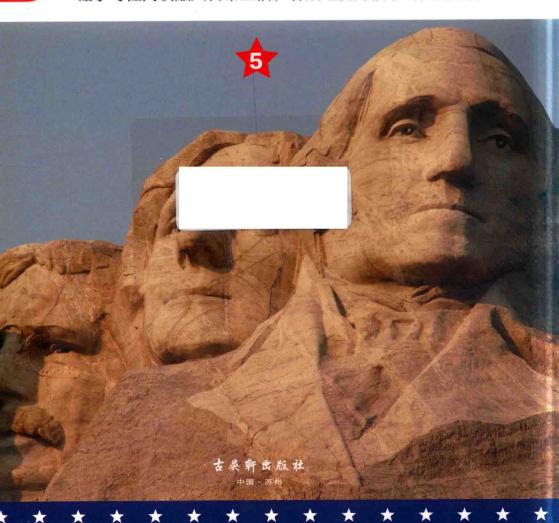
美国语文

(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

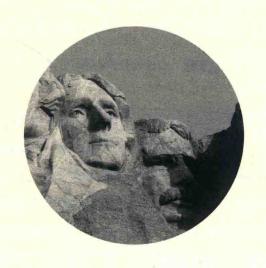
让学习性阅读融入日常生活,有效地提升孩子的英文素养



美国语文

一★ 带着历史去旅行 ★ 一





[美] 埃德温·埃尔德曼◎著 钱志慧等◎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!

这部干呼万唤始出来的《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



The Fifth Reader in the Series "Classics, Old and New", is given to the schools in the belief that it will commend itself to teachers and pupils by reason of its literary quality, its careful grading, and its illustration of the principle of unity in variety. Great care has been taken in the choice of material to have all the sections complete literary units of thought and style. These vary in length—and while some are very short, they are by no means the least valuable. Realizing that the love of reading depends, with most boys and girls, upon the amount of interest awakened, the lessons have been chosen with a view to interest the pupil, and through his interest to cultivate his taste and to put him in the way of knowing and appreciating good literature.

Any reading book compiled for pupils may be rated as to its excellence according to three standards: technical arrangement, literary quality, and moral purpose. Under technical arrangement is understood the proper grading of lessons, the orderly presentation of new words to be mastered, and such helps in the mechanism of reading as will call out the power of the pupil to help himself. The literary quality and the moral purpose cannot be so easily outlined. In quiet ways a perception of their meaning should grow into the youth's heart and mind. Love of country, pride of home, scorn of a lie, sympathy for the weak, love of wild life, courage to dare, and devotion to duty are some of the lessons taught in this book in myth and fable, in song and story, and in the record of human deeds told by men and women who could write with freshness and charm.

To teach a child to love to read is to give him an education. And although it is foolish to attempt to lay down formal rules for doing this

great thing, there are a few principles that a teacher may well hold in mind. The child must know what the story or the poem is all about. This involves, of course, a knowledge of the separate words that stand for the ideas, and I believe a wise use of a few minutes of recitation would consist in questioning the class as to thought and words, and in causing pupils to reveal what their minds hold of the matter before them. All this should be done after the pupil has read the selection to himself and before oral reading begins.

Let many of the poems be learned by heart, and not merely by rote. There is in true poetry a power to linger in the memory, to become a part of life and to reappear after long years, fresh and helpful.

In addition to the acknowledgments made in the biographies, my thanks are due to the following publishers for cordial permission to use copyrighted material: to Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin and Company, for "Ascent of Mt. Mitchell," by Charles D. Warner, from his "On Horseback in Virginia"; for "Dickens," by James T. Fields, from his "Yesterdays with Authors"; for "Elms and Other Trees," by Oliver Wendell Holmes, from his "Autocrat of the Breakfast Table"; and for "Choosing a Class of People to be Exterminated," from the prose of Edward Rowland Sill; to Messrs. Little, Brown and Company, for the extract from "The Man Without a Country," by Edward Everett Hale; and to the Whitaker and Ray Company, for "The Defense of the Alamo," by Joaquin Miller. I am indebted also to Mr. William O. Partridge for permission to use the reproduction of his statue of Pocahontas.

前言



本套书的第五册已经推向校园,它文字优美,篇目分类细致,插图丰富协调,相信会受到师生的喜爱。我们在文章的选材上倾注了大量的心血,以便展现各种文学类型的思想与风格。这些文章长短不一——虽然有些文章非常短小精悍,但这并不代表它没有价值。考虑到大多数孩子的阅读热情取决于兴趣的唤醒程度,因此这些文章的甄选标准是激起学生的兴趣,并以此培养他的品味,带他走上感知与欣赏优美文学的道路。

任何一本为学生编写的读物都可以依据三个标准来判别其是否优秀:专业的课程安排、文字质量以及道德导向。专业的课程安排,可以让我们理解的分类方式有多么恰当,明白需要掌握的新词是如何有序地展示,而阅读过程中诸如此类的帮助会激发学生的自学能力。文字质量与道德导向则是潜移默化的。对这两者的理解,应当以"润物细无声"的方式植根于孩子们的内心与思想。对祖国的热爱,对家乡的骄傲,对谎言的轻蔑,对弱者的同情,对野生动物的喜爱,对挑战的勇气,对责任的担当,这些正是这本书有所教益的内容,并以神话、寓言、诗歌、故事以及人物故事的形式展现。那些讲述人物故事的男女作者,笔下散发着鲜活迷人的气息。

教会一个孩子热爱阅读就是使他受到教育。尽管为这一伟业而试图制定拘泥的规则愚不可及,但仍有一些原则是一个教师需要时刻牢记的。孩子们必须懂得一篇故事或是一首诗歌在讲述什么。当然,他们也要懂得表达这些内容的不同单词的意思,而且我相信每次课前利用几分钟进行复习,检查学生们对思想内容和词汇的掌握情况,督促他们表达对眼前事物的想法,是极为有效的方法。所有这些都必须在学生默读之后、朗诵之前进行。

要让孩子们用心感知这多如繁星的诗歌,而不仅仅是死记硬背。在真正的诗歌艺术中,有一种力量会在记忆中长久萦绕,并转化为生命的一部分,

待数年之后涌上心头,依旧鲜活而有助益。

除了作者简介中提及的出版商以外,我们还要感谢以下这些热情提供版权许可的出版商:霍顿·米夫林出版公司,提供了选自查尔斯·杜德利·沃纳《在弗吉尼亚州的山岭上》的《登米歇尔峰》一文、选自詹姆斯·托马斯·菲尔兹《与作家共度的昨日》的《狄更斯》一文、选自奥利弗·温德尔·霍姆斯《早餐桌上的独裁者》的《榆树与其他树》一文以及爱德华·罗兰·希尔的散文《选择消灭一类人》;小布朗出版公司,提供了爱德华·埃弗雷特·黑尔《没有国家的人》节选;惠特克和雷出版公司,提供了杰奎因·米勒的《阿拉莫防卫战》。另外,我还要感谢威廉·奥德威·帕特里奇先生对其雕塑作品《宝嘉康蒂》的版权许可。

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Chapter 1 Historical Figure | 历史人物

户 预习

invulnerable /ɪnˈvʌlnərəbl/ 不会受伤害的
nicety /ˈnaɪsəti/ 精确
organ /ˈɔːrgən/ 媒介
plenitude /ˈplenɪtuːd/ 丰富
policy /ˈpɑːləsi/ 政策
reverse /rɪˈvɜːrs/ 相反的

Napoleon Bonaparte

Napoleon understood his business. Here was a man that in each moment and emergency knew what to do next. It is an immense comfort and refreshment to the spirits, not only of kings, but of citizens. Few men have any next; they live from hand to mouth, without plan, and are ever at the end of their line, and, after each action, wait for an impulse from abroad.

Napoleon had been the first man of the world, if his ends had been purely public. As he is, he inspires confidence and vigor by the extraordinary unity of his action. He is firm, sure, self-denying, self-postponing, sacrificing everything to his aim,—money, troops, generals, and his own safety also; not misled, like common adventurers, by the splendor of his own means. "Incidents ought not to govern policy," he said, "but policy incidents." "To be hurried away by every event, is to have no political system at all."

His victories were only so many doors, and he never for a moment lost sight of his way onward in the dazzle and uproar of the present