

第83篇 [對所讀過五本書說明] [ Last 5 books Read ]

命題大意：列舉最後讀過的五本書。

寫作大意：多年前所讀過的五本書。

ASSIGNMENT：5/5/2004

Begin a reading journal. Note the last five books you've read and what you liked or disliked about them. .

WRITING: 5/12/2004

In my age from about 30 to 65, hard working to retiring, my reading mostly limited to those related to tackling professional problems. In that period of time, I had practically stopped reading whole books for pleasure, but casually glanced over newspapers and magazines to keep aware of contemporary things, and scanned on books for solving technical problems. Moreover, since retirement in 1985, my interest has been changed to writing. Like a silkworm, it eats mulberry leafs all the time when being young, but changed to spewing silk fibers, no more eating, up to its end of life becoming a cocoon. My general reading, like silkworm eating leafs, had been mostly in between the ages of ten to thirty years old.

The last five books I had read and now accounted were in my 20s of age. The first two books are in English namely "Lost Horizon" and "A Tree Grown in Brooklyn", which were 25 cents pocket books I picked up in a mess hall in a unit of US Army served in China in the WW2, when I was conscripted for a short time as an interpreter. Another two books were Chinese translation of English books namely "Gone with the Wind" and "The Lover of Madame Chartai"; the authentic name I forgot must be different. It is about a lady living with her husband who had been disabled in the first world war. She happened to have a lover and raptures with a hunter in their neighborhood. The last book is in Chinese namely "Hung Lau Mang" or translated "A Dream in Scarlet Building". The above two books in English were the only English books, narrative and fiction, I have ever read so far. The problem for me to read English book is that my reading speed is too slow and comprehension not in-depth enough. Now I don't have much impression on them. I liked to read the next two books and still have a good impression on them. The last book is most famous in Chinese literature I like most.

I know there are many good books in English that I have missed to read. The low reading speed and poor comprehensibility limit me doing so. I know the best method to build up English maneuvering capability is to move into an English speaking environment as an infant, or to marry an English speaking spouse at prime age. Both are too late for me.

第82篇 [故事的二面觀] [A Silly Story Changed to Serious ]

命題大意：在小道雜誌上選一低下故事改寫為嚴肅面

寫作大意：將台灣320選情作兩面觀敘述。

ASSIGNMENT：4/28/2004

Buy a tabloid magazine. Find a silliest story in it. Use it as the basis for a short serious story.

WRITING: 5/5/2004

The story I am going to write about is not from a tabloid magazine but as big news on the world newspapers of March 20 2004. It is about the presidential election in Taiwan, not only the silliest story but also most trickery and mystified. It is vexing and vicious. Since it happened, there are two entirely different scenarios talked about in Taiwan and part of the world. The one advocated by the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), is that, one day before, that is March 19, when the DPP candidates Chen Swei-Bian and Lu Sio-Lian were on an election Jeep making the final campaign dash through the throng along a road in his home city Tainan, he suddenly claimed being assassinated by a sniper. They guarded by a small group of people hurried to a private hospital which he has a very good relationship, bypassed two greater governmental hospitals. The big assassination news was quickly aired with governmental news medias and official reporting a slice of skinny wound on Chen's belly , implied that was the conspiracy of the opponent party Kuomintang (KMT) in connection with Mainlander authorities. People especially the Southern Taiwan became suddenly boiled with a mixed sensation of sympathy, nationalism and bias. KMT was stunned and stopped its campaign activities. The election was held as scheduled the next day. DPP won the election with a small margin of 29518 polls overturn the original 8% underdog in public opinion survey. When the election results announced, the entire people in Taiwan and part of the world were astonished and evaporated. There were several tens dubious points about the allegation of the DPP. Tens of thousands of people spawned to the square of the presidential building for protesting for an unfair election. Some even went for a hunger strike for several days but in vane. A part of the people were anguish for being cheated while another part in favor of DPP proclaiming God blessing President Chen. Now the situation is that, Chen and Lu with administrative and security power in hand, are going to proceed inauguration on the May 20 disregard the massive protection.

The attitude of George Bush is pivotal. People understand that USA is using Taiwan to counter balance the growth of the Mainland China to become a real world power. USA and Taiwan have a pact of collaborated defense. American type democracy works in America but not quite matured in the rest of the world. But if George Bush is blindly supporting Chen Swei-Bian and the DPP for profiting with selling arms and stymieing China and lost the value of honest, he would be considered stained and shameful.