

**UOW College Hong Kong / Community College of City University**  
**Student English Enhancement Unit (SEE U)**  
**Daily English Practice**

Week 10

**#199 Nobel Prize winner – Gao Xingjian (高行健)**

**Skills/ Objectives: Reading, Listening and Writing Skills**

**PART 1: Before you read...**

**Preparatory questions**

- Have you heard of the winner of Nobel Prize in Literature 2012 Gai Xingjian
- Did you know that Gao was forced to destroy his early writings and sent to a reeducation camp during the Cultural Revolution?

**Vocabulary**

- fugitive (n): a person running away from the police
- persona non grata (n): a person not welcome by the government of a country.
- ingenuity (n): a person's ability to think of wise ways to do things.
- emigré (n): a person who cannot return to his own country for political reasons.
- avant-garde (n): very advanced for his time.

**PART 2: Article for Reading**

Now read the article posted at the following web-site of Encyclopaedia Britannica to learn about Gao Xingjian:

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Gao-Xingjian>  
Gao Xingjian, Chinese Author and Critic,  
written by The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica

**PART 3: Listening Comprehension**

Listen to the following video posted on YouTube to practise your listening skills and learn more about the topic:

Gao Xingjian

<https://youtu.be/UgEpRf5wV3I>

#### **PART 4: Writing Practice**

Did you understand what it means by “embark on something” in the following sentence found in the article?

*Gao embarked on a 10-month walking tour following the course of the Yangtze River.*

To embark on or to embark upon something is to start something new and important, usually a project or new business. For example, you can say:

- He embarked on a new journey in Europe.
- She embarked on the career of a politician after graduation from the University.

Can you think of two examples of your own to write sentences with the word? **Send your writing to:** [see.u@cccu.edu.hk](mailto:see.u@cccu.edu.hk). Remember! Our SEE U teachers are always ready to give you feedback.