

9 年义务教育

初中英语 阅读能力训练 精选读本

“精选英语读本”编写小组编

孟雁君 主编



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出版者的话

按前国家教委颁布的《九年义务教育全日制初级中学英语教学大纲》(以下简称《大纲》)的规定,要求初中学生在英语阅读能力方面能借助词典阅读难度与课文相当的材料,理解其大意,阅读速度为每分钟 40—60 词,理解正确率达 70%。培养这种能力单靠有限的几十篇不长的课文是远远不够的。有鉴于此,我们特地请孟雁君老师任主编,梁丽冰、俞唐、时迈、张玲棣等老师任编委,为初中学生选编了此精选英语读本。

本书严格按照《大纲》的要求选材,并由浅入深加以编排,它适合使用各种版本的初中学生阅读。

本书选材时重视了语言和文化两个因素,注意了德智两个方面,使读者在阅读中不但能学习语言,也可以受到德育的熏陶,同时还可了解讲英语国家的传统文化。

本书内容贴近学生生活,符合学生心理;语言通俗流畅,既易懂易学,又利于实际运用。为便于学生理解原文主要情节,每篇文章之后都编写了理解题,从而有助于学生轻松地达到 70% 理解正确率。

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Lesson 1

The Railway Children

Martha, Peter and Rosa lived with their mother and father. But one day their father went away. The children and their mother had to move to a smaller house by the railway.

The Station Master was their first friend at the railway. Their second new friend was Roger. He worked there, too. Their third new friend was an old man. They saw him every day on the train.

‘Do you think he’s going to the city?’ Rosa asked. ‘Is he going to see Father? And when is Father going to write to us?’

‘I don’t know,’ Martha said. ‘Let’s all wave when the train goes past tomorrow. The train can take our love to Father.’

Every morning they waved at the train and every morning their new friend on the train waved back at them.

They often went to the station to talk to the Station Master and Roger. Roger told them stories about the trains and the Station Master was always happy to see them.

One morning Mother was ill. That night she was worse, so Martha called the doctor for her.

‘She must stay in bed,’ the doctor said. ‘And she must stay warm. Give her good food to eat — a lot of meat and fruit.’

Martha was afraid. Mother was very ill but they did not have any money to buy a lot of meat and fruit.

‘What can we do?’ she asked Peter and Rosa.

‘We must find somebody to help us,’ Peter said.

The children thought for a long time before they thought of somebody.

‘Perhaps the man on the train can help us,’ Martha said.

The next morning when the train went past their house, the old man saw a big piece of paper next to the railway line. It said: LOOK OUT AT THE STATION. When the train arrived at the station, he looked out of the window. Rosa was there. She gave him a letter.

The letter said:

To Mr We Don't Know Your Name

Mother is ill. The Doctor says we must give her good food but we don't have any money because our father is in the city. Can you help us? We can pay you back later.

From Martha, Peter and Rose

Below their names they wrote down what they wanted for their mother.

That night Roger came to their house with a big box. Inside, there was a lot of

food for everybody. There was a letter, too.

Children,

I am happy to help you. Here is the food for your mother.

The old man's name was under that, but his writing was bad and they could not read it.

'Is Mother going to be angry when she knows about our letter to the old man, do you think?' Martha said.

Two weeks later the children put up another big piece of paper near the railway line. It said; MOTHER IS MUCH BETTER. THANK YOU.

Mother did get better — and she was *very* angry about their letter to the old man on the train.

'You must never ask people for money!' she said.

Comprehension Questions :

1. Why did the children wave at the train?
2. Why did the children want to find somebody to help them?
3. Who helped them?
4. Why was their mother angry?



Lesson 2

Colin's Idea

‘Your aunt Betty is coming next Monday,’ Mrs Acton says. She is reading a letter.

‘Next Monday?’ Colin asks. ‘That’s difficult!’

‘Why?’ His mother asks.

‘Because Ada Hawk is here too. She on-

ly arrived yesterday. And she always stays for two weeks, sometimes for three.'

'But Ada and Betty are friends.'

'They were friends, mother. They're not friends now.'

Colin smiles.

'Why? What's wrong?'

'It's because of a hen.'

'A hen?'

'This is the story,' Colin says. 'Betty and Ada have got hens. And they like interesting hens, not the usual brown farm hens. Sometimes Betty sells her hens. One day, Betty sold a very exciting hen. Ada gave Betty a lot of money for the hen.'

"This hen," Ada said, "will be my best hen. She'll give me a lot of eggs. And I'll have hundreds of new little hens from the eggs. "

'But Ada's best hen did not give her any eggs. Not one egg! Now Ada writes angry letters to Betty, and Betty writes angrily back to Ada. And they'll meet here next Monday. It'll be difficult. It'll be dangerous, perhaps. Do you understand now, mother?'

'This is a sad story. Can't they find an

answer?' Mrs Acton asks.

'Ada wanted to give the hen back to Betty,' Colin says. 'But Betty said, "I'm not taking the hen back. I'm not wrong. I'm never wrong."'

'Will Betty talk to Ada here, in our house?'

'Yes, but they'll talk angrily and dangerously.'

'Betty is coming; I can't stop her now. And Ada will be here. What can we do, Colin?' Mrs Acton asks. 'You're clever — can you think of an idea?'

'It's difficult,' Colin says. 'But you're right. I *am* clever. I'll think of an iden.'

'Good! But I know you and your ideas, Colin! They can sometimes go wrong! It will be *your* idea, not mine. Do you understand?'

'Servants are very difficult,' Colin says to Ada Hawk. They are sitting quietly before lunch on the same day. But this is an exciting talk for Ada.

'Servants! I can *never* find good servants! But your mother always has good servants. They stay with you for a long

time. Your man, Old Hans —

‘Old Hans? Yes, he’s a very difficult servant.’ Colin says.

‘But he knows your house and your mother very well!’

Colin smiles again, but sadly. ‘Let’s say: Old Hans has some interesting stories in his head.’

‘Is Old Hans mad?’ Ada asks. ‘But he never does a thing wrong!’

‘He puts things in the right place, yes. He works quietly, yes. But he has — er — ideas.’

‘Ideas? What ideas?’

‘Once Eleanor Brown stayed with us for Easter^①. And Old Hans did not give her any lunch. “Why?” I asken him.

“Eleaner?” he said. “Where is Eleanor? I see only Elijah^②. Elijah does not want lunch.” You remember the story of Elijah, Ada? That old man in The Bible^③?’

‘And this was one of Old Hans’ ideas?’

‘Yes. And Eleanor didn’t stay here long.’

‘She went because of an *idea*? I’m not

① Easter: 复活节

② Elijah: 以利亚(希伯来先知)

③ Bible: 圣经

going because of Old Hans' ideas. I'm staying!'

'Mmm. But he can be dangerous, you know. And he has a new idea now.'

'A new idea? Is it interesting?'

'Very interesting. You are Queen Anne^①. And where is Queen Anne now?' Colin asks Ada.

'She's dead. We all know that.'

'Yes, that's right.' Colin looks at his drink. 'But you aren't dead. Old Hans does not understand this. Why is Queen Anne staying here with us? Today he said: "She will be dead in a day or two."' "

Ada jumps up from her chair.

'He wants to kill me! But I won't go home early! You understand him, Colin. Stop him!'

In the morning Colin has a new idea. It is a very good idea.

'I'm looking for Ada,' he says to Old Hans. 'Where is she?'

'She's writing letters in the garden room.' Old Hans answers.

'She wants to see our old gun,' says Colin. 'She asked me yesterday. She's in-

① Anne 是十八世纪初英格兰的一位王后。

terested in old things, and she wants to paint a picture of it, I think. Will you take it to her? I haven't got time. I'm meeting a friend at ten o'clock, and I'm late!'

The servant looks up at the old family gun over the door. Colin's father killed animals in India with this gun. Old Hans gets up on a chair. He gets the gun down and takes it to the garden room. Ada is sitting at a table there with her letters. Old Hans comes in, with the big, heavy gun in his hands. Ada sees him; she runs quickly from the room into the garden.

Old Hans is puzzled.

'Why did she run away? Perhaps she didn't see me,' thinks the servant.

An hour later, Colin is taking Ada to the station with all her bags.

'Mother will be very sorry,' Colin says. 'She always likes to say goodbye to her friends.'

At twelve o'clock, Colin's mother comes back for lunch.

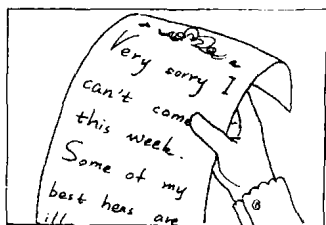
'Where's Ada?' she asks Colin.

Colin smiles. 'She's on the train! Aren't I clever?'

But a letter from Betty Acton arrives

the same day.

‘No, Colin,’
Mrs Acton says,
‘You are not very
clever. Betty is not
coming to stay.’



‘Oh yes, I was clever,’ thinks Colin.
‘It was a very clever idea!’

Comprehension Questions:

1. Why are Ada and Betty not friends?
2. Colin says to Ada, ‘Old Hans has ideas.’
Are these Old Hans’ ideas? Or are they
Colin’s ideas?
3. Does Ada want a gun? Why does old Hans
take a gun to Ada?
4. Why does Ada run away?
5. What is Colin’s idea?