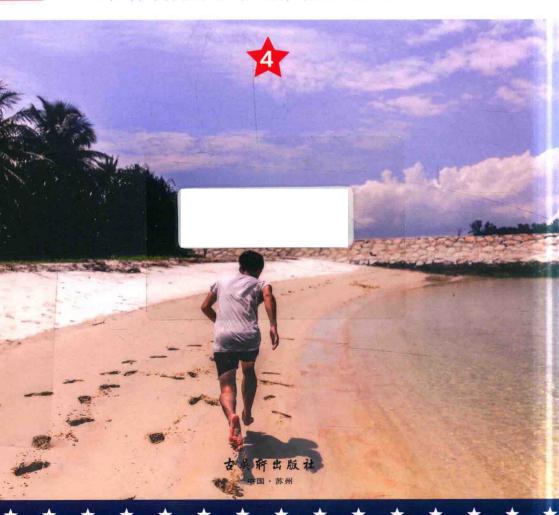
美国语文

一★ 我喜欢这样的自己★—

(原版插图:英汉双语)

常青藤名校校长精选名家名作,原汁原味地呈现英文之美美国、加拿大、澳大利亚等国的数干万中小学生从中受益

让学习性阅读融入日常生活,有效地提升孩子的英文素养



美国语文

一★ 我喜欢这样的自己 ★ 一





[集] 埃德温·埃尔德曼◎著 尹吴娅琪等◎译

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推荐序一

李江月

(伊利诺斯大学PHD, 湖北省高考作文满分获得者)

我在美国留学的时候,不仅要承担繁重的学习任务,还要传道授业,帮自己的导师们带本科新生。那时候我就经常想,要是有一套全新的教材,难度适中,学生和教师都能在书中获得营养,让来自中国的学生既能学习原汁原味的地道的美式英语,又能对自己所学的专业有所帮助,还能和各个领域的大咖们谈笑风生,打破很多美国人觉得中国人就是书呆子的刻板印象,那该多好啊!

这部千呼万唤始出来的《美国语文》丛书,解决了大家英语学习和教学的需求。每一篇课文都有精美的翻译,译文都做到了信达雅,读起来让人感觉如沐春风,甚至有时候让人感动,让学习英语这个看上去很繁重很枯燥的历程充满了惊喜。

众所周知,英语是不断变化的语言,也许需要每个学习者终身不断地学习。本套书的英文原版,是由常青藤名校校长精编精选,汇集了许多名家的经典之作,所以我们每一位读者,不仅是学生,还包括老师和家长,都能在这样美妙的阅读中感受到自己的进步,得到切切实实的满足感。这些美丽的体验,是市面上一般读物难以给予我们的。

相比很多所谓"高屋建瓴"的语言学著作,这部丛书经历了实践的考验,是一部非常亲民和接地气的青少年读物,也是家长和老师很好的帮手。

很多时候,因为应试教育的需求,同学们不得不死记硬背许多文学大家的作品,但是他们并不理解这些作品。于是,虽然短期内成绩提高了,却在成年后丧失了对文学的爱好和学习的欲望。不论在中国还是美国,总能看到这样令人遗憾的现象。对此,我们觉得很可惜,学习文学本来应该是一种乐趣,而不应该是一种负担。我们希望孩子们开心地学,家长们愉快地陪伴他们学习,老师们欣喜地发现孩子们的进步,而不是扼杀他们的兴趣,阻碍他们进一步追求知识的脚步。

我们知道,很多文学大师虽然不是专门的儿童作家,但是他们并不是没有给孩子写过作品。本套书的一大亮点就是集结了很多大家笔下从未被翻译成汉语的遗珠之作——在各领域专门为孩子创作的作品。通过阅读本套书,孩子们能在书中了解到许多新奇的知识,坐在家里就环游世界,也为未来的学习打下扎实的基础。

本书主编埃德温·埃尔德曼先生,用他的智慧和孜孜不倦的努力, 代替了我们在文山书海的盲目搜寻,就像我们的另一双眼睛,带我们遨 游浩瀚的书海,获取人类文明的精华。

一言以蔽之,这套丛书是我用过的最好的美国语文学习、教学的教材,既可以用来自学,也可以用到课堂上。特此,我将这部丛书诚挚推荐给大家。让我们一起在《美国语文》的海洋里自由地冲浪吧!

推荐序二

曹海元 (MIT PHD)

迄今为止,阅读一直是我最大的爱好,而在现今残存的记忆里,我最早读到可以真正称得上书的,正是父亲给我的那套页面泛黄的《上下五千年》。我在脑海里至今仍旧清晰地记得那套书的封面,茕茕孑立的烽火台,赭红的城楼,残阳如血。华夏五千年那时而诡谲绵密时而波澜壮阔的历史也随着作者娓娓道来的小故事,奔涌到我充满好奇的内心,溅起了一片片波澜。虽然以我当时的阅历和见识无法理解许多深奥的名词和藏在历史故事背后深刻的道理,但是那套书唤起了我内心对于知识的渴望。阅读让我得以坐上时光机,身临其境般在华夏文明的浩瀚长河中自由穿梭,在我的心中种下了星星之火。正是这些星星点点的火种,照亮了我内心通往知识殿堂的道路,让阅读成了我生命中最大的乐趣,从而造就了我今天这副模样。

《上下五千年》那套书在我如今看来,也许简陋不堪,只是一些历史小故事汇编,但在当年那个懵懂少年看来却已然是通往圣杯的指路明灯。如今这套《美国语文》无论从文章的文学艺术性、选材的宽泛多样性来说,还是从编排的科学合理性上来看,都要遥遥领先。阅读这套书

的少年从中可以先领略中世纪灿若星河的文艺复兴,再遇见近现代疾风 怒涛般的工业革命;可以先认识一生锋芒毕露最后却功亏一篑的拿破 仓,再偶遇始终沉默寡言却在危难之际挽大厦于将倾的华盛顿。从弗吉 尼亚的崎岖山岭到欧亚大陆的广袤平原,短短千言却包罗万象、荟萃乾 坤,包含了世界历史、地理、博物、人物、传奇、诗歌等领域的精华。

在我看来,如果说《上下五千年》只是星星点点的火苗,那么这套《美国语文》则是那光芒四射的火炬。我想读者尤其是那些处于学习阶段的青少年,必然可以像当年的我那样,从这套书中找到点燃自己心中火种的火焰,照亮通往圣杯的道路。

最后,用我最爱的诗歌《伊萨卡岛》中的一句话来结尾——"当你 启程,前往伊萨卡岛时,愿你的道路漫长,充满奇迹,充满发现。"这 也是我对所有有幸读到这套丛书的读者的祝福。我想说的就这么多了, 希望我无知和浅薄的序言不会让这套书的光芒逊色。

Preface



Good expression in reading is the product of sympathy and understanding, and therefore, the child who likes to read is quite sure to take first rank as a good reader. The controlling purpose of Classics, Old and New is to inspire in children a love for reading, and thus, without their being conscious of the fact, induce in them the reading habit. This is about the best and safest of all habits. If we contrive to teach young people the mechanical art of reading, and fail, at the same time, to breed in them the impulse and desire to continue their education throughout life by reading, we have cheated them out of the best thing to be obtained by going to school.

Good literature is an expression for the best of the world's activity, and the power latent in such literature to lift and enlighten the mind and spirit is greater than any other power, save, perhaps, the influences of home. The formal education of many of the children that will use this series of readers will cease with the elementary schools. This fact makes the preparation of the readers a very serious task, especially to one who knows children well enough to realize how difficult it is to know them at all.

When a child enters the Fourth Reader, he has practically mastered what may be called the mechanics of reading. New words, as words, no longer have any terror for him. He knows how to read, we say. He is, therefore, at a critical moment in his mental life in so far as that life touches literary culture. Let us hope that his imagination is not dulled, and that he has learned, as the earlier readers of this series are planned to teach him, to have a feeling for the good as distinguished from the bad or the commonplace. The selections in this book are the work of three score

and ten writers of distinction, writers of the past ages and of the present time-writers of many lands, who were not writing down to children, but uttering their own best thoughts. This book, like the earlier numbers, may, therefore, be appropriately called Classics, Old and New.

No hard and fast culture-epoch theory has determined their selection, though earnest thought has been given to the interests that appeal to youth at this age. Constant effort has been made to give variety in subject matter, and yet to maintain a unity of appeal to the understanding and the imagination. The subjects chosen range from nature and myth and adventure to biography and patriotism and ethics.

Our material age is coming more and more to neglect poetry as a thing outside the world of reality. The truth is, that there are no more practical things in the world than poetry and music, for they, even more than bread, bring to life what it needs. Many of us can recall poems that have served us as practically in the day's work as have the multiplication tables. The guiding thought in all the poetry selected has been to acquaint the child with the songs that will always be sung-especially the older poems studied by their fathers and mothers before them, such old and yet ever young treasures as "Lord Ullin's Daughter", Gray's "Elegy", "Annabel Lee".

The author believes that these readers, in the hands of sympathetic teachers, can be so used as to make not only good readers in the technical sense, but also real lovers of fine literature, young people of good taste in letters and of an increasing desire for close friendship with the best that has been thought and said.

The following acknowledgments are made in addition to those already given in the biographies: to Charles Scribner's Sons for the use of "How I Found Livingstone"; to Houghton, Mifflin & Co. for the use of "Playing Theater at River mouth", and to G.P. Putnam's Sons for the use of "A Tradition of Weatherford".

前言



优秀的阅读材料能够引起读者共鸣与理解,因此,热爱阅读的孩子也一定希望遇到一流的好读物。这套《美国语文》最主要的目的是为了激发孩子对于阅读的热爱,虽然他们不一定理解书中的道理,但是这套书却能帮助他们养成良好的阅读习惯。而阅读是最有意义的习惯,有百利而无一害。如果我们只是照本宣科地教授年轻学生们关于阅读的技巧,却未能燃起他们对于阅读的热爱与渴望,不能对他们未来一生的学习都有所帮助的话,就是剥夺了他们在学校所能收获的最棒的东西。

优秀的文学作品可以诠释世间最美好的事物,作品中隐含的力量足以启 迪心智、振奋精神,这种力量远大于一切其他力量,甚至可以弥补来自家庭 的不良影响。很多正规教育会将本套图书作为引导孩子们完成小学阶段的学 习材料。因此此套读物的准备工作十分艰巨,只有那些非常了解孩子的人们 才知道真正了解孩子有多难。

当学生开始阅读到第四册时,他应该已经掌握了基本的阅读技巧。面对新单词时,他应该不再感到恐惧。可以说,他懂得了如何阅读。这是他开始接触文学之后,心灵成长的关键时期。我们希望他的想象力还没有变得枯竭,并能有所收获,通过前几册的学习,他能有辨别是非的能力和分辨优秀作品与平庸作品的能力。本书收录的作品均为古今中外德高望重的作者所著。他们不是专门的儿童作家,但依然表达出了最优秀的思想观念。本书和前几册书一样,当得起"古今经典"这个名字。

在选录过程中,我们排除了艰涩难懂的理论以及快餐文化,尽管那些文字也是根据现代年轻人的兴趣经过慎重思考之后写出来的。在选题上,我们不断地尝试,试图挖掘多样化的主题,同时兼顾易读性和想象力。我们挑选的主题有自然、神话、探险、传记、爱国主义和伦理道德等。

在这个物质化的时代,人们越来越忽视诗歌的价值,甚至将其视为脱离现实的东西。其实,世间没有任何东西比诗歌与音乐更实用了,因为比起粮食,诗歌与音乐能为生活提供更多的滋养。在日常生活中,诗歌对于我们大多数人来说,就像乘法表一样,具有现实意义。本册书收录诗歌的原则是挑选那些朗朗上口的、孩子们熟悉的歌谣,特别是那些他们的父母也曾学过的经典诗歌,包括《惊涛篇》、格雷的《挽歌》以及《安娜贝尔·李》等,这些诗古老却又充满活力。

作者相信,在老师的帮助下,阅读本书的孩子们不仅能提高阅读技能,还能真正热爱优秀文学作品,成为拥有对文字具有良好品位与鉴赏力、渴望和珍视友谊的一代年轻人。

除了在作者简介中已经致谢过的个人或机构,还要感谢查尔斯·斯克里布纳父子出版公司提供了《寻找利文斯敦》一文,霍夫顿霍顿·米夫林出版公司提供了《河口剧院》一文以及G.P.普特南父子出版公司提供了《韦瑟福德的传统》一文。

Chapter 1
Stories | 故事



The Lord Helpeth Man and Beast

户 预习

concealed /kən'si:ld/ 隐蔽的
consequently /'ka:nsəkwentli/ 因此; 所以
custody /'kʌstədi/ 羁押
defendant /dɪ'fendənt/ 被告
edible /'edəbl/ 可食用的
hospitably /'hɒspɪtəbli/ 善于款待地
perplexed /pər'plekst/ 困惑的
plaintiff /'pleɪntɪf/ 原告

During his march to conquer the world, Alexander the Macedonian came to a strange people in Africa. Dwelling in a remote and secluded corner in peaceful huts, they knew neither war nor conqueror. They led him to the hut of their chief, who received him hospitably, and placed before him golden dates, golden figs, and bread of gold.

"Do you eat gold in this country?" said Alexander.

"I take it for granted," replied the chief, "that thou were able to find edible food in thine own country. For what reason, then, art thou come among us?"

"Your gold has not tempted me hither," said Alexander, "but I would willingly become acquainted with your manners and customs."

"So be it," rejoined the other, "sojourn among us as long as pleaseth thee."

At the close of this conversation two citizens entered as into their

court of justice. The plaintiff said, "I bought of this man a piece of land, and as I was making a deep drain through it, I found a treasure. This is not mine, for I bargained only for the land, and not for any treasure that might be concealed beneath it; and yet the former owner of the land will not receive it."

The defendant answered, "I hope that I have a conscience as well as my fellow-citizen. I sold him the land with all it's existing advantages, and consequently the treasure was included."

The chief, who was at the same time their supreme judge, repeated their words, in order that the parties might see whether or not he understood them aright. Then, after some reflection, he said, "Thou hast a son, friend, I believe?""Yes."

"And thou," said the judge, turning to the other, "A daughter?" "Yes."

"Well, then, let the son marry the daughter, and bestow the treasure on the young couple for their marriage-portion."

Alexander seemed surprised and perplexed. "Think you my sentence unjust?" the chief asked him. "Oh, no," replied Alexander, "but it astonishes me."

"And how, then," rejoined the chief, "would the case have been decided in your country?""To confess the truth," said Alexander, "we should have taken both parties into custody, and have seized the treasure for the king's use."

"For the king's use!" exclaimed the chief, now in his turn astonished. "Does the sun shine on that country?" "Oh, yes!" "Does it rain there?""Assuredly.""Wonderful! But are there in that country tame animals which live on the grass and green herbs?""Very many, and of many kinds." (problem was all long ways and many kinds.)

"Ay, that must be the cause," said the chief, "for the sake of those innocent animals, the All-gracious being continues to let the sun shine and the rain drop down on your country."

(Samuel Taylor Coleridge)

命 译文

上帝保佑万物

在征服世界的进程中,马其顿的亚历山大大帝在非洲遇见过一群奇怪的人。他们在与世隔绝的偏僻角落聚群而居,住在平和宁静的小木屋里,从没有经过战争和征伐。他们把亚历山大领到了首领的木屋,首领非常热情地接待他,在他面前放满了金海枣、金无花果和金面包。

亚历山大问道: "在你们国家, 人们吃金子吗?"

首领回答说:"如果在自己的国家找不到可以吃的东西,吃金子不是理所当然的事吗?话说回来,你又是因为什么而来到我们这里的呢?"

"我并不是被你们的金子引诱到这里来的。"亚历山大说,"但我非常乐意了解你们的风俗习惯。"

首领说:"既然如此,你愿意在这里待多久就待多久吧。"

谈话结束的时候,两位居民走了进来,请首领给他们公正的裁决。原告说:"我从这个人手里买了一小块土地,结果在地里挖下水道的时候,挖出了一笔财宝。这不属于我,因为我只买了地,并没有买下藏在地里的财宝。但是,这块地的前主人却不肯要这笔财宝。"

被告辩护说:"我希望我的良心跟我的同胞一样好。我卖给他土地以及 土地里的一切东西,这笔财宝自然也包含在内。"

同时作为双方的最高法官,首领复述了他们说过的话,以便让双方确认他是否正确理解了他们的意思。然后,他思考了一会儿,说:"我的朋友,我记得你有一个儿子?""是的。"

这时法官转向了另一方,接着说:"而你有一个女儿?""是的。"

"那么,就让你们各自的儿子和女儿结婚,然后把财宝作为结婚礼金赠 送给这对年轻的夫妇。"

亚历山大看上去又惊讶又困惑。首领问他:"你觉得我判决得不公正吗?"亚历山大回答说:"哦,不,我只是非常震惊。"

"那么,这种情况在你的国家是怎样处理的呢?"首领问道。亚历山大回答说:"坦白地说,我们会把双方都抓起来,财宝供国王使用。"

"供国王使用!"首领惊叫起来,现在轮到他感到震惊了,"那个国家有太阳照耀吗?""哦,有的!""那里会下雨吗?""当然会。""太好了!但是你们的国家也有温顺的食草动物吗?""当然,而且有很多不同种类的食草动物呢。"

"啊,那肯定是因为这个。"首领说,"因为这些无辜的动物,上帝继续 让太阳照耀着你的国家,让雨水滋润着你的国家。"

(塞缪尔・泰勒・柯勒律治)

(译注:文中亚历山大提到的国王掠夺国民财富的习惯在欧洲各国十分盛行,柯勒律治借这个故事表达了对欧洲各国国王的强烈谴责。)

♂ 作者介绍

塞缪尔·泰勒·柯勒律治(1772-1834)是一名英国诗人。他有时也会给杂志写散文。不过,他最为人所知的身份还是诗人。他对美的感知敏锐而纤细,而他的诗歌则极富音乐的韵律美。他最受欢迎的诗歌有《古舟子咏》《夜莺》《白日梦》《成吉思汗》和《克里斯特贝尔》。华兹华斯、柯勒律治和罗伯特·索西常被称为"湖畔诗人"。