



中学英语课外阅读选

English Reader

(2)

· 高二、高三适用 ·

上海教育出版社

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前 言

本书所选材料体裁多样,有故事、散文、诗歌、应用文等,内容较有兴趣,可供学过英语四、五年的高二、高三学生作课外阅读之用。

本书对一些词组、较难的句子作了汉语注释或进行汉译,以帮助学生理解。书末附有词汇表,以便查阅。

本书材料选自国内外出版的一些英语教科书和简易英语读物;有些材料作了适当的改动。但限于水平,在选材和注释等方面难免有不妥之处。恳切希望使用本书的教师、同学和广大读者提出改进意见。

本书承上海外国语学院英语系词汇教研组部分教师校阅,谨致衷心的感谢。

1963年11月

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Æsop¹ and the Traveller

Æsop was a very clever man who lived in Greece many hundreds of years ago. He wrote many fine stories. He was *well known*² as a man who *was fond of*³ jokes. One day, as he was enjoying a walk, he met a traveller, who greeted him and said: "Kind man, can you tell me how soon I shall *get to town*?"⁴ "Go," Æsop answered. "I know I must go," said the traveller, "but I should like you to tell me how soon I shall get to town."

"Go," Æsop said again angrily.

"This man must be mad," the traveller thought and went on.

After he had gone some distance, Æsop shouted after him: "You will get to town in two hours." The traveller *turned round*⁵ in *astonishment*.⁶ "Why didn't you tell me that before?" he asked. "How

1. Æsop [ˈi:sɒp]——伊索(希腊古代寓言作家). 2. well known——有名的. 3. was fond of——喜欢. 4. get to town——到达城里. 5. turned round——回过身来. 6. in astonishment——惊奇地.

could I have told you that before?" answered Æsop.
"I did not know how fast you could walk."

Do You Know Me?

Look and see if you know me. You cannot find me, for no one can see me.

Sometimes I rush up the street very fast, and shake all the doors as I pass.

I *take off*¹ men's caps as I go along the street, and send them flying. Ha! ha! ha! They run to get the caps, and the lads try to get them too.

You may think I am rude, but I can *do much good*.² I bring the rain with me to make the grass and trees grow. I cool you when you are too hot, and I make the air fresh and sweet.

Can you tell me my name? And can you spell it too?

Oh, yes! We know your name. You are the Wind. W-I-N-D.

1. take off——脫掉。 2. do much good——做很多好事；
有很多好处。

The Cat and the Bell

There are many mice in the house. The master of the house has a cat.



Every day the cat kills many mice.

One day the oldest mouse said, "All the mice must come to my hole. Let us think what we can do."

All the mice came. Many mice spoke but nobody knew what to do.

At last a mouse said, "We do not hear when the cat comes. We must put a bell on the cat."



"Hurrah," cried all the mice. "Hurrah!"

"Our dear friend has a good plan. His plan is the best of all the plans. Let us

run and get a bell."

But the old mouse said, "This plan is good, but tell me who wants to put the bell on the cat?"

No mouse answered.

The old mouse repeated, "Who wants to put the bell on the cat?"

No mouse answered.

Then all the mice ran away.

I'll Try

The little boy who says "I'll try"

Will climb to the hill-top.

The little boy who says "I can't"

Will at the bottom stop.

"I'll try" does great things every day,

"I can't" gets nothing done:

Be sure then that you say "I'll try"

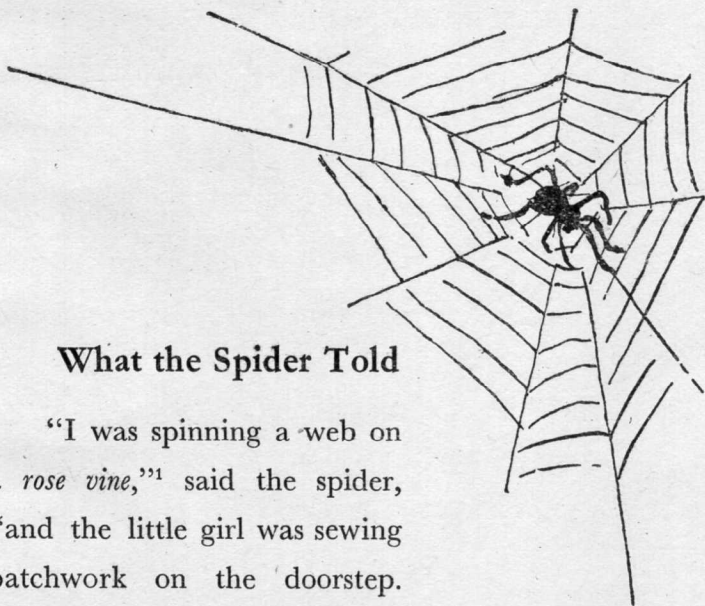
And let "I can't" alone.

* * * *

When there is some hard work to be done, do not say "I can't do it"; but say "I will try to do it".

If a boy says "I will try", he will climb to the top of the hill. If he says "I can't do it", he will stop at the bottom of the hill.

People who say "I'll try" get great things done every day. People who say "I can't" never get anything done. So make sure that you always say "I'll try". Never say "I can't". And let those words alone.



What the Spider Told

"I was spinning a web on a *rose vine*,"¹ said the spider, "and the little girl was sewing patchwork on the doorstep. Her thread knotted, her needle broke and her eyes were

1. *rose vine*——蔓蔷薇。

full of tears. 'I can't do it,' she said, 'I can't do it.'

"Then the mother came, and told her to look at me. Every time I spun a nice thread and tried to fasten it to a branch, the wind blew and tore it away. This happened several times, but at last I made one that did not break, and fastened it, and spun other threads to join it. Then the mother smiled.

" 'What a patient spider!' ¹ she said.

"The little girl smiled too and took up her work. When the sun went down, there was a beautiful web on the rose vine and a *square of beautiful patchwork*² on the doorstep."

A Dialogue

A: Which is the longest word in the English language?

B: I don't know. Do you?

1. What a patient spider!——一只多么有耐心的蜘蛛呀! (这是感叹句, 句末省略了 it is.) 2. a square of beautiful patchwork——一方美丽的织品. (patchwork 是用不同颜色的布块拼凑起来的東西.)

- A: Yes, I do.
- B: Well, what is it?
- A: It is "smiles".
- B: That isn't very long. Only six letters.
- A: Ah, but there's a mile between the first and the last letters.
- B: Which word is shorter if you add another syllable to its end?
- A: Oh, there's no answer to that question. You can't make a word shorter by adding a syllable to its end.
- B: Oh yes, you can. It's the word "short". If you add the syllable "-er" to its end, it's shorter.



The Bee

Look at that bee on the flower. See how it shakes its wings, and works with its little feet. Ah! *it is off to another flower.*¹ It is working again! Now it is off to *another!*² How busy

-
1. It is off to another flower.——它(指蜜蜂)飞往另一朵花。
 2. to another=to another flower.

it is! It does not rest a minute! It has very much work to do. Do you see the wooden houses, which have no windows and a small door? They are the houses in which the bees live. We call them hives. Very many bees live in each hive. See how many are going to and from

When spring comes and the flowers are in bloom, the bees come out of the hives in the morning. They fly away and suck up the juice of the flowers.

The bee has a long tongue which it sticks into the flower to *suck up*¹ the juice. It carries the juice to the hive, and *makes*² it into honey. When the bee flies out in the morning to get honey, it visits not only the flowers but also the *hand*.³ It goes very far from its hive when it *loses its way*.⁴ When the rain comes, the bee hides in some little hole in a wall, or under the leaves of a tree, or inside a large flower. When the sun peeps out again, it flies swiftly

1. suck up——吸. 2. makes it into honey——成蜂蜜.
3. near at hand——在附近.
4. loses its way——迷路.

not only the juice but also the
 the inside of flowers. They carry
 a their *hind legs*.² They use it to
 the hive, as food for the young bees.
 e this dust to make wax; and with
 uild many little cells. They fill
 the sweet honey. The little cells
 hem are called the honeycomb.
 is not the only thing for which we
 the busy little bee. We may thank
 ngs made of wax.

ind Men and the Elephant

The Driver

The six blind men

blind men stand by the roadside, talking.

es with his elephant.)

Listen! What is it?

of the way with you!⁴ I must take my

——金色的花粉。

2. hind legs——后腿。

——蜜蜂的食料。

4. Out of the way with

让让路!

*elephant by.*¹

First blind man: I have never seen an elephant, sir.

Other blind men: *Nor I!*² Nor I!

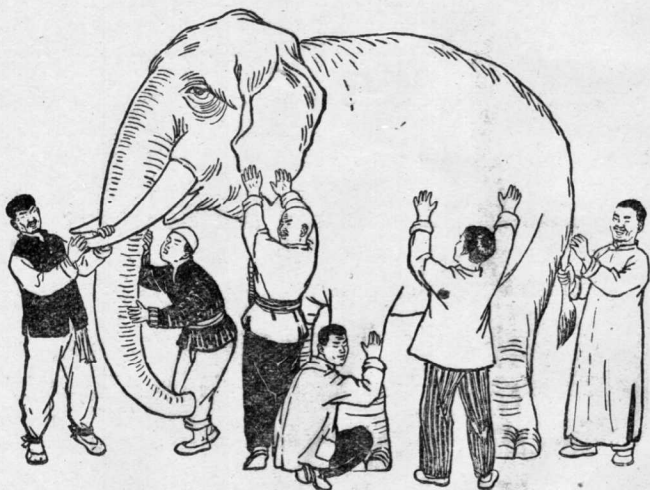
Driver: Do you know *what he is like?*³

Blind men: No, sir! No, sir!

Driver: Would you like to touch him?

Blind men: Yes! Yes!

Driver: Come, then, and stand by him.



-
1. take my elephant by——把我的象牵过。 2. Nor I!
——我也沒有(看見过)! 3. what he is like——他像什
么; 他是什么样的。

First blind man (*placing hand on elephant's side*):

Well, well! Now I know all about him! He is exactly like a wall!

Second blind man (*feeling the tusk*): He is not like a wall! He is round and smooth and sharp. He is like a spear.

Third blind man (*feeling the trunk*): Both of you are wrong. He is like a snake.

Fourth blind man (*feeling a leg*): Oh, how blind you are! He is round and tall like a tree!

Fifth blind man (*feeling an ear*): Why,¹ he is exactly like a great fan!

Sixth blind man (*feeling the tail*): This elephant is not like a wall, or a spear, or a snake, or a tree, or a fan. He is exactly like a rope.

Driver: Ha, ha, ha!

(*He goes, driving his elephant and laughing.*)

First blind man: Ha, ha, ha! Hear how he laughed at you!

Second blind man: He laughed at you and the others.

1. why——*为什么*。(感叹词,表示惊愕。)