

# 新北市立樹林高中 114 學年度校內語文競賽

## 高二英語朗讀題目

1	<b>The Paradox of Digital Connection</b>
2	<b>The Architecture of Resilience</b>
3	<b>Writing Your Own Chapter</b>

※以上三個題目要抽題，朗讀時間為三分鐘，預備時間為三分鐘。

※時間：4/13(一)14:10

※地點：信義樓三樓 英語文教室

## **The Paradox of Digital Connection**

We live in an extraordinary age, a digital era where we are more "connected" than any previous generation in human history. With a single tap on a glowing screen, we can share our thoughts with thousands of people or engage in a video call with someone on the other side of the planet. We have the collective knowledge of humanity in our pockets. Yet, beneath this surface of constant interaction and instant gratification, many people feel a profound and growing sense of isolation. This is the great paradox of our time: the more connected we become digitally, the more disconnected we often feel emotionally and spiritually.

We spend hours every day scrolling through endless feeds of curated lives, often forgetting that the perfection we see on social media is merely a mask. We compare our "behind-the-scenes" struggles with everyone else's "highlight reels," leading to a cycle of envy and inadequacy. Technology is a brilliant servant, offering us tools that can improve our lives, but it can be a dangerous master if we allow it to dictate our self-worth and our focus. It offers us the whole world at our fingertips, but it often robs us of the present moment. We are so busy capturing a sunset on our smartphones to prove we were there that we forget to actually feel its warmth on our faces or appreciate its fleeting beauty.

To truly connect with ourselves and others, we must occasionally learn the art of disconnecting. We need to look up from our screens and look into the eyes of the people standing right in front of us. We must rediscover the raw, unedited beauty of a real, face-to-face conversation—the subtle pauses, the spontaneous laughter, and the shared silences that a text message can never replicate. Only by stepping away from the constant digital noise can we hear the authentic voices of those we love and, perhaps more importantly, the quiet voice of our own intuition. True connection isn't about how many "likes" we receive; it's about the depth of our presence and the sincerity of our relationships in the physical world.

## **The Architecture of Resilience**

Resilience is often misunderstood as an indestructible shield or an iron will that never wavers. In reality, resilience is much more like an architectural masterpiece. Think of a modern skyscraper in a city prone to earthquakes. It isn't built to be rigid and immovable; rather, it is designed with the strategic flexibility to sway when the earth shakes. If it were too stiff, it would crack and collapse under pressure. A resilient mind works the same way—it learns how to bend and adapt without breaking when the storms of life arrive.

Every failure we encounter, every disappointment that stings, and every setback that feels like a dead end should not be viewed as a wall that stops our progress. Instead, these experiences are the foundation stones that strengthen our resolve. Life's challenges provide us with the raw materials to build a stronger, wiser version of ourselves. When we face adversity, we are forced to re-evaluate our paths, refine our skills, and discover what truly matters to us. This process is not always pleasant, but it is necessary for growth.

Consider the beautiful Japanese art of Kintsugi, where broken pottery is repaired with gold or silver lacquer. The cracks are not hidden or disguised; instead, they are emphasized, making the repaired piece even more beautiful and valuable than the original. Our lives are similar. Our scars, our mistakes, and our struggles are not things to be ashamed of or hidden away. They are the evidence of our survival and the unique history of our personal evolution. They show that we have been tested and that we have chosen to rise again. When you face your next challenge, remember that you have already built the inner strength to endure. You are not defined by how many times you fall, but by the courage, grace, and wisdom with which you choose to rebuild your life.

## Writing Your Own Chapter

Until this moment in your life, many of the chapters in your story may have been written by others. Your parents, your teachers, and the society you live in have provided the setting, the characters, and perhaps even the primary plot lines. They have guided your hand, corrected your grammar, and pointed you toward traditional paths of success and security. But as you stand on the threshold of adulthood, the pen is slowly but surely being handed over to you. The upcoming chapters of your life are currently blank pages, waiting for a story that only you have the authority and the unique vision to tell.

This transition can be both exhilarating and terrifying. The vastness of the "white space" on the page can feel overwhelming. You might feel pressured to write a story that simply mirrors the expectations of those around you—a story that is safe, predictable, and approved by the crowd. However, many people spend their entire lives trying to live up to someone else's version of success, only to realize too late that they are merely supporting characters in a book they didn't want to write. Your voice is unique, shaped by your specific passions, your unique failures, and your personal dreams.

It is time to be bold, authentic, and unapologetic. Write a story that reflects your own deeply held values, even if it means taking a path that is less traveled or less understood. There will be critics who tell you to play it safe and stay within the margins, but remember that the most memorable and impactful stories are those of individuals who dared to be themselves. Embracing your own narrative requires the courage to fail and the resilience to keep writing regardless. The world is not looking for another copy; it is waiting to read your original masterpiece. Take the pen, believe in your voice, and make sure you write a story that is truly worth telling.