

英语阅读系列精品教材

1 新概念

(第一册)

大学英语泛读教程

总主编 / 戎林海

本册主编 / 吴景红 陈 婧

**A New Concept College English for
Extensive Reading**



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第 1 册

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前言

弗朗西斯·培根曾在他那著名的《论读书》一文中指出：读书使人充实 (reading makes a full man)，中国也有两句古谚：一为：“书读百遍，其义自现”。二为：“熟读唐诗三百首，不会做诗也会吟。”培根强调的是“读书”(阅读)与人生，而后二者强调的是“阅读”与“理解”，与“写作”(创作)的关系。不论怎样三者都突出强调了“读书”(阅读)的功用。“读书”就其本质而论就是“阅读”，而“阅读”又可分为“精读”(intensive reading)、“泛读”(extensive reading)、“跳读”(skipping)、“扫读”(scanning)和“快速阅读”(fast reading)以及“朗读”(reciting)；也就是培根先生所说的 some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested.

学习一门外语，既需要“精读”也需要“泛读”，在某种意义上讲，“泛读”的多少决定了外语学习的成败高低。顾名思义，“泛读”就是泛泛而读，它的目标是通过大量的阅读，拓宽视野，扩大知识面，增加词汇量，从而增强语感——而语感是学习外语最最重要的一个因素。

基于这样的认识，我们特编写了这套《新概念大学英语泛读教程》(1—4册)，供大学英语学习者和爱好者使用。本套教程取名为新概念，主要反映在以下几个编写特点：

阅读材料丰富多样，题材广泛，体裁多样，内容新颖，注重知识性、趣味性与实用性；

突破传统教材课文篇幅太短的局限,阅读量明显加大;

注重培养学生快速、准确、有效地获取信息的能力;

增加了有关中国传统节假日方面知识的阅读与摄取,以增强学生跨文化交际的能力;

为增强实用性,本教程有目的地收录了一些实用类体裁的阅读材料:如广告、信函、合同、协议、招标书以及招聘启事等,以便学生通过阅读和初步接触能了解此类文章的格式及其用词。

《新概念大学英语泛读教程》一套四册。每册有 15 个单元,每个单元由三部分组成:阅读课文和练习、快速阅读和练习、课外阅读和练习。此外,为方便阅读,我们在阅读课文和课外阅读后面增加了部分必需的注释。每册书后都配有练习参考答案,以便利教师和学生的教与学。

《新概念大学英语泛读教程》(1—4 册)由常州工学院外国语学院院长戎林海教授担任总主编,负责全书的策划、选题、编写体例设计、全书书稿的三审和终审。1—4 册每册设有两个主编,负责本册的编写与初审。

本套教材在编写与出版过程中得到了学校领导李文虎教授、教务处朱锡芳处长以及东南大学出版社刘坚博士的关心与支持,值此出版之际,谨向他们表示衷心的感谢。刘爱婷、邱晓琳、杨永萍、金政等人也为本套教材的出版做了不少工作,在此深表谢意。由于编者的水平和经验有限,全书错误和缺点在所难免,敬请读者批评指正。

戎林海

2012 年 6 月

于常州锦绣花园未厌斋

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Unit One

Part One Text

The Blanket

Floyd Dell

It was a fine September night. A thin white moon rose over the valley. Peter, eleven years old, did not see the moon. He did not feel the cool September breeze blow into the kitchen, for his thoughts were fixed on a red and black blanket on the kitchen table.

The blanket was a gift from his dad to his Granddad...a going away gift. They said that Granddad was going away. That's what they called it, "going away."

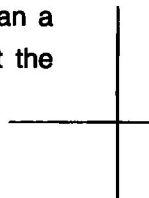
Peter had not really believed his dad would send Granddad away. But now, there it was, the going-away gift. Dad had bought it that very morning. And this was the last evening he and his Granddad would have with each other.

Together the old man and the young boy washed the supper dishes. Dad had gone out... with that woman he was to marry. He would not be back for some time.

When the dishes were finished, the old man and the boy went outside and sat under the moon.

"I'll get my harmonica and play for you," the old man said. "I'll play some of the old tunes." But instead of the harmonica, he brought out the blanket. It was a big, double blanket.

"Now, isn't that a fine blanket!" said the old man, smoothing it over his knees. "And isn't your father a kind man to be giving the old man a blanket like this to go away with? It cost something, it did. Look at the



wool in it! And warm it will be these cold winter nights to come. There will be no other blanket like it up there.”

As usual, Granddad tried to mention the “going away” plan with ease and insisted that it was his own idea to do so. Yet, try to imagine, away from the warm home, away from the relatives and friends, to that building... that government place where he would be with so many other old fellows!

“Oh yes, it's a fine blanket.” Peter said and got up and went into the house. He wasn't the kind to cry. And besides, he was too old for that. He had just gone in to get Granddad's harmonica.

The blanket dropped to the floor as the old man took the harmonica. It was the last night they would have together. Neither the old man nor the young boy had to say a word. Granddad played a few notes and then said, “You'll remember this one.”

The thin moon was high overhead and the gentle breeze blew down the valley. The last time, Peter thought. He would never hear Granddad play again. It was well that Dad was moving to a new house, away from here. He did not want to sit here outside on fine evenings under a white moon with Granddad gone.

The music ended. And the two sat for a few minutes in silence.

Then Granddad spoke: “Here is something happier.”

Peter sat and looked out over the valley. Dad would marry that girl. Yes, that girl who had kissed him and who had said she would try to be a good mother to him and all that.

The tune stopped suddenly, and Granddad said: “It's a poor tune, except to be dancing to.” And then: “It's a fine girl your father's going to marry. He will feel young again with a pretty wife like that. And what would an old fellow like me do around the house... getting in the way... an old fool with all the talk about backaches and pains.”

“And then there will be babies coming. And I don't want to be around listening to them cry all hours of the night. No, it's best that I leave. Well, one more tune or two and then we will get to bed and get some sleep. In the morning I'll get my new blanket and take my leave. Listen to this. It's a bit of a sad tune, but a nice one for a night like this.”

They did not hear the two people coming down the road—dad and

the pretty girl with a hard bright face like a doll. But they heard her laugh. And the tune stopped suddenly.

Dad did not say a word, but the girl walked up to Granddad and said prettily: "I'll not be seeing you in the morning, so I came over to say goodbye."

"It's kind of you," said Granddad, looking down at the floor. And then, seeing the blanket at his feet, he bent down to pick it up. "And will you look at this," he said, sounding himself like a little boy. "Isn't this a fine blanket my son has given me to go away with?"

"Yes," she said. "It's a fine blanket." She felt the wool again and said, "A fine blanket indeed." She turned to dad and said to him coldly, "Must have cost a pretty penny."

Dad cleared his throat. "I... I wanted him to have the best."

The girl stood there, still looking at the blanket. "Mmmm... it's a double one, too."

"Yes," the old man said, "It's a double one... a fine blanket for an old fellow to be going away with."

The boy suddenly walked into the house. He could hear the girl, still talking about the expensive blanket. He heard his dad get angry in his slow way. And now, she was leaving. As Peter came out, the girl turned and called back, "No matter what you say, he doesn't need a double blanket!"

Dad looked at her with a funny look in his eye.

"She is right, Dad," the boy said. "Granddad doesn't need a double blanket. Here, Dad."—and he held out a pair of scissors—"Cut it, Dad. Cut the blanket in two."

Both of them looked at the boy, surprised. "Cut it in two, I tell you, Dad. And keep the other half!"

"That's not a bad idea," said Granddad, gently, "I don't need such a big blanket."

"Yes," the boy said. "A single blanket is enough for an old man when he's sent away. We'll save the other half, Dad. It will come in useful later."

"Now what do you mean by that?" asked Dad.

"I mean," said the boy slowly, "that I'll give it to you, Dad—when

you're old and I'm sending you away."

There was a big silence. And then Dad went over to Granddad and stood before him, not saying a word.

But Granddad understood, for he put out his hand and laid it on Dad's shoulder. Peter was watching them. And he heard Granddad whisper softly: "It's all right, son. I knew you didn't mean it." And then Peter cried.

But it did not matter—because all three were crying together.

Notes to the Text

1. Floyd Dell: 弗洛伊德·德尔(1887—1969), 出生于美国伊利诺伊州。早年在芝加哥从事新闻工作。1913 年移居纽约,任报刊编辑。擅长写独幕话剧和小说。作品对第一次世界大战后所谓“爵士时代”年轻人失落颓废的心情描写尤为出色。文学写作之余,还潜心研究儿童心理学,出版有专著《你也有孩提时代?》。
2. getting in the way: 挡在道上,可转译成碍手碍脚。
3. ... the pretty girl with a hard bright face like a doll. 句中 hard 是形容词,指脸色、颜色等时意为“刺目的”,“令人难受的”。

Comprehension Exercises

I. Multiple Choice

1. Which of the following is TRUE according to the story?
 - A. Two persons, a boy and his Granddad, appeared in the story.
 - B. Four people appeared in the story. They were Peter, his Granddad, his father and his mother.
 - C. Peter was a thirteen-year-old boy.
 - D. Four people appeared in the story. They were Peter, his Granddad, his father and his father's girlfriend.
2. It can be inferred from the story that Peter's father bought a going-away gift for Peter's Granddad because _____.
 - A. Peter's Granddad wanted to go away
 - B. Peter's father didn't like Peter's Granddad at all and wanted to send him away
 - C. the girl that Peter's father was going to marry wanted Peter's Granddad to go away

- D. they were going away and leaving Peter's Granddad alone
3. The blanket was a double one because _____.
 A. Peter's father wanted Peter's Granddad to have the best
 B. it was a going-away gift
 C. it was winter at that time
 D. Peter's Granddad liked such blankets
4. Peter's Granddad played some music for Peter. He _____.
 A. wanted to show how to play a harmonica
 B. enjoyed doing so
 C. wanted Peter to remember him and his music
 D. was glad to move into a new house
5. Peter suggested cutting the blanket in two because _____.
 A. his Granddad said that he didn't need such a big blanket
 B. the place his Granddad was going to was very warm
 C. the woman wanted the other half
 D. he wanted to save the other half for his father

II. Read the following statements and tell which one of them is True or False according to the text

1. Peter was a thirteen-year-old boy who loved his Granddad very much. T ☐ F ☐
2. This was the last evening Peter and his Granddad would have with each other. T ☐ F ☐
3. When Peter and his Granddad finished washing dishes, they went outside and sat under the moon. T ☐ F ☐
4. The double blanket, which was bought by Peter, was nice, big and warm. T ☐ F ☐
5. The girl kissed Peter and said that she would try to be a good mother to him. T ☐ F ☐
6. Peter held out a knife and wanted to cut the blanket in two. T ☐ F ☐
7. When Peter's father and Granddad heard Peter's idea of cutting the blanket in two, they felt surprised. T ☐ F ☐

III. Topics for Discussion

1. Do you happen to know a similar story from China? If so, try to tell it in English.

2. Peter's Granddad would be sent to a house for the old, the government place where he would be with so many other old fellows. Surely, this is Peter's father's girlfriend's idea to do so. Are you for or against her idea? Why or why not?

Part Two Fast Reading

Many Moons

James Thurber

Princess

Lenore loved cakes. She once ate so many that she became sick and the king's doctor could do nothing to help her. The king promised his little daughter anything she wanted, if she would just get well. Lenore said she wanted the moon; she would get well if she had the moon.

The king called for his most important official, the Lord High Chamberlain. He was a big fat man who wore thick eyeglasses. The king asked him to get the moon for the young princess. The king's official took a long list from his pocket and said: "Your Majesty, I have gotten you many things. Here is a list of them: ivory, monkeys, peacocks, jewels, pink elephants, little blue dogs, gold insects, and the feathers of angels. And I have brought you giants and little men; and women who lived in the sea; and singers and dancers, and a kilo of butter, a bag of sugar and twenty four eggs...Oh, I'm sorry, my wife wrote that!"

The king said he did not remember any little blue dogs and did not want to talk about little blue dogs. He wanted the moon for his daughter, and he wanted it quickly.

The Lord High Chamberlain said. "I have gotten things from far-off places like Africa and Asia. But I cannot get the moon. The moon is sixty thousand kilometers from the earth. It is bigger even than Princess Lenore's room. And it is made of hot copper. Nobody can touch it. Little blue dogs, yes. But the moon? No."

The king ordered the Lord Chamberlain out of his room and sent for

his mathematician, a little man, with no hair on his head. He carried pencils behind his ears. The king said to him: "Don't tell me all the problems you have settled for me in the last forty years. I am not interested in them. I want the moon for Princess Lenore. Now. Get it!" The mathematician said: "Thank you, thank you for asking me. On this paper I have written all the problems I have answered for you in the last forty years. I have told you how far 'up' is and how far 'down' is. I showed you the distance between the letters A and Z, and between day and night."

The king got hot with anger. He said he didn't want to talk. He wanted the moon for his daughter. But the mathematician said he could not get the moon. The moon was five hundred thousand kilometers away. It was almost as big as the king's country. It was made of asbestos. And it was nailed to the sky. Nobody could get it.

The king pushed the mathematician out of the room. He called for his jester, the only man who made him laugh. The jester came running into the room. He wore his funny clothes covered with bells. The king said, "My daughter will stay sick until she gets the moon. All my officials say that they cannot get it." The jester thought for a minute and said: "Well, they are all wise men, but have different ideas about the moon. Why don't we ask Princess Lenore what ideas she has about the moon?"

The king agreed and the jester went to Lenore's room. The little girl spoke with difficulty. She asked the jester if he brought the moon. He said he would get it. But first, he wanted to know how big she thought the moon was. Lenore answered, "It is as big as the nail on my finger. I know this is so because when I put my small finger in front of the moon, my fingernail covers it."

The jester then asked her how far away she thought the moon was. She said that it was not as high as the tree near her window. She knew this because sometimes the moon got caught in the top of the tree. The jester had one more question. What did she think the moon was made of? The princess laughed and said that, of course, it was made of gold.

The jester left Lenore and went to see the king's jeweler. The jeweler made a round moon of gold, a little smaller than the fingernail of the Princess. Then he put the moon on a gold chain so that Lenore could

wear it on her neck.

The jester brought the gold chain to Princess Lenore. She was so happy that she quickly got well. The next day, she got out of bed and played in the garden. The king was happy. But then he began to worry. He knew the moon that night would be bright in the sky. If his daughter saw it, she would know that the moon on her neck was not really the moon. Again, he asked his officials to see him.

The Lord High Chamberlain was first.

The king asked what could be done so that Princess Lenore would not see the moon that night. The Lord High Chamberlain thought for a long time. Then he said that if the princess wore black glasses she would not be able to see anything.

The king said that if his daughter could not see anything, she would walk into the furniture and hurt herself and be back in bed. He called for his mathematician.

The mathematician walked around in a circle. He said he had the answer: Fireworks, every night in the gardens. So many bright lights shooting into the sky from the gardens would keep Princess Lenore from seeing the moon.

The king told the mathematician he was stupid. So much light in the sky would not let his daughter sleep. The king looked out of his window. He saw the moon begin to rise. He quickly called for his jester and told him that his little daughter would soon see the moon. This would make her sick again. None of his officials knew what to do about it. The jester said that if these wise men did not know how to hide the moon, then the moon could not be hidden.

Again, the king looked out of his window. The jester spoke to him. "Who knew what the moon was made of and how far away? I think that Princess Lenore is wiser than your officials and knows more about the moon than they do. I will ask her to explain how the moon can be on her neck and in the sky."

The king could not stop him. The jester went to Lenore's room. She was in bed, but not sleeping. She was looking out of the window at the moon in the sky. She held the little moon that the jester had brought her.

The jester asked her: "How can the moon shine in the sky when it is