

第84篇 [鉛筆的故事] [Story of a Pencil]

命題大意：如題。

寫作大意：如題。

ASSIGNMENT：5/12/2004

Write a story in which the main character is a small, inanimate object, such as a pencil.

WRITING: 5/19/2004

Humankind has invented many kinds of writing instruments for recording and transmitting thoughts and information in its evolution to civilization. Only the pencil and ball pen are still popularly in use. Others like the fountain pen and the Chinese writing brush are, if not entirely fall away, scarcely used. PC is now extensively used for writing and recording, but it is not handy and self-printing, impossible to replace pencil and ball pen. Ball pen writing is good for permanent preservation. Pencil writing can be easily changed with an eraser meeting the requirement of drafting and trivial marking during reading. Both have their indispensable value.

Between these two pens now substantially in survival, I have special affection on the pencil, because, in my life as a design engineer, I had exclusively used pencils for drafting engineering drawings and design analysis reports before their formal copies in blueprints were made. I had also, from 1985 to 1995, drafted my first publicized book and some other writings of articles and letters with pencils. The word process I had used is that, I first drafted my writing with a pencil and an eraser in trial and error, to make the work satisfactory, then had the pencil work printed out with a copy machine to finals for release and filing. Such practice had been continued until I got the proficiency of using computer for word processing. Beside the above concern, I now sometimes use a color pencil set for drawing pictures and mark my writing. Computer is my favorite but I still have a deep love and relationship with pencil. I used a pencil make the first scratches on a paper as a baby. I might use pencil write the last word on a paper when my oral fails me to say in future in the last breathes.

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For Record: From www.google.com search engine, I got the following stories about pencil:

In ancient Rome, scribes wrote on papyrus with a thin metal rod called a stylus, which left a light but readable mark. Other early styluses were made of lead. Today we still call the core of a pencil the "lead" even though it is made from nontoxic graphite.

Graphite came into widespread use following the discovery of a large graphite deposit in Borrowdale, England in 1564. Graphite left a darker mark the lead, but was so soft and brittle that it required a holder. At first, sticks of graphite were wrapped in string. Later, the graphite was inserted into wooden sticks that had been hollowed out by hand! The wood-cased pencil was born.

Pencils have been painted yellow ever since the 1890s. And that bright color isn't just so you can find them on you desk more easily. During the 1800s the best graphite in the world came from China. American pencil makers wanted a special way to tell people that their pencils contained Chinese graphite. In China, the color

yellow is associated with royalty and respect. American pencil manufactures began painting their pencils bright yellow to communicate the "regal" feeling and association with China.