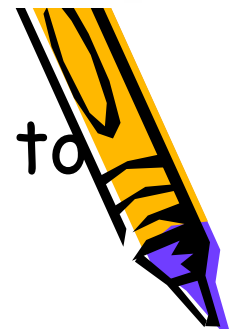
- Me, I' m out to make money.

be out to do sth./ for sth.: to be trying to get or do sth., e.g.

Look out for such end-of-the-year sales. These shops are out to trick you into buying what you don' t need.

该公司试图要进入欧洲市场.

The company is out to break into the European market.

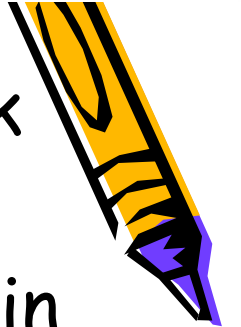




- ...because you' re going to be badly stuck for something to do...

be stuck for sth.: not to know what to do in a particular situation, e.g.

In the middle of the speech, he was stuck for words. (=he did not know how to go on)





- Part II (paras. 9-14): He restates, fourteen years later, what he still believes to be the purpose of a university:

putting its students in touch with the best civilizations the human race has created.





- ...for that **lesson** of **man**' s development we call history - then you have no business being in college.
- have no business doing sth./have no business to do sth.: to have no right to do sth, e.g.

He has no business criticizing her about her make-up.

你无权告诉我该做什么。

You' ve no business telling me what to





- You are on the way to being that new species of mechanized savage, the push-button Neanderthal.
- on the/one' s way to: on the point of experiencing or achieving, e.g.

那个很有前途的小伙子就要成为公司的销售经理了。

That bright young man is on his way to being the sales manager of the company.

Nancy is on her way to a nervous breakdown.





- No one gets to be a human being unaided.  
get to be/to do sth: to reach the point at which you are, feel, know, etc. sth., e.g.

His absent-mindedness is getting to be a big problem.

Once you get to know her better, you' ll realize she is a compassionate person.





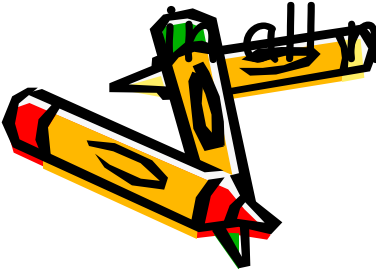
- And as this **is true of** the techniques of mankind...

be true of (a person or a situation):  
to apply to, e.g.

It's a wonderful opera. The music is superb. The same is true of the acting.

年轻人想展望未来，而老人们却喜欢回忆过去。  
任何国家的人们都一样。

The young tend to look ahead while the old like to look back upon the past. This is true  
all nations.





- A civilized mind is, **in essence**, one that contains many such lives and many such worlds.

in essence: basically, by nature, e.g.

He is in essence an outgoing person.







- ...a university has no real existence and no real purpose except as it succeeds in putting you in touch...

“except” is often used along with *that/where/what/when/as* as a conjunction.

More examples:

The house stays empty except when its owner comes in summer.

We know nothing about the project except what is reported in the papers.





How does the writer present his argument?

## Introduction

He introduces the topic with his encounter with a student and with two questions: Why should we go to university? Why should we learn literature, arts, philosophy, politics, etc.?

Then he proceeds to give evidence to support his view:

**Evidence A:** Distinction between training and education.

**Evidence B:** How to spend the 8 hours of leisure time will decide whether you can raise





**Answer/topic sentence:** ... the business of the college is to put you in touch with what the best human minds have thought.

**Evidence C:** Nobody gets to be a human being unaided, and books can aid us in becoming a civilized human, both in terms of techniques of mankind, and in terms of spiritual resources.

## **Conclusion**

Reiteration and summary: the function of university and its faculty.





## Theme

The author tries to clarify the purpose of a university: to put the students in touch with the best civilization that human race has created.



# Language Style & Tone



- Style:  
Colloquial, familiar style
- Tone:  
Humorous and mildly sarcastic

