Guardians of Dunhuang

Aaron Hsueh | Unit 4: Meeting People Who Have Touched China

每段四层递进：事实提取 → 因果推理 → 深层理解 → 评价延伸

设计说明

本设计覆盖课文全部 7 个段落，每段设 4 个层次的问题，由浅入深、抽丝剥茧：

◆ 第一层 事实提取（Fact Extraction）：定位原文信息，回答 What/When/Who

◆ 第二层 因果推理（Causal Reasoning）：分析 Why/How，建立信息间的逻辑关系

◆ 第三层 深层理解（Deep Understanding）：解读言外之意、语气态度、修辞意图

◆ 第四层 评价延伸（Evaluation & Extension）：联系实际、批判思考、个人迁移

每段另配语言练习（词汇语境、句意转述、翻译），供课堂或课后使用。

Paragraph 1 — 季羡林的心归敦煌

> *"My inner voice tells me to stay here, perhaps forever," distinguished linguist and Buddhism researcher Ji Xianlin wrote of the Mogao Caves in his book The Journey to Dunhuang. "Though my body must leave, my heart belongs to Dunhuang forever."*

L1 事实　Q1. Who is Ji Xianlin? What is his profession?

→ He is a distinguished linguist and Buddhism researcher. He wrote the book The Journey to Dunhuang.

L1 事实　Q2. What did Ji Xianlin say about the Mogao Caves? Quote his two sentences.

→ (1) "My inner voice tells me to stay here, perhaps forever." (2) "Though my body must leave, my heart belongs to Dunhuang forever."

L2 推理　Q3. Why does the author begin the essay with Ji Xianlin's quote? Why not start with Chang Shuhong or Fan Jinshi?

→ Ji Xianlin is a famous, authoritative figure — his quote lends weight to the essay's theme. Starting with a distinguished scholar's emotional attachment to Dunhuang establishes the caves' significance before the specific stories of guardians are told. Ji is not a guardian himself; he is a witness, like the reader.

L2 推理　Q4. "My inner voice tells me" vs. "my heart belongs to" — Why two different body parts (voice/heart)? What does each represent?

→ "Inner voice" = mind/consciousness — a rational decision to stay. "Heart" = emotion/love — an emotional belonging. Together they show that Ji's attachment to Dunhuang is both intellectual (he studied Buddhism) and emotional. The progression from voice to heart deepens the commitment.

L3 深层　Q5. "Though my body must leave, my heart belongs to Dunhuang forever" — What rhetorical device is this? What effect does it create?

→ Contrast (body vs. heart). The contrast between physical departure and emotional permanence creates a sense of devotion that transcends physical presence. It elevates the relationship from geographical to spiritual.

L3 深层　Q6. The paragraph is just two sentences — a quote within a quote. Why frame the entire essay with someone else's words?

→ By starting with Ji's words, the author positions herself as a curator of stories rather than the protagonist. The essay is about OTHERS' devotion to Dunhuang, not her own. Starting with a quote also creates a sense of testimony — multiple voices testifying to Dunhuang's power.

L4 评价　Q7. Have you ever felt that a place "owns your heart"? What place would you be willing to dedicate your life to?

→ (Discussion) Students reflect on places that hold deep personal meaning — hometowns, schools, natural sites, cultural heritage.

L4 评价　Q8. Ji Xianlin was a scholar, not a guardian. What's the difference between admiring a place and protecting it? Can admiration alone preserve cultural heritage?

→ (Discussion) Students explore the gap between appreciation and action. Ji's words inspire others to protect Dunhuang, but he himself did not physically guard the caves. The question explores different forms of contribution.

语言练习 · **Para. 1**

① 词汇语境

a) "distinguished" — A) 杰出的　B) 普通的　C) 区分的

b) "linguist" — A) 语言学家　B) 画家　C) 僧侣

c) "wrote of" — A) 写到/记述　B) 写信　C) 写作

d) "inner voice" — A) 内心的声音　B) 外界声音　C) 噪音

② 句意转述

"Though my body must leave, my heart belongs to Dunhuang forever."

参考答案：Even though I physically have to go, emotionally I will always be tied to Dunhuang.

③ 翻译

"我内心的声音告诉我，也许要永远留在这里，"著名的语言学家和佛学研究者在《敦煌游记》一书中写到敦煌莫高窟时说。"虽然我的身体必须离开，但我的心永远属于敦煌。"

Paragraph 2 — 莫高窟的历史与地位

Ji was not the first or the last to be fascinated by the Mogao Caves, now listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site. Located at a strategic point along the Silk Road in Gansu province, carved into the cliffs, the 735 caves house colored statues, frescos, and Buddhist scriptures. They were first built by monks in the year 366. As time went by, the site became a gathering place for worshippers, traders and other travelers, but it declined after the Yuan dynasty and sank into oblivion. It was not until the early 20th century that the caves were rediscovered. Since then, they have again attracted people's attention, with a number of famous scholars and painters visiting the caves to study them. Some have even devoted their lives to protecting the cave art and keeping it alive. Among them, Chang Shuhong and Fan Jinshi stand out as two shining examples of such passionate commitment.

L1 事实　Q9. What is the Mogao Caves' UNESCO status? Where are they located?

→ They are listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site. They are located at a strategic point along the Silk Road in Gansu province, carved into the cliffs.

L1 事实　Q10. How many caves are there? What do they house? When were they first built?

→ 735 caves. They house colored statues, frescos, and Buddhist scriptures. First built by monks in the year 366.

L1 事实　Q11. Complete the timeline: 366 → ? → ? → ? → Now

→ 366 (first built by monks) → over time (gathering place for worshippers, traders) → after Yuan dynasty (declined, sank into oblivion) → early 20th century (rediscovered) → now (UNESCO site, attracting scholars and painters)

L2 推理　Q12. Why did the caves "decline after the Yuan dynasty and sink into oblivion"? What historical factors might explain this?

→ The Yuan dynasty (1271-1368) was the last major dynasty before a period of reduced Silk Road activity. Maritime trade replaced overland routes, and the Mogao Caves — located along the Silk Road — lost their strategic importance. Political instability and the shift of economic centers led to neglect.

L2 推理　Q13. "Some have even devoted their lives to protecting the cave art" — Why "even"? What does this word imply?

→ "Even" implies that devoting one's LIFE to protecting cave art is extreme — beyond what most people would do. The word acknowledges the extraordinary nature of this commitment before introducing the two main examples.

L3 深层　Q14. The paragraph moves from history (366) to present (UNESCO). What is the function of this chronological sweep?

→ The chronological sweep establishes the caves' historical significance and endurance — they have survived for over 1600 years. This scale makes the guardians' work feel meaningful: they are not protecting a minor site but a civilization's heritage. The timeline also creates urgency — the caves declined once; they could decline again without protection.

L3 深层　Q15. "Stand out as two shining examples" — Why "shining"? What does this metaphor achieve?

→ "Shining" suggests that Chang and Fan are beacons — they illuminate the path for others. The metaphor connects to the caves themselves (which contain golden statues and bright frescos). It also elevates the guardians from ordinary people to heroic figures, setting up the narrative tone for the rest of the essay.

L4 评价　Q16. The caves were "rediscovered" in the early 20th century. What does "rediscovery" mean? Can something be lost and found again?

→ (Discussion) Students explore the concept of cultural rediscovery — how sites can be forgotten and then brought back to awareness. Examples: Pompeii, Angkor Wat, Machu Picchu. What gets lost when a site is forgotten? What is gained when it is rediscovered?

L4 评价　Q17. "Passionate commitment" — Is passion necessary for preservation? Can cultural heritage be protected through duty alone, without passion?

→ (Discussion) Students explore whether passion or duty is more sustainable for long-term preservation. The essay suggests passion (Chang and Fan's devotion), but institutional duty also plays a role (UNESCO, government).

语言练习 · **Para. 2**

① 词汇语境

a) "fascinated" — A) 深深吸引 B) 害怕 C) 厌恶

b) "strategic" — A) 战略性的/重要的 B) 无关的 C) 小的

c) "carved into" — A) 雕刻入 B) 建造 C) 拆除

d) "declined" — A) 衰落 B) 兴起 C) 保持

e) "sank into oblivion" — A) 渐被遗忘 B) 沉入水中 C) 上升

f) "stand out" — A) 突出/杰出 B) 站立 C) 坐下

② 句意转述

"Some have even devoted their lives to protecting the cave art and keeping it alive."

参考答案：Some people have given their entire lives to preserving the cave art and ensuring it survives for future generations.

③ 翻译

"季羡林既不是第一个也不是最后一个被莫高窟深深吸引的人。莫高窟现已被列入联合国教科文组织世界遗产名录。它位于甘肃省丝绸之路上的一个战略要点，开凿在悬崖峭壁上，735 个洞窟内存有彩色塑像、壁画和佛经。"

Paragraph 3 — 常书鸿：从巴黎到敦煌

As an aspiring young man, Chang Shuhong attended top art schools in France and was making a name for himself there by winning numerous awards for his oil paintings in the 1920s and 30s. But all this was soon to change, after he came across a book on the Dunhuang caves. Chang was amazed to discover that China had such a long-hidden treasure house of art. For him, this was a moment when he felt an immediate connection with Dunhuang.

L1 事实 Q18. Where did Chang Shuhong study art? What was he known for?

→ He attended top art schools in France. He was known for his oil paintings, winning numerous awards in the 1920s and 30s.

L1 事实 Q19. What changed Chang's life? What did he discover?

→ He came across a book on the Dunhuang caves. He was amazed to discover that China had such a long-hidden treasure house of art.

L2 推理 Q20. Why was Chang "amazed"? What does this reveal about awareness of Dunhuang at the time?

→ He was amazed because he — a Chinese art student studying in France's top schools — didn't know China had such a treasure. This reveals that Dunhuang was not widely known or celebrated in China at

the time. The fact that he learned about it from a book (likely in France) suggests that Western scholars may have known about Dunhuang before many Chinese did.

L2 推理　Q21. "All this was soon to change" — What is "all this"? Why does the author use foreshadowing here?

→ "All this" = his successful life in France (awards, recognition, top schools). The foreshadowing creates anticipation — the reader knows a dramatic shift is coming. It also emphasizes the magnitude of the change: he didn't just add Dunhuang to his life; he abandoned his entire career for it.

L3 深层　Q22. "An immediate connection" — Why "immediate"? What does this word suggest about the nature of calling?

→ "Immediate" suggests that the connection was instant — not built over time but felt in a single moment. This frames Chang's decision as a calling rather than a rational choice. The word implies that some commitments are not calculated but instinctive — you recognize them the moment you encounter them.

L3 深层　Q23. The paragraph contrasts Paris (glamour, success) with Dunhuang (remote, unknown). Why this contrast?

→ The contrast heightens the sacrifice: Chang is not leaving a mediocre life for a better one — he's leaving success and recognition for hardship and anonymity. The contrast also highlights the pull of cultural heritage: Dunhuang's power is strong enough to draw someone away from Paris, the art capital of the world.

L4 评价　Q24. Chang discovered Dunhuang through a book. How different would his life have been if he had never seen that book? Can a single book change a person's life?

→ (Discussion) Students explore the role of chance in life-changing decisions. If Chang hadn't seen the book, he might have remained a successful painter in Paris. The question explores how seemingly small encounters can redirect an entire life.

L4 评价　Q25. Chang was "making a name for himself" in France. Was it selfish to abandon that success? Or was it more selfish to stay?

→ (Discussion) Students debate whether leaving success for a cause is noble or irresponsible. The question explores different definitions of "selfish" — is it selfish to pursue personal success, or selfish to abandon obligations for a personal calling?

语言练习 · **Para. 3**

① 词汇语境

a) "aspiring" — A) 有抱负的　B) 失望的　C) 年老的

b) "making a name for himself" — A) 成名　B) 改名　C) 隐姓埋名

c) "came across" — A) 偶然发现　B) 走过　C) 来到

d) "amazed" — A) 惊讶　B) 害怕　C) 无聊

e) "connection" — A) 联系/连接　B) 断开　C) 拒绝

② 句意转述

"But all this was soon to change, after he came across a book on the Dunhuang caves."

参考答案：However, everything was about to shift when he happened to find a book about the Dunhuang caves.

③ 翻译

"作为一个有抱负的年轻人，常书鸿在法国顶尖艺术学校学习，在 20 世纪 20 和 30 年代因油画赢得无数奖项而声名鹊起。但这一切很快就改变了——在他偶然看到一本关于敦煌石窟的书之后。常书鸿惊讶地发现，中国竟然有这样一个长期隐藏的艺术宝库。对他来说，这是一个与敦煌产生即时联系的时刻。"

Paragraph 4 — 常书鸿：艰苦中的坚守

> *Chang returned to China and helped set up a research institute to study the Dunhuang cave art. In 1943, he and his team arrived at Dunhuang, only to find that they were short of funds and that the conditions were beyond description. They had to work in a temple, living in a stable, drinking salty, muddy water, and eating rock-hard pancakes and plain noodles. However, Chang wrote to his wife, "All the suffering is worth it! Yes! At first glance, I said to myself, I'll be happy to die here." Over the years, he and his colleagues searched for cultural relics, copied frescos, and numbered caves, thus systematically and meticulously studying and protecting the treasures of Dunhuang.*

L1 事实　Q26. When did Chang arrive at Dunhuang? What were the conditions like?

→ In 1943. Conditions were "beyond description" — they worked in a temple, lived in a stable, drank salty muddy water, ate rock-hard pancakes and plain noodles. They were short of funds.

L1 事实　Q27. What did Chang and his team do over the years? List three specific activities.

→ (1) Searched for cultural relics (2) Copied frescos (3) Numbered caves — systematically and meticulously studying and protecting the treasures.

L1 事实　Q28. What did Chang write to his wife? Quote his words.

→ "All the suffering is worth it! Yes! At first glance, I said to myself, I'll be happy to die here."

L2 推理　Q29. Why does the author list specific hardships (stable, muddy water, rock-hard pancakes)? What effect does this specificity create?

→ Specific details make the suffering concrete and real — not abstract. "Hardships" is vague; "drinking salty, muddy water" is visceral. The specificity also contrasts with Chang's letter: despite these conditions, he wrote "All the suffering is worth it!" — making his devotion more powerful.

L2 推理　Q30. "Only to find" — What does "only to" imply? How does it change the tone?

→ "Only to find" means "but then discovered" — it introduces an unexpected, usually negative result. The phrase implies that Chang expected better conditions but was met with worse. It creates a tone of disappointment that makes his subsequent enthusiasm ("All the suffering is worth it!") more striking.

L3 深层　Q31. "I'll be happy to die here" — Why such an extreme statement? Is this hyperbole or sincerity?

→ It is likely sincere — Chang felt that finding Dunhuang gave his life such meaning that even death there would be acceptable. The extremity of the statement conveys the depth of his calling. It also foreshadows his lifelong commitment: he didn't just work there; he dedicated his entire remaining life to Dunhuang.

L3 深层　Q32. The paragraph lists three activities: searching, copying, numbering. Why this order? Is there a logic?

→ Yes. Searching = finding what exists. Copying = documenting it. Numbering = organizing it systematically. The order moves from discovery to documentation to systematization — a progression from raw exploration to scholarly rigor. The adverbs "systematically and meticulously" emphasize that this was not haphazard but scientific.

L4 评价　Q33. Chang left a successful art career in Paris for a life of hardship in Dunhuang. Would you make a similar sacrifice for something you believe in?

→ (Discussion) Students reflect on what they would be willing to sacrifice for a cause. The question explores the boundary between idealism and practicality.

L4 评价　Q34. "All the suffering is worth it" — Is suffering necessary for great achievement? Can great work be done in comfort?

→ (Discussion) Students explore whether hardship is a prerequisite for meaningful work or simply a byproduct of underfunded preservation. The question challenges the romanticization of suffering.

语言练习 · **Para. 4**

① 词汇语境

a) "short of" — A) 缺乏　B) 充足　C) 超过

b) "beyond description" — A) 难以描述　B) 可以描述　C) 不需要描述

c) "stable" (n.) — A) 马厩　B) 稳定　C) 房子

d) "rock-hard" — A) 坚硬如石　B) 柔软　C) 湿润

e) "worth it" — A) 值得　B) 不值　C) 免费

f) "meticulously" — A) 一丝不苟地　B) 粗心地　C) 快速地

② 句意转述

"All the suffering is worth it! Yes! At first glance, I said to myself, I'll be happy to die here."

参考答案：Every bit of hardship is justified! The moment I saw this place, I told myself I would be content to spend the rest of my life — and even die — here.

③ 翻译

"常书鸿回到中国，帮助建立了研究敦煌石窟艺术的研究所。1943 年，他和团队到达敦煌，却发现资金短缺，条件难以描述。他们不得不在寺庙里工作，住在马厩里，喝咸浊的泥水，吃硬如石头的饼和清汤面条。然而，常书鸿写信给妻子说：'所有的苦难都是值得的！是的！第一眼看到这里，我就对自己说，我很乐意死在这里。'"

Paragraph 5 — 樊锦诗：敦煌的女儿

Following in Chang's footsteps came Fan Jinshi, widely known as "the daughter of Dunhuang" for dedicating her whole life to the cause of protecting the caves. Her admirable work has earned her several national titles, including the "100 people who touched China" award and the "outstanding contributor to the cultural heritage preservation" award. Born in Beijing but brought up in Shanghai,

Fan graduated from Peking University with an archeology degree and first came to Dunhuang on an internship in 1963. "To say I didn't hesitate to stay is a lie. Dunhuang is a different world from Beijing and Shanghai," Fan admitted. However, she was completely overcome by the beauty of the ancient artworks.

L1 事实　Q35. What is Fan Jinshi's nickname? Why is she called this?

→ "The daughter of Dunhuang." She is called this because she dedicated her whole life to protecting the caves.

L1 事实　Q36. What awards has Fan received? What is her educational background?

→ Awards: "100 people who touched China" and "outstanding contributor to cultural heritage preservation." Education: Born in Beijing, brought up in Shanghai, graduated from Peking University with an archeology degree. First came to Dunhuang on an internship in 1963.

L1 事实　Q37. What did Fan admit about her initial reaction to Dunhuang?

→ She admitted: "To say I didn't hesitate to stay is a lie. Dunhuang is a different world from Beijing and Shanghai." She did hesitate initially.

L2 推理　Q38. Why does Fan admit she "hesitated"? What does this honesty achieve?

→ Admitting hesitation makes Fan more human and relatable — she didn't arrive as a hero; she arrived as a young woman from Beijing/Shanghai who found Dunhuang alien. The honesty also makes her eventual commitment more powerful: she CHOSE to stay despite hesitation, not because she felt no fear.

L2 推理　Q39. "Following in Chang's footsteps" — What does this phrase imply about the relationship between Chang and Fan?

→ It implies that Fan continued the work Chang started — she walked the same path. The phrase also suggests a lineage of guardianship: Chang was the pioneer, Fan the successor. This creates a sense of tradition and continuity, as if protecting Dunhuang is a calling passed from one person to another.

L3 深层　Q40. "A different world from Beijing and Shanghai" — What does this contrast reveal about Dunhuang in 1963?

→ Beijing and Shanghai were modern cities with electricity, running water, and urban life. Dunhuang in 1963 was remote, harsh, and primitive — no electricity, poor living conditions. The contrast emphasizes the sacrifice Fan made: she left urban comfort for desert hardship. The word "world" (not "city" or "place") emphasizes the magnitude of the difference.

L3 深层　Q41. "Completely overcome by the beauty" — "Overcome" is a strong word. What does it suggest about the power of art?

→ "Overcome" means to be overwhelmed, as if by a force stronger than oneself. The word suggests that the artworks' beauty was not just visually pleasing but emotionally overpowering — it conquered her hesitation. This frames art as an active force that can change people's decisions, not a passive object of appreciation.

L4 评价　Q42. Fan hesitated but stayed. Is it braver to stay without hesitation, or to stay DESPITE hesitation?

→ (Discussion) Students explore whether fearlessness or courage-despite-fear is more admirable. The essay suggests the latter: Fan's commitment is more meaningful because she overcame doubt.

L4 评价　Q43. Fan was "overcome by the beauty of the ancient artworks." Can art alone justify a life's sacrifice? Or must there be other reasons (duty, patriotism, etc.)?

→ (Discussion) Students explore what motivates lifelong commitment. Is art enough? Or does preservation require additional justification — cultural identity, historical duty, national pride?

语言练习 · **Para. 5**

① 词汇语境

a) "following in sb.'s footsteps" — A) 步某人后尘　B) 跟随脚步　C) 走开

b) "dedicating" — A) 奉献　B) 拒绝　C) 购买

c) "admirable" — A) 令人钦佩的　B) 可怜的　C) 普通的

d) "hesitate" — A) 犹豫　B) 决定　C) 同意

e) "overcome" — A) 被征服/被感动　B) 克服　C) 忽视

② 句意转述

"To say I didn't hesitate to stay is a lie. Dunhuang is a different world from Beijing and Shanghai."

参考答案：It would be dishonest to claim I had no doubts about staying. Dunhuang was completely unlike the modern cities I was used to.

③ 翻译

"继常书鸿之后，樊锦诗来到了敦煌——她因将一生奉献给保护石窟事业而被广泛称为'敦煌的女儿'。她令人钦佩的工作为她赢得了多个国家级称号，包括'感动中国 100 人'奖和'文化遗产保护杰出贡献者'奖。樊锦诗生于北京、长于上海，毕业于北京大学考古专业，1963 年第一次来敦煌实习。'说我没有犹豫过留下，那是谎话。敦煌和北京、上海是完全不同的世界，'樊锦诗坦言。然而，她完全被古代艺术品的美丽所征服。"

Paragraph 6 — 樊锦诗的贡献与数字化保护

Fan did much of her research without electricity until the 1980s, when conditions improved slightly. Through her painstaking work, she was able to date the various caves and their construction by dynasty. Later, as vice-president, then president of the Dunhuang Academy, Fan took charge of site planning, scientific research, environmental monitoring and control, and visitor management. She saw challenges to protecting the site, when quickening erosion and over-tourism became serious threats. "Frescos can't be remade; neither can they be preserved forever," Fan said, as she pushed herself to be innovative in digital preservation and sustainable use of the relics. A tourist center is now in place to welcome visitors and ease pressure on the caves. Fan also launched the Digital Dunhuang project to build a database of all the statues and frescos, using state-of-the-art technology. "Despite our efforts to reduce damage, we can't completely stop them from being eroded. But the digital database will last," she said.

L1 事实　Q44. How long did Fan work without electricity? When did conditions improve?

→ She worked without electricity until the 1980s, when conditions improved slightly.

L1 事实　Q45. What roles did Fan hold at the Dunhuang Academy? What did she take charge of?

→ Vice-president, then president. She took charge of: site planning, scientific research, environmental monitoring and control, and visitor management.

L1 事实　Q46. What two threats to the site did Fan identify? What two solutions did she implement?

→ Threats: (1) quickening erosion (2) over-tourism. Solutions: (1) A tourist center to ease pressure on the caves (2) The Digital Dunhuang project — a database of all statues and frescos using state-of-the-art technology.

L2 推理　Q47. "Frescos can't be remade; neither can they be preserved forever" — What is the logic of this statement? What conclusion does it lead to?

→ The statement acknowledges two facts: frescos are irreplaceable (can't be remade) AND impermanent (can't be preserved forever). This leads to the conclusion that digital preservation is necessary — if physical preservation is impossible, digital preservation ensures the art survives in another form. The statement is both realistic (accepting impermanence) and proactive (finding an alternative).

L2 推理　Q48. Why did Fan "push herself to be innovative"? What does "pushed herself" reveal about her character?

→ She pushed herself because traditional preservation wasn't enough — erosion and tourism were accelerating. "Pushed herself" suggests she went beyond her comfort zone, learning new technologies and approaches. It reveals a character that doesn't settle for existing methods but actively seeks better solutions.

L3 深层　Q49. The paragraph lists Fan's roles: researcher → vice-president → president. What does this progression reveal?

→ The progression shows that Fan grew with the institution — she started as a researcher and rose to leadership. This means her authority came from experience, not appointment. As president, she could implement changes at scale — the Digital Dunhuang project required institutional power, not just individual effort.

L3 深层　Q50. "The digital database will last" — The word "last" is key. What does it mean in this context? How does it contrast with the physical frescos?

→ "Last" means endure over time. The physical frescos are eroding — they will NOT last. The digital database WILL last. This contrast is the entire justification for the project: digital preservation is a way to make impermanent art permanent. The word "last" carries the weight of the essay's theme — preservation against time.

L4 评价　Q51. Fan worked without electricity until the 1980s — nearly 20 years in the dark. What kind of person can endure that? What does this tell us about motivation?

→ (Discussion) Students explore what sustains someone through decades of hardship. The question explores whether intrinsic motivation (passion for the art) or external factors (duty, recognition) drives such endurance.

L4 评价　Q52. "Digital Dunhuang" — Is digitization a form of preservation, or is it something different? Can a digital copy replace the original?

→ (Discussion) Students debate whether digital preservation is true preservation or a substitute. The digital database captures images but not the physical presence, scale, or texture. Is a digital fresco still a fresco? The question explores the relationship between original and copy.

语言练习 · **Para. 6**

① 词汇语境

a) "painstaking" — A) 煞费苦心的 B) 痛苦的 C) 快速的

b) "take charge of" — A) 负责 B) 收费 C) 充电

c) "erosion" — A) 侵蚀 B) 建设 C) 保护

d) "innovative" — A) 创新的 B) 传统的 C) 保守的

e) "state-of-the-art" — A) 最先进的 B) 过时的 C) 普通的

f) "eroded" — A) 被侵蚀 B) 被保护 C) 被建造

② 句意转述

"Frescos can't be remade; neither can they be preserved forever."

参考答案：It is impossible to recreate the frescos, and it is equally impossible to keep them in their original condition indefinitely.

③ 翻译

"樊锦诗在 20 世纪 80 年代之前一直在没有电的条件下做研究，直到 80 年代条件才略有改善。通过她煞费苦心的研究，她得以将各个洞窟按朝代确定建造年代。后来，作为敦煌研究院副院长、院长，樊锦诗负责遗址规划、科学研究、环境监测与控制以及游客管理。"

Paragraph 7 — 结语：守护者的遗产

> *Indeed, thanks to the lifelong devotion and personal sacrifices of these Guardians — Chang Shuhong, Fan Jinshi and their colleagues — the Mogao Caves will be able to continue astonishing the world far into the future.*

L1 事实 Q53. Who does the author credit? What two qualities does she attribute to them?

→ She credits Chang Shuhong, Fan Jinshi, and their colleagues. She attributes to them: (1) lifelong devotion (2) personal sacrifices.

L1 事实 Q54. What will the Mogao Caves be able to do "far into the future"?

→ Continue astonishing the world.

L2 推理 Q55. "Thanks to" — What is the causal relationship? What would have happened WITHOUT the guardians?

→ Thanks to = because of. The guardians' devotion CAUSED the caves' survival. Without them, the caves might have eroded further, been looted, or been destroyed by tourism. The phrase implies that the caves' future is not guaranteed by nature but by human effort.

L2 推理 Q56. "Lifelong devotion and personal sacrifices" — Why both? Is devotion without sacrifice enough?

→ Devotion = emotional commitment. Sacrifice = actual cost (comfort, career, health, family time). The essay argues that BOTH are needed: devotion without sacrifice is sentiment; sacrifice without devotion is duty. The guardians had both, which is what makes them extraordinary.

L3 深层　Q57. "Continue astonishing the world" — Why "astonishing"? Why not "educating" or "inspiring"?

→ "Astonishing" suggests wonder — a visceral, emotional reaction, not just intellectual appreciation. The word implies that the caves are not just informative but breathtaking — they exceed expectations. "Educating" would be too dry; "inspiring" would be too mild. "Astonishing" captures the awe that has drawn people to Dunhuang for 1600 years.

L3 深层　Q58. The essay ends with "far into the future." How does this phrase connect to the opening paragraph?

→ Para 1 opens with Ji Xianlin's heart belonging to Dunhuang "forever." Para 7 closes with the caves astonishing the world "far into the future." Both use temporal language (forever / far into the future) to suggest permanence. The essay comes full circle: from one person's eternal attachment to the caves' eternal impact.

L4 评价　Q59. The author calls them "Guardians" with a capital G. What does capitalization achieve? Are they heroes, or ordinary people who did extraordinary things?

→ (Discussion) Capital "Guardians" elevates them from job titles to mythic figures — like "Founding Fathers" or "Knights of the Round Table." The question explores whether this elevation is deserved or whether it obscures their humanity. The essay shows them as real people (Chang ate rock-hard pancakes; Fan hesitated), but the capital G frames them as legends.

L4 评价　Q60. The essay is about guardians of Dunhuang. But who guards the guardians? How do we ensure that future generations will continue this work?

→ (Discussion) Students explore succession planning in cultural preservation. Chang was followed by Fan; who follows Fan? The question connects to the essay's theme of lineage — "following in footsteps." Preservation is not a one-time effort but an unbroken chain.

语言练习 · **Para. 7**

① 词汇语境

a) "devotion" — A) 奉献　B) 拒绝　C) 犹豫

b) "sacrifices" — A) 牺牲　B) 获得　C) 享受

c) "astonishing" — A) 令人惊叹　B) 令人厌烦　C) 令人害怕

d) "far into the future" — A) 远至未来　B) 过去　C) 现在

② 句意转述

"Thanks to the lifelong devotion and personal sacrifices of these Guardians, the Mogao Caves will be able to continue astonishing the world far into the future."

参考答案：Because these Guardians gave their entire lives and made personal sacrifices, the Mogao Caves will keep amazing people for generations to come.

③ 翻译

"确实，正是由于这些守护者——常书鸿、樊锦诗及其同事们——终生的奉献和个人的牺牲，莫高窟才能在未来继续令世界惊叹。"

综合练习·全文

I. 课文填空（Cloze）

Complete the passage with words from the text.

The Mogao Caves, a UNESCO World _____ site in Gansu province, were first built by _____ in 366 CE. Over centuries, the site _____ after the Yuan dynasty and sank into _____. It was _____ in the early 20th century. Among those who _____ their lives to protecting the caves, Chang Shuhong and Fan Jinshi _____ out. Chang, a successful artist in _____, returned to China after _____ across a book on Dunhuang. Despite conditions "beyond _____," he wrote "All the suffering is _____ it." Fan, known as "the _____ of Dunhuang," initially _____ but was _____ by the beauty of the artworks. She later launched the _____ Dunhuang project to create a digital _____ of all statues and frescos, ensuring they will _____ the world far into the future.

参考答案：Heritage, monks, declined, oblivion, rediscovered, devoted, stand, Paris, coming, description, worth, daughter, hesitated, overcome, Digital, database, astonish

II. 判断题（True or False）

1. ___ Ji Xianlin was a guardian of the Mogao Caves. (F — he was a scholar who wrote about Dunhuang, not a guardian)

2. ___ The Mogao Caves were first built in the year 366. (T)

3. ___ Chang Shuhong studied art in France. (T)

4. ___ Chang's living conditions at Dunhuang were comfortable. (F — temple, stable, muddy water, rock-hard pancakes)

5. ___ Fan Jinshi did not hesitate to stay at Dunhuang. (F — she admitted "To say I didn't hesitate to stay is a lie.")

6. ___ Fan worked with electricity from the beginning. (F — no electricity until the 1980s)

7. ___ The Digital Dunhuang project aims to replace the original frescos. (F — it aims to preserve them digitally since they can't be preserved forever physically)

8. ___ The essay suggests the caves' survival depends on human effort, not nature. (T)

III. 讨论题（Discussion）

1. The essay is titled "Guardians of Dunhuang." What makes someone a guardian, not just a visitor or a scholar? Define the term based on the essay.

2. Both Chang and Fan left comfortable lives for hardship at Dunhuang. Is this kind of sacrifice necessary for great preservation work, or is it a product of a specific era?

3. Fan said "Frescos can't be remade; neither can they be preserved forever." Is digital preservation a solution or a compromise? What is gained and what is lost?

4. The essay covers 1600+ years of history. How does the author use this long timeline to make the guardians' work feel significant?

5. If you could interview either Chang Shuhong or Fan Jinshi, what three questions would you ask? Why these questions?

IV. 写作任务（Writing Task）

Write a short essay (150-200 words) on one of the following topics:

Topic A: Describe a cultural heritage site in China that you believe needs more protection. What threats does it face? What should be done?

Topic B: "Devotion and sacrifice" — Do you agree that great achievements require personal sacrifice? Defend your position with examples from the text and your own knowledge.

Topic C: Write a letter to either Chang Shuhong or Fan Jinshi. Tell them what you learned from their story and how it connects to your own life goals.

要求：① 至少使用 3 个课文关键词(guardian, devote, sacrifice, fascinating, preserve, innovative, state-of-the-art 等) ② 包含至少 1 个 personal reflection ③ 语法正确，逻辑清晰