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魔法英语



新概念阅读

主编/刘石才 黄传军 审读/【英】Robert Swaim

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第4辑

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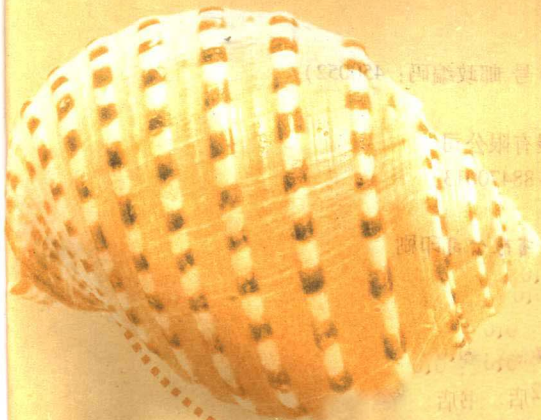
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第4辑



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A

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在新的世纪,国内英语教学正发生着日新月异的变化,广大教师和学生对中学英语教辅读物出版创新的呼声也此起彼伏;中学英语教辅需要精品,需要品牌,需要从更远、更新的角度重新打造!魔法英语的出现,为中学英语教辅的历史翻开了新的一页。



美国蒙登戈国际语言研究中心、英国剑桥国际语言研究院等国内外十多所英语教育研究机构积极参与,北京四中、黄冈中学、华东师大附中、清华大学附中等国内几十所重点中学鼎力协助,一百多位英语教育专家及知名特高级教师联手缔造……魔法英语,已悄然走在中学英语教辅的最前沿,成为一个全新的中学英语教辅品牌!一个真正由专家打造的具有国际品质的中学英语教辅品牌!

魔法英语横空出世,骤然引起广大教师和学生的关注,得到社会各界读者的厚爱,这对我们实在是一种莫大的鼓励。我们本意旨在给中学生提供一个崭新的学习平台,为每位读者所付出的时间和期待提供丰厚的回报。在这里,最不能释怀的是我们对中学英语教育的敏锐察觉和积累,我们力求通过不懈的努力,让“魔法英语——解放中学生的英语,让英语学习变得如此简单”的思想光芒,照耀每位读者!

我们与读者的心是相通的,同广大一线教师的心是相通的。现在,我们付出的每一份努力,都得到了广大教师和读者的支持和肯定。面对这些勉励和关怀,我们将会以百倍的努力来报答。未来我们会做得更好!这是我们的目标,也是我们不变的承诺。

魔法英语愿做中学生学习英语的最佳助手,最贴心的朋友!让魔法英语伴随着我们的幸福、快乐和回忆,一起成长!

Preface

前言

你寻找——在书海里浏览，在网际间搜索；
 你要读——金子般的语言，还有气象万千的故事；
 你渴望——睿智与幽默、诙谐与风趣、开怀的笑和凝神的思考；
 你快乐，你飞奔——终于找到它了，这枚沙粒中斑斓的贝壳。
 这是枚具有神奇魔法的贝壳——它将开启知识仓库的大门，引
 领你迈入英语阅读的大千世界——

动物世界——凶猛的鲨鱼、温柔的大象和服兵役的海豚小姐

昆虫世界——大力神小蚂蚁、美丽的蝴蝶和印度的食人蜂

世界之谜——宝藏的传说、历险奇观和极地探险

世界掠影——建筑瑰宝、历史名城和光怪陆离的地理景观

异域风情——风俗礼仪、节日习俗和饮食文化

流行时尚——现代服饰、影视巨星、流行音乐与歌手

星际空间——太空旅行和宇宙天体奇观

人类文明——史前文明和现代科技前沿

星相奇缘——缘分的天空和星座的传说

运动保健——保健知识、医学新知和体育运动

成功故事——发明故事和名人趣事

学校生活——异国同龄人的学习和多彩人生

科学之谜——物理奇观、原子世界、天文奇观

……

当你困乏的时候，它会带你到放松驿站，那里有精美的糕点、笑
 话、幽默和精美的图片。

它就是《魔法英语新概念阅读》。





Preface

前言

为什么你从未享受到英语阅读的快乐？因为你一直没能找到一本像《魔法英语新概念阅读》这样能让你拥抱快乐的阅读宝典。

这套磨砺已久的《魔法英语新概念阅读》的面市，将圆你快乐英语阅读之梦，让你告别英语阅读枯燥而乏味的遗憾。

来吧，朋友！不要让它与你失之交臂——你没有理由去体验追悔莫及的感受，赶快飞奔向前，乘上这趟快乐巴士，我们一起驶向英语阅读的快乐大本营。让这套阅读丛书与你一同快乐和进步，伴你度过中学英语学习的黄金时光！

如果你是一个初次涉猎英语阅读的朋友，我们也会特别关照，为文中的生词和难点配有注释，你不必翻阅字典就可以阅读；我们也提请朋友们注意，即使有的单词已经遗忘或者还未学过，你也可以借助上下文来推测词义，不要太频繁地停顿而影响了阅读连贯性；不要苛求把一切句子和单词都读懂，因为那永远都不是阅读的目的——你的阅读目的是获取信息，培养阅读的习惯与乐趣，不要太在乎到底读懂了多少，只要持之以恒，每天都能取得进步，虽然这种进步你自己并没有察觉。

我们从不忘记让你享受快乐阅读的人，包括我们的作者、编辑以及众多制作人员；我们特别鸣谢为本书提供宝贵资料和帮助的人和作者，感谢他们倾情和无私的奉献！

最后祝各位朋友阅读快乐！

编者

2003年11月





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Who Told the Biggest Lie?

谁的谎言最大?

一位教士本想教育孩子们要心地善良，对人诚实，不说谎话，可自己却在无意中说出了最大的谎言。你知道这位教士说了一句什么话吗？

One day a minister was walking down the street when suddenly he came across a group of boys, all of whom were between 10 and 12 years of age.

The group surrounded a dog. Feeling anxious about the boys hurting the dog, he went over and asked, "What are you doing with that dog?"

One of the boys replied, "This dog is just wandering about in the street. We all want him, but only one of us can take him home. So we've decided that the dog should belong to the one who can tell the biggest lie."

Of course, the minister was astonished at the decision. "You boys shouldn't be having a contest telling lies!" he exclaimed. He then cried out against lying for ten minutes, beginning with, "Don't you know it's wrong to lie?" and ending with, "Why, when I was your age, I never told a lie."

There was complete silence for about a minute. Just as the minister was beginning to think he'd talked them over, the smallest boy gave a deep sign and said, "All right, give him the dog."



Notes

minister *n.* 牧师

exclaim *v.* 惊叫; 大叫

talk sb. over 说服某人使其听从自己的意见

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魔法英语新概念阅读(第4辑).....



Comprehension questions

1. The children were discussing _____ to do with the dog.
2. The children decided that _____ would get to keep the dog.
A. the one who was honest B. the minister
C. whichever of them could tell the biggest lie
D. the smallest boy
3. The children believed _____.
A. what the minister said B. the minister was honest
C. the minister was the biggest liar D. the minister had never told a lie



巧问妙答



A: Why is it easier to wash a mirror than a window?

B: Because a window has two sides.



幽默笑话

- A: It's said that your son in college is quite a writer. Does he write for money?
B: Yes, in every letter.



keys

1. what 2. C 3. C



About Dreams.....



About Dreams

梦意趣谈

梦，是人们在睡眠时局部大脑皮层没有完全停止活动而引起的脑中的表象活动，是人人都会做的一件很平常的事。但有的时候，你梦醒时会感到心旷神怡，回味无穷；有的时候，你会大汗淋漓，心存恐惧。那么，一个人的梦境对现实生活会有什么样的影响？又会预示着什么呢？

Did you dream last night? What did you dream about? You might not remember your dreams, but people usually dream four to six times a night. Dreams can be short, only about ten minutes, or can continue for an hour or more. People dream in color.

At times, we all remember a dream. In our dreams, we might take a trip or look back at our childhood. We might run away from a tiger or see a terrible accident. Someone we love might die.

What is the meaning of these dreams? Many psychologists believe that dreams are “night work”. They help us look at situations and fears in our daily lives. In our dreams, we face problems and try to solve them. We look at our fears. We try out different personalities; at times we might be aggressive and talkative and at other times we might be frightened and shy.

We often dream in symbols. Symbols are pictures that stand for or mean something else. A king and a queen might represent our parents. Small animals might stand for children. A long journey might mean we are worried about death or the death of someone in our family. If we are crossing a river, it might mean that we are at an important decision or time in our lives. If we get across the river in the dream, we believe we will be successful. If we do not make it across, we are afraid of failure.

We can have the same dream over and over. The dream may always be the same or it might have different endings. Our minds are working and playing, making movies about our lives.

Notes

psychologist *n.* 心理学家
symbol *n.* 标志；象征

aggressive *adj.* 好争吵的

Magic

魔法英语新概念阅读(第4辑)



Comprehension questions

- The passage suggests that _____.
A. someone doesn't dream at night B. everyone doesn't dream at night
C. you don't dream last night D. everyone dreams at night
- Many psychologists think that dreams _____.
A. are harmful to health
B. are an important part in our lives
C. help us look at situations and fears in our daily lives
D. can solve all the problems in our lives
- What we dream in the dreams _____.
A. usually suggest what will happen in our lives
B. are about something that happened in real life
C. are usually pictures that stand for or mean something else
D. are usually the same as what happen in real life

幽默笑话



Kindheart

Mr. Smith is walking in the street at night. Suddenly a man stops him and asks him.

Man: Excuse me, can you tell me if there are any policemen near here?

Mr. Smith: No, there aren't.

Man: Can we find a policeman quickly from here?

Mr. Smith: No, we can't.

Man: OK! Hands out your watch and money quickly, or I'll kill you.

巧问妙答

Q: What's the difference between a monkeys and a flea?

A: A monkey can have fleas, but a flea can't have monkeys.

Note-----■

flea *n.* 跳蚤



keys

1. D 2. C 3. C



Bill Gates and His Kingdom

比尔·盖茨和他的微软帝国

许多年轻人都怀有这样一个梦想——虽白手起家，却能创业成功，拥有大量的财富。他们的偶像不是歌星、球星，而是像李嘉诚、松下幸之助、比尔·盖茨等财星。让我们从比尔·盖茨的奋斗史中寻找创业的那一份艰辛与执著吧，也许对事业的执着追求比追求财富更具有人生价值。

Bill Gates was born in 1955 in Seattle. He took great interest in computer in 1967. His father later said that Bill was completely crazy about it.

While still in high school, he and two other friends founded the Lakeside Programming Group. One of Bill's first programs was to make class timetable at his school, and he earned \$4,200 for this project.



Shortly after, he entered Harvard as a law student. He later left Harvard at the urging of his friend, Paul Allen. He felt the computer field was wide open for them, so they both moved to New Mexico. It was in 1975 that Microsoft Software was started. Later that company failed and they had to sell their products to other firms.

Their big break came when the Tandy Corporation hired Microsoft to develop software for Radio Shack. During this period they removed the company back to Seattle. Another big break came when IBM contracted Gates about developing an operating system.

They started Microsoft in 1975 and by 1978 they had earned \$4 million in sales. By 1980 it had grown to \$16 million. By 1983, 40% of all computers used Microsoft software and today the figures are even higher. In 1987 Bill Gates became the youngest billionaire in history. His goal is "to have a computer on every desk and in every house all running Microsoft Software".

Magic

魔法英语新概念阅读(第4辑).....

Notes

Seattle *n.* 西雅图

Harvard *n.* 哈佛大学

contract *v.* 签约

program *n.* 程序

break *n.* 转机, 突破

billionaire *n.* 亿万富翁



Comprehension questions

Right or wrong?

1. Bill Gates majored in computer when in Harvard.
2. Microsoft Software was started in 1975 in Seattle.
3. Bill Gates didn't finish his college study.

幽默笑话



Jack: Tom's wife thought she was too fat and she rode a horse every day for a month.

Fred: So she got thinner a month later?

Jack: No, not she, but the horse lost 40kg.

绕口令

There are thirty thousand feathers on that thrush's throat.

Note-----v-----■

thrush *n.* 画眉



keys

1. ×
2. ×
3. √