

阅读空间 · 新课标英语分级读物

英语课程标准第五级

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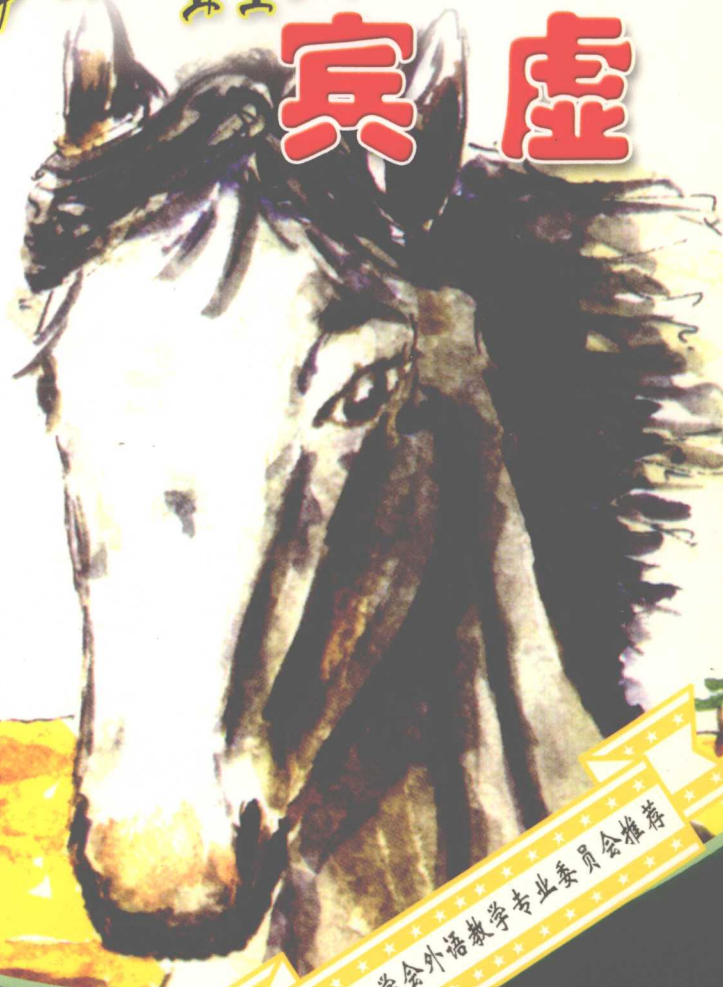
英 汉 对 照 版

Ben Hur

→ Pete Wright ←

宾 虚

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中国教育学会外语教学专业委员会推荐

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CENTURY ORIENTAL 世纪东方

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— 第 5 级 —

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出版说明

这是一套针对英语为外语的学生而出版的世界文学名著分级读物。丛书的编写紧密结合新《英语课程标准》的要求,按难易程度分为6个级别,适合3至8级(即初一至高三)学生的阅读需求,帮助学生在语言技能、语言知识、学习策略和文化意识等方面达到新课标的培养目标。

这套书的英文注释版出版后,引起社会广泛关注,被迅速选定为国家教育部专项任务项目——“中小学英语真实阅读教学推广实验”的推荐用书;经中国教育学会外语教学专业委员会推荐,各地中小学英语教研员和教师正积极参与课题实验。相信该英汉对照版同样会成为各层次读者英语学习的首选。

丛书主要有以下特点:

囊括西方经典文学名著,在帮助学生提高语言水平的同时,能通过阅读与自己外语水平相当的简写本一窥文学名著之全貌。

按新课标分级,英汉对照版的各册词汇量从700词到3500词,满足中学生的阅读需要。语言难度循序渐进,有助于教师拓展学生的语言知识和文化背景信息,提升学生的英语阅读技能。

语言浅显、生动、地道,以英汉对照的形式出版,既保留了英文的原汁原味,中英文双语又可为读者在阅读英文时扫除语言障碍,能够充分调动读者的阅读兴趣,使英语阅读更轻松。

希望本丛书能够高效地增强我国学生的英语阅读能力,提升他们的文学素养。



序

随着国家《英语课程标准》的颁布和实施，中小学英语教学进入了一个新的阶段。新课标对学生课外阅读量和阅读目标都提出了更高的要求。作为课堂阅读的继续和延伸，课外阅读是中学英语阅读教学中的一个重要环节。新课标对课外阅读的新要求需要广大英语教师更好地解决以下三个问题：

❶ 如何激发和持久地保持学生的阅读兴趣？

❷ 如何将课外阅读活动与课堂阅读活动有效地结合？

❸ 如何在有限的课堂教学指导下监控和评价学生的课外阅读效果？

要解决上述问题，可以从以下几个方面考虑：

阅读选材 阅读材料的题材和难度是影响学生阅读兴趣的主要因素，因此教师在选择和推荐课外阅读材料时，首先应注意阅读材料是否符合学生的认知水平和语言水平，并在两者间找到平衡点。许多材料容易读懂，但对该年龄段的学生可能内容太过浅显，引不起学生的兴趣；也许材料符合学生的心理和认知水平，但语言太难，使学生望而却步。另外，阅读材料还应给学生提供更多的英语国家文化背景知识。许多英语文学名著、寓言故事等在英语国家家喻户晓，人们在言谈、写作时往往予以引用，如同我们引用古诗词和成语一样。如果学生对此毫不了解，就会造成交流和理解上的困难。这套百本之巨的《阅读空间·新课标英语分级读物》（西方文学名著系列）是在《英语课程标准》推广以来出版规模最大的一套中小学生英语阅读丛书，选题的设计者严格按照新课标的各个级别遴选阅读材料，提倡让英语阅读更轻松、更系统、更高效，这样的主导思想和策划方案无疑是正确的。这套丛书分级明确，语言浅显、地道，且与《英语课程标准》的分级标准相匹配，教师可以根据学生的外语水平和兴趣爱好帮助学生选择。

练习活动 阅读的练习和活动形式也是影响学生阅读兴趣的另一个重要因素。在以往的阅读教学中，由于教学时间的限制和应试的压力，阅读的练习和活动形式往往局限于单一的限时应试练习，给学生带来很强的压迫感，严重地影响了他们的阅读兴趣。因此，教师应该设计类型丰富、形式活泼的练习与活动，使学生从被动的阅读者转变为积极的参

与者，并使学生获得更多实践英语和使用英语的机会，如此才能激发和增强他们的阅读热情和兴趣。《阅读空间·新课标英语分级读物》丛书检测方式灵活，其多样化的阅读训练题型，对有意识地培养学生正确的学习策略很有意义。这套丛书的检测训练层级清晰，从初级的看图配话、趣味学用、拼字游戏、常识判断，到较深层的读前思考、推论归纳、背景探索，加上组对练习与互动讨论，明确地突出了学生语言应用能力的培养。

系统性与连续性 阅读材料的系统性，是指根据《英语课程标准》，从语言知识、语言技能、文化意识和学习策略等几个方面，对阅读材料进行科学分级，使学生能够循序渐进，拾级而上。阅读材料的连续性，则是指阅读材料的篇幅和内容的关联性能够让课堂阅读活动延续并拓展到课外。阅读教学中经常采用的短篇限时阅读，虽然容易控制时间，提高阅读速度，但是因学生的阅读能力存在差异而不能“面向全体”，且阅读限时和单一的应试练习形式也很难将课堂阅读活动延伸到课外。市面上的英文名著简写本版本虽多，但像《阅读空间·新课标英语分级读物》这样内容系统、分级明确，并配有大量形式多样、活泼的分项练习的，确实不多。它弥补了短篇阅读理解内容相对独立，不具有连续性的缺陷，使阅读活动能够从课堂延伸到课外。学生可以自己选择他们喜欢的、适合自己水平的读本，教师可以通过诸如写故事梗概、预测故事情节、进行小组讨论等多样、互动的阅读练习与活动，将学生在课堂中的思维延伸到课外，并在下一次课堂教学中检验和评价学生上一次课外阅读活动的结果。

希望有更多的一线教师积极总结自身的教学经验，广泛开展和参与阅读教学的课题研究与探讨，总结出更好、更有效率的阅读教学方法。

中国教育学会外语教学专业委员会理事长
人民教育出版社外语分社社长



龚亚夫

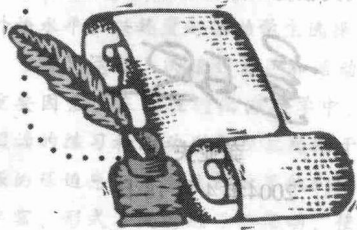
2004年4月18日

Introduction

Ben Hur was a Prince of Judea at the time of Christ, almost two thousand years ago. His life was caught up in the larger events of the time. The Romans, who occupied the country, were harsh and unforgiving to anyone who went against them. Jerusalem was boiling over with rebellion.

Ben Hur was comfortable and secure, until a simple twist of fate threw his life into a spin from which there was no return. His story is a story of hatred, and of love.

Across the centuries, a Jewish boy, living in modern Israel, is touched by the tale of suffering and redemption.



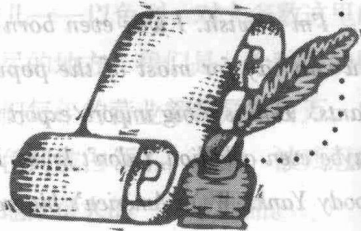
简

介

宾虚是差不多 2000 年前耶稣时期朱迪亚国的一个王子，他的一生经历了时代的大变革。罗马人占领了他的国家，对于任何反对他们的人，他们都会很残忍，并且决不饶恕。耶路撒冷则反抗之乱连连。

宾虚一直过着舒适无忧的生活，直到命运一下子扭曲，将他的生活投入永不逆转的轮回之中。他的故事是一个关于恨的故事，也是一个关于爱的故事。

数百年以后，一个生活在今天的以色列的犹太男孩被这个关于受难与复仇的故事深深地触动了……





Characters

Judah Ben Hur: a wealthy prince of Judea

Messala: a Roman, Ben Hur's childhood friend

Ben Hur's mother

Tirzah: Ben Hur's sister

Quintus Arrius: admiral and commander of the Roman fleet

Simonides: steward

Esther: Simonides' daughter

Sheikh Ilderim: Arabian chief, owner of camels and horses



In the Beginning

OK, I admit it. I am obsessed with this Jewish man from a family of rich merchants — Ben Hur, a Prince of Judah. Yes, he was the son of Hur. He lived a long time ago — 2,000 years. What is 2,000 years in Jewish history? — OK, it's a long time, but people don't change that much.

Ben Hur. He feels closer to me than a brother, much closer. I could be him. I hear you laughing, but listen:

I'm Jewish. I was even born here in Israel, which is more than you can say for most of the population. We are a nation of immigrants. Dad is a big import/export man. Our yearly turn-over is millions, maybe even a billion, I don't know. Israel is occupied, yes, occupied by the bloody Yanks. We're America's big boot in this region.



人 物

犹大·宾虚：朱迪亚国一位富裕的王子

梅瑟拉：一个罗马人，宾虚儿时的朋友

宾虚的母亲

塔莎：宾虚的妹妹

奎尼特斯·阿留斯：罗马舰队的将军和指挥官

西蒙尼迪斯：管家

埃斯萨：西蒙尼迪斯的女儿

酋长伊尔德里姆：阿拉伯酋长，骆驼和马匹的拥有者



开 端

好，我承认。我被这个来自犹太富商家族的犹大王子——宾虚所迷住了。是的，他是虚的儿子。他生活在很久以前——2000年前。2000年在犹太人的历史上是个什么概念呢？——不错，这是一段很长的时间，但是人们并没有什么大的改变。

宾虚。我觉得他比我亲兄弟还亲，亲得多。我可能就是他。我听见你在大笑，但是请听：

我是犹太人。我甚至出生在这儿——以色列，对大多数这里的人来说，这是一个只用言语难以表尽的地方。我们是一个移民的国度。父亲是一个大的进出口商。我们每年的营业额都是数百万，也许甚至上十亿，我不十分清楚。以色列被占领了，是的，被残忍的美国人占领了。我们是美国在这个地区很大的一件战利品。





Look at us! The history of the Jews is the history of a people sandwiched between great empires — in the north, and in the south, both fighting for control of the trade route that is Israel. Then, when they invented big boats, we were invaded from the sea to the west as well. The only person in our history who managed to side with the right “superpower”, was Solomon. That’s why he was so successful. He made friends with the winning side.

Yes, everyone says how great Solomon was. He was just a small time king in a little country on a main road.

“What about his great and wonderful temple?” I hear you say. Well, his great temple was about the size of my father’s block of offices. Look at the measurements in the Bible. Pace it out on the ground. It was the size of a medium synagogue, even if you used the most generous estimation of a “cubit” — which was their unit of measurement at the time. The temple was destroyed, of course. Jerusalem has been knocked flat so many times, that the city is actually built on a three or four meter pile of rubble!

— Gold? What about all the gold in the temple?

Look, there was loads of gold around at that time — tons of it. Every time one tribe had finished “smiting” another tribe and stealing all the gold out of their temples, they had to put it somewhere. We’re a trading nation. If that gold had found its way onto the money market, the whole financial system in the area would have collapsed. Honest. We had to put it somewhere. Why not put it in the temples? That way we could look, but not touch.

Israel! What a tall, thin country. A modern tank can fire a shell



看看我们！犹太人的历史就是一个被各大帝国夹在中间的民族的历史——北部的帝国，南部的帝国，都在争相抢夺对以色列这个贸易通道的控制。之后，当他们发明了大船时，我们从海岸到西部的地方也都被侵略了。在我们的历史中，唯一一个能与真正的“超级大国”站在一边的人就是所罗门。这正是他成功的原因，他同获胜方结为朋友。

是的，人人都说所罗门多么伟大。他只不过是主要通道上的一个小国家当了那么一小段时间的国王而已。

“他那宏伟壮观的神殿怎么样了？”我听见你说。嗯，他那宏伟的神殿大约有我父亲的办公区那么大。看看《圣经》中的度量吧。在地上踱步丈量吧。即使你用当时他们的计量单位“肘尺”做最满打满算的估算，神殿也只有中等的犹太教堂那么大。当然那神殿已经被毁了。耶路撒冷已经多次被夷为平地，以至于现在耶路撒冷这个城市实际上是建筑在一堆三四米高的石砾上！

黄金？神殿里所有的黄金怎么样了？

看，那时在神庙周围都有大量的黄金——成吨的黄金。每次一个部落结束了对另一个部落的袭击，并从其神殿掠走所有的黄金之后，他们都得把黄金放在某个地方。我们是一个贸易国家。如果那些黄金流向货币市场，这一地区的整个金融系统都将会崩溃。坦诚地讲，我们必须将黄金放置在某处。为什么不放在神殿里呢？如果那样的话，我们就只能远观，而不能触摸。

以色列！一个多么高大而又薄弱的国家。一辆现代坦克





right from one side to the other. Having a country here, is like building a house on a motorway!

Ben Hur had problems. In his time, there was a Roman army of occupation, but he was a rich kid. Things weren't too bad. Rich people "get on". They can afford to! Ben Hur grew up with the son of a leader of the Roman army of occupation. They went hunting together. They played in the streets together. They stole fruit from the market stalls near the temple together. They probably even chased the same girls. They were best friends. They didn't know what the Romans were doing to Israel. The Jews were accustomed to foreigners using their land to fight battles on.

Of course, when Ben Hur grew up a bit and travelled around learning his father's business, he realised that the Romans would be perfectly happy to flatten Jerusalem again if the local people made too much trouble. He tried to calm down the Jews who wanted the Romans out. He tried to calm down the Romans too.

The big problem came when the Romans wanted to put all their bits and pieces representing their own gods, into the Jewish temple. Ben Hur, as a member of the rich, trading class, helped keep the Romans out of the temple. This was about 30 A. D. Christian time.

Unfortunately, the Romans of the time didn't think that the Jewish people would be cooperative until the Jewish priests were made a bit more friendly, or a bit more dead! This was a good recipe for trouble. Ben Hur was an inconvenience to the occupying army. He used his influence to limit the Roman control of Jerusalem. Unfortunately, that made Jerusalem a good place for rebels to meet and plot to throw the



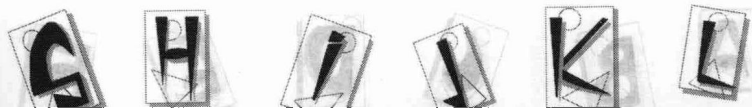
发射的一枚炮弹就能从一侧的边界线飞到另一侧。在这里建一个国家无异于在高速路上建所房子！

宾虚碰到了一些问题。在他那个年代里，罗马军队占领了以色列，但他是个有钱的孩子，情形还不是很糟。富人在苟安，他们能承受得住那样的生活。宾虚同一个罗马占领军长官的儿子一起长大。他们一起去打猎，一起在街上玩耍，一起从神殿附近的市場货摊上偷过水果，他们甚至有可能一起追逐过同样一些女孩。他们是最要好的朋友。他们不知道罗马人在对以色列做些什么。以色列人已经习惯了异族人在他们的土地上打仗。

当然，在宾虚长大了一些，并四处游历以熟悉父亲的生意之后，他意识到，如果当地人制造太多麻烦的话，罗马人肯定会十分高兴再次将耶路撒冷夷为平地。他试图安抚那些意欲赶走罗马人的犹太人，他也试图安抚罗马人。

当罗马人想把所有代表他们神灵的大大小的东西都放进犹太人的神殿时，大问题就来了。宾虚，作为富人和商人阶层的一员，帮助人们将罗马人拒绝在神殿之外。这时大约是基督历史上的公元30年左右。

不幸的是，当时的罗马人认为，除非让犹太牧师们更为友善一点，或死得更多一些，否则犹太人不会合作。这是解决麻烦的良方。对占领军来说，宾虚不是省油的灯，他用他的影响力来限制罗马人对耶路撒冷的控制。不幸的是，那却使耶路撒冷成为叛乱者聚会并密谋赶走罗马人的绝佳地方。毕竟，





Romans out. We were "God's chosen people", after all!

The Romans wanted Ben Hur out of the way. One of the ambitious young Roman soldiers rising up in the ranks of power, was his childhood friend, Messala.

You have to admit that the Romans were very advanced for their time, very "civilised". They had swords, spears, archers, chariots, ships, and they had roads — good roads! What did the Jews have? Clubs and knives. Did you ever wonder why the Jews in the Bible were always "smiting" people? Yes, they "smote" anyone they could — in the name of their "One True God", of course — just like everyone else did! Yes, with a stick, or a blunt sword made out of soft brass, smiting was all you could do. The Jews did a lot of it. If they weren't fighting their neighbours, they were fighting each other. They still are!

Most of these smiting battles we lost. Why? Because smiting-sticks and little knives, and throwing stones like King David wasn't much use up against all these sophisticated weapons like swords, and bows and arrows, and chariots.

The only advanced thing we had, was our idea of a God who didn't live in a temple and hide all the time. Our God was everywhere! He was bigger, stronger and more wonderful than all the little gods of the other tribes. If the Jews were doing well, God was helping us. If we were doing badly, God was angry about something. I don't know, perhaps we stole the idea for our God from the Babylonians. Babylon was a centre for education and culture while the Jews were still living in tents and scrabbling about the rocks for a living. We certainly stole a lot of other ideas from them.



我们是“上帝挑选的民族”！

罗马人想除掉宾虚。一位晋升为权贵的野心勃勃的年轻罗马士兵就是他儿时的朋友——梅瑟拉。

必须承认的是罗马人在当时已经十分先进、十分“文明”了。他们有剑、矛、弓箭手、战车、舰船，而且他们还有公路——路况优良的公路！犹太人有些什么呢？棍棒和匕首。你曾经想过为什么《圣经》里记载的犹太人总是“打”人吗？是的，他们“教训”任何他们能打的人——当然，这是在他们“唯一真正的神”的名义之下进行的。是的，拿着一根棍子，或一把用软黄铜制成的钝剑，打人就是你能做的一切了。犹太人打得不少了。如果他们没有和邻国打斗，他们就在窝里斗。他们现在仍是这样！

大多数这些打人的战斗，我们都以失败告终。为什么？因为打斗的棍棒和小刀以及像大卫王那样扔出的石头显然不能同所有诸如利剑、弓箭和战车一类精良武器相匹敌。

我们所拥有的唯一先进的东西就是我们关于神不住在神殿里而总是躲藏起来的信念。我们的神无处不在！他比其他任何部族的所有小神们都更高大，更强壮，更出色。如果犹太人干得好，则是神灵在帮我们。如果我们干得不好，则是神灵对有些事情动怒了。我不知道，也许我们关于神的信念是从巴比伦人那里偷来的。当巴比伦已经是教育和文化的中心时，犹太人仍住在帐篷里，在岩石上扒寻着食物而求生。当然，我们还从他们那里偷来了许多其他信念。



Still, the Jews were good at trading. We've always been good at that. Well, if you live on a trade route, you learn fast!

Where was I? Oh, yes, Ben Hur. You're going to laugh when you hear this. I was down at the market. It was hot. I was passing a stall selling old second-hand videos — the tapes, not the machines. Normally, I don't buy from there, because a few hours out in that heat shrinks the tapes, and then they can't be played on anything! Useless! BUT...

I saw a battered old video case with a picture of a German "looking" bloke careering around in a chariot race. Yes, it was Ben Hur — or, rather, it was Charlton Heston — Charles Hestor before he got to Hollywood. I bet you didn't know that!

Big movie. Loooooooong movie. I bought it, took it home, and sat through it — the whole two hundred and twenty two minutes of it. It was crap, but I was caught. I could see right through all the Hollywood bullshit, but I was caught! Ladies and Gentlemen, I am a prisoner of the spirit of Ben Hur. I'm so obsessed with Ben Hur, that I feel more like him than myself, if you know what I mean.

I'm not complaining. Obsessions can be a good thing. They stop you getting involved with stupid politics like your friends. A lot of my friends, rich kids like me, are joining groups that want to force the government to allow the Palestinians a "fair" share of the land here, and equal treatment with the Jews.

Don't get me wrong, I'm for equality, just as much as the next person, but, if the Palestinians get a good foothold here, they are going to use it to throw all us Jews into the bloody sea!

