

Francis Bacon and Of Studies

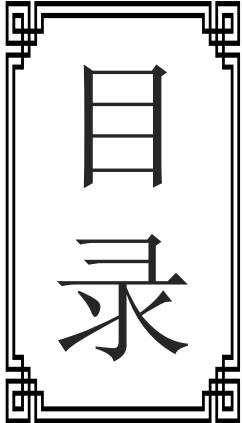
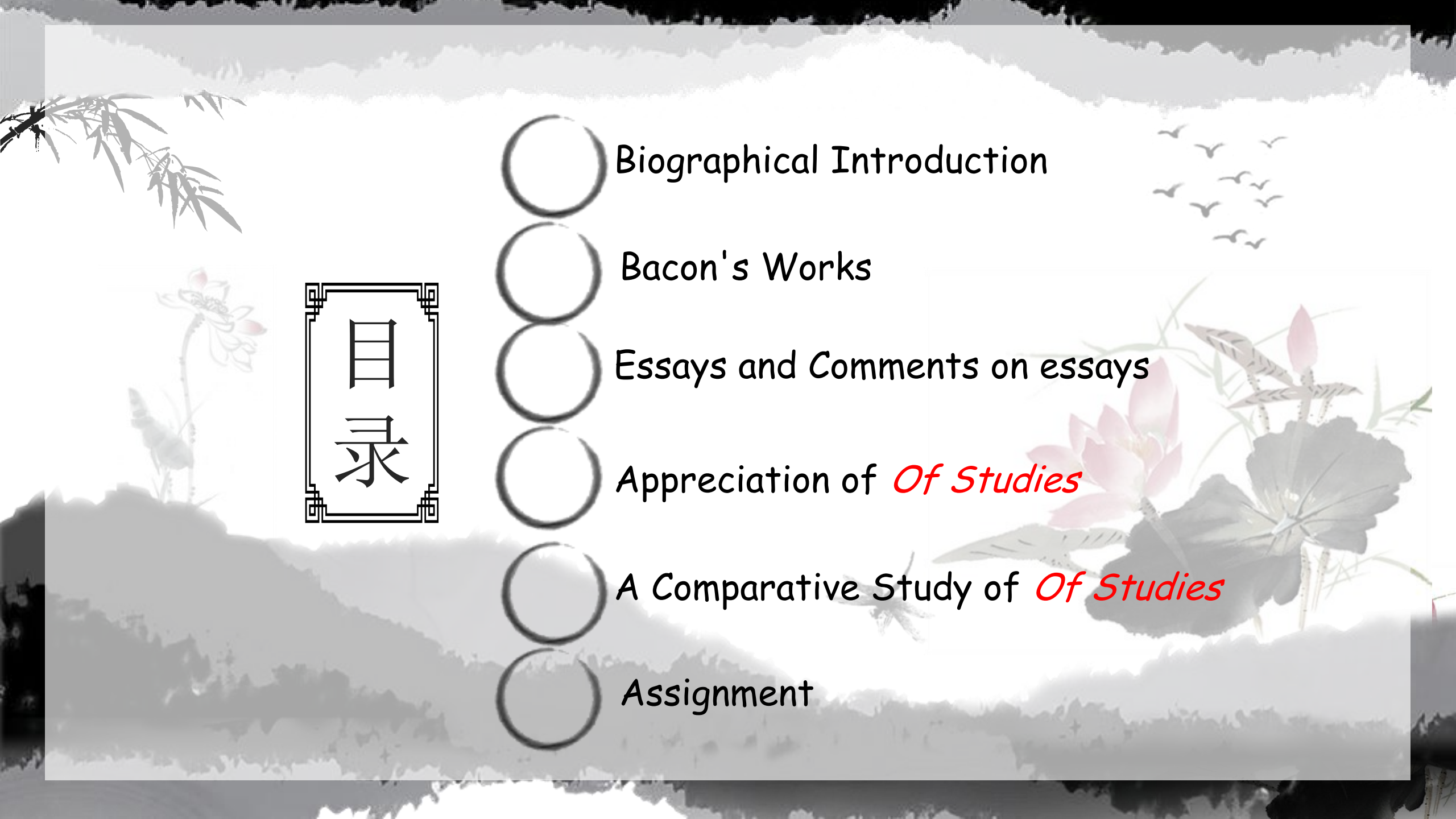
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Francis Bacon (1561-1626)

- The first **English essayist**. (new genre in English literature)
- A **well-known philosopher** (the founder of English materialist philosophy.)
- Scientist
- The **founder of modern science**.





目录

- Biographical Introduction
- Bacon's Works
- Essays and Comments on essays
- Appreciation of *Of Studies*
- A Comparative Study of *Of Studies*
- Assignment

Biographical Introduction

- Being the younger son of Elizabethan's first Lord Keeper, Bacon had a fortunate heritage and background.
- Studied at Cambridge (Trinity College) and Gray's Inn, entered Parliament, and gradually established his reputation.
- Became Lord Keeper of King James but was accused of taking bribes in office. After a token of imprisonment, Bacon retired in disgrace and spent his later years in the scientific research.



Bacon's Works

- Bacon's works can be divided into three classes:
- **The philosophical:** Advancement of Learning
1605
- **Novum Organum (New Instrument)**
1620
- **The literary works:** *Essays* (of Truth, of Death, of Studies, of Friendship etc)
- **The Professional works:** Maxims of the Law and Reading on the Statue of Uses

Mottos by Bacon

- Beauty is as summer fruits, which are easy to corrupt, and cannot last; and for the most part it makes a dissolute youth, and an age a little out of countenance.
- 美犹如盛夏的水果，是容易腐烂而难保持的，世上有许多美人，她们有过放荡的青春，却迎受着愧悔的晚年。
- It is impossible to love and be wise.
- 要恋爱而又要理智是不可能的。

- There is no man that imparteth his joys to his friends, but that he joyeth the more; and no man that imparteth his griefs to his friends, but he grieveth the less.
- 与友分享欢乐者,无不欢乐倍增;与友分担哀伤者,无不哀伤减半。
- Histories make men wise; poets witty; the mathematics subtle; natural philosophy deep; moral grave; logic and rhetoric able to contend. Abundant studia in mores.
- 读史使人明智,读诗使人灵秀,数学使人周密,科学使人深刻,伦理学使人庄重,逻辑修辞之学使人善辩:凡有所学,皆成性格。

- Nam et ipsa scientia potestas est.
(Knowledge is power.)
- 知识就是力量
- Wives are young men's mistresses,
companion's for middle age, and old
men's nurses. — "Of Marriage and
Single Life" .
- 妻子是年轻时的情人，中年时的伴侣，
老年时的陪护。



Essay

- Essay is a short composition in prose that undertakes to discuss a matter, express a point of view and persuade us to accept a thesis on any subject, or simply entertain.
- An essay can be formal and informal.
- The **formal essay** is relatively impersonal, or at least as highly knowledgeable, and expounds the subject in an orderly way.
- In the **informal essay**, the author assumes a tone of intimacy with his audience, tends to deal with everyday things and writes in a relaxed, self-revelatory fashion.

Comments on "Essays"

- **Firstly**, Bacon borrowed the title from the French philosopher Montaigne (1533-1592). But different from Montaigne's personal and informal style, Bacon's style is more formal and more tightly organized.
- **Secondly**, these essays cover a variety of subjects, such as "the meaning of truth," "the composition of beauty," "friendship," "marriage," and "parents and children."
- **Thirdly**, these essays, though short, are sinewy, full of wisdom, and elegantly phrased. They offer people useful and practical advice, and encourage people to play more active roles in their social life.

Of Studies



- *Of studies* is the most popular of Bacon's 58 essays. It analyzes what studies chiefly serve for, the different ways adopted by different people to pursue studies, and how studies exert influence over human character.



Presentation (学生汇报展示)

- Questions to be discussed:
- What **studies serve for**? (读书有什么功用?)
- According to Bacon, what are **the goods ways of reading books**? (阅读的方法有哪些?)
- How can **studies exert influence over human character**? (阅读能如何影响人的性格?)

three parts



what are the
functions of
studies.



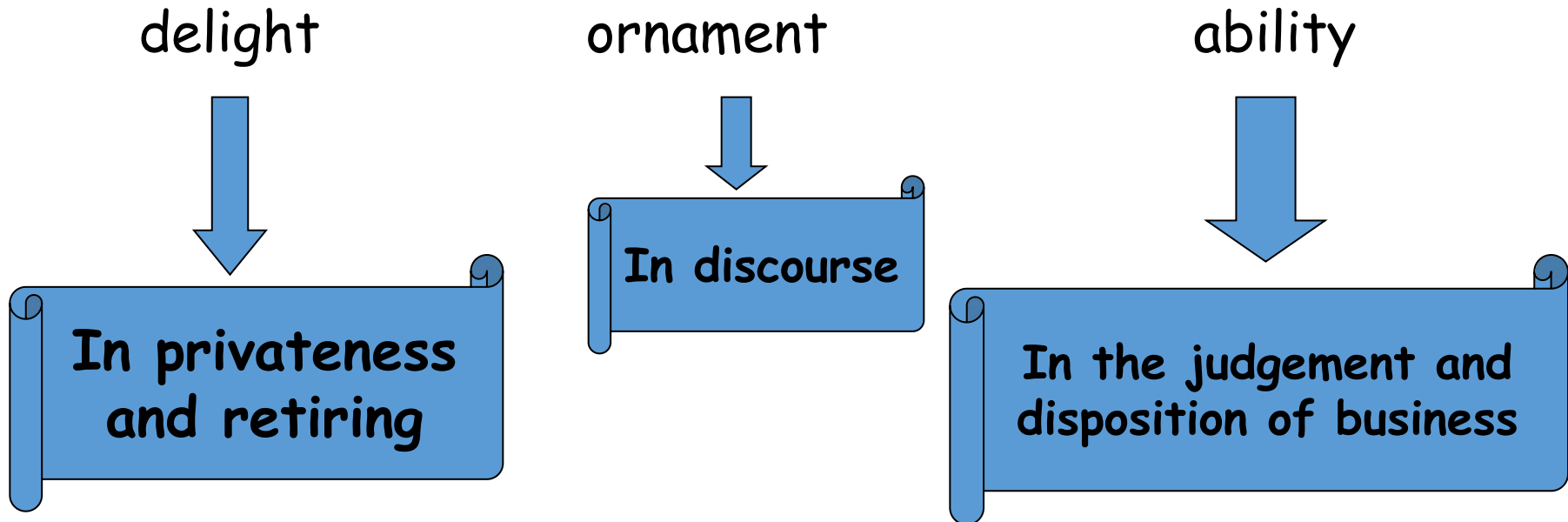
the different
ways of reading
books.



how studies affect
one's human
character

What studies serve for?

- Studies serve for delight, for ornament and for ability
- 读书足以怡情，足以博彩，足以长才。



- They perfect nature, and are perfected by experience; for natural abilities are like natural plants, that need pruning by study; and studies themselves do give forth directions too much at large, except they be bounded in by experience. (Studies and Experience)

- 读书补天然之不足，经验又补读书之不足，盖天生才干犹如自然花草，读书然后知如何修剪移接；而书中所示，如不以经验范之，则又大而无当



How to read books?

- Read not to contradict and confute, nor to believe and take for granted, nor to find talk and discourse, but to weigh and consider.
- 读书时不可存心诘难作者，不可尽信书上所言，亦不可只为寻章摘句，而应推敲细思。
- Some books are to be tasted; others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested.
- 书有可浅尝者，有可吞食者，少数则须咀嚼消化（秦牧：“牛嚼”\“鲸吞”；李泽厚：“泛览”，“精读”）

- Some books also may be read by deputy and extracts made of them by others, but that would be only in the less important arguments and the meaner sort of books; else distilled books are like common distilled waters, flashy things.
- 书亦可请人代读，取其所作摘要，但只限题材较次或价值不高者，否则书经提炼犹如水经蒸馏、淡而无味矣。
- Reading maketh a full man, conference a ready man, and writing an exact man.
- 读书使人充实，讨论使人机智，笔记使人精确。

How different subjects perfect one's character?

- Histories make men wise; poets, witty; the mathematics, subtle; natural philosophy, deep, moral, grave; logic and rhetoric, able to contend. *Abeunt studia in mores.* (Studies culminate in manners.)
- 读史使人明智，读诗使人灵秀，数学使人周密，科学使人深刻，伦理学使人庄重，逻辑修辞之学使人善辩：凡有所学，皆成性格。
- Fit studies can improve one's impediment in the wit.

《论读书》

——王佐良译

- Studies **serve for** delight, **for** ornament, and **for** ability. Their chief use **for delight, is in** privateness and retiring; **for ornament, is in** discourse; and **for ability, is in** the judgment and disposition of business.
- 读书足以怡情，足以博彩，足以长才。其怡情也，最见于独处幽居之时；其博彩也，最见于高谈阔论之中；其长才也，最见于处世判事之际。
- For expert men can execute, and perhaps judge of particulars, one by one; but the **general counsels**, and the plots and **marshalling of affairs**, come best from those that are learned.
- 练达之士虽能分别处理细事或一一判别枝节，然纵观统筹、全局策划，则舍好学深思者莫属。

- To spend too much time in studies is sloth; to use them too much for ornament, is affectation; to make judgment wholly by their rules, is the humour of a scholar.
- 读书费时过多易惰，文采藻饰太盛则矫，全凭条文断事乃学究故态。
- They perfect nature, and are perfected by experience: for natural abilities are like natural plants, that need pruning by study; and studies themselves do give forth directions too much at large, except they be bounded in by experience.
- 读书补天然之不足，经验又补读书之不足，盖天生才干犹如自然花草，读书然后知如何修剪移接；而书中所示，如不以经验范之，则又大而无当。

- Crafty men contemn studies, simple men admire them, and wise men use them; for they teach not their own use; but that is a wisdom without them, and above them, won by observation.
- 有一技之长者鄙读书，无知者羡读书，唯明智之士用读书，然书并不以用处告人，用书之智不在书中，而在书外，全凭观察得之。
- Read not to contradict and confute; nor to believe and take for granted; nor to find talk and discourse; but to weigh and consider.
- 读书时不可存心诘难作者，不可尽信书上所言，亦不可只为寻章摘句，而应推敲细思。

- Some books are to be **tasted**, others to be **swallowed**, and some few to be **chewed** and **digested**; that is, some books are to be read only in parts; others to be read, but not curiously; and some few to be read wholly, and with diligence and attention.
(metaphor, climax)
- 书有可浅尝者，有可吞食者，少数则须咀嚼消化。换言之，有只须读其部分者，有只须大体涉猎者，少数则须全读，读时须全神贯注，孜孜不倦。
- Some books also may be read by deputy, and extracts made of them by others; but **that** would be only in the less important arguments, and the meaner sort of books, else distilled books are like common distilled waters, flashy things.
- 书亦可请人代读，取其所作摘要，但只限题材较次或价值不高者，否则书经提炼犹如水经蒸馏、淡而无味矣。

- Reading maketh a full man; conference a ready man; and writing an exact man. And therefore, if a man write little, he had need have a great memory; if he confer little, he had need have a present wit; and if he read little, he had need have much cunning, to seem to know that he doth not. (parallelism, climax)
- 读书使人充实，讨论使人机智，笔记使人准确。因此不常作笔记者须记忆特强，不常讨论者须天生聪颖，不常读书者须欺世有术，始能无知而显有知。
- Histories make men wise; poets witty; the mathematics subtle; natural philosophy deep; moral grave; logic and rhetoric able to contend. *Abeunt studia in mores.* (Studies go to make up a man's character.)
- 读史使人明智，读诗使人灵秀，数学使人周密，科学使人深刻，伦理学使人庄重，逻辑修辞之学使人善辩：凡有所学，皆成性格。

- Nay, there is no stond or impediment in the wit, but may be wrought out by fit studies: **like** as diseases of the body may have appropriate exercises. Bowling is good for the **stone and reins**; shooting for the lungs and breast; gentle walking for the stomach; riding for the head; and the like. (parallelism, simile)
- 人之才智但有滞碍，无不可读适当之书使之顺畅，一如身体百病，皆可借相宜之运动除之。滚球利肾，射箭利胸肺，慢步利肠胃，骑术利头脑，诸如此类。

- So if a man's wit be wandering, let him study the mathematics; for in demonstrations, if his wit be called away never so little, he must begin again. If his wit be not apt to distinguish or find differences, let him study the schoolmen; for they are Cymini sectores. If he be not apt to beat over **matters**, and to call up one thing to prove and illustrate another, let him study the lawyers' cases. So every defect of the mind may have a special **receipt**.
- 如智力不集中，可令读数学，盖演题须全神贯注，稍有分散即须重演；如不能辨异，可令读经院哲学，盖是辈皆吹毛求疵之人；如不善求同，不善以一物阐证另一物，可令读律师之案卷。如此头脑中凡有缺陷，皆有特药可医。

Theme/ content of the essay

- This essay deals with the uses and abuses of studies, the proper and improper ways to pursue one's studies and different effects of different books upon the formation of human character.

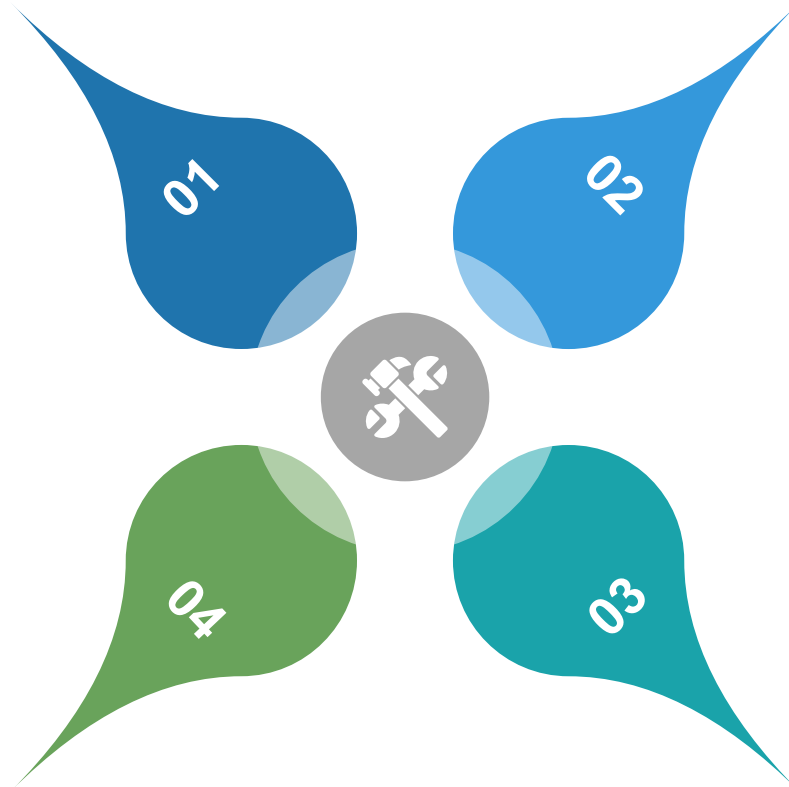
What are the features of Bacon's essays?

- The language is very **neat, pretty and weighty**.
- The sentences are very short. Bacon also likes **to use more co-ordinate conjunctions** than the subordinated ones, such as "as, since, because".
- **Parallelism, epigrams, metaphor and simile**
- Bacon's essays are famous for their **brevity, compactness and powerfulness**.

Stylistic feature of "Of Studies"

Conciseness of
expressions

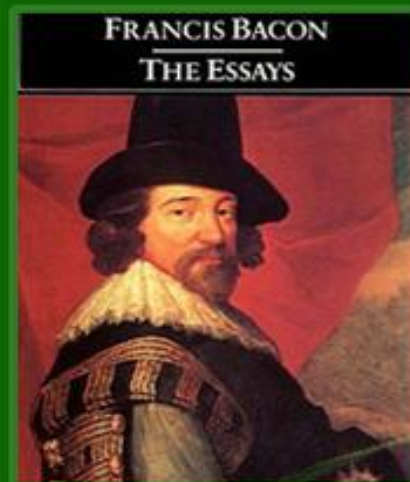
Rhetoric devices
(parallelism,
simile, metaphor,
climax, close
logical reason)



Simplicity of diction

单击此处添加文本具体内容

Compare with 荀子
《劝学》



论读书是《培根随笔》中的一篇重要的文章。

作者培根，1653 年发表，收于《培根随笔》一书中。

培根简介：弗兰西斯·培根（Francis Bacon，1561—1626）英国哲学家、作家，出生贵族家庭。剑桥大学毕业，后又学习法律，1618 年任大理院院长，封为勋爵。1621 年因受贿为国会弹劾去职，嗣后居家著述。《随笔》是其文学方面主要著作，开创英国随笔这特有体裁。他竭力倡导“读史使人明智，读诗使人聪慧，数学使人精密，哲理使人深刻，伦理学使人有修养，逻辑修辞使人善辩。”


制作 / leeb

《论读书》赏析简介

- 《论读书》详细讨论了读书的目的和功用，分析了世人对读书的不同态度，介绍了读书的各种方法。文章写于17世纪，行文简约，略带古风而又明白畅达。培根采用排比修辞手法，文中警句叠出，如“读书足以怡情，足以博采，足以长才，”“读史使人明智，读诗使人灵秀，数学使人周密，科学使人深刻，伦理使人庄重，逻辑修辞之学使人善辩，凡有所学，皆成性格，”已成家喻户晓的名言。作为一名熟谙世故、饶有见识、讲究实用的哲人和政治家，培根强调读书方法要得当，不能死读书。他告诫我们：“用书之智不在书中，而在书外，全凭观察得之。”文章充分体现了培根的风格，有一种正襟危坐、谈经论道之势。他文笔简练，说理准确，不论以小喻大或以大喻小，都能鞭辟入里，字里行间闪烁着智慧的光芒。《论读书》文风古雅，紧凑庄重，不失为英语精品之作，值得读者仔细玩味。

荀子·劝学

- 君子曰：学不可以已。青，取之于蓝，而青于蓝；冰，水为之，而寒于水。木直中绳，揉以为轮，其曲中规，虽有槁暴，不复挺者，輶使之然也。故木受绳则直，金就砾则利。君子博学而日参省乎己，则知明而行无过矣。
- 吾尝终日而思矣，不如须臾之所学也。吾尝跂而望矣，不如登高之博见也。登高而招，臂非加长也，而见者远。顺风而呼，声非加疾也，而闻者彰。假舆马者，非利足也，而致千里。假舟楫者，非能水也，而绝江河。君子生非异也，善假于物也。
- 积土成山，风雨兴焉。积水成渊，蛟龙生焉。积善成德，而神明自得，圣心备焉。故不积跬步，无以至千里；不积小流，无以成江海。骐骥一跃，不能十步；弩马十驾，功在不舍。锲而舍之，朽木不折；锲而不舍，金石可镂。蚓无爪牙之利，筋骨之强，上食埃土，下饮黄泉，用心一也。蟹六跪而二螯，非蛇蟺之穴无可寄托者，用心躁也。



比较分析《论读书》和《劝学》

- 1. 要求：小组讨论《论读书》和《劝学》的异同，代表陈述，其它同学提意见，老师点评
- 2. 目标：明白读书的目的、功用和意义，改进学习方法，提高学习效率。
- 3. 思政启发：爱祖国、爱文化，增强文化自信，传播中国文化；爱学习、养成良好的学习习惯；相互包容、团结互助、相互尊重、平等协作；树立正确的世界观、人生观、价值观、文化观。

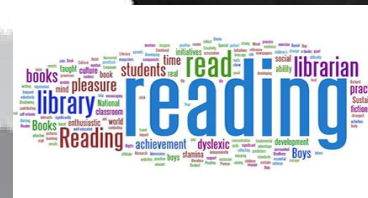




I ♥ Reading



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Assignment

- What can you benefit from Bacon's *of Studies*?
- What are your study habits? Do you think you should improve them?
- We are living in the age of "information explosion", what lessons can we learn from Bacon's *of Studies* in our access to information?
- Preview John Donne's *Song*, John Milton's *Paradise Lost* and John Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress*.

Recommendations

- http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/mike_donnelly/bacon.htm
提供培根论说文选
- <http://history.hanover.edu/texts/bacon/bactable.html>
提供培根论说文选

Thank You

