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基础卷

SELECTED ENGLISH MASTERPIECES

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基础卷

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前言

世界文学名著是人类历史长河中一份珍贵的文化遗产，是人类文明的共同财富，其闪耀的光芒犹如沙中的金子，历经尘世的磨炼、岁月的洗礼，至今仍然熠熠生辉，滋养着当今读者的灵魂。但是，浩如烟海的世界文学名著，仿佛又像一颗颗散落沙滩的珠贝，想要一一拾起，恐怕穷尽一生也难办到。尤其是在这日新月异的今天，一杯香茗，一本名著的恬静仿佛已成为人们梦中的奢侈。

《英语学习必读名著》中的每一篇作品，都像一只只小船，引领着读者驶向原作的海洋。在这里，你会感受到名著的力量原来竟如此震撼！这里既有影响人类历史进程的《物种起源》，又有《老人与海》式的生命礼赞；既有《荆棘鸟》里痛彻心扉的真爱，又有滴血的《红字》带来的人性救赎；既有战争肆虐的棉花地里《飘》来的美国风情，又有爱尔兰高地上世代吟唱的玫瑰爱人；既有爵士时代《了不起的盖茨比》，又有刺穿财富面纱的《富爸爸，穷爸爸》；既有《绿野仙踪》里的童真童趣，又有《沉默的羔羊》里的异度惊悚。

需要指明的是，名著并不完全等同于经典，我们在感悟经典作品的凝练时，也需要关注时下的流行元素。因此我们精心遴选出读者朋友喜欢、富有时代气息、贴近生活的文学作品，如科幻小说、儿童文学作品、财富励志小说等。这样，本书便具有了经典性、时代性、流行性等诸多特征，相信定会为大家认同并喜欢。

还需指出的是，对于广大英语学习爱好者来说，本书在亲近名著的同时，还大大丰富了读者的英语语言阅读素材，使读者在感受名著风貌的同时，领略到名著原汁原味的魅力，于无形中提高了自己的英语语言运用能力。尤其是该书独具匠心的体例编排，定会使读者在英语学习方面受益匪浅。本书分为上、下两册，每册书里都包含10个章节，每个章节中精选的5篇名著都包括以下几个部分：引言、作者简介、名著原文节选和词汇以及名著内容简介等。其中，引言、名著原文节选和词汇部分都提供了英汉两种版本。这样，一方面给读者提供了便捷的帮助，使其形成开放的品读鉴赏空间，另一方面又使得名著阅读成为一个愉快的英语学习之旅。

热爱英语的朋友，渴望名著的读者，希望本书能引领你穿越历史时空，步入世界文学的殿堂，去和伟大的灵魂进行心灵的碰撞。

张淑芳

使用说明

"The nine *Little House* books have been cherished by generations of readers as both a unique glimpse into America's frontier past and a heartwarming, unforgettable story."

"这九本《小木屋》系列小说受到了几代读者的珍爱，它不仅以独特的视角记载了美国的拓荒时代，还给读者讲述了一个温馨难忘的故事。"

对即将介绍的书目的评价，吸引读者的阅读兴趣，引领读者走进本书。

对本书作者的介绍，了解作家的生平及其成就，同时推荐作者的其他作品，为读者的选择性阅读提供指南。

罗兰·英格斯·怀德（1867—1957），生于美国中部威斯康星州的拓荒者家庭，系美国20世纪四五十年代著名的儿童文学作家。罗兰从65岁才开始儿童文学的创作，毕其一生所完成的9本《小木屋》系列小说，现均为世界儿童文学的经典之作。而罗兰也正是凭着这百科全书式的《小木屋》系列，成为美国儿童文学作家"梦之队"的成员（"梦之队"成员全美仅三位：苏斯博士、E. B. 怀特和罗兰·英格斯·怀德）。

In the long winter evenings he talked to Ma about the Western country. In the West the land was level, and there were no trees. The grass grew thick and high. There the wild animals wandered and fed as though they were in a pasture[4] that stretched much farther than a man could see, and there were no settlers. Only Indians lived there.

One day in the very last of the winter Pa said to Ma, "Seeing you don't object, I've decided to go see the West. I've had an offer for this place, and we can sell it now for as much as we're ever likely to get, enough to give us a start in a new country."

节选书中的经典片段，在阅读中体会英语国家文化的真谛，感受名著的魅力。

中英对照，方便初学者阅读；名家翻译，更有助于喜欢翻译的读者提高翻译水平和鉴赏力。

在冬日漫长的夜晚，罗兰听到爸对妈提起西部的大草原，爸说西部的土地很平坦，那里没有树，青草长得又高又密，草原上的野生动物就好像生活在牧场一样不愁吃喝。那一片草原延伸到你看不到的远方，除了印第安人，没有其他人住在那儿。

冬天快要过完了，有一天爸对妈说："既然你不反对，我决定要去西部看看。有人出价要买我们的小木屋，如果我们现在就卖，可以卖到最好的价钱。有了钱，我们就可以出发到一个新的地方。"

Key Words 词汇

1) thud [θʌd] *n.* 砰击声，重击
2) wagon ['wægən] *n.* 四轮马车，货车
3) fawn [fɔ:n] *n.* （未满一岁的）小鹿
4) pasture ['pɑ:stʃə] *n.* 牧地，草原，牧场
5) hickory ['hɪkərɪ] *n.* 山胡桃树
6) flannel ['flænl] *n.* 法兰绒，法兰绒衣服
7) petticoat ['petɪkəʊt] *n.* 衬裙，裙子

生词注释，既解决了翻字典查单词的烦琐，又为需要应对考试的读者扩充了词汇量。

对全书内容的整体介绍，帮助读者了解全书的脉络。有机会最好能够阅读全文。

名著内容介绍

《草原上的小木屋》是美国经典名著《小木屋》系列小说中最有名、最具代表性的作品。这部小说发表于1935年，但故事发生于19世纪70年代。它讲述的是作者一家的真实故事，但又不是严格意义上的自传，因为故事里的女孩罗兰比真实的罗兰稍微大几岁。

故事的主要内容如下：

英格斯一家原本居住在威斯康星大森林里（怀德在《大森林里的小房子》中讲到这一段），爸、妈决定，带着女儿玛莉、罗兰和刚出世的小婴孩卡里，还有忠诚的看家狗杰克，一同到西部大草原去拓荒。

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Disenchanted from the Past

觉醒仿佛昨日

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犹如曦微的曙光，影响着历史的进程。

"The journey is certainly worth taking, for, as Hawking says, the reward of understanding the universe may be a glimpse of the 'mind of God'."

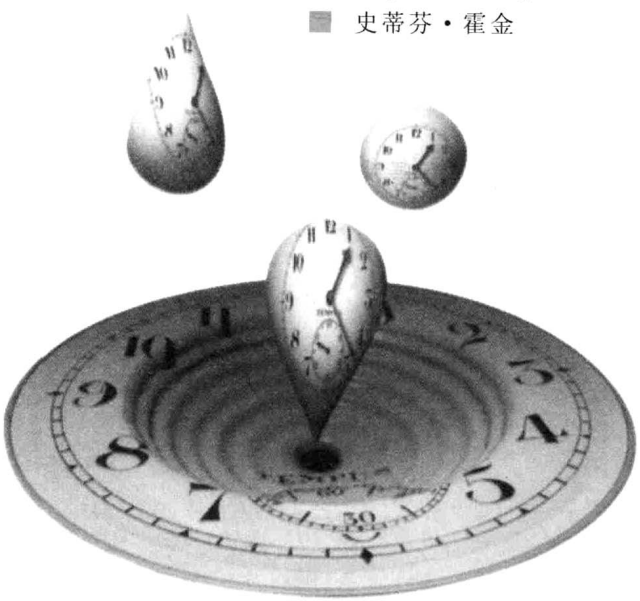
"这本书值得你花时间精力去读，正如霍金所言，理解宇宙所得到的奖励也许是让你瞥见'上帝的想法'。"

A Brief History of Time

时间简史

Stephen Hawking

史蒂芬·霍金



史蒂芬·霍金生于1942年，是当代最重要的广义相对论家和宇宙论家，1988年获沃尔夫物理奖，其主要专著有《黑洞、婴儿、宇宙及其他》、《时间简史》、《从大爆炸到黑洞》、《时间简史续编》。他现任剑桥大学卢卡斯数学系"首席教授"（这一职位曾由艾萨克·牛顿担任）。史蒂芬·霍金被誉为继爱因斯坦后最杰出的理论物理学家。

A well-known scientist (some say it was Bertrand Russell) once gave a public lecture on **astronomy**[1]. He described how the earth orbits around the sun and how the sun, in turn, orbits around the center of a vast collection of stars called our galaxy. At the end of the lecture, a little old lady at the back of the room got up and said, "What you have told us is rubbish. The world is really a flat plate supported on the back of a giant **tortoise**[2]." The scientist gave a superior smile before replying, "What is the tortoise standing on?" "You're very clever, young man, very clever," said the old lady, "But it's turtles all the way down!"

Most people would find the picture of our universe as an **infinite**[3] tower of tortoises rather ridiculous, but why do we think we know better? What do we know about the universe, and how do we know it? Where did the universe come from, and where is it going? Did the universe have a beginning, and if so, what happened before then? What is the nature of time? Will it ever come to an end? Can we go back in time? Recent breakthroughs in physics, made possible in part by fantastic new technologies, suggest answers to some of these longstanding questions. Someday these answers

一位著名的科学家（据说是贝特郎·罗素）曾经作过一次关于天文学方面的演讲。他描述了地球如何绕着太阳运动，以及太阳又是如何绕着我们称之为星系的巨大的恒星群的中心转动。演讲结束之时，一位坐在房间后排的矮个老妇人站起来说道："你说的这些都是废话。这个世界实际上是驮在一只大乌龟背上的一块平板。"这位科学家很有教养地微笑着答道："那么这只乌龟站在什么上面呢？""你很聪明，年轻人，的确很聪明，"老妇人说，"不过，这是一只驮着一只一直驮下去的乌龟群啊！"

大部分人会觉得，把我们的宇宙喻为一个无限的乌龟塔相当荒谬，可是为什么我们自以为知道得更多一些呢？我们对宇宙了解多少？我们又是怎样才知道的呢？宇宙从何而来，又将向何处去？宇宙有开端吗？如果有的话，在这开端之前发生了什么？时间的本质是什么？它会有一个终结吗？在物理学上的一些最新突破，使一部分奇妙的新

Key Words 词汇

1) astronomy [ə'strɒnəmɪ] *n.* 天文学
2) tortoise ['tɔ:təs] *n.* 龟，行动迟缓的人
3) infinite ['ɪnfɪnɪt] *adj.* 无穷的，无限的

may seem as obvious to us as the earth orbiting the sun—or perhaps as ridiculous as a tower of tortoises. Only time (whatever that may be) will tell.

As long ago as 340 BC the Greek philosopher Aristotle, in his book *On the Heavens*, was able to put forward two good arguments for believing that the earth was a round sphere rather than a Hat plate. First, he realized that **eclipses**[4] of the moon were caused by the earth coming between the sun and the moon. The earth's shadow on the moon was always round, which would be true only if the earth was **spherical**[5]. If the earth had been a flat disk, the shadow would have been **elongated**[6] and elliptical, unless the eclipse always occurred at a time when the sun was directly under the center of the disk. Second, the Greeks knew from their travels that the North Star appeared lower in the sky when viewed in the south than it did in more northerly regions. (Since the North Star lies over the North Pole, it appears to be directly above an observer at the North Pole, but to someone looking from the equator, it appears to lie just at the **horizon**[7].) From the difference in the apparent position of the North Star in Egypt and Greece, Aristotle even quoted an estimate that the distance around the earth was 400,000 stadia. It is not known exactly what length a stadium was, but it may have been about 200 yards, which would make Aristotle's estimate about twice the currently accepted figure. The Greeks even had a third argument that the earth must be round, for why else does one first see the sails of a ship coming over the horizon, and only later see the hull?

Aristotle thought the earth was stationary and that the sun, the moon, the planets, and the stars moved in circular orbits about the earth. He believed this because he felt, for mystical reasons, that the earth was the center of the universe, and that circular motion was the most perfect. This idea was **elaborated**[8] by Ptolemy in the second century AD into a complete **cosmological**[9] model. The earth stood at the center, surrounded by eight spheres that carried the moon, the sun, the stars, and the five planets known at the time, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn. The planets themselves moved on smaller circles attached to their respective spheres in order to account for their rather complicated observed paths in the sky. The **outermost**[10] sphere carried the so-called fixed stars, which always stay in the same positions relative to each other but which rotate together across the sky. What lay beyond the last sphere was never made very clear, but it certainly was not part of mankind's observable universe.

Ptolemy's model provided a reasonably accurate system for predicting the posi-

技术得以实现，从而对于回答这些长期以来悬而未决问题中的某些问题有所启发。也许有一天这些答案会像我们认为地球绕着太阳运动那样显而易见——当然也可能像乌龟塔那般荒唐可笑。不管怎样，唯有让时间来判断了。

早在公元前340年，希腊哲学家亚里士多德在他的《论天》一书中，就已经能够对地球是一个圆球而不是一块平板这一论点提出两个很好的论据。第一，他认为月食是由于地球运行到太阳与月亮之间而造成的。地球在月亮上的影子总是圆的，这只有在地球本身为球形的前提下才成立。如果地球是一个平坦的圆盘，除非月食总是发生在太阳正好位于这个圆盘中心之下的时候，否则地球的影子就会被拉长而成为椭圆。第二，希腊人从旅行中得知，在越往南的地区看星空，北极星显得越靠近地平线。(因为北极星位于北极的正上方，所以它出现在处于北极的观察者的头顶上，而对于赤道上的观察者，北极星显得刚好在地平线上。)根据北极星在埃及和希腊呈现出来的位置的差别，亚里士多德甚至估计地球周长为400 000斯特迪亚。现在不能准确地知道，一个斯特迪亚的长度究竟是多少，但也许是200码左右，这样就使得亚里士多德的估计为现在所接受数值的两倍。希腊人甚至为地球是球形提供了第三个论据，否则从地平线外驶来的船为何总是先露出船帆，然后才是船身?

亚里士多德认为地球是不动的，太阳、月亮、行星和恒星都以圆周为轨道围绕着它转动。他相信这些是由于神秘的原因，他感到地球是宇宙的中心，而且圆周运动最为完美。在公元2世纪，这个思想被托勒密精制成一个完整的宇宙学模型。地球处于正中心，包围着它的是8个天球，这8个天球分别负载着月亮、太阳、恒星和5个当时已知的行星:水星、金星、火星、木星和土星。这些行星被认为是沿着附在相应天球上的更小的圆周运动，以说明它们在天空中被观察到的相当复杂的轨迹。最外层的天球被镶上固定的恒星，它们总是停在不变的相对位置，但是总体绕着天空旋转。最后一层天球之外为何物一直不清楚，但有一点是肯定的，它不是人类所能观测到的宇宙的部分。

Key Words 词汇

4) eclipse [ɪ'klɪps] *n.* 食，日蚀
5) spherical ['sferɪkəl] *adj.* 球的，球形的
6) elongate ['i:lɒŋgeɪt] *v.* 拉长，(使)伸长，延长
7) horizon [hə'raɪzn] *n.* 地平线
8) elaborate [ɪ'læbəreɪt] *vt.* 精心制作，详细阐述
9) cosmological [ˌkɒzmə'lɒdʒɪkəl] *adj.* 宇宙哲学的，宇宙论的
10) outermost ['aʊtəməʊst] *adj.* 最外面的，最远的

tions of heavenly bodies in the sky. But in order to predict these positions correctly, Ptolemy had to make an assumption that the moon followed a path that sometimes brought it twice as close to the earth as at other times. And that meant that the moon ought sometimes to appear twice as big as at other times! Ptolemy recognized this flaw, but nevertheless his model was generally, although not universally, accepted. It was adopted by the Christian church as the picture of the universe that was in accordance with *Scripture*, for it had the great advantage that it left lots of room outside the sphere of fixed stars for heaven and hell.

A simpler model, however, was proposed in 1514 by a Polish priest, Nicholas Copernicus. (At first, perhaps for fear of being branded a heretic by his church, Copernicus circulated his model anonymously.) His idea was that the sun was stationary at the center and that the earth and the planets moved in circular orbits around the sun. Nearly a century passed before this idea was taken seriously. Then two astronomers— the German, Johannes Kepler, and the Italian, Galileo Galilei—started publicly to support the Copernican theory, despite the fact that the orbits it predicted did not quite match the ones observed. The death blow to the Aristotelian/Ptolemaic theory came in 1609. In that year, Galileo started observing the night sky with a telescope, which had just been invented. When he looked at the planet Jupiter, Galileo found that it was accompanied by several small satellites or moons that orbited around it. This implied that everything did not have to orbit directly around the earth, as Aristotle and Ptolemy had thought. (It was, of course, still possible to believe that the earth was stationary at the center of the universe and that the moons of Jupiter moved on extremely complicated paths around the earth, giving the appearance that they orbited Jupiter. However, Copernicus's theory was much simpler.) At the same time, Johannes Kepler had modified Copernicus's theory, suggesting that the planets moved not in circles but in ellipses (an ellipse is an elongated circle). The predictions now finally matched the observations.