

# One Father's Battle Between Working and Giving Attention to His Daughter



Reader's  
Digest

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2020届第三次联考  
读后续写

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“Missy,” I called to my wife, “did you put the banana skin on my desk?” “No, honey. Meghan probably did.” As I’d feared, she had missed my real purpose of the question which was to make it clear to her that she hadn’t done her job: defend my desk against the invader —— our naughty girl. I abandoned the conversation.

I sat here at the desk, and stared at the screen. I waited patiently for ideas to come to me, exam questions for a test I would give my English students. My wife was off to a reunion somewhere, but I was not alone. Meghan, our 22-month-old daughter, kept me company. Yet her plans that day seemed to go against mine.

She followed a daily routine that was both time-consuming and challenging. It included certain basic tasks: watching the fish, sweeping the carpet in her room, climbing up and down her bed.

At first I could concentrate on designing my test paper. But I was soon sidetracked(分心的). I had not counted on the arrival of the “bib-bibs” (“Bib-bibs” were birds.) “Bib-bibs, bib-bibs!” Meghan screamed excitedly, her eyes alive with expectation. She insisted that I go with her to the window.

“In a second. Just let me finish this question.” I said. She pulled me by the hand (two fingers, actually) toward the window. I saw myself as a fool, being led to watch the bib-bibs. And we did watch them. They chattered and leaped back and forth on the lawn just outside our apartment window. Meghan was absorbed, but as I watched them, I still thought about my work.

Suddenly she rushed out from the room, and I heard her naked feet slapping against the wooden floor outside. She returned with her doll, Dumpty. She held him up to the window, stretching him out by his two arms and whispering into his nonexistent ear, “Bib-bibs, Dumpty, bib-bibs!” Then I left them in conversation and returned to my desk.

注意:

1. 所续写短文的词数应为150左右;
2. 至少使用5个短文中标有下划线的关键词语;
3. 续写部分分为两段, 每段的开头语已为你写好;
4. 续写完成后, 请用下划线标出你所使用的关键词语。

## Paragraph 1:

*Unfortunately, she came again, with her shoes in hands and preparing for an outing.*

## Paragraph 2:

*Out of the corner of my eye I could see the little girl sobbing because I didn't have time for her.*

# abandon

vt. to stop doing sth, especially before it is finished; to stop having sth  
中止；放弃；不再有

她对和解已不再抱有希望。

She abandoned hope of any reconciliation.

我停止了谈话。

I abandoned the conversation.

## company

[U] the fact of being with sb else and not alone 陪伴；作伴

和这个年龄的孩子在一起很开心。

The children are very good company.

他要陪伴我一起来。

He's coming with me for company.

我22个月的女儿Meghan陪着我。

Meghan, our 22-month-old daughter, kept me company.

## accompany

vt. (formal) to travel or go somewhere with sb 陪同；陪伴

那次旅行他由妻子陪同。

His wife accompanied him on the trip.

抱歉今天我没办法陪你出去。

I'm sorry I can't accompany you out today.

## time-consuming

adj. taking or needing a lot of time 费时的；耗时间的

困难又费时的过程

a difficult and time-consuming process

制作蛋糕是一个非常耗时的过程。

Cake-making is a very time-consuming process.

## challenging

adj. difficult in an interesting way that tests your ability  
挑战性的；考验能力的

富有挑战性且有意义的教师职业

a challenging and rewarding career as a teacher

她每天做的事既费时又富有挑战性。

She followed a daily routine that was both time-consuming and challenging.

## sidetrack

vt. [usually passive] to make sb start to talk about or do sth that is different from the main thing that they are supposed to be talking about or doing 使转变话题；使转移目标 【SYN】 distract

我本来应该在写信，但后来恐怕是分心干别的去了。

I was supposed to be writing a letter but I'm afraid I got sidetracked.

## expectation

n. a belief that sth will happen because it is likely 预料；预期；期待

我们满怀信心地期待着完全康复。

We are confident in our expectation of a full recovery.

出乎意料的是利率并未上升。

Contrary to expectation, interest rates did not rise.

完全没想到的她过得非常快活。

Against all expectations, she was enjoying herself.

Meghan兴奋地尖叫，眼里充满了期待。

Meghan screamed excitedly, her eyes alive with expectation.

## chatter

- 1) vi. (of birds or monkeys 禽或猴) to make a series of short high sounds  
啼叫；鸣叫
- 2) vi. to talk quickly and continuously, especially about things that are not important 喋喋不休；唠叨；饶舌

他们高兴地闲扯了一会儿。

They chattered away happily for a while.

孩子们很兴奋，没完没了地谈论着第二天的活动。

The children chattered to each other excitedly about the next day's events.

## leap

v. to jump high or a long way 跳；跳跃；跳越

海豚跃出水面。

A dolphin leapt out of the water.

我们跳过了那条小溪。

We leapt over the stream.

那匹马跃过了一道五尺高的墙。

The horse leapt a five-foot wall.

他们就在我们公寓窗外的草坪上鸣叫，跳来跳去。

They chattered and leaped back and forth on the lawn just outside our apartment window.

## stretch

v. to put out an arm or a leg in order to reach sth 伸出, 伸长 (胳膊、腿)

她伸手到桌子那头去拿黄油。

She stretched across the table for the butter.

我伸出一只手, 把书捡起来。

I stretched out a hand and picked up the book.

她把它举到窗口, 展开他的双臂, 轻声地对着他并不存在的耳朵说:  
“Bib-bibs, Dumpty, bib-bibs!”

She held him up to the window, stretching him out by his two arms and whispering into his nonexistent ear, “Bib-bibs, Dumpty, bib-bibs!”

## sob (-bb-)

- 1) vt. to say sth while you are crying 哭诉；抽噎着说  
“我恨他。”她抽噎着说。  
“I hate him,” she sobbed.
- 2) vi. to cry noisily, taking sudden, sharp breaths 抽噎；啜泣；呜咽  
我听见有个孩子在呜呜地哭。  
I heard a child sobbing loudly.  
他不由自主地抽噎起来。  
He started to sob uncontrollably.

在我的眼角余光中，有个小女孩正在啜泣，因为我没有时间陪她。  
Out of the corner of my eye I could see the little girl sobbing because I didn't have time for her.

- Who are the main characters in the text?  
I (father);  
Meghan (my 22-month-old daughter);  
Dumpty (Meghan's doll)
- What's your impression on them? Find details to support your idea.

Charaters	Impression
I	a work-oriented father and teacher
Meghan	a naughty and lively toddler calling for her father's attention
Dumpty	a beloved companion for Meghan

para.1	... defend my desk against...
para.2	I sat here at the desk, and stared at the screen. I waited patiently for ideas to come to me, exam questions for a test I would give my English students.
para.5	“In a second. Just let me finish this question” ... I still thogught about my work.
para.6	... Then I left them in conversation and returned to my desk.

Meghan  
(a naughty and lively toddler calling  
for her father's attention )

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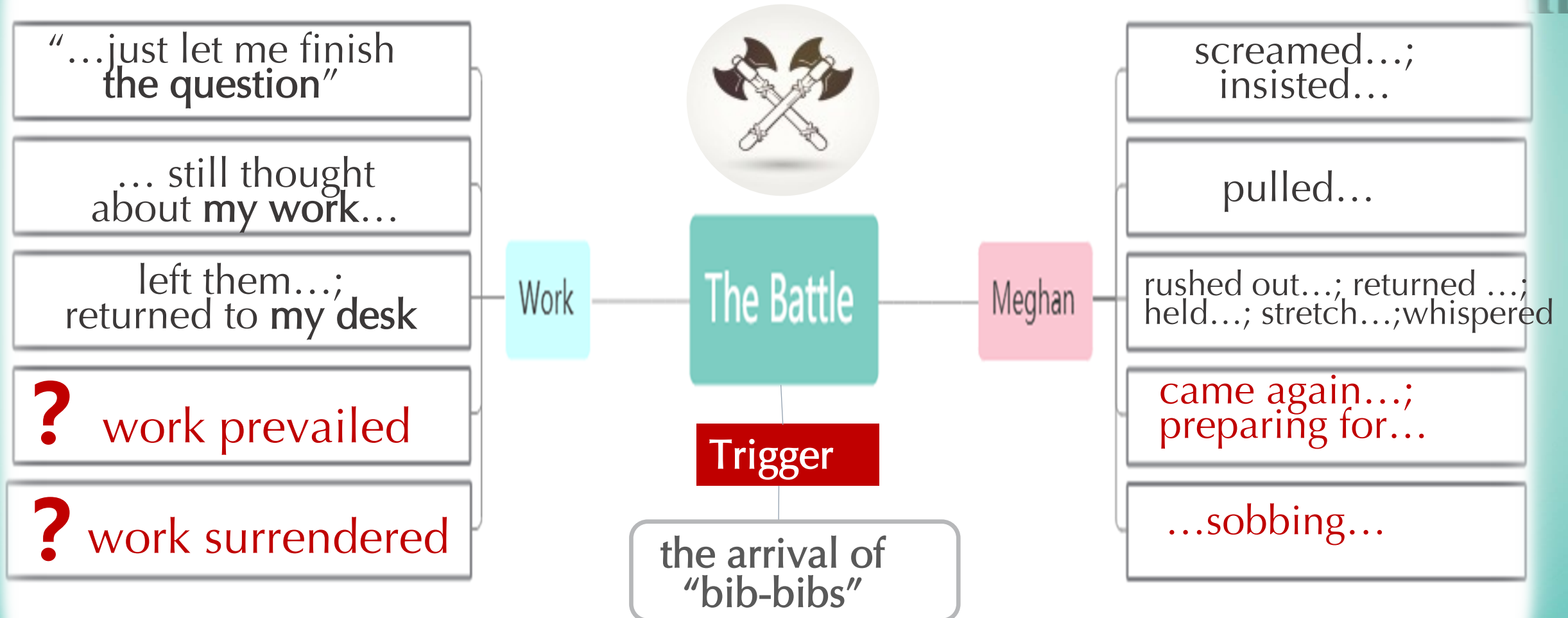
para.1	“...did you <b>put the banana skin on my desk?</b> ” ... “... <b>Meghan</b> probably <b>did.</b> ”
para.4	“ <b>Bib-bibs, bib-bibs!</b> ” Meghan screamed... 【manage to express herself only <b>in short and simple words</b> 】
para.6	...returned with...held him up to the window, stretching him out...whispering into...“ <b>Bib-bibs, Dumpty, bib-bibs!</b> ”

para.6

Suddenly she **rushed out** from the room, and I heard her naked feet slapping against the wooden floor outside. She returned with her doll, Dumpty. She **held him up to the window, stretching him out by his two arms and whispering into his nonexistent ear**, “Bib-bibs, Dumpty, bib-bibs!” Then I left them in conversation and returned to my desk.

【Dumpty endeared himself to Meghan who was eager to share her joy with him.】

Yet her plans that day seemed to go against mine.



para.2 Out of the corner of my eye I could see the little girl sobbing because I didn't have time for her.

### Paragraph 1

*Unfortunately, she soon came again, with her shoes in hands and preparing for an outing. “Don't even ask, Meghan. Not today.” I knew her plan too well: First the shoes. Then the stroller. And pretty soon we were in the park. The way she always did. Having sensed my impatience with her, Meghan put down the shoes, tugged at my sleeve with her free hands and pleaded using her hard-to-understand baby talk. “No, Meghan,” I said again. “Not now. Go away and leave me alone.” Finally, she left. She made no further attempt to bother me. Then I tried to concentrate on the test paper without interference.*

### Paragraph 2

*Out of the corner of my eye I could see the little girl sobbing because I didn't have time for her. She stood with her back against the sofa, watching me type and slowly brushing the tip of Dumpty's arm across her nose for comfort. Obviously Dumpty was doing my job to keep her company. I suddenly felt guilt growing inside me. “Meghan, I feel like taking a walk down to the park. I was wondering if you would care to join me.” Hearing this, she laughed excitedly and began the frantic search for her shoes. I knew I should put aside my work and go right at the moment—while bib-bibs still sparked wonder and while my girl thought that a walk with her father was a gift beyond measure.*

## 第二节：续写写作（满分 25 分）

Unfortunately, she came again soon, with her shoes in hands and preparing for an outing. Sheer expectation overwhelming her, she was overcome by an irresistible urge to escape from the boring house. I struggled not to look directly into her heated eyes and concentrate on my remaining work but undeniably failed. Seeing my cold hesitation, she again pulled my arms firmly, as if removing an enormous mountain. Worries for questions mingled with indescribable irritation licking at my feet, I exploded in towering rage, shouting, "I don't have time for your meaningless games!" These words abruptly cast a gloomy shadow over the whole room as I returned to my desk.

Out of the corner of my eye I could see the little girl sobbing because I didn't have time for her. So silent was the world that her sobbing occupied my heart absolutely, scolding my severe impatience. Tears still streaming down her cheeks, she dragged herself out of my room with a figure indicating a child's isolation. Maybe it was an opportunity to reflect on myself, I thought. I attempted to calm down my frantically thumping heart, reminded by the "bib-bibs" that ~~is~~ behind a kid's requireme<sup>lying behind</sup> his desire for company and love. Immediately, I sprang to my feet and dashed to her, leading her towards an outing, where sunlight shattered and love brimmed.



## 高分作文点评

这篇续写与原文联系十分紧密，第一段顺着提示语点明女儿的意图；接着细致入微地描写了醉心工作的父亲在经历内心挣扎后选择工作；女儿不轻言放弃，继续要求父亲带她出去玩；最终父亲爆发，工作最终战胜了女儿的需求。第二段女儿落泪，父亲心碎。围绕父亲的心理变化展开议论，升华主题，全文聚焦感强。

语言准确，几乎没有错误。使用词汇丰富多样，高级句式信手拈来：

Sheer expectation overwhelming her, she was overcome by an irresistible urge to escape from the boring house. 【独立主格】  
So silent was the world that her sobbing occupied my heart absolutely. 【倒装】

得分：21

第一部分 续写写作 (满分 25 分)

Unfortunately, she came again soon, with her shoes in hands and preparing for an outing. Raising up her head, she stared at me with eyes glittering with childish anticipation, as if saying, "Daddy, come out and play with me and Dumpty!" But at the thought of being burdened with numerous work, I sighed, explaining, "Honey, play with Dumpty till I finish working!" A gleam of light in her eyes submerging, she turned back and threw herself into the sofa, holding her baby doll tightly. I again concentrated on designing while Meghan was slightly murmuring "Daddy... Daddy..." Though couldn't help being sidetracked, I forced my eyes to be fixed on the screen but felt something strange.

Out of the corner of my eye I could see the little girl sobbing because I didn't have time for her. Mingled guilt and love bubbling in my heart, I came to embrace Meghan in my arms, uttering, "Oh dear! Daddy's here and just give me a big smile if you want to play." Wiping away the tears on her cheeks, I took her out to the garden to compensate for my previous absense. The bib-bibs were singing vigorously as breeze wafting our hair with tenderness. Intoxicated in the nature and pure merriment of my angel daughter, I suddenly realized that nothing compared to keeping her company mattered. A radiant smile registered on her rosy face, melting all my pressure and dispelling my remorse.



## 高分作文点评

这篇续写与原文联系较紧，第一段顺着提示语用了一个巧妙的点，点明了女儿的意思，所旁工内，进是 as 接紧仍不。通重影，但多样，高级句式使用娴熟：这篇续写与原文联系较紧，第一段顺着提示语用了一个巧妙的点，点明了女儿的意思，所旁工内，进是 as 接紧仍不。通重影，但多样，高级句式使用娴熟：这篇续写与原文联系较紧，第一段顺着提示语用了一个巧妙的点，点明了女儿的意思，所旁工内，进是 as 接紧仍不。通重影，但多样，高级句式使用娴熟：

Raising up her head, she stared at me with eyes glittering with childish anticipation.

【非谓语句状语；as if 句型】

A gleaming of light in her eyes submerging, she turned back and threw herself into the sofa.

【独立主格】

得分：20

# Homework

1. Keep the given expressions in mind.
2. Learn from the impressive works.
3. Polish your own writing.

