

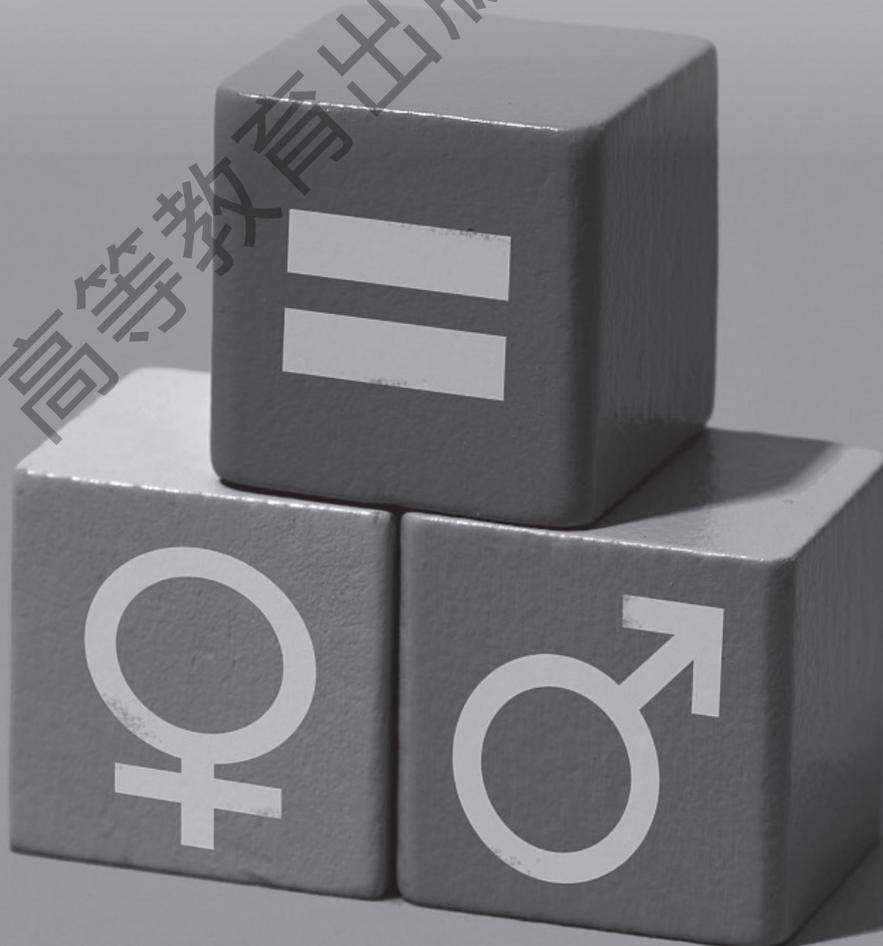
UNIT 7

Gender Equality

Introduction

In this unit, you will learn to

- Talk about social discrimination on gender issues
- Understand women's roles in family and society
- Propose positive attitudes toward gender equality



PART 1 Communicative Activities

1 Brainstorming

Work in small groups. Think of at least five words, phrases or expressions regarding the following topics.

1. Expressions for work / jobs for men / women:

steelworker, coal miner

2. Expressions for trades and professions:

sports, academic field

3. Expressions for equality / inequality:

equal opportunities, racial discrimination

4. Conventional ways of describing sex differences:

women: **emotional, gentle**

men: **reasonable, strong**

5. Expressions for social responsibilities:

looking after a family, mutual help

2 Listening



Listen to the audio and answer the questions.

Women and Society

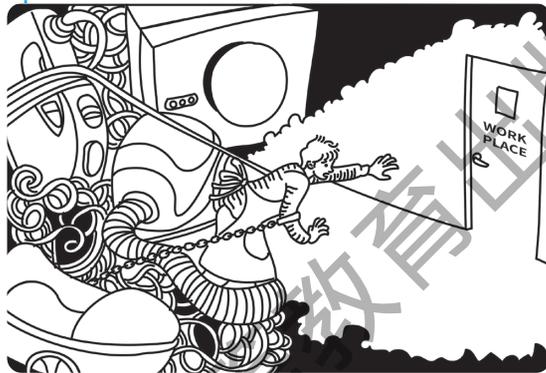
1. Write down one of the examples of the sexist language Mr. Wright gives.
2. Why doesn't Mr. Wright think that it is an enlightened age as it is supposed to be?
3. Write down one of the ideas held by some men which Mr. Wright thinks is "nonsense".
4. According to Mr. Wright, what would happen if women were in control of international negotiations?
And why?

3 Speaking

A Talk about social justice in groups. The following table is for your reference.

Questions You May Ask	Topics You May Talk About	Language You May Use
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are men and women equally treated in Chinese society? • Do people enjoy equality in education, marriage, employment, or other aspects of social life? • What does it mean by “equality”? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marriage and family life • Employment and pay • Promotions • Opportunities of education • Accessibility to social services such as welfare or medicare • Professional development and promotion • Division of work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some people prefer boys to girls in ... • ... become the victims of social bias ... • ... fight against discriminations of gender, race, ethnicity, family background, ability, etc. • ... a challenge to the goal of building a harmonious society • ... aims at social cohesion ...

B Look at the picture and discuss the questions in groups. Then tell your stories to the class.



- Which country do you think the woman lives in?
- What does she long for?
- What prevents her from getting it?
- What about her husband and children?
- Do they support her decision to go out to work?
- If she goes out to work, who is to look after the family and children?
- What do you think the family should do?
- Give the cartoon a caption.

PART 2 Reading and Language Activities

Pre-reading Task

Discuss the questions before you read the text.

1. Cite some examples of sex discrimination in our society.
2. Why do some parents / teachers show particular preference for boys / girls?



Read the Text



Genius Sacrificed for Failure

By William N. Brown

1 During my youth in America's Appalachian mountains¹, I learned that farmers preferred sons over daughters, largely because boys were better at heavy farm labor. With only 3% of Americans in agriculture today, brain has supplanted brawn², yet cultural preferences³, like bad habits, are easier to make than break. But history warns repeatedly of the tragic cost of dismissing too casually the gifts of⁴ the so-called weaker sex⁵.

About 150 years ago, a village church vicar in Yorkshire, England, had three lovely, intelligent daughters but his hopes hinged entirely on the sole male heir, Branwell, a youth with remarkable talent in both art and literature.

Branwell's father and sisters hoarded their pennies⁶ to pack him off to⁷ London's Royal Academy of Arts⁸, but if art was his calling, he dialed a wrong number⁹. Within weeks he hightailed it home¹⁰, a penniless failure.

Hopes still high, the family landed Branwell a job¹¹ as a private tutor, hoping this would free him to develop his literature skills and achieve the success and fame that he deserved. Failure again.

¹ America's Appalachian mountains: a mountain range in East North America extending 2,400 km from South Quebec Province in Canada to North Alabama in the US.

² brain has supplanted brawn: *Brawn* refers to physical strength while *brain* indicates intellectual power. With fewer people in agriculture, intelligence is now valued more than muscular strength. Also, notice that *brain* and *brawn* is a case of alliteration — a rhetorical device that involves two or more stressed syllables with the same sound at the initial positions. Sometimes, the two words in alliteration are antonymous or synonymous in meaning, e.g. *friend and foe*; *weal and woe*; *penny wise, pound foolish*; *he is all fire and fight*.

³ cultural preferences: traditionally biased opinion in favor of something / some type of people.

⁴ dismissing too casually the gifts of: ignoring or belittling the talent of

⁵ weaker sex: (or fair sex) females. The term presupposes that women are weaker than men and is thus considered as carrying undertones of sex discrimination. It also places emphasis on the fact that a woman should be beautiful and is considered worthless if she is not.

⁶ hoarded their pennies: saved every penny. The verb *hoard* indicates the thrifty life the family led in order to save money to support the son.

⁷ to pack him off to: send him to (preparing the luggage and providing fare for him). E.g. *When the Christmas season was over, the parents packed the children off to the boarding school*.

⁸ London's Royal Academy of Arts: principal British art organization, located in London, established for the purpose of improving and encouraging painting, sculpture, and architecture in Great Britain. The art schools of the academy are now open to post-graduate students.

⁹ if art was his calling, he dialed a wrong number: He believed that art was to be his path in life, but the writer believes that this choice was wrong.

¹⁰ hightailed it home: (slang) went or ran back home like a defeated dog in a great hurry

¹¹ the family landed Branwell a job: The family found a job for Branwell.

15 For years the selfless sisters squelched their own goals¹², farming themselves out¹³ as teachers
and governesses in support of their increasingly indebted brother, convinced that the world must
eventually recognize his genius. As failures multiplied, Branwell turned to alcohol¹⁴, then opium,
and eventually died as he had lived: a failure¹⁵. So died hope in the one male — but what of the three
anonymous sisters¹⁶?

20 During Branwell's last years, the girls published a book of poetry at their own expense (under a
pseudonym, for fear of¹⁷ reviewers' bias
against females). Even Branwell might
have snickered¹⁸: they sold only 2 copies.

25 Undaunted, they continued in their
spare time, late at night by candlelight, to
pour out their pent-up emotion, writing
of what they knew best¹⁹, of women
in conflict with their natural desires
and social condition — in reality, less
fiction than autobiography²⁰! And 19th
30 century literature was transformed by
Anne's *Agnes Grey*²¹, Emily's *Wuthering
Heights*²², and Charlotte's *Jane Eyre*²³.

But years of sacrifice for Branwell



12 squelched their own goals; sacrificed their own ambitions

13 farming themselves out; going out to work for a wage

14 Branwell turned to alcohol; Branwell became addicted to alcoholic drink. *Turn to something / doing something* means to direct one's attention to and begin to do it regularly. E.g. *Since you don't have a gift for music, you'd better turn to painting.*

15 and eventually died as he had lived: a failure: He died a failure just as he was a failure when he was alive.

16 but what of the three anonymous sisters: but what about the three anonymous sisters?

17 for fear of; fearing; in case

18 Even Branwell might have snickered: Even Branwell might have laughed at them because they had only sold two copies of their book.

19 writing of what they knew best: writing about what they knew best

20 less fiction than autobiography: the books they wrote were more like stories of their own experiences and life (i.e. autobiography), than made up stories about imaginary people and events (i.e. fiction)

21 *Agnes Grey*: the debut novel of English author Anne Brontë, first published in December 1847, and republished in a second edition in 1850. The novel is the touching story of a young girl who decides to enter the world as a governess, but whose bright illusions of acceptance, freedom and friendship are gradually destroyed.

22 *Wuthering Heights*: A novel by the British writer Emily Brontë, it is a romantic and exciting story that takes place on the Yorkshire Moors, and is about the love between the two main characters, Catherine Earnshaw and Heathcliff.

23 *Jane Eyre*: A novel by Charlotte Brontë about a young woman called Jane Eyre who becomes a governess and agrees to marry her employer, Mr. Rochester, not knowing that he already has a wife who is mentally ill and kept locked in the attic of the house.

had taken their toll²⁴. Emily took ill at her brother's funeral and died within 3 months, aged 29; Anne died 5 months later, aged 30; Charlotte lived only to age 39. If only²⁵ they had been nurtured instead of sacrificed.

No one remembers Branwell's name, much less his art or literature, but the Brontë sisters' tragically short lives teach us even more of life than of literature. Their sacrificed genius cries out to us that²⁶ in modern society we must value children not for their physical strength or gender, as we would any mere beast of burden²⁷, but for their integrity, strength, commitment, courage — spiritual qualities²⁸ abundant in both boys and girls.

Patrick Brontë fathered Branwell, but more important, he fathered Anne, Emily and Charlotte. Were he alive today he would surely urge us to put away our passé prejudices²⁹ and avoid his own tragic and irrevocable error of putting all of his eggs in one male basket³⁰!

1 Comprehension Work

A Summarize the story.

B Summarize the paragraphs.

- The second to fifth paragraphs:

- The sixth to eighth paragraphs:

²⁴ But years of sacrifice for Branwell had taken their toll: But years of hard work had had a destructive effect on the health of the three sisters.

²⁵ If only: The phrase expresses a regretful wish which often requires the past perfect in the clause after it. E.g. *If only Mr. Bronte had sent the three daughters to the Royal Academy of Arts.*

²⁶ Their sacrificed genius cries out to us that: Their sacrificed genius tells us forcefully that. E.g. *The danger of death on the highway cries out for careful driving.*

²⁷ as we would any mere beast of burden: as we would value lowly animals such as horses, and cattle that do physical work for us.

²⁸ spiritual qualities: *quality* (素质) when applied to people is a count noun for denoting a person's upbringing, characteristics and attributes. E.g. *The two candidates share many of the same qualities: generosity, modesty and integrity.* *Quality* (品质; 质量) is used as a non-count noun with reference to the grade of excellence or the standard of something. E.g. *The material is of poor quality.*

²⁹ to put away our passé prejudices: to cast away our old prejudices against females. *Passé* is a French word meaning past, and is in regular use in the English language.

³⁰ putting all of his eggs in one male basket: putting all his hopes on his son Branwell. The expression is derived from the saying *putting all one's eggs in one basket*, which means to depend entirely on the success of one scheme, plan, etc.

C Discuss the questions in groups.

1. Why did farmers traditionally prefer sons over daughters?
2. How did the boy, Branwell, disappoint his family?
3. What became of the boy when he suffered failures one after another?
4. What did the three sisters do to support their brother?
5. What did the three sisters keep doing in their spare time? And what difficulties did they encounter?
6. What great contributions did the three sisters make to 19th century literature? And what are their literary merits?
7. What was the tragic fate of the three sisters? And why?
8. What lesson does the tragic sacrifice of the three girls teach us?
9. What would Patrick Brontë do were he alive today?

2 Language Work

A Put the words in the blanks. Change forms if necessary.

pseudonym
autobiography

commitment
dismiss

hoard
pent-up

sacrifice
integrity

anonymous
nurture

1. The poem is written by a / an _____ writer.
2. The secretary shouted at the manager, releasing her _____ rage.
3. As a man of _____, Mr. White was respected and adored by all the people in the community.
4. Participation in social work can _____ the students' sense of responsibility.
5. The success of the huge project calls for the _____ of all parties involved.
6. When a destructive flood struck the area, local farmers began to _____ food and firewood for fear of famine.
7. Shared parenting makes it possible for professional women not to have to _____ their careers to care for children at home.
8. For the sake of national security, the Prime Minister _____ the suggestion of cutting down on the military budget.
9. In his _____, the former president reveals many details of his first visit to China.
10. Samuel Longhorn Clemens wrote many stories under the _____ of Mark Twain.

B Rewrite the underlined parts using the expressions in the box.

take one's toll
cry out

warn of / about
for fear of

prefer ... to ...
at one's own expense

hinge on
in conflict with

turn to

1. The problem of the ageing population is an urgent warning to society that certain products and services in future must meet the needs of the elderly.

2. My father is a little vain and he loves publicity more than a quiet life at home.

3. The girl is waiting for her boyfriend's call with such anxiety that it seems as if her fate depended totally on the phone ringing.

4. Having failed to make a living out of the small business, he changed his occupation and began to work as a taxi driver.

5. Years of political upheaval in this country were beginning to have a serious effect: the nation's economy was on the verge of bankruptcy.

6. The explorer used his own money to travel across the great desert.

7. His suggestion was novel to us. It was completely the opposite of the conventional idea.

8. Yes, you are free to choose whether to have cosmetic surgery or not, but I have to caution you against the possible dangers involved.

9. I did not have enough courage to say what was on my mind, fearing this would start trouble.

C Explain the words or expressions from the text. You may use an English-English dictionary. Then write a sentence to illustrate the meaning and usage of each.

1. deserve _____
2. if only _____
3. more ... than _____

4. value _____

5. abundant in _____

D Use the given prompts to make meaningful sentences as is shown in the model.

1. **Prompt:** this / free / him / success / fame / he / deserve

Model: This would free him to achieve the success and fame that he deserved.

(1) he / not work hard / finally lay off / he / deserve / what he got

(2) farmer / deserve / recognition / generous donation / school

(3) teacher / tell / class / books / list / deserve / read carefully

2. **Prompt:** if only / they / nurture / instead of / sacrifice

Model: If only they had been nurtured instead of sacrificed.

(1) if only / she / opportunity / go to university / those years

(2) if only / Patrick Brontë / value / daughters / son

(3) if only / his wisdom / respect

3. **Prompt:** Brontë sisters / lives / teach / more ... than ... / life / literature

Model: But the Brontë sisters' tragically short lives teach us even more of life than of literature.

(1) reason / solar energy / not / widespread use / more ... than ... / economic / technical

(2) patients / suffer / more ... than ... / stress / worry about / illness

(3) my father / more ... than ... / friend / parent

4. **Prompt:** we / value / children / by

Model: We must value children not for their physical strength or gender ... but by their integrity, strength, commitment, courage.

(1) someone / value / health / until / ill

(2) if / we / three more days to live / value / every minute

(3) Jerry / value / two pups / as close friends

5. **Prompt:** we / value / children / qualities / abundant in / boys / girls

Model: We must value children by spiritual qualities abundant in both boys and girls.

(1) country / abundant in / natural resources

(2) grass / flowers / abundant / campus

(3) self-centeredness / characteristic / abundant in / today's generation

PART 3 Extended Activities



1 Dictation

Listen and write.

Blank writing area for dictation practice, consisting of four horizontal lines within a dotted border.

2 Read More

When Grateful Begins to Grate

1 I know a woman who is a Grateful Wife³¹. She has been one for years. In fact, her gratitude has been as deep and constant as her affection. And together they have traveled a long, complicated road.

5 In the beginning, this young wife was grateful to find herself married to a man who let her work. That was in 1964, when even her college professor said without a hint of irony that the young wife was “lucky to be married to a man who let her work.” People talked like that then.

Later, the wife looked around her at the men her classmates and friends had married and was grateful that her husband wasn’t threatened, hurt, neglected, insulted — the multiple choice of the mid-sixties³² — by her job.

10 He was proud. And her cup overran³³ with gratitude. That was the way it was.

³¹ Grateful Wife: The wife is also very special like her husband, which is indicated by the capital letters in the two words.

³² the multiple choice of the mid-sixties: i.e. those expressions that were in fashion in the mid-sixties (referring to many possibilities that women chose in their lives)

³³ overran: overflowed; was full of

In the late sixties when other, younger women were having consciousness-raising groups³⁴, she was having babies and more gratitude.

You see, she discovered that she had a Helpful Husband³⁵. Nothing in her experience had led her to expect this. Her mother was not married to one; her sister was not married to one; her brother was not one³⁶.

But at four o'clock in the morning, when the baby cried and she was exhausted, sometimes she would nudge her husband awake (wondering only vaguely how he could sleep) and ask him to feed the boy. He would say sure. And she would say thank you.

The Grateful Wife and the Helpful Husband danced this same *pas de deux*³⁷ for a decade. When the children were small and she was sick, he would take charge. When it was their turn to carpool³⁸ and she had to be at work early, he would drive. If she was coming home late, he would make dinner.

All you have to do is ask, he would say with a smile.

And so she asked. The woman who had minded her Ps and Qs³⁹ as a child minded her *pleases* and *thank yous* as a wife. Would you please put the baby on the potty⁴⁰? Would you please stop at the store tonight for milk? Would you please pick up Joel at soccer practice? Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

It is hard to know when gratitude first began to grate on my friend. Or when she began saying please and thank you dutifully rather than genuinely.

But it probably began when she was tired one day or night. In any case, during the car-time between one job and the other, when she would run lists through her head, she began feeling less thankful for her moonlighting job⁴¹ as household manager.

She began to realize that all the items of their shared life were stored in her exclusive computer⁴². She began to realize that her queue was so full of minutiae⁴³ that she had no room for anything else.

The Grateful Wife began to wonder why she should say thank you when a father took care of his children and why she should say please when a husband took care of his house.

She began to realize that being grateful meant being responsible. Being grateful meant assuming that you were in charge of children and laundry and running out of toilet paper. Being grateful meant

³⁴ consciousness-raising groups: women's discussion groups to raise their consciousness of being women and of their needs as women

³⁵ Helpful Husband: The woman regards her husband as very special by capitalizing the two first letters.

³⁶ her brother was not one: Her brother was not a helpful husband.

³⁷ pas de deux: (French) a dance by two persons

³⁸ carpool: arrange for several commuters to share a car and expense to get to work or send children of several families to school in one car

³⁹ minded her Ps and Qs: She was very careful and polite in her behavior.

⁴⁰ potty: a child's toilet pot to sit on

⁴¹ moonlighting job: additional job (here it refers to household work)

⁴² all the items of their shared life were stored in her exclusive computer: Note the contrast between *shared life* and *exclusive computer*, which points out metaphorically that she was the person who virtually took all the responsibility for a shared family life.

⁴³ minutiae: small and trivial details

having to ask. And ask. And ask.

Her husband was not an oppressive or even thoughtless man. He was helpful. But helpful doesn't
40 have to remember vacuum cleaner bags. And helpful doesn't keep track of early dismissal days⁴⁴.

Helpful doesn't keep a Christmas-present list in his mind. Helpful doesn't have to know who wears what size and colors. Helpful is reminded; helpful is asked. Anything you ask. Please and thank you.

The wife feels, she says, vaguely frightened to find herself angry at saying please and thank you.
45 She wonders if she is, indeed, an ingrate. But her wondering doesn't change how she feels or what she wants.

The wife would like to take just half the details that clog her mind like grit in a pore, and hand them over to another manager. The wife would like someone who would be grateful when she volunteered to take his turn at the market, or his week at the laundry.

50 The truth is that after all those years when she danced her part perfectly, she wants something else. She doesn't want a helpful husband. She wants one who will share. For that she would be truly grateful.

A Decide whether the statements are true (T), false (F) or not mentioned (NM).

1. The wife was grateful to her husband for letting her work.
2. In the sixties, it was common that both husband and wife had to work to support a family.
3. As the wife was having babies in the late sixties, she was kept from joining in those consciousness-raising groups.
4. The wife was grateful to her husband, but her mother, sisters or brother were not.
5. The husband would do anything she wanted him to with a smile.
6. The wife kept nagging at her husband and ordering him around to carry out various tasks.
7. The wife was once thinking of quitting her moonlighting job as a manager because she was too tired.
8. The wife finally got fed up with saying please and thank you to her husband.
9. Although the husband helped with the household work, he did not take it as his responsibility for the family.
10. The wife realized at last that it should have been her husband who was grateful to her for what she did all these years.

B Discuss the questions in groups.

1. What would happen to the family? Imagine a new ending to the story.
2. What kind of relationship can be counted as equal partnership between husband and wife?

⁴⁴ keep track of early dismissal days: bear in mind when children will be dismissed earlier from school so that parents have to go and pick them up earlier

3 Grammar Work

A Study the sentences and pay attention to the structure of object complement.

1. We consider him a good doctor. (So *he* is a good doctor.)
2. The jury found him guilty. (So *he* is guilty.)

B Complete the sentences using the words or phrases in the box.

best writer of the year Charlie chairman a better place husband and wife

1. We all promise to do our best and make this world _____.
2. He is a liar. Why should we elect him _____?
3. The committee nominated her _____.
4. I now pronounce you _____.
5. They liked the Mexican pot so much that they named it _____.

C Complete the sentences with the words in the box. Each word can be used only once.

going lying unfamiliar examined dead free started
awake alive talking stolen unlocked unattended to

1. The bus is stuck in the mud. We have to give it a push to start it _____.
2. We have already pushed it. Still, we can't get the bus _____.
3. There must be someone inside. I can hear people _____.
4. Poor old Bill had his bike _____ yesterday. He left it _____ when he went into the library.
5. The father put all his hopes on the son and left the talents of the daughters _____.
6. Mr. Murphy came all over funny. So he went to the factory clinic and had his head _____.
7. In order to find other people involved in the criminal organization, the police wanted to catch the suspects _____.
8. You don't need to check the dictionary every time you come across a word _____ to you.
9. Smelling gas flowing out of the house, the neighbors broke in, only to discover him already _____.
10. The young man apologized, "I'm sorry to have kept you _____."
11. Are these your gloves? I found them _____ on the floor.
12. The judge found him not guilty and set him _____.

4 Vocabulary Work

- A Look at the rather sexist advertisement for an airline. Change the wording to make it gender-neutral.**

Now! Eagle Airlines Offers Even More to the Businessman Who Needs Comfort

Let us fly you to your destination in first-class comfort, looked after by the best-trained air hostesses in the world. Any businessman knows that he must arrive fresh and ready for work no matter how long the journey. With Eagle Diplomat-Class you can do just that. And, what's more, your wife can travel with you on all intercontinental flights for only 25% of the normal fare! Your secretary can book you on any flights 24 hours a day on 0555-3456798. All she has to do is lift the phone.

- B Make the letter gender-neutral.**

The Manager

22/11/2020

Frenstowe Engineering Ltd.

Dear Sir,

I am a housewife aged 32 and am seeking employment. I saw your advertisement for part-time workers in *The Globe* last week. However, your 24-hour answering service seemed to be unmanned when I tried it. Could you please send me application forms by post? Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Sally Hewing (Mrs.)

5 Translation

- A Put the paragraphs into Chinese.**

During my youth in America's Appalachian mountains, I learned that farmers preferred sons over daughters, largely because boys were better at heavy farm labor. With only 3% of Americans in agriculture today, brain has supplanted brawn, yet cultural preferences, like bad habits, are easier to make than break. But history warns repeatedly of the tragic cost of dismissing too casually the gifts of the so-called weaker sex.

I know a woman who is a Grateful Wife. She has been one for years. In fact, her gratitude has been as deep and constant as her affection. And together they have traveled a long, complicated road.

In the beginning, this young wife was grateful to find herself married to a man who let her work. That

was in 1964, when even her college professor said without a hint of irony that the young wife was “lucky to be married to a man who let her work.” People talked like that then.

B Put the paragraph into English.

性别平等与妇女发展是人类追求公平、正义与平等的永恒主题，是社会文明进步的衡量尺度，是人类实现可持续发展的重要目标。中国始终坚持男女平等的宪法原则（constitutional principle），将男女平等作为促进国家社会发展的一项基本国策（basic state policy），不断完善法律法规，制定公共政策，编制发展规划，持续推进性别平等与妇女发展。

6 Raise Questions

Ask questions about the underlined parts.

1. Farmers preferred sons over daughters largely because boys were better at farm labor.
2. Branwell was a youth with remarkable talent in art and literature.
3. Cultural preferences, like bad habits, are easier to make than break.
4. For years, the selfless sisters squelched their goals, farming themselves out as teachers and governesses, to support their brother.
5. The novels written by the three sisters are, in fact, less fiction than autobiography.
6. Were he alive today, he would urge us to put away our passé prejudice and avoid his own tragic error.

7 Writing

Write a short essay on one of the topics.

- Children’s creativity will be murdered by a teacher’s or by parental over-protection.
- Great writers are not trained, but grow out of the school of hard knocks.

Tips

In writing a discussion type of article, you usually first think out what your opinion is. Then you can give your opinion or view in the opening paragraph. It sets the tone of what you are going to say. But to give an opinion or view is not enough, you must back it up with details such as examples, facts, evidence, etc. Then, after developing your theme, you can finish your article by drawing a conclusion. The conclusion must summarize your main points and restate your position. For example, in the article *Genius Sacrificed for Failure*, the writer gives his opinion (We should not judge children by sex) in the first paragraph. Then, he backs it up with a story about the Brontë sisters. In the end, he concludes his argument with a paragraph which presents the lesson that we can learn from the story. At the same time, he reiterates his point by saying “in modern society we must value children not for their physical strength or gender ... but for their integrity, strength, commitment, courage.”

PART 4 Cultural Information

Read the information below and then complete the cultural study task.



The Monarch

The monarch — the King or Queen — is head of State in Britain. After a General Election, the Queen invites the leader of the winning party to form a government. She must sign all Acts of Parliament before they become law. Every year she begins the parliamentary year with the Queen's Speech, which is written for her by the Prime Minister. She informs the two Houses of Parliament about her future activities and the government's

intentions for the year.

She always reads her speech in the House of Lords, because no monarch is allowed to enter the Commons. In the seventeenth century, when parliament was trying to take away from some of the monarch's power, King Charles I tried to control the House of Commons by having some members of parliament arrested. This led to the Civil War, and Charles was beheaded in 1649. No monarch has been into the House of Commons since.

Cultural Study Task

Study the information on the Internet and write an essay in about 500 words on King Charles I and the Civil Wars of the seventeenth century England.

