**8年级（上）英语第72课时（第18周）**

**《写作小讲堂之入乡随俗—中式习俗知多少》学程拓展**

**请阅读以下两篇文章，了解中国端午节和立冬的习俗。**

**Passage 1**

Do you smell the fragrance (香味) of Zongzi in the air? Dragon Boat Festival is coming. The traditional Chinese festival is on the fifth day of the fifth month in the Chinese lunar calendar (阴历). This year, it falls on June 9th.

Eating Zongzi is one of the most interesting customs for this day. It is to remember Qu Yuan, a poet from the Warring States Period (战国时期，475-221 BC). Qu loved his country Chu very much. When Qin beat Chu, the patriotic (爱国的) Qu killed himself by jumping into the Miluo River (汨罗江) in Hunan. People threw Zongzi into the river to feed the fish in case (以防) the fish wanted to eat Qu’s body.

Today, some people, especially the elderly, like cooking Zongzi at home. They do this by wrapping (包裹) Zongzi in bamboo leaves (竹叶), tie it and then boil it. When the fragrance of the leaves and the filling (馅料) gets into the rice, Zongzi is ready to eat. Of course, you can also buy Zongzi at the supermarket.

Dragon boat races are also important to the festival. The race is very exciting. The racers row (划船) quickly while shouting loudly. The drummer on the boat beats the drum heatedly to encourage the racers. The audience also gets excited. They cheer on the racers and even sing dragon boat songs.

Usually, a dragon boat is 20 to 30 meters long. And 30 to 50 racers sit on each boat. But one dragon boat in Guizhou is 77.8 meters long! And it can hold 180 people. Over 1,000 strong men and four cranes (吊车) are needed to put it into the river. This boat is much longer than the world’s longest dragon boat (63m). It may be a Guinness World Record one day.

**Passage 2**

Falling leaves and cold winds show the arrival of another season. Nov 7th is Lidong. It is a Chinese word for one of the 24 solar terms (节气). It means the beginning of winter.

To welcome Lidong, people have many colorful customs that light up the cold days.

One of the most popular customs is to have a big meal. Winter is believed to be a season for storage (储藏). Eating well helps people store energy to beat the cold in winter, and prepare for the growth in the coming spring. In the north, people prefer eating dumplings. The Chinese word for dumpling, jiao (饺), has a similar pronunciation as the word “change”, jiao (交). Eating dumplings means celebrating the change of autumn to winter. While in the south, eating chicken, duck and fish is more common.

Throughout history, Lidong was also a time for people to store vegetables. There were not many fresh vegetables to eat during winter. Therefore, around Lidong some people in the north began to store vegetables like cabbages and green onions in a cellar (地窖) underground. When it was time for cooking, fathers went down with a basket tied to one end of a rope. Children were happy to wait beside the cellar holding the other end of the rope. When fathers filled the basket with vegetables, children helped to pull it out.

However, nowadays some of the customs have faded away (消失). Most people buy fresh vegetables in the supermarket. Instead, new winter customs are born in certain places. In Harbin, experienced swimmers choose to swim in the winter waters during Lidong. How cold it must be!