**学案**

**LEAD IN**

**Compare two sets of samples from Zhejiang Gaokao’s continuation writing and decide which is better.**

**Set 1 2020.1 (A Puppy for Poppy)**

Sample A

The moment he stepped into the house, Poppy rushed to the boy and licked his face with excitement. Then the boy embraced his parents tightly. After being told the story of Poppy and the little dog, tears welled up in the boy's eyes.

Sample B

Imagine how surprised he was when he opened the door, as he was not only greeted by Poppy's warm hug, but also “attacked” by a tiny creature. ... That evening, the family sat happily, enjoying the delicacies, and most importantly, the time together. Though the time may be short, it would last in everyone's memory, forever.

**Set 2 2020.7 (The Polar Bear)**

Sample A

The noise scared the bear and the rescuers rushed to us soon, ... Finally, Elli and I returned to hotel, safe and sound. After calming myself down, I checked my camera, amazed to find that the photos were so clear and vivid ... What a scaring but awesome adventure!

Sample B

Shocked by the noises, the bear stopped and turned around. ... After we calmed down, the locals told us that the bears were losing their homes and food because of human activities and climate changes. On the way back home, I checked the precious pictures in the camera, lost in thought.

**READING -- Finding Theme**

To me, what Thanksgiving really means is giving good thanks, not eating turkey. By the time I was 18 I had created my Thanksgiving ritual (惯例). I would go out shopping and buy enough food for one or two families. Then I would dress like a delivery boy, go to the poorest neighborhood and just knock on a door, and would always include a note saying “All that I ask in return is that you take good enough care of yourself so that someday you can do the same thing for someone else.” I have received more from this annual ritual than I have from any amount of money I’ve ever earned, especially one such experience in New York City.

Several years ago I was in New York City with my newly married wife during Thanksgiving. She was sad because we were not with our family. Normally she would be home decorating the house for Christmas, but we were stuck here in a hotel room. I said, “Honey, look, why don’t we decorate some lives today instead of some trees?” When I told her what I always do on Thanksgiving, she got excited. I said, “Let’s go someplace where we can really appreciate who we are, what we are able to do and what we can really give. Let’s go to the poor neighborhood Harlem and feed some people there in need. We’ll go buy enough food for six or seven families for 30 days. We’ve got enough. Let’s go do it!”

We started by getting a van (货车), but there seemed no vans in all of New York City. The rent-a-car places were all out of vans. My wife was disappointed, and I said,“Look, the bottom line is that if we want something, we can make it happen! All we have to do is take action. There are plenty of vans here in New York City. Look down at the street. Do you see all those vans? Let’s go get one!” My wife agreed and we took action.

**Paragraph 1: We tried stopping vans as they were driving down the street.**

**Paragraph 2: Eventually a van drove up and the driver said yes.**

1. Abstract (What was the story about?)
2. Orientation (When, Where, Who and How)

Several years ago in New York City, my wife, a van driver and I went to Harlem to feed some people there in need.

1. Evaluation (How did the author think of it?)

I have received more from this annual ritual than I have from any amount of money I've ever earned, especially one such experience in New York City.

1. Why was my annual ritual in NYC special? (change)
2. Was there any trouble? How was it settled? (conflict)
3. What have I received?

I have received satisfaction.

I have received companionship.

I have received the importance of taking action.

**Design of Plots -- Conveying Theme**

**If you were to design the plot of the third step of the first paragraph, how would you do it?**

1. I could see my wife's eyebrows knitted into a frown of anxiety, and I started to think of giving up.
2. My wife was disappointed but I patted her on the shoulder and comforted her, “It is the law of averages: Somebody is going to say yes .”

**Proportion of Plots -- Conveying Theme**

**There are three versions of the second paragraph, which one do you like best and why?**

1. ①With extraordinary happiness rising up inside us, every fiber of disappointment instantly vanished. ②We two competed against each other to explain our plan about Harlem. ③Without a second thought, the driver shared great interest in the plan and agreed to help. So off we went, collecting food and loading the packages onto the van. Then we headed for Harlem and gave out all we could offer -- warm meals and warm heart.
2. ③ Without a second thought, the driver shared great interest in the plan and agreed to help. So off we went, collecting food and loading the packages onto the van. Then we headed for Harlem and gave out all we could offer -- warm meals and warm heart. No sooner had the families found the goods than they dashed towards us exclaiming “thank you”.
3. Without a second thought, the driver shared great interest in the plan and agreed to help. So off we went, collecting food and loading the packages onto the van. Then we headed for Harlem which turned out to be exactly the other side of this seemingly glamorous city. Yet when we gave out the food, smiles of heartfelt appreciation could be seen on all those pale and weather-beaten faces, radiating enough warmth to melt the coldest winter.

**Ending -- Conveying Theme**

**Rewrite the ending.**

1. Until now, every time I recall this unforgettable experience, my heart flutters with a current of warmth -- not only for the kindness we gave but also for the belief, companionship and satisfaction we received. **(emotions)**
2. It was not the vans but people’s kindness that delivered joy and hope to the needy. **(evaluation)**
3. The room light leaked through the curtains, casting lengthy shadows behind us, silently showing what the true meaning of Thanksgiving was. **(echoing)**
4. The sun was setting and the night was falling, but the smiles of people who received our help lit up our day and decorated our Thanksgiving, which were the best gifts for us. **(echoing)**
5. On that “no vans”night, I better understood the old saying --“The roses in her hand, the fragrance in mine.” **(idioms)**

**Conclusion**

**How to convey THEME in continuation writing?**

1. Design of Plots

2. Proportion of Plots

3. Characterization

4. Comparison

5. Ending