

Everyday English Snack



# 每天读点英文

## 最意味深长的英文小说

*Everyday English Snack*


郭燕◎编译



❖ (汉英对照) ❖

生活与人生的思考、优美与经典的搭配  
阅读与学习的组合，单词释义，佳句欣赏，心灵私语

障碍零距离的英语阅读新方式！

 经济科学出版社

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## 图书在版编目(CIP)数据

最意味深长的英文小说:汉英对照 / 郭燕编译.

—北京:经济科学出版社,2012

(每天读点英文)

ISBN 978-7-5141-2091-2

I. ①最… II. ①郭… III. ①英语-汉语-对照读物  
②小说集-世界 IV. ①H319.4:I

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2012) 第 139888 号

责任编辑:李 娅 张 力

责任校对:苏小昭

责任印制:李 鹏

## 最意味深长的英文小说 每天读点英文(汉英对照)

郭 燕 编译

经济科学出版社出版、发行 新华书店经销

社址:北京市海淀区阜成路甲 28 号 邮编:100142

总编部电话:88191217 发行部电话:88191537

网址:www.esp.com.cn

电子邮件:esp@esp.com.cn

北京市业和印务有限公司印装

880×1230 32 开 10 印张 256000 字

2012 年 10 月第 1 版 2012 年 10 月第 1 次印刷

ISBN 978-7-5141-2091-2 定价:25.00 元

(图书出现印装问题,本社负责调换。电话:88191657)

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# 前言

如今，英语学习成为当今社会学习的一个热点，不管是幼儿还是成人，都在积极努力地学好这一门第二母语。在全球化日益成为国际主流的今天，英语在世界上任何角落里被人们当作沟通的桥梁，它的重要性已经不言而喻。

众所周知，阅读是语言学习的一个重要方面。培养学生的英语阅读理解能力，使学生养成良好的英语阅读习惯，掌握正解的阅读技巧，是为其终身学习打下坚实基础的一种必要的课程训练。因此作为求知若渴的中小学生们，英语阅读都不失为一种英语学习、了解英语国家历史文化、增强自身文化底蕴的好方法。阅读优美而正确的英文文章，可以提高阅读能力，扩大词汇量，开阔视野，了解更多西方国家的风俗习惯。

然而，以英语作为母语的国家，其广阔的历史背景，浩渺的文化积累往往令人目不暇接。对中小学生们来说，面对如此多的西方经典文学，他们往往感到手足无措，不知道如何来选择这些名作，怎样有效、无障碍地进行阅读，怎么更好地掌握其中的精髓……这些成了中小学生们在进行英语阅读路上的绊脚石。

因此本套每天读一点英文书，紧扣中小学生的学习实际，选取的散文、诗歌、小说、故事不仅是西方经典的文学著作，而且篇幅适中，单词难易度不大，且对有难度的单词加以注释，着重培养学生搜集和处理信息，获取新知识和分析问题的能力。所选短文和单词均由资深英语阅读者与老师一起精心设计完成，契合中小学生学习英语的实际需要。

本套丛书语言浅显、生动、地道，以英文注释的形式出版，既保留了英文的原汁原味，中英文双语注释又为中小学生在阅读英文时扫除了语言障碍，能够充分调动他们的阅读兴趣，使英语阅读更轻松。希望这套书能够成为帮助孩子在壮阔的英文学习的海洋中提供指导，让孩子们发自内心地爱上英文，体味英文之美。



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# 短篇小说精彩赏析

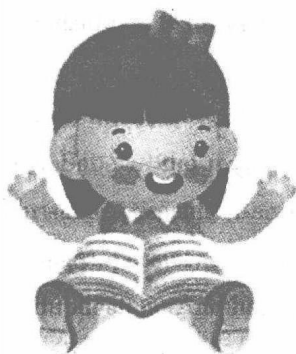




# 最后一片叶子

## The Last Leaf

❁ 欧·亨利 / O. Henry



In a little district west of Washington Square the streets have run crazy and broken themselves into small strips called “places”. These “places” make strange angles and curves. One Street crosses itself a time or two.

An artist once discovered a valuable possibility in this street. Suppose a collector with a bill for paints, paper and **canvas** should, in traversing this route, suddenly meet himself coming back, without a cent having been paid on account!

canvas n. 帆布; v.  
用帆布覆盖, 用帆布装备

So, to quaint old Greenwich Village the art people soon came prowling, hunting for north windows and eighteen-century gables and Dutch attics and low rents. Then they imported some **pewter** mugs and a chafing dish or two from Sixth Avenue, and became a “colony”.

pewter n. 白蜡; 青灰色; adj. 青灰色的



最意味深长的英文小说

At the top of a three-story brick building, Sue and Johnsy had their studio. "Johnsy" was familiar for Joanna. One was from Maine; the other from California. They had met at a cafe on Eighth Street and found their tastes in art, chicory salad and bishop sleeves so congenial that the joint studio resulted.

That was in May. In November a cold, unseen stranger badly, whom the doctors called Pneumonia, stalked about the colony, touching one here and there with his icy fingers. Over on the east side this ravager strode, **smiting** his victims by scores, but his feet trod slowly through the maze of the narrow and moss-grow "places".

smite v. 打; 重击;  
毁灭; n. 打; 重击

Mr. Pneumonia was not what you would call a chivalric old gentleman. A mite of a little woman with blood thinned by California zephyrs was hardly fair game for the red-fisted, short-breathed old duffer. But Johnsy he smote, and she lay, scarcely moving on her bed looking through the small window at the blank side of the next brick house.

One morning the busy doctor invited Sue into the hallway with a shaggy, gray eyebrow, "She has one chance in—let us say, ten," he said, as he shook down the **mercury** in his clinical thermometer. "And that chance is for her to want to live."

mercury n. 水银; 水银柱; 精神

After the doctor had gone Sue went into the workroom and cried a Japanese napkin to pulp. Then she swaggered

into Johnsy's room with her drawing board, whistling a merry tune.

Johnsy lay, scarcely making a ripple under the bedclothes, with her face toward the window. Sue stopped **whistling**, thinking she was asleep. Suddenly she heard a low sound, several times repeated. She went quickly to the bedside.

whistle n. 口哨; 汽笛;  
v. 吹口哨; 鸣汽笛

Johnsy's eyes were open wide. She was looking out the window and counting – counting backward.

“Twelve,” she said, and little later “eleven”; and then “ten,” and “nine”; and then “eight” and “seven”, almost together.

Sue look anxious out of the window. What was there to count? There was only a bare, **dreary** yard to be seen, and the blank side of the brick house twenty feet away. An old, old ivy vine climbed half way up the brick wall. The cold breath of autumn had blown away its leaves, leaving it almost bare.

dreary adj. 沉闷的, 枯燥的

“What is it, dear?” asked Sue.

“Six,” said Johnsy, in almost a whisper. “They’re falling faster now. Three days ago there were almost a hundred. It made my head ache to count them. But now it’s easy. There goes another one. There are only five left now.”

“Five what, dear?”

“Leaves. On the ivy vine. When the last one falls I must go, too. I’ve known that for three days. Didn’t the doctor tell you?”

goosey adj. 愚蠢的;  
n. 呆子; 鹅

"Oh, I never heard of such nonsense, What have old ivy leaves to do with your getting well? And you used to love that vine so, you naughty girl. Don't be a **goosey**. Why, the doctor told me this morning that your chances for getting well real soon were ten to one! Try to take some broth now," Johnsy, keeping her eyes fixed out the window, said "There goes another. No, I don't want any soup. That leaves just four. I want to see the last one fall before it gets dark. Then I'll go, too."

hermit n. 隐士; 隐居者

"Try to sleep," said Sue. "I must call Behrman up to be my model for the old **hermit** miner. I'll not be gone a minute. Don't try to move till come back."

scoff n. 嘲笑; 愚弄; 笑柄; v. 嘲笑; 嘲弄; 贪婪地吃

Old Behrman was a painter who lived on the ground floor beneath them. For several years he had painted nothing except now and then a daub in the line of commerce or advertising. He was a fierce little old man, who **scoffed** terribly at softness in any one, and who regarded himself as especial mastiff-in-waiting to protect the two young artists in the studio above.

float v. 浮动, 散播;  
n. 彩车, 漂流物; 浮舟; 浮萍

Sue found Behrman smelling strongly of juniper berries in his dimly lighted den below. In one corner was a blank canvas on an easel that had been waiting there for twenty-five years to receive the first line of the masterpiece. She told him of Johnsy's fancy, and how she feared she would, indeed, light and fragile as a leaf herself, **float** away, when her slight hold upon the world grew weaker. Old Behrman, with his red eyes plainly streaming, shouted

his contempt and ridicule for such foolish imaginings.

“Vass!” he cried. “Is dere people in de world mit der foolishness to die because leafs dey drop off from a con-founded vine? I haf not heard of such a thing. No, I will not bose as a model for your foo hermit-dunderhead. Vy do you allow dots silly business to come in der brain of her? Ach, dot poor leetle Miss Johnsy.”

“She is very ill and weak,” said Sue, “and the fever has left her mind morbid and full of strange fancies. Very well, Mr. Behrman, if you do not care to pose for me, you needn’t. But I think you are a horrid old—od **flibbertigibbet**.”

flibbertigibbet n. 饶舌的人;轻浮的人;不负责任

“You are just like a woman!” yelled Behrman. “Who said I will not bose? Go on. I come mit you. For half an hour I haf been trying to say dot I am ready to bose. Gott! dis is not any blace in which one so goot as Miss Yohnsy shall lie sick. Some day I will baint a masterpiece, and we shall all go away. Gott! yes.”

Johnsy was sleeping when they went upstairs. She pulled the shade down to the window-sill, and motioned Behrman into the other room. In there they **peered** out the window fearfully at the ivy vine. Then they looked at each other for a moment without speaking. A persistent, cold rain was falling, mingled with snow. Behrman, in his old blue shirt, took his seat as the hermit miner on an upturned kettle for a rock.

peer vi. 凝视, 封为贵族;与……同等;  
n. 贵族;同等的人

When Sue awoke from an hour’s sleep the next morning she found Johnsy with dull, wide-open eyes star-



ing at the drawn green shade.

“Pull it up, I want to see,” she ordered, in a whisper.

Wearily Sue obeyed.

But, look! After the beating rain and fierce gusts of

endure v. 忍耐; 容忍; 持续

wind that had **endured** through the livelong night, there yet stood out against the brick wall one ivy leaf. It was the last one on the vine. Still dark green near its stem, with its

serrated adj. 锯齿状的, 有锯齿的

**serrated** edges tinted with the yellow of dissolution and decay, it hung bravely from the branch some twenty feet above the ground.

“It is the last one,” said Johnsy. “I thought it would surely fall during the night. I heard the wind. It will fall to-day, and I shall die at the same time.”

“Dear, dear!” said sue, leaning her worn face down to the pillow, “think of me, if you won’t think of you, what would I do?”

When it was light enough Johnsy, the merciless commanded that the shade be raised.

The ivy leaf was still there.

Johnsy lay for a long time looking at it. And then she

stir n. 搅拌; 轰动; v. 搅拌; 激起; 传播

called to Sue, who was **stirring** her chicken broth over the gas stove.

“I’ve been a bad girl, Sudie,” said Johnsy. “Something has made that last leaf stay there to show me how wicked I was. It is a sin to want to die. You may bring me a little broth now, and some milk with a little port in it, and – no, bring me a hand-mirror first, and then pack some pil-



lows about me, and I will sit up and watch you cook." An hour later she said: "Sudie, some day I hope to paint the Bay of Naples." The doctor came in the afternoon, and Sue had an excuse to go into the **hallway** as he left. "Even chances," said the doctor, taking Sue's thin, shaking hand in his.

hallway n. 走廊; 门厅; 玄关

"With good nursing you'll win. And now I must see another case I have downstairs. Behrman, his name is some kind of an artist, I believe. Pneumonia, too. He is an old, weak man, and the attack is acute. There is no hope for him; but he goes to the hospital today to be made more comfortable." The next day the doctor said to Sue: "She's out of danger. You won. Nutrition and care now - that's all."

And that afternoon Sue came to the bed where Johnsy lay, contentedly knitting a very blue and very useless wollen shoulder **scarf**, and put one arm around her, pillows and all.

scarf n. 围巾; 嵌接处; v. 披嵌接; 用围巾围

"I have something to tell you, white mouse," she said. "Mr. Behrman died of pneumonia today in the hospital. He was ill only two days. The janitor found him the morning of the first day in his room downstairs helpless with pain. His shoes and clothing were wet through and icy cold. They couldn't imagine where he had been on such a dreadful night. And then they found a lantern, still lighted, and a ladder that had been dragged from its place, and some **scattered** brushes, and a palette with green and yellow col-

scatter v. 分散, 散开; 散射; n. 分散; 散播, 撒播

