

MUSINGS FROM THE MOUNTAINTOP

CHINESE CULTURE UNIVERSITY ♦ LANGUAGE TEACHING AND LEARNING CENTER
E-NEWSLETTER ♦ SPRING/SUMMER 2009



Who are we?

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From the Editor's Desk by Craig Watt

In this issue of the newsletter we look at the 'Question and Answer Column' a very useful service for students that has been running for a number of years. The Question and Answer Column allows students to ask a teacher a question, a teacher will then write down their response to the question. The Q & A notebook is near the Language Center office (room 203). Take a look at some of the past questions and answers from previous years, maybe they will answer a question you've been thinking about or perhaps encourage you to ask a question yourself.

If you are a movie fan, this issue also gives a review on a book called, *Film*. It

also offers some well-known quotations in English from a number of famous writers, poets, scientists and others. These quotations can be **thought provoking** (see below for vocabulary building), **encouraging** and **inspiring**. I hope you like them.

Remember that we always enjoy receiving contributions to the newsletter from students, why not **have a go** at writing a short article yourself? You're teacher might even give you credit towards your grade if you get an article included in the newsletter. So enjoy the newsletter and good luck with this semester's finals!

Vocabulary Building Box

thought provoking: 發人深省的

encouraging: 鼓勵的; 可鼓勵的

inspiring: 激勵人心的

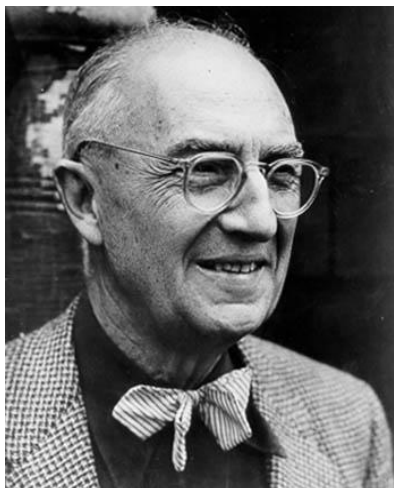
to have a go: 試試看

An Activity with a Poem by Craig Watt

Take a look at the poem below:
THIS IS JUST TO SAY
by William Carlos Williams

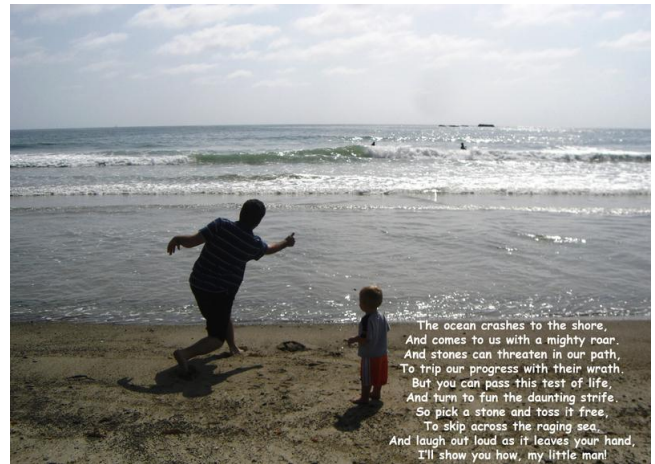
I have eaten
the plums
that were in
the icebox
and which
you were probably
saving
for breakfast

Forgive me
they were delicious
so sweet
and so cold



This poem is written as a note from one person to another. Who do you think these people might be? What do you think is the relationship between the sender and the receiver? Send your suggestions to The Editor taiwancraig@yahoo.co.uk

[see "Implementing the Lexical Approach" by Michael Lewis p164 for this exercise and possible extensions –Ed.]



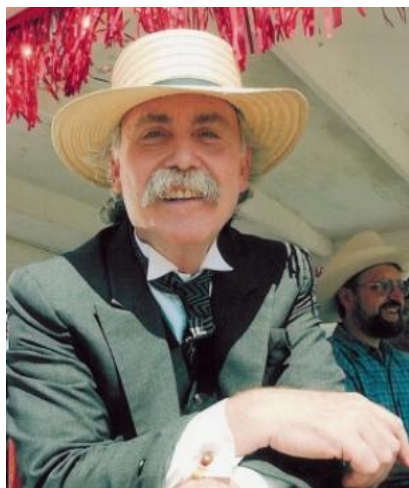
Famous Quotations by Craig Watt

Take a look at these famous quotations. I have not included an explanation of the meaning, why don't you think about it and let us know here at the E-newsletter? Send me an e-mail with your suggestions to taiwancraig@yahoo.co.uk and I'll include them in the next issue.

“Don’t go around saying that the world owes you a living. The world owes you nothing. It was here first.”

“I have never let my schooling interfere with my education.”

by MARK TWAIN



“Forget injuries, never forget kindnesses.”

by CONFUCIUS



“The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt within the heart.”

“Never bend your head. Hold it high. Look the world straight in the eye.”

by HELEN KELLER



Book Review by Craig Watt

FILM

by Susan Stempleski and
Barry Tomalin
Oxford University Press

Many students watch movies either for pleasure or to help improve their English. This is a resource book for teachers that provide useful exercises that students can use with film. The activities are divided into ‘before

you watch’, ‘while you watch’ and ‘after you watch’. If you are thinking to yourself “Well I’m not a teacher” then don’t worry it is still a useful book for you to read. [There is a copy in the library –Ed.] Here is an example of one of the exercises from the book:

SHOWING YOUR EMOTIONS

Students identify and describe emotions displayed by characters in a film clip.

Material: A film clip of a very emotional sequence from a film.

Procedure: [see the book p52 for this, not included to save space –Ed.]

SHOW YOUR EMOTIONS (WORKSHEET)

WHO?	WHAT?	HOW?	WHEN?
Which character displays the emotion?	What emotion does the character display?	How does the character display the emotion?	What is happening at the time the character displays the emotion?



When Harry met Sally



Roman Holiday

Question and Answer Column

(Q&A from 1st April 1984)

Question: If we want to read masterpieces, which kind is the best?

Answer: If you want to start reading masterpieces (classics), start with ones written about subjects that interest you. I can’t tell you which ones are the best. You have to decide that for

yourself. It will probably be easier for you to read fairly contemporary (modern) literature, since English usage has changed over the years and you are not familiar with formal speech or the original meanings of some words.

If you want to start reading English language masterpieces in English you could start with a “Special English” version. [The library in our university has the latest editions– Ed.]. If you are really interested in English classics, however, you should make it your goal to improve your English before you actually read the original.

(Q&A from 8th May 1986)

Question: I am willing to talk in class, but sometimes the teacher looks so serious so that I dare not speak in class. How can the teacher and I get along with each other better?

Answer: Sometimes teachers look serious because they are concentrating on teaching. That doesn't mean that they are angry. Teachers like students to talk or ask questions in class, so speak up and make your teacher happy.

(Q&A from 12th December 1990)

Question: How can I train myself to concentrate in class? My mind is always somewhere outside the classroom. Thank you.

Answer: I suggest that you prepare for class very carefully and come to class with questions to ask your teacher. The better prepared you are, the more interested you will be, and the more you will want to participate in class. Also you will want to listen to explanations in class for things you don't understand.

(Q&A from 23rd December 1990)

Question: What is the meaning of the phrase “Drawing water from the moon” By Corey Hart?

Answer: The moon has no water, so you cannot get (draw) water from it. So whatever Corey Hart was referring to meant that it was impossible.

