

世界名著英文简本读物系列·第一辑

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

圣诞颂歌

〔英〕查尔斯·狄更斯 原著

（注释本）



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前言

广泛地阅读英语文学作品，是我们提高运用英语的能力并达到熟练掌握该语言的重要途径，这是毋庸置疑的。文学家都是语言大师，他们运用语言的丰富多彩和驾驭语言的得心应手，都表现在其作品里。我们学习英语与学习母语有很大的差别。学习母语可以听说领先，读写跟上；但是学习英语，听说英语的环境缺乏优势。因此我们学习英语的最好方法只能是通过大量的阅读，也就是在读得懂的前提下，才能听得懂、说得出和写得好。文学作品不但给我们提供了丰富的阅读材料，而且还因为它们趣味性和新颖感培养了我们良好的阅读习惯。

广泛阅读英语的文学作品可提高英语能力，这仅仅是一方面。大家知道，伟大的文学作品，无不凝聚着作家对真善美的追求和向往，对假恶丑的鞭笞和摒弃。作家在现实生活中所撷取的各种各样的材料，在文学的语境里凭借其丰富性和多样性赋予我们对生活的感悟，它们引发的动态的、活生生的、充满着审美情趣的力量，会在我们阅读的过程中激发我们的生活热情，孕育积极向上的灵魂。文学浓缩着人类生活整个过程中特定的社会和历史，它从与我们生活不同的新的深度和广度来揭示生活。文学紧密地关联着人类要在现实生活中形象地创造自己而努力的目标，它蕴藏着无穷的力量，有待我们在阅读的时候汲取。

然而，对于中学生以及刚进入大学的学生来说，阅读英语原著



是颇为困难的,因为生词和句式的变化使他们读而生畏,常常事倍功半。针对这种情况,编者精选了一批经过改写的文学经典,并加以必要的汉语注释,使学生不查词典或者少查词典就能够顺畅地阅读。这些经过名家改写的文学经典,一方面保持了原著的精神和风格,另一方面也反映了当代英语的语言特点,它们都是在欧洲许多国家甚至英语国家畅销的英语读物。在精选的第一辑里,包括被誉为英国维多利亚时期最伟大的小说家查尔斯·狄更斯(1812—1870)的四部作品,它们是《圣诞颂歌》、《雾都孤儿》、《大卫·科波菲尔》和《尼古拉斯·尼克贝》。查尔斯·狄更斯不仅给后世留下了多部经典小说,他还是那个时代旺盛的创造力和时代精神的象征,也正是这一点使他的小说具有永久的魅力。斯托夫人的《汤姆叔叔的小屋》是一部被林肯誉为引起了一场革命的著作。华莱士的《宾虚》被好莱坞拍成电影,赢得多项奥斯卡大奖。在笛福的《鲁滨逊漂流记》中,不畏艰难、勇于创业的精神永远闪烁着光芒。《海蒂》和《皮诺曹》尽管是儿童故事,但是它们在表现人类情怀时候的细腻、深刻,同样会令我们感动得热泪盈眶。我们相信《世界名著英文简本读物系列》不但对提高人们英语水平大有裨益,还会有助于培养人们高尚的情操。



Charles Dickens

was born in England in 1812. He was the second of eight sons in a poor family. Much of what he writes is based on personal experience. When Dickens' father could not pay his bills, he was sent to prison. Dickens' mother and brothers were forced to work hard at different jobs in order to pay off the debts. Charles Dickens knew firsthand about the misery and hunger of a poor life.



A Christmas Carol

A Christmas Carol is the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, a lonely old man who has given up on everything in the world except his money. He is visited on Christmas Eve and warned of where his selfish life will lead. This is a story about the true meaning of Christmas.



Now Anne de Graaf has rewritten this moving story, using simpler, more modern language.

Here is one of Dickens' classic stories, taken from the past and made readable for children in the present.

Anne de Graaf is the author of 27 children's books published in more than 30 countries. Nearly 3 million of her books have sold worldwide. She lives in The Netherlands with her husband and their two children.

José Pérez Montero has illustrated more than sixty children's books. He studied Fine Arts in Madrid and has been painting professionally for more than thirty years. He lives in Madrid with his wife and their two sons.

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Ebenezer Scrooge

Marley was dead. There was no doubt about it. Everyone knew it, even Scrooge.

Old Marley was as dead as a doornail¹. Now, don't misunderstand me. I'm not particularly an expert on just how dead a doornail is. But did Scrooge know he was dead? Of course he did. How could he not? He and Scrooge had been partners² for I don't know how many years³. Scrooge had been Marley's only friend. At his funeral⁴ Scrooge, who really wasn't that upset⁵, had said Marley was an excellent businessman.

But thinking about Marley's funeral brings me back to the point I started from. There can be no doubt that Marley was dead. This must be understood or nothing wonderful can come from the story I'm about to tell.

You see, Scrooge never painted over⁶ old Marley's name on the sign⁷ outside their office. Years after his

- 1 的的确确(死了);像门上的钉子一样
- 2 合伙人
- 3 很久很久;我都不知道多少年了
- 4 葬礼
- 5 不高兴;伤心
- 6 刷漆盖住
- 7 标牌



death, the same sign still stood there: *Scrooge and Marley*. Sometimes new customers¹ called Scrooge “Scrooge.” Sometimes they called Scrooge “Marley,” but it didn’t matter. Scrooge answered to both names.

Oh! Scrooge was a greedy, cheap, horrible little man. There had never before been such a tightfisted, squeezing, grabbing old sinner²! He was hard and sharp, secret and alone as an oyster³. The cold in his heart had cut off his pointed nose⁴, shriveled⁵ his cheeks, made his eyes red and his thin lips blue. He carried this iciness⁶ with him, so that inside his office at Christmas, it was just as cold as outside.

There was no wind more bitter than Scrooge, no falling snow more bent on doing what it wanted, no rain less harsh.⁷ Nobody ever stopped him on the street to say, “My dear Scrooge, how are you? You must come and visit.” No children ever asked him what time it was. No one ever had asked him directions.

Even the blind men’s dogs seemed to know Scrooge. Whenever they saw him headed in their direction⁸, they would tug their mas-

- 1 顾客
- 2 小气的、欺诈的、斤斤计较的老家伙
- 3 牡蛎
- 4 尖鼻子
- 5 干瘪了
- 6 冷酷
- 7 没有风比 Scrooge 更凛冽，没有雪比 Scrooge 更不择手段地要达到目的，也没有雨像 Scrooge 一样残酷无情。
- 8 朝它们走来



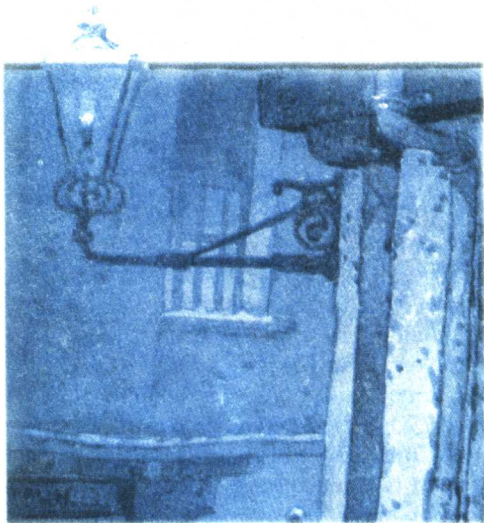


ters into doorways or up alleys¹.

They would wag their tails² as if to say, “Dark master³, having no eyes is better than having his evil eye!”

But Scrooge did not care about any of this. In fact, he liked edging his way along the paths of life⁴, warning anyone who might dare to come near him to keep away. He cared about no one but himself.

- ① 把它们的主人拖向门洞里或拽进小巷里
- ② 摇着它们的尾巴
- ③ 什么都看不见的主人
- ④ 沿着生命的道路徐徐地走自己的路





Once Upon a Time

Of all the good days in the year, the story I'm about to tell happened on Christmas Eve. Once upon a time, old Scrooge sat counting money in his office. It was a cold, biting, bitter day. A thick, damp fog blanketed¹ the city. Scrooge could hear people passing his office on the street coughing and wheezing². They beat their hands together and stamped their feet³ in order to stay warm.

The city clocks had only just struck three, but it was already dark. Candles flared⁴ in the windows of the neighboring offices. The fog poured in through every thin wall and keyhole. It was so dense that the houses across the street from Scrooge's office looked like ghosts.

The door to Scrooge's room stood open so he could keep an eye

- 1 笼罩
- 2 咳嗽着,喘着粗气
- 3 跺着脚
- 4 闪闪烁烁
- 5 职员
- 6 房间的一个小角落
- 7 只不过是块煤

on his clerk⁵, Mr. Cratchit. This man sat in a tiny cell of a room⁶, copying letters. Scrooge had a very small fire in his fireplace, but Mr. Cratchit's fire was nothing more than one coal⁷. And every time Mr. Cratchit came into Scrooge's office to get more coal,



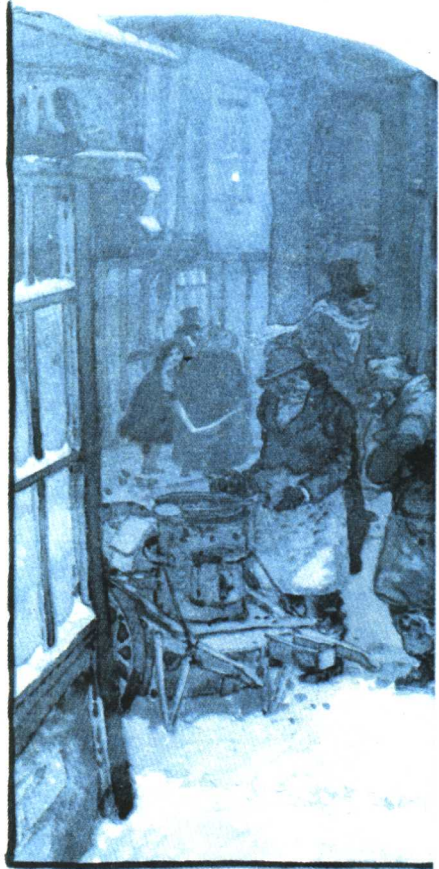
A Christmas Carol

Scrooge told him not to take any since it was almost time to go home. So Mr. Cratchit was trying to keep warm from the candle, but this didn't work very well.

"A merry Christmas, Uncle! God save you and bless you!" a cheerful¹ voice cried out. Who was this? It was Scrooge's nephew², who had arrived so suddenly he had caught even Scrooge by surprise³.

"Bah!⁴" Scrooge said. "Bah humbug!⁵"

- 1 快乐的
- 2 侄子
- 3 使……吃了一惊
- 4 呸!
- 5 鬼话! 骗子!







Merry Christmas

Scrooge's nephew was a grown man. He had warmed himself up by walking so fast and now his eyes sparkled¹. His face had a healthy glow² which made him look handsome. When he opened his mouth to speak again, his breath came out like smoke in the cold room. "You don't mean that, Uncle! How can you call Christmas a humbug?"

"I do," said Scrooge. "Merry Christmas! What right do you have to be merry?³ Why, you're poor enough."

His nephew smiled at Scrooge. "Well then, what right do you have to be so gloomy? Why, you're rich enough."

Scrooge could not think of an answer fast enough, so again he sputtered⁴, "Bah! Bah humbug!"

- 1 眼睛放着光
- 2 他的脸色红红的
- 3 你有什么权利快乐?
- 4 说话时喷唾沫星子
- 5 不高兴;尖刻
- 6 去你的圣诞快乐吧
- 7 付账

"Oh don't be cross⁵, Uncle," his nephew said.

"What else can I be," Scrooge said, "when I live in such a world of fools. Hah! Out with merry Christmas⁶, that's what I say. Christmas time is nothing but a time to pay bills⁷