

1. 高一英文朗讀比賽 第 1 篇

Veterinarians play an essential role in our communities. All around the world, they keep our pets healthy and care for them when they're sick or injured. However, animals in the wild also require veterinary assistance at times. Fortunately, animal advocates everywhere are working to protect wild animals in distress. Dr. Chris Brown, star of Animal Planet's show *Vet Gone Wild*, is one of these people.

Dr. Chris, as he's affectionately called by his global network of animal advocates, has been practicing veterinary care since graduating in 2001. Though he comes from a family of vets, his practice isn't confined to the walls of a local clinic. Instead, he travels to the depths of the oceans, deep into jungles, and across dry deserts to provide care to animals in need.

On one episode, Dr. Chris heads to the Elephant Kingdom Sanctuary in Surin, Thailand. He is there to help out and offer veterinary advice to the staff. One of the sanctuary's elephants has just given birth. While the baby appears healthy and curious, his mother isn't producing much milk. Dr. Chris shows the sanctuary's staff how to induce milk production by massaging the mother and suggests adding calcium tablets to her diet.

Next, Dr. Chris sees Si-Ri-Mong-Kon, a wounded elephant. Before arriving at the sanctuary, Si-Ri-Mong-Kon worked in a logging camp. Now, he's suffering a severe infection in his elbow, which he got from wearing poorly fitted equipment. If Si-Ri-Mong-Kon's infection isn't flushed soon, it could spread and kill him. After demonstrating to the staff how to clean the wound properly, Dr. Chris is sure Si-Ri-Mong-Kon and the other elephants will be in good hands going forward.

On another episode, Dr. Chris meets up with Dr. Bec McIntosh, a research scientist with Australia's Phillip Island Nature Parks. She works with the wild fur seals that live on the island. Her team is heading out to Seal Rock to care for seals that have gotten caught in fishing lines or nets. The debris gets caught around the seals' necks, and as they grow, it cuts deep into their skin, eventually strangling them or severing their veins.

The plan is for Bec and her team to capture the seals while Dr. Chris removes the debris and provides any necessary medical care. Straight away, they spot a seal with a fishing line wrapped around her neck. Unfortunately, the line's cut through her

fur and fat and is millimeters away from severing important veins. Carefully, Dr. Chris pulls the line from the wound and cuts it loose. Happy to be free, the seal bounds toward the ocean. Since seals' blubber contains natural antibiotics that resist infection, there's no need for further care.

Next, Bec spots Tangles, a young seal with a net wrapped around his body. Bec has tried to capture him before, but he's always managed to slip away. This time, however, they catch him, and Dr. Chris cuts the net off. Though they're relieved to see the net hasn't done any damage, their success is bittersweet. The ever-increasing levels of ocean pollution mean the seals they've rescued today are just the tip of the iceberg. To see more exciting rescues and learn about the inspiring conservation work Dr. Chris and these animal advocates do, tune in to Animal Planet's *Vet Gone Wild* this October!

2. 高一英文朗讀比賽 第 2 篇

Autumn is an ideal time to visit the US. In most states, there's a slight chill in the air as trees shed their leaves in anticipation of winter. It's also a time when a round, orange vegetable takes center stage. During this season, pumpkins are everywhere. You'll see them on doorsteps as a symbol of the nation's spookiest holiday. On Thanksgiving, pumpkin pie is a favorite dessert at many dinner tables. Even Starbucks has gotten in on the pumpkin craze by offering a seasonal Pumpkin Spice Latte.

No one is certain where pumpkins originated, but pumpkin seeds that date back over 7,000 years have been discovered in Mexico. In ancient times, pumpkins were an important part of the Aztec, Mayan, and some Native American diets. They would roast a pumpkin over a fire for a nutritious meal. Pumpkins were also thought to have medicinal properties that could cure snake bites and reduce wrinkles. Dried pumpkin strips were even used to create mats.

When the first European settlers arrived in New England in 1620, they tried to survive on wheat and other crops they had eaten at home. However, their attempts to grow these crops failed due to the unhelpful soil conditions. The Native Americans saw that the settlers were on the brink of starvation, so they brought them pumpkins as gifts. They also taught the settlers how to grow and use pumpkins to help them survive through the winter. As a result, the settlers started to appreciate this miraculous gift from nature and even sing its praises in folk songs.

These days, people use pumpkins to make jack-o'-lanterns at Halloween, but the tradition actually began in Ireland, where people first carved them from turnips and potatoes. When Irish people immigrated to America, they began using pumpkins instead, because the vegetable was readily available and easier to carve.

Pumpkins don't have to be spooky, however. They play a major role in the beloved fairy tale Cinderella. In the story, Cinderella's fairy godmother magically transforms a pumpkin into a sparkling carriage, so Cinderella can meet the prince at a dance. When she fails to return home before midnight, the carriage turns back into a pumpkin and she's forced to run home. This tale even led to the expression "turn into a pumpkin," which refers to the need to return home or go to sleep because of the late hour.

Today, pumpkins generate more than US\$100 million in sales each year in the

US, making it big business. Two varieties of pumpkin are especially popular. One is the smooth orange pumpkins that are used for Halloween decorations. The other is called the processing pumpkin. These grayish pumpkins aren't as beautiful, but they are just as tasty. They are processed to create pie mixes, soups, and other food products that require pumpkin flavor.

Despite the popularity of pumpkins, not every American is a fan of the vegetable. Some people feel that companies have gone overboard with pumpkin spice products, including pumpkin-flavored beers, sausages, and potato chips. However, pumpkins are sure to remain popular as symbols of Halloween and harvest. Why not enjoy carving a jack-o'-lantern or eating some pumpkin pie this fall?

3. 高一英文朗讀比賽 第 3 篇

George Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion* begins on a rainy night in London with a poor young woman selling flowers on the street. A few well-off people accidentally knock down and ruin some of her flowers, leading to an argument. A phonetics professor, overhearing the fight, takes note of the young woman's dreadful lower-class accent. The professor, Henry Higgins, makes a wager with Colonel Pickering, an expert in Indian dialects, and bets that he can train the flower seller to speak like a duchess in three months. Higgins offers his services to the flower seller, Eliza Doolittle, and she accepts, as she hopes to better her career prospects. Pickering agrees to pay for the costs of the challenge if Higgins can pass her off as a duchess.

After a few months of practicing, Eliza is taken to a party at Higgins's mother's home. While Eliza's upper-class accent is flawless, she scandalizes the high society guests by discussing inappropriate topics. What's more, Mrs. Higgins scolds Higgins and Pickering for lacking the foresight to consider what will become of Eliza after the experiment is over.

Some time later, Eliza, Higgins, and Pickering return home after successfully presenting Eliza as a duchess at an ambassador's garden party. Higgins and Pickering can't stop congratulating each other, but Eliza is furious. Her transformation has left her hovering between the two worlds of low and high society. Higgins suggests that she marry a wealthy man, but she is insulted by the idea and flees. Higgins tries to convince Eliza to come back to live with him and Pickering, but determined to have her independence, Eliza bids a final farewell to Higgins.

George Bernard Shaw was an Irish playwright, novelist, arts critic, and socialist. He was born in Dublin, Ireland, in 1856 and moved to London, UK, at the age of 20, where he wrote five novels in four years. By the 1880s, Shaw was making a living as a music and theater critic. In 1884, after reading an article on the problems of the poor, Shaw joined the Fabian Society, a socialist organization devoted to social justice and reform through gradual change. Shaw incorporated many of the society's views, such as the importance of income equality, in his dramatic works. Shaw and other Fabian Society members founded the London School of Economics and Political Science in 1895.

Shaw's first successful play, *Arms and the Man*, was performed in 1894. He went on to write more than 60 plays throughout his lifetime, including *Candida*, *Man and*

Superman, Major Barbara, Pygmalion, and Saint Joan. The topics of his works ranged from historical events to modern-day social problems.

In 1925, already well-established as the leading playwright of his generation, Shaw won the Nobel Prize in Literature. Thirteen years later, he won an Academy Award for the first film adaptation of his play Pygmalion. The play would later be adapted into the popular stage musical My Fair Lady. The 1964 film adaptation of My Fair Lady also won eight Academy Awards.

In the last 30 years of his life, Shaw rejected the Fabian Society's ideals and expressed some controversial views, supporting foreign dictatorships and opposing organized religion. He died in 1950 at the age of 94. His work continues to have a huge influence on Western culture and literature.

