

# End of the Semester (Narrative Writing)

enjoy each one of your blessings each moment that life gives you  
在生命給你的每一刻享受每一個祝福

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A flash of lightning illuminated the (2)landscape and a woman's figure. The woman was walking on a path between the fields in the thunderstorm, (3)she was all wet, exhausted, and awkward. Her face looked pale but resolute, and one of her knees was bleeding. (7)(2)No matter how abominable the condition was, she never thought of giving up. Although the escape had debilitated her, she still had the strong will to live. (5)Suddenly, the thunder fell from the clouds and burst. The explosion wave was so strong that the ground shook slightly. The woman was frightened by the clap of the thunder, hence, (1)she trotted faster to leave the wild. (7) "Damn! How can I be so out of luck?" she roared. A bunch of villains were chasing after her, so she had to find a safe place to take a rest and wait for the rain stopped.

(5)Two hours later, it was still raining cats and dogs! (10)It seemed that the cherubs in the Paradise were dabbling, they poured buckets of water to each other and spread laughter to every corner! (7) "It's much better to die in the wilds than be killed." the woman comforted herself. She had a temperature and every step took more and more vigour from her.

(5)Unexpectedly, she saw a village which was about a mile away from where she was. (7)The resolution to live filled her heart again. (1)She wiped the beads of sweat from her forehead and then quickened her pace.

(5)The forest was wailing and begging for pardon. Strong winds went on a rampage through the wilderness and struck the giant trees. Some trees toppled and sobbed on the ground sadly. (10)It seemed that there was a severe traffic accident. (5)The current which flowed in front of the woman formed as a result of the continuous heavy rain. It was about five metres in width and the depth of it was unable to measure by eye. She knew that she had to swim across it. (1)She took a deep breath and (7)heartened herself, "I am able to do that." (1)Then she walked into the water and trod water.

(5) A few moments later, she reached the opposite bank. Her temperature increased after the strenuous exercise. However, she also felt dizzy and had visions of her memory gradually. (7) "I must have gotten a fever," she moaned and walk arduously. She saw her grandparents waving and smile to her and her dog, Furry, jumping up and down happily because of her arrival. (10) The volcano by the name of Sadness erupted, and magma spurted out from her eyes silently. The lava flow through her heart and scalded it. (2) The wounds were bleeding. Nonetheless, she couldn't stop it. Extreme pain pressed on her spirits, however, she wasn't able to express or release it. A mysterious but acquainted voice kept asking her, "Is this the life you desire?" "Have you become the kind of person you admire when you're small?" "Does everything worth it?" These questions were her sore points. (7) She was loath to admit that all the things she did had gone against her original dream as well as her grandparents' expectation.

(5) The woman's name was Caroline. Twenty years ago, she left almost everything here, for example, the meaningless morality, the fetters which stunted her growth, and the useless innocence. Then she went to New York to study and aspired to fame and wealth. (5) She used to promise her grandparents a better life with sufficient food and stable incomes. Unfortunately, neither of them had the luck to wait for the day they cast off the poverty. When she was only twelve, both of them died of pneumonia because they didn't have money to afford the fees for the treatments, and then she became an orphan. After her grandparents' deaths, she had been in despair for a short period of time. She lost not only her dear relatives but also the most important piece of her life puzzle--Hope. (5) Recalling those sorrowful memories tormented Caroline's mind, therefore, headache was induced to distract her from the misery. She could hardly breathe because of the irritation, and (3) looked feeble as well as mournful. (7) Although it was impossible, she felt like her head was going to split. (1) She frowned and squatted down slowly. All of a sudden, she (2) knocked unconscious and fell on the dirt track abruptly.

(5) When Caroline was in a coma, she had an intriguing dream about her childhood. Two decades ago... She lived in the countryside with her grandparents. They owned a log cabin which had two floors and a small farmland. They grew some dry farming, for instance, potatoes and corns. Although life was really tough, they were always optimistic about the future and treasured what they owned.

(5) *In Caroline's dream.* The dawn was breaking. Light streamed in through the open window and ran fast in the small room with energy. She saw a young girl sleeping on a little bed, smiling pleasingly as if someone gave her a packet of sweets. (7) "Who's that girl? She looks like me." Caroline asked. A voice appeared and explained the situation to her "In fact, the young girl was you at the age of eight. Your body is in a stupor now, but your soul is vigorous. Maybe it's because your spirit has been repressed for a long time. Anyway, it brought you back to your childhood. I am not sure why it does that, yet it must have a great reason. In addition, you can't get out of the dream until you regain consciousness." (7) "Who are you?" she asked anxiously. However, the voice didn't appear again. (1) She closed her eyes for a while, seemed to be pondering what she was going to do next. A gentle breeze followed the light into the room and stirred the wind chimes. The clear as well as melodious ring jumped in the girl's dream and waked her up. "What a wonderful morning!" the little girl said.

(5) Caroline got out of the room and look around the house which she had lived for twelve years but never returned afterwards. She saw the old pictures on the wall, Furry sleeping under the chair, and two rocking chairs in front of the door where Grandfather and Grandmother used to sit and chat every afternoon. Incidentally, if you compare the wooden house with her mansion in Washington DC, it is obvious that there is a world of difference between them. However, she felt comfortable and warm here as everything was familiar to her. (5) She noticed that the girl went to her grandparents' room, they were still sleeping. A mischievous as well as familiar smile appeared on her face. "I am not going to let the time elapse freely." she whispered. Caroline grinned, too. (2) Slinking out of home was always charming. After the girl brushed her teeth and put on a T-shirt as well as a pair of trousers, she slipped out quietly. She pottered around the town alone. It was tranquil since no one woke up so early except for her. (5) The atmosphere of autumn had permeated every corner of the countryside. (2) A cool breeze brought a few maple leaves to the rural area. (10) The god of autumn coloured all the leaves red and asked the wind to send them to everywhere. The dyed leaves were not only a signal of the commencement of autumn but also the invitations to the yearly autumnal feast. She picked up a leaf and read it carefully. It said that the party would be held this morning, and the location was in (2) the forest. She let go of the leaf and ran to the forest immediately. The woodland was just like her playground, and she usually visited it herself. (1) She treaded on the fallen leaves and felt the zephyr stroking her cheek. A few moments later, she

arrived at the wood. (2)The beauty of the maple forest took her breath away, it was really gorgeous. (10)The vermilion foliage was shining under the sunbeams as though the rubies were glittering brilliantly. (7)(2) “How beautiful it is!” Caroline was also astonished by the view of the maple trees. She had seen the scenery in days gone by, but those remembrance faded into oblivion as time went on. The little girl took a stroll and enjoyed the fresh air in the nature.

(5)When the girl went home, her (2)grandma was preparing their breakfast. (1) She tried to sneak in her room and pretend that she just woke up, but unluckily, her grandmother was conscious of her presence. (7)“I remembered I had never managed to do that.” Caroline thought. “ Good morning, sweetie.” Grandma said. The girl was startled and stammered “ Good-good morning, granny.” “ Well, tell me. Where did you go?” “ I went to the forest.” she answered. (1)Grandmother turned to face her and asked, “Caroline, haven’t I told you that it’s dangerous to go to the forest alone?”. “ Yes, Grandma.” she responded. Before her grandmother was about to say something else, her grandfather walked out of the room and said “ What happens, Caroline?” “ I went for a walk in the wood this morning.” she replied. “ Wow, how brave you are!” smiled Grandpa. “It’s too hazardous for an eight-year-old girl to go to the forest alone!” Grandma remonstrated. “ Indeed. Honey, next time you should invite me.” (1)he winked at her. (1)(5)Caroline’s eyes brimmed with tears when she saw this. (7)The feeling of being loved filled her heart again soon, it had been missing after her grandparents’ deaths. She used to think that she will lose it forever, but now she understand that love will last forever and is beyond the limitation of life as well as death.

(5)After a day of hard work, everyone was tired. It was nine o’ clock, time for little Caroline to go to bed. Grandmother told her a story about Mother Teresa’s life and chatted with her. “What do you want to do in the future?” Grandma asked. “ I admire Mother Teresa a lot so I want to become a person like her. (2) I will devote all my effort to the care of the sick and the poor.” she responded. (1)(5)Caroline gave a wry smile. (7)Her present occupation was not only disgraceful but also immoral. She worked for a big corporation and earned more than a million dollars a year. She stole trade secrets from other companies and manipulated the market. Countless businesses were forced into bankruptcy because of her dirty tricks, and that was why she was chased. “ Good thinking. Albert Schweitzer said, ‘ I have always held firmly to the thought that each one of us can do a little to bring some portion of misery to an end.’ Life was short, hence, we should make a good use of it. Help as many people as you can and spread love to every

corner. The value of a person should depend on his or her dedication to the world, but not fame and wealth he or she gets." Grandma said.

(1)(5)Caroline bursted into tears when she heard her granny's words.

(7)There was a void left by her grandparents' demise. She tried to stuff it with her achievement before, but now she knew that the actual problem was the lack of dedication. She was determined to reform herself and become the kind of person she admired after she found the key to happiness--Dedication. What Grandma said made her believe that the more she gives away, the more love as well as satisfactions she obtains.

(5)After she regained consciousness, she found out that the kind-hearted villagers saved her life. They also let her lodge until she recovered. She sent each of them a gift and built a school in the village to express her gratitude. Henceforth, (2)she spent all her time as well as energies helping people in need and finally filled the emptiness in her heart with joy and peace.