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An Integrated English Course III

Unit 10 Text I

The Wonderful Lousy Poems

--- Budd Schulberg



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Outline

- **The Author**
- **Pre-reading Questions**
- **Text Comprehension**
- **Structural Analysis**
- **Paragraph Analysis**
- **Language Work**
- **Questions for Further Discussion**



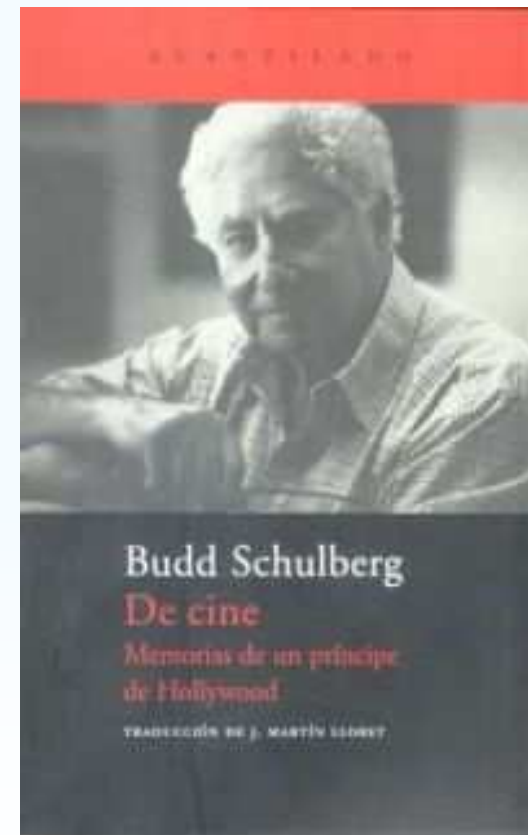
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Budd Schulberg (1914-)

- the son of “a Hollywood tycoon”;
- American Veteran novelist, short story writer, screenwriter, and contributor to major national magazines.





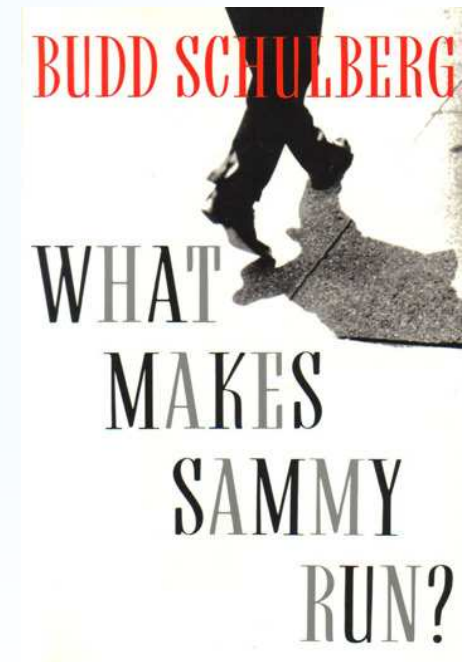
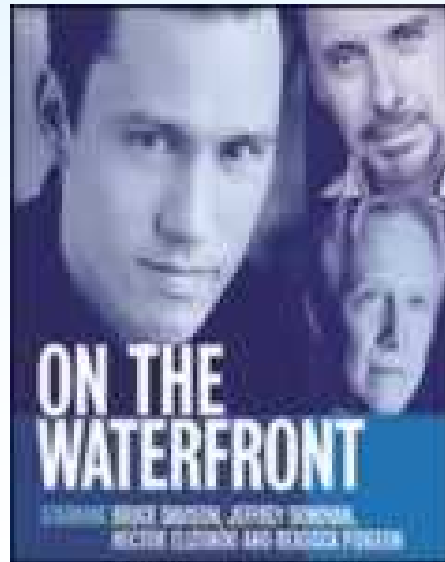
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His well-known books:

- *What Makes Sammy Run (1941)*
- *The Disenchanted (1950)*
- *On the Waterfront (1954)*





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Pre-reading Questions

1. Have you ever tried to write a poem?
2. How different is your father from your mother in their methods when they try to give you proper education? Cite examples from your life.
3. Why does the author “deviate” from the theme once to describe his father’s anger with an actress?



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Text Comprehension

1. How does his mother respond to his first poem ?
2. Why did Budd look forward to his father's arrival?
3. How did his father respond to the poem?
4. Which kind of love was important to Budd's growth, the mother's love or the father's love? Why?



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Structural Analysis

- Part I: Introduction (Paragraphs 1-6)
Budd wrote his first poem, which is highly praised by his mother, and he was expecting his father's arrival in excitement, feeling sure he would appreciate it more than his mother.



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- Part II: Main Body (Paragraphs 7-20)

Budd's father came home, and beyond his expectation, the poem was denounced as "lousy".

- Part III: Conclusion (Paragraph 21-24)

The author makes a comparison between the father's love and the mother's love. Although conflicting, they are complementary and in fact, both are indispensable to his growth.



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Paragraph Analysis (part I)

- Why was his mother's attitude to Budd's poem positive and affirmative?

A: It's the first time Budd try on a poem. She wanted to encourage the son to go on with writing. She did not want to nip his talent in the bud.

- What do you think his father's attitude to his poem would be?

A: Open for discussion.



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Language Work (Part I)

Exuberant *adj.*

1. *(of people and their behavior) full of unrestrained enthusiasm or joy.*

E.g. His paintings were full of exuberant color.

2. (of plants) growing, producing, or produced abundantly; plentiful

E.g. the exuberant growth of a tropical rain forest



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nothing short of

- (used to add force to a statement) nothing less than

E.g. The closure of the factory will be nothing short of a disaster / of disastrous for the people in the area.

- **short of**

- 尚未达到

The box-office receipts fell short of the manager's expectations.

- 除非...; 除...外

They would commit every crime short of murder.



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glow

1. To shine brightly and steadily, especially without a flame:

The iron bar was heated until it glowed.

The cat's eyes glowed in the darkness.

2. To have a bright, warm, usually reddish color:

The children's cheeks glowed from the cold.

His parents glowed with pride at his achievements.



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Flourish

A dramatic or stylish movement, a showy movement or manner that draws people's attention

E.g. He opened the door with a flourish.

- Some musicians embellish their performance with a flourish of the fingers.
- signed one's name with a distinctive flourish
- a long speech with many rhetorical flourishes
- a flourish of generosity



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Elaborate

Adj. rich in detail, full of detail; planned or executed with painstaking attention to numerous parts or details

E.g. She made elaborate preparations for the party, and then no one came.

The curtains had an elaborate pattern of flowers.



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Elaborate

- V. To express at greater length or in greater detail
- E.g. The chairman just wanted the facts; You don't need to elaborate on them.
- They asked me to elaborate on my proposal.



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do justice to

To treat adequately, fairly, or with full appreciation

E.g. The subject is so complex that I cannot do justice to it in a brief survey.

E.g. The overcharged customer was angry, and with justice.



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Paragraph Analysis (part II)

- What was his father's response to the poem?
- A: His father denounced it as “lousy”, and rudely declared that he the right to tear it apart. It's a waste of time and money in reading such “stuff.” This was quite beyond Budd's expectation.



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- How was it different from his mother's?
- A: His mother showed her understanding and support to the son.
- What kind of man was his father?
- A: He was strict in his work, but seemed too rough and tough on his colleagues. He tended to seek perfection in his work. Hot-tempered, rigorous and merciless. It's a kind of strength or force, which urged Budd to review and to improve.



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oath

1. A solemn, formal declaration or promise to fulfill a pledge, often calling on God or a sacred object as witness.

E.g. There is a standard form of oath used in law courts.

2. A casual or improper use of the name of God or something held sacred.

E.g. He hurled a few oaths at his wife and walked out, slamming the door.



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glamorous

- *a.* attractive, charming, exciting
- E.g. the glamorous film stars
- glamour n.
- E.g. hopeful young actors and actresses dazzled by the glamour of Hollywood
- Now that she's an air hostess, foreign travel has lost its glamour for her.



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rant

- v. 1. To speak in a violent, loud, or theatrical manner; rave.
- 2. To utter with violence or extravagance
- E.g. He ranted (on) at me about my mistakes.
- E.g. The actor was ranting his lines.



glare

n. 1. strong unpleasant dazzling light

E.g. the glare of the sun on the water

2. angry or fierce look; fixed look

E.g. give somebody a hostile glare

v. 1. to shine with unpleasant dazzling light

E.g. A hot sun glared down on the desert.

2. to stare angrily or fiercely

E.g. He glared his disapproval.

E.g. The old gentleman just stood there glaring at the pickpocket and did not say a word.



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hold one's ground

- To maintain one's claim, intension, argument, etc; not to yield or give way
- E.g. The speaker calmly held his ground in the face of angry opposition.
- E.g. She held her ground in spite of all the counter-arguments.



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Paragraph Analysis (Part III)

- Can you describe the mother's love?
A: It's gentle and temperate. It's a loving force from which all creation grows. Mothers tend to encourage us with loving words, helping to establish our confidence to go forward.



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- How is the father's love?

A: It's rigid and rigorous. It's another kind of loving force which constantly calls our attention and caution to our conceit and arrogance. Although constantly hurting us, it's a loving force that enables us to make a better estimation of our own ability.



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Which kind of love is important to the children's growth, the mother's or the father's?

A: Both are important and necessary to children's growth. Gentle and mild, the mother's love tends to spoil and even destroy a child with the curb of the father's love. On the other hand, the father's love tends to hurt a child or even dispel the confidence in the child forever without the mother's love to encourage and recognize. Only with these two complementary loves combining together will a child be able to develop healthily and wisely.



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Language Work (Part III)

crush

- *v. tr.*
- *(1) To press between opposing bodies so as to break or injure.*
- E.g. Several people were crushed to death by the falling stones.



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- *(2) To break, pound, or grind (stone, for example) into small fragments or powder.*
- E.g. Huge hammers crush (up) the rocks.
- *(3) To put down; subdue:*
- E.g. *The rebellion were crushed by the government forces.*
- E.g. He felt completely crushed by her last remark.



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dawn on

- to gradually become clear to one's mind; to become evident to somebody
- E.g. It finally dawn on me that he had been lying.
- E.g. The truth began to dawn on him.



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counsel

- (1) to give professional advice to
- E.g. A psychiatrist who counsels alcoholics
- (2) to give (the stated advice)
- E.g. I would counsel caution in such cases.
- (3) to advice
- E.g. He counseled them to give up the plan.



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echo

- (1)(of places) to send (something) back
- E.g. The valley echoed back his song.
- (2) (fig) to repeat, imitate or to recall
- E.g. They echoed their leaders' every word.
- (3) (of places) to repeat a sound (to, with)
- E.g. The hills echoed to the sound of laughter.



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buffet

- v. To knock or push roughly from side to side
- E.g. flowers buffeted by the rain and wind
- E.g. a boat buffeted (about) by the waves
- E.g. The travelers were buffeted about during the rough boat ride.



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buffet

- n.
- (1) A counter or table from which meals or refreshments are served
- (2) A restaurant having such a counter
- (3) A meal at which guests serve themselves from various dishes displayed on a table or sideboard.
- E.g. buffet car
- buffet lunch [supper]



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navigate

(1) to find the position and plot the course of a ship, an aircraft, a car etc., using maps and instruments

E.g. Which officer in the ship navigate?

(2) to steer (a ship); to pilot (an aircraft) E.g. navigate the tanker around the Cape

(3) to sail along, over or through (a sea, river, etc.)

E.g. Who first navigated the Atlantic?



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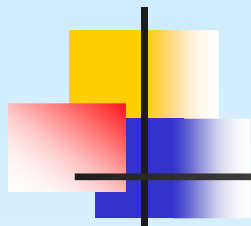
Questions for Further Discussion

1. What are the similarities and differences between a father and a mother in their ways of educating their children? Cite examples to illustrate.
2. Tell your classmates something that had happened in your childhood and how your parents reacted to it respectively. Please make some comments on their ways in showing their love and concern for you.



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Text II Dad



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I Useful words and expressions

- yawning 裂开的; 多洞穴的
- maturity 成熟;完全发育
- uncanny神秘的; ; 怪诞的
- hamster仓鼠
- jigsaw 钢丝锯;拼板玩具
- curve ball曲线球
- toddler刚学步的小孩
- battered打扁了的, 敲碎了的;受虐待的
- defuse拆除; 使缓和



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- scary 使人惊慌、害怕的; 胆小的
- heady 使人失控的;
- fedora 一种浅顶软呢帽
- prejudice 成见; 偏见
- incumbent (行政部门或教会中的)任职者
- ailment 失调; 小病
- ostentatiously 夸张地; 招摇地
- sores and scars 伤痛
- crave 热切希望
- deteriorate (使) 恶化
- shuffle 曳脚而行



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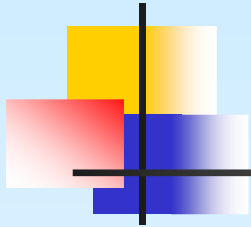
II Questions for Discussion

1. Is it still important for a man to display a firm handshake and a steady gaze into someone's eyes ? When would these gestures be most important?
2. How do you feel about Malcolm's father crying with his son when the boy's dog was killed ?



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- 3. As you grow up, when did you shift from trying to please a parent to trying to impress that parent ?
- 4. How well can a person younger than forty understand the problems involved in a parent's aging and dying?