



Half a Day

Naguib Mahfouz

Warm up

First day of school ...



Questions for warming up

1. What do you think is the business of university?
What do you expect to learn here?
2. Did you find the university just as you had imagined? In what way was it as you imagined, and in what way wasn't it?
3. What do you think you should do to get the most out of college?



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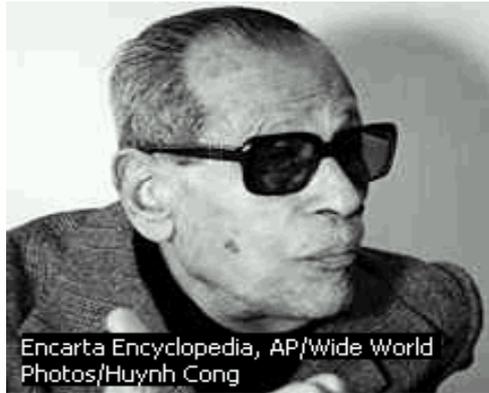




Background Knowledge

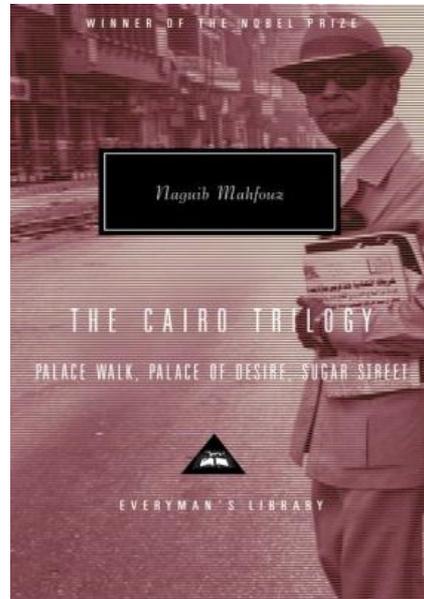
Naguib Mahfouz

1911-2006

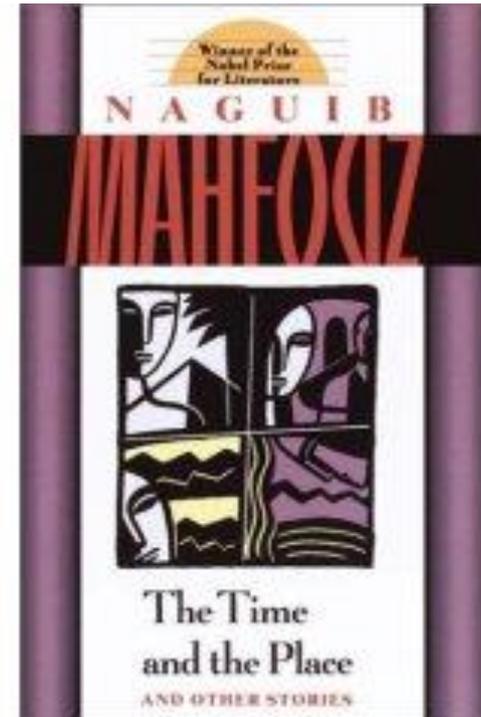


Born in 1911, educated at Cairo University
Wrote short stories and historical novels before WWII
Turned to write novels of social realism after WWII
Later works combined realism & symbolism
A prolific (多产的) writer: no fewer than 30 novels, more than 100 short stories, and more than 200 articles.

His Works



***The Cairo Trilogy* ['trɪlədʒi] : *Palace Walk, Palace of Desire, Sugar Street*
(《两宫间》、《思慕宫》和《怡心园》
(first published 1957)**



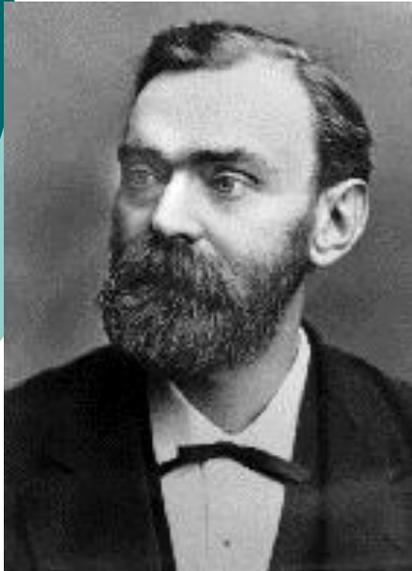
***The Time and Place and Other Stories*, 1991**

His Influence

- ◆ The first Arab Writer to win the Nobel Prize in Literature – 1988, The Cairo Trilogy
- ◆ Depicts realistically the social and political life in Egypt

"a Dickens of the Cairo" and "the Balzac of Egypt".

Nobel Prize



Nobel invented TNT. After his death, he left a large amount of wealth. According to his will, many people with great achievements will be awarded with the money

Nobel Prizes are mainly on physics, chemistry, literature, and peace etc.



Cairo

The capital of Egypt, lies on the mouth of Nile, which is the biggest city in Africa, also one of the oldest cities in the world.



**An angle view
of the city of Cairo**



Word Study

border

vt. Be on the border of sth.

borderland

borderline

•Examples:

■ How many countries border China?

border on sth: be next to sth.

■ The house borders on the highway.

Border sth. with sth. : put a border on sth

■ A handkerchief bordered with lace.

cling to

to hold tightly; not release one's grip on

Examples:

- **The little child clung to his mother for comfort.**
- **Some of the victims of the fire climbed out of the building, clung to the window ledges for a minute or two and then dropped to their death a hundred feet below.**

Cf.

- **cling to the belief**
- **cling to the hope**
- **cling to one' s own view**
- **cling to the habit**
- **cling to one' s possessions**

Cf.

- 固守信念
- 抱着一线希望
- 坚持己见
- 固守着某种习惯
- 坚守财产不肯放弃

Synonyms

hold

seize

grip

grasp

snatch

clutch (1)

vt. to hold sth. or sb. tightly, esp. because you are frightened, in pain, or do not want to lose something

Examples:

- Tom fell to the ground, clutching his stomach.
- A woman clutching a baby stole an elderly woman's purse.

clutch at (2)

to try hard to hold sth., esp. when you ' re in a dangerous situation

Synonym

catch at

Example:

- **A drowning man will clutch at a straw.**

(to try hard to find a sign of hope or a solution, even when they are not likely to exist in a difficult or dangerous situation)



daze

n. a confused state of mind

v. to make (sb.) feel stupid or unable think clearly

Examples:

- **I' ve been wandering around in a daze all day.**
- **If someone gave you a heavy blow on the head, you would probably feel dazed.**
- **I was dazed by her sudden offer.**

Intricate

*a. containing many detailed parts
which make it difficult to understand*

Examples:

- **It is an intricate idea and would need a lot of intricate work.**

misgiving

n. a feeling of doubt or worry over a future event

Examples:

Many teachers expressed serious misgivings on the new form of exam.

我唯一的担心是我们来不及完成这个设计来参加比赛。

My only misgiving is that we might not finish this design in time for the coming competition.

overlook

*vt. a. to have a view of sth. from above
b. to fail to see or notice; pay no attention to*

Examples:

- **Our room overlooks the ocean.**
- **My garden is overlooked by the neighbors.**
- **I' m afraid I overlooked your name; I' ll add it to the list immediately.**
- **I' ll overlook your mistake this time.**

revolve

Synonyms

spin

rotate

whirl

*v. a. to spin around or make sth. spin
around, on a central point*

b. (fig.) to think about

Examples:

- The metal disc revolves at high speed.
- The earth revolves round the sun.
- The story revolves around a young girl who runs away from home.
- He revolved the matter in his head/mind.

trace

n. a. a small sign that shows that sb. or sth. was present or existed
b. very small amount

a

● It vanished/disappeared without trace.

a

● Petra' s lost all trace of her German accent.

a

● Age has left its traces on his face.

b

● There are traces of poison in the man' s blood.

b

● A mere trace of smile passed over her face.

trace

Synonyms

discover
find

-
- v. a. to follow the marks to find sb. or sth.*
b. to find the origin of sth.
c. to study or describe the history, development or progress of sth.

track down

Word formation

traceable (a.)

Examples:

- She had given up all hope of tracing her missing daughter.
- The style of these paintings can be traced back to early medieval influences.
- His book traces the changing nature of the relationship between men and women.



Text Appreciation



Is this a story about magic?

- Work in groups and discuss the meaning of the story at 2 levels:
 - Superficial meaning
 - Underlying implications

Superficial Meaning

1

Para. 1-7

The boy's reluctance to go to school:
His misgivings about school

2

Para. 8-16

The Boy's life at school:
Rich and colorful
Requiring discipline and hard work

3

Para. 17-20

At the end of school day:
Everything has changed!



Underlying Implications

- Time?
- Life?
- Society?
- Change?



The following are a few possible understandings of the message the story conveys. Which one do you agree with?

- Time and tide wait for no man.
- Life is short and time is precious.
- There is nothing permanent in life but change.
- Life is a dream. Do not take anything seriously.
- The world around us can change dramatically.
- Education can never keep up with changes in society.



Underlying Implications

- Do you think the sudden change of the boy's age symbolizes something?
- Do you think the boy's first day at school symbolizes something?



The question I most want to ask

- Write down one question that you most want to ask on a piece of paper.
- It can be a question about how to understand a word, a phrase, a sentence, a paragraph, the structure of the story, or any other question related to the text.
- Your questions will be collected and re-distributed.



Tackle our own questions

- Work in groups of 4 and try to solve the 4 questions from your classmates.
- Be prepared to present to the class:
 - What are your questions about?
 - What type of questions are they?
 - What are your suggested answers?
 - How did you get your answers?

A Short Story

- ◆ **Plot:** a little boy's first time to go to school
- ◆ **Setting:**  on the way to school
at school
on the way home
- ◆ **Protagonist/Narrator:** “I” –the boy in the story
- ◆ **Theme** of the story: what do you think?



Detailed Analysis

Para. 1-7

Main ideas of the first part

- How did the boy feel about going to school? Find textual evidence.
- Why was he feeling so?
- List the father's comments about school. What do you think of them?

School is a place that makes useful men out of boys.

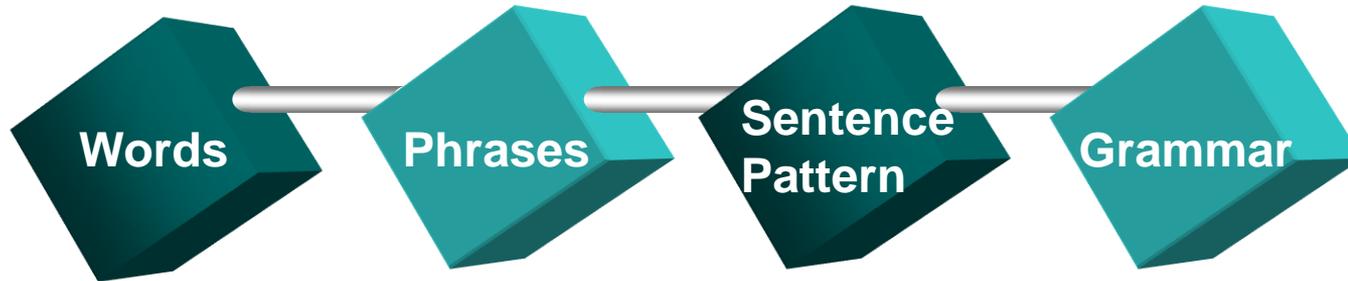
Don't you want to be useful like your brothers?

Put a smile on your face and be a good example to others.

Be a man.

Today you truly begin life.

Detailed Analysis



clutch
convince

throw into
make out of
tear from
cling to

**The day +
that clause**
**There is
no/any good
in doing**

***I was to be
thrown into***
***clutching* his
right hand**
***street lined
with gardens***

Detailed Analysis

Present participle

Showing the manner in which the narrator walked

I walked alongside my father, clutching his right hand. (←1)

Other examples from the text:

- My mother stood at the window *watching our progress*... (←2)
- I turned towards her from time to time, *hoping she would help*. (←2)
- “I’ m not punishing you,” he said, *laughing*. (←4)
- The bell rang, *announcing the passing of the day and the end of work*. (←17)

Detailed Analysis

- ⑩ They did not make me happy, however, as this was the day I was to be thrown into school for the first time. (←1)

Noun phrase usu. followed by a relative clause is used as an adverbial of time.

Be to do sth: future tense indicating intention or plan

“As” introduces an adverbial clause of reason.

But my new clothes did not bring any happiness to me, because it was the day I was forced to go to school for the first time.

Detailed Analysis

More examples:

- 我出生在中国开始改革开放的那一年。
I was born in the year China began its opening-up and reform policy.
- 救护车到的时候，已经太晚了。
By the time the ambulance arrived, it was too late.
- The moment I saw him, I recognized he was the criminal wanted by the police.

Detailed Analysis

throw sb. into/out of a place

to force sb. to enter/leave a place

Examples:

- They' ll **throw me out (of school)** if I fail three exams.
- Nick **got thrown out of college** in the second year for taking drugs.
- Anyone who opposes the regime [re'ʒim]政权 is liable to **be thrown into jail/prison**.

Detailed Analysis

force to go to

- The burglar was **thrown into** prison.
- The news of an international war **threw** the whole nation **into** panic.

cause to be in a state of

Detailed Analysis

Our slow and difficult movement towards the school

My mother stood at the window watching our progress, and I turned towards her from time to time, hoping she would help. (←2)

Sometimes,
but not often

Detailed Analysis

... a street where there are gardens along both sides.(←-2)

...a street **lined with** gardens... (←-2)

Past participle

A novel (that was) written by Charles Dickens
Personal computers (that are) made in China

Detailed Analysis

“Why school?” I asked my father. “What have I done?”

(←3)

**elliptical
question**

**rhetorical
question**

Why do I have to go to school? I don't think I've done anything wrong to be punished like this.

Detailed Analysis

- **elliptical question & rhetorical question**
- A: Headmaster: We want you to go and tell the boy's parents the news.
B: Teacher: Why me?
- Father: We' ll go to Tianjin this weekend.
Daughter: What for?/ Why this weekend?/Why Tianjin?
- Don' t you want to be useful like your brothers?
- Can' t you see I' m busy? (Don' t disturb me!)
- Does nothing ever worry you?

Detailed Analysis

It' s a place that makes useful men out of boys.(←4)

make ... out of

cause to become

- 他能把最普通的材料做成美丽的艺术品。
He can **make art out of the most common material.**
- 多年来的艰苦生活养成了他坚韧的性格。
Years of hardship has **made a tough man out of him.** .

Detailed Analysis

I did not believe there was really any good to be had in tearing me away from my home and throwing me into the huge, high-walled building. (←5)

to (make sb.) leave a place
unwillingly because one has to

gerund ['dʒɛrənd] **as the object of the preposition**

I didn't think it was useful to take me away from home and put me into that building with high walls.

Detailed Analysis

There is no good to be had in doing sth.

=It is no good/use doing sth.

- 覆水难收

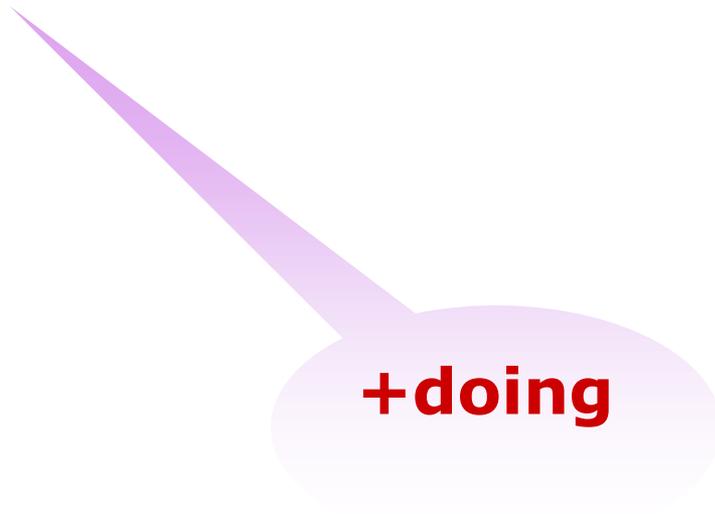
It is no use crying over spilt milk.

- 把自己弄得在班上那么不受欢迎对你而言没什么好处。

There is no good to be had in making yourself so unpopular among your fellow classmates.

Detailed Analysis

- ⑩ It is no (not much) good
- ⑩ It is no (not any, hardly any, little) use
- ⑩ It is useless
- ⑩ It is worth (worthwhile)



+doing



Detailed Analysis

Para. 8-16

Main Idea

Life is like a day in school.

At first ...

Reluctant
Frightened
A stranger
Imprisoned
Confused
At a loss
Overwhelmed

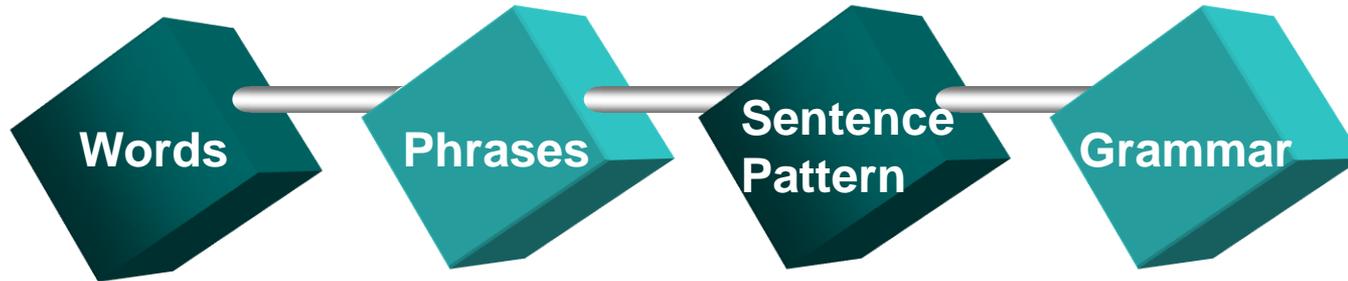
Then ...

Joyful
Enjoyable
Beneficial
Socializing
Learning
Friendship
Love
Sweet
Unclouded

But ...

Rivalries
Pain
Hatred
Punishment
Exertion
Perseverance

Detailed Analysis



**Misgiving
perseverance**

**Come into
view
Burst into
A matter of
Fool around
Bring about
Give rise to
Resort to
Take
advantage of**

**There was
no question
of doing

Nothing but**

**I had never
imagined
school *would*
have ...

She would
often yell and
scold**

Detailed Analysis

Some of the children burst into tears.(←11)

- Burst into ...

 - to begin, suddenly and/or violently,
to cry, laugh, sing, etc.

Detailed Analysis

- As the comic got into his stride, the audience **burst into laughter**.
- The aircraft crashed into the hillside and **burst into flames**.
- The orchards seemed to have **burst into blossom** overnight.
- The entire hall **burst into thunderous cheers/applause**.
- Everyone on the bus **burst into song** as we got closer to home.

Translation

1. 哄堂大笑
2. 突然起火
3. 竞相开放
4. 发出雷鸣般的欢呼
/ 掌声
5. 突然唱起歌来

Detailed Analysis

A lady came along, followed by a group of men. (←11)

followed by a group of men: an adverbial modifier of manner

eg. (combine, give, guide)

_____ by the teachers, all the students are studying very hard.

_____ enough time, I' ll complete the job in time.

_____ with practice, theory may be learned easily.

Detailed Analysis

The men began sorting us into ranks. (←11)

**The men began arranging us into lines/
rows.**

sort sth into把某物分类

sort sth into sizes把某物按大小分类

Detailed Analysis

We were formed into an intricate pattern in the great courtyard.(←11)

Paraphrase:

We were made to stand in different places to form regular lines or shapes in the big courtyard.

Detailed Analysis

❖ ... from each floor we were overlooked by a long balcony roofed in wood.(←11)

高楼的每一层都有带木顶的、狭长的阳台，从每个阳台上，都可以清楚地看到我们的队形。

Paraphrase:

... on one side of the courtyard was a building with a long wood-roofed balcony on each floor where we could be seen.

Or

... from the balcony on each floor of the building people could see the pattern into which we formed.

Detailed Analysis

I had never imagined school would have this variety of experiences. (para. 13)

possibility

- And while the lady would smile, she **would** often yell and scold. (para. 15)

frequent actions in the past

- I **would** find the answer at home with my father. (para. 18)

past future tense

- ... but the stream of cars **would** not let up. (para. 18)

willingness

Detailed Analysis

It was not all a matter of playing and fooling around. (15)

← completely

↓
to waste time instead of doing
sth. that you should be doing

**What we did at school wasn't just
playing and wasting time doing nothing
useful.**

Detailed Analysis

a matter of:

simply; of a certain quality

a matter of opinion/taste/time/fact

- 他被迫辞职只是个时间问题。
It is only a matter of time because he is forced to resign.
- Wisdom is a matter of when to speak your mind and when to mind your speech.
- It is not a matter of life and death if you fail the exam.
a matter of life and death: a very serious matter

Detailed Analysis

Fool around

to waste time behaving in a silly way

- **Examples:**
- **He spent the whole afternoon just **fooling around**.**
- **Stop **fooling around** otherwise you' ll never achieve anything.**

Detailed Analysis

Bring about
to make sth. happen

- **Examples:**

- **Computers have brought about many changes in workplace.**
- **That unpopular measure finally brought about the downfall of the government.**

Detailed Analysis

Give rise to

:fml to be the reason that sth.
happened, esp. sth. bad and unpleasant



Examples:



Two phenomena are **giving rise to** world-wide concern—mass unemployment and mass migration into cities.



Most people argued that poverty had **given rise to** the crimes in the town.



Detailed Analysis

resort to

to turn to sth (usu. bad) as a solution because there is no other way

- There is no right to **resort to** violence when you don' t get your way.
- Differences and disputes should be resolved through dialogue and negotiation rather than by **resorting to** force or terrorist actions.

Detailed Analysis

- In addition, the time for changing one's mind was over and gone and there was no question of ever returning to the paradise of home. (16)

there is no possibility of

Besides, it was impossible for us to quit school and return to the good old days when we stayed home playing and fooling around all day. Our childhood was gone, never to come back.



Detailed Analysis

- There is no question of allowing the students to go home before the holiday starts.
- There is no question of losing the competition; we will win.

Detailed Analysis

- Nothing lay ahead of us but exertion, struggle, and perseverance. (←16)
nothing but: only

He did nothing but sleep all day long.

Detailed Analysis

- Those who were able took advantage of the opportunities for success and happiness that presented themselves.(←16)

present itself/ themselves: (formal) (opportunity or problem) to occur often when you don' t expect it/them.

The opportunity presented itself and she took advantage of it.

I have to present myself in court on May 20th.

If there came opportunities, capable students would seize them to achieve success and happiness.

Detailed Analysis

take advantage of sth

make use of

- I took advantage of the weather to paint the roof.
- We should take advantage of our youth and live a full life.

take advantage of sb

treat sb. unfairly to get sth

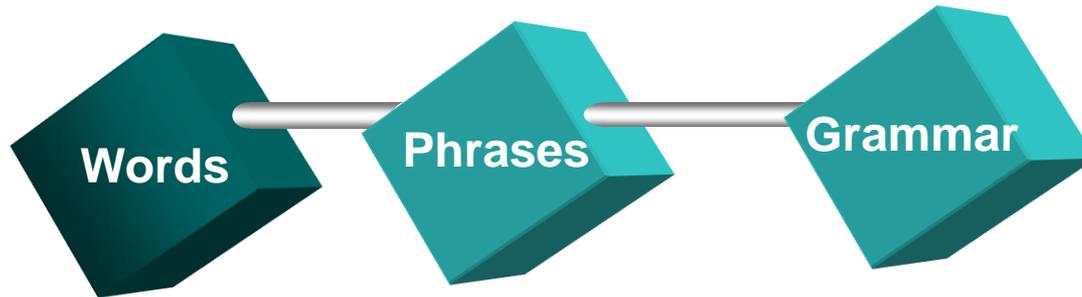
- He took advantage of the old man's kindness and cheated him of all his savings.



Detailed Analysis

Para. 17-20

Detailed Analysis



**trace
invade
daze**

**in vain
on my own
come to a halt
find one' s
way
take over
show off
let up**

**Here and there
stood
conjurers ...**

Detailed Analysis

in vain

uselessly; without a successful result

- 他想劝说父亲戒酒,却没有成功。
He tried **in vain** to persuade his father to quit drinking.
- 多年来他的努力都白费了。
His efforts all these years were **in vain**.
- **In vain** did he try to convince the jury of his innocence.

Detailed Analysis

find one' s way to

arrive or get to a place

- I had a map, but I still couldn't find my way back to the hotel.
- 这些不合格产品是不可能进入我们的市场的。
There is no question that these unqualified products will find their way to our market

Detailed Analysis

Translate the following phrases

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. make one's way to the door | 1. 艰难地向门走去 |
| 2. bow one's way out of the room | 2. 边鞠躬边退出房间 |
| 3. push one's way out of the hall | 3. 挤出大厅 |
| 4. shoulder one's way through the crowd | 4. 推攘着挤出人群 |
| 5. worm one's way into the organization | 5. 混入组织 |
| 6. beg one's way back home | 6. 一路乞讨回家 |
| 7. inch one's way up the mountain | 7. 一步一步挪上山 |

Detailed Analysis

take over

get control of; start to be responsible for

○ 她两周前继任了经理。

She **took over as** manager two weeks ago.

Detailed Analysis

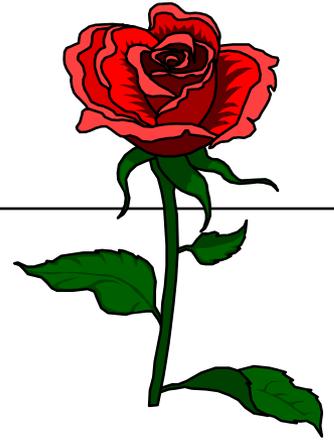
Here and there stood conjurers showing off their tricks or making snakes appear from baskets. (17)

**an inverted sentence
due to long subject**

Compare:

- 1. Were there no air on the earth, there would be no life on it.**
- 2. Here came the milk man.**

The end



Thank You !



Half a Day

Naguib Mahfouz

Vocabulary

4. Complete the sentences by translating the Chinese in the brackets
 1. differ
 2. differently, different
 3. difference
 4. serious, serious, seriously
 5. seriousness, seriously polluted
 6. Fortunately/ Luckily, pollution, seriously, pollute
 7. attention
 8. attentively, attentive

3 Fill in the blanks with the correct forms of the phrases and expressions.

1. on their own
2. show off
3. burst into
4. given rise to
5. brought about
6. to resort to
7. clinging to
8. give rise to
9. took advantage of
10. in vain, make, out of

4 Translate the following sentences using words and expressions taken from the text.

1. They **took advantage of** our helpless situation and **took over** our company.
2. Although there are still difficulties ahead of us, I am sure that we Chinese people will have the wisdom to **bring about** the peaceful unification of our country **on our own**.
3. It is wrong to put emphasis on **nothing but** GDP. It will give rise to many serious problems.
4. He loves to **show off** his wealth, but this is all **in vain**. People still avoid him as though he were poison.
5. He soon **fell in love with** the village and was determined to make it a beautiful garden together with other villagers.

4 Translate the following sentences using words and expressions taken from the text.

6. We must spend more money fighting against global warming. In addition, we must **resort to** tough laws. It is not just **a matter of** money.
7. When the police arrive at the school, the students and the teachers were still **in a daze**.
8. This corrupt official was still **clinging to** his power. He refused to **step aside**.
9. When the man finally **came into view**, I found it was my father. I didn't know how he managed to find this place in the blinding snow. At that moment, I **burst into tears**.
10. She glanced at him **from time to time**. It was the first time in her life that she had found herself looking at a young like that.

5. Fill u in the blanks with the correct prepositions or adverbs

1. of
2. from
3. for
4. out
5. up
6. up
7. up for
8. out
9. with
10. of
11. of
12. of
13. up



Grammar



2 Fill in the blanks with the correct form of word(s) in the brackets.

1. had overslept
2. had invited
3. was born, had left
4. had gone, told
5. had worked, were admitted
6. loved, had always been
7. was, had been
8. became, had read
9. returned, came
10. met, had once treated, said, was, had done, forgave, asked

Fill in the blanks with ONE suitable word.

1. easy
2. beginning
3. But
4. suddenly
5. worried
6. If
7. master
8. number
9. habit
10. go

4 Translate the following sentences into

English

- 1. Before I came to/ entered college, I had never thought life at college would be so rich and interesting.
- 2. Most of the Chinese college students born in the 1990s are the only child of their families.
- 3. All those who know him admire him for his hard work.
- 4. I missed the class because I didn't know it had moved up to Thursday.
- 5. In some countries, those who are overweight will be punished one way or another.

4 Translate the following sentences into English

- 6. Soon after the fire, those who had lost their homes were taken to a place of safety.
- 7. When we met again, we found we both had changed a lot.
- 8. A team of experts headed by Professor Li will soon come and help farmers solve their problems.
- 9. The field planted with tomatoes used to be wasteland.
- 10. Our teacher told us to read books written by such masters as Mao Dun and Ba Jin.