

and hard work play a more important role. In other words, we are the masters of our own future.

Abraham Lincoln is a convincing example. He was born in a poor family, and only received a limited education in his childhood. Yet through his painstaking efforts, he changed not only his own fate but also the history of America. Even to this day, Lincoln is regarded as one of the most inspiring figures in the world.

Therefore, I firmly believe that our future is in our own hands.

### 5. 湖北卷

The above saying means that maybe we are not born rich or successful and maybe our parents are just ordinary persons and create the most favorable living conditions for us. but we should rely on ourselves or our own efforts to be successful.

Three years ago I failed an important exam in my life and became a student in an ordinary school. I had no choice but to go there. Disappointed as I felt at the shabby campus and the poorly -equipped classroom, I found the teachers patient and considerate. Besides, I enjoyed the friendly atmosphere in class. I decided to make the best of it. I worked hard and got along well with my teachers and classmates. Whenever I had difficulties, they were always available. With time going on, I made much progress in my study. Soon, I became one of the top students in my class, which greatly increased my confidence.

My experience shows that it is not what you are given but how you make use of it that determines what you are.

### 6. 上海卷

Date: June 8, 2012

Last week, I sat in on two painting classes at a primary school. In one class a student dipped her feet in ink and made a painting out of footprints. By contrast, the same student used a brush to make a breath-taking landscape painting—so vivid that one could almost smell the refreshing rivers and hear the chirping birds.

Though standing in sharp contrast, the two paintings both intrigued me. In fact, they reminded me of what Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg said, “Keep your eyes on the stars and your feet on the ground.” It’s this motto on success that lends insight into the two paintings. The first painting represents that we should

remain grounded and be cautious of being carried away with temporary success. A kite stays afloat because it’s attached to a reel; otherwise it will instantly lose its balance before eventually crashing into the ground. So it is with us.

However, success requires more than being simply down-to-earth, with a lofty ideal being another crucial factor. So grand was the scenery portrayed in the second painting that it embodied the reach of our dreams. Instead of ignoring the gleam of light, the spark of wisdom that flashes across our mind and worshipping the luster of the sky of geniuses, we’d be better off trusting that the gleam and the spark will one day shine as brightly as a search light if we have faith in ourselves.

The paintings taught me to dream big and act small. And I believe, by doing so, the warm light of success will cascade into my life.

### 7. 江西卷

#### I Like Reading

Reading is my favorite hobby. I can never stop the love for reading **because** books are like wise teachers as well as good friends in my life. As we know, books are the source of knowledge. I benefit a great deal from reading.

There are a variety of books for us to choose from, like history books, science books, library books and so on. But what interests me most/What makes me most interested is literary books, especially those by famous writers. For one thing, they help to improve my writing skills and broaden my horizons. For another, they can enrich my life and provide me with great fun. Isn’t it a pleasure to have great calm in mind while you are reading?

### 8. 湖南卷

Getting back what you have lost would be an unforgettable experience. Last Monday, I lost my expensive cellphone, on which my name was inscribed. Fortunately, it was returned.

That morning, I rushed out of my house and jumped into a taxi for fear that I would be late for the final examination. On arriving at school, I headed to my classroom quickly, only to find that I had left my cellphone on the back seat. When the exam ended, to my great surprise, I found the driver waiting at the school gate. He handed the phone over to me with a