

世界名著英文简本读物系列·第一辑

NICHOLAS NICKLEBY

尼古拉斯·尼克贝

〔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,而且还因为它们的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《鲁宾逊漂流记》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.



Nicholas Nickleby

Nicholas Nickleby



After his father's death, Nicholas survives the hardships of his boarding school and goes on to become an actor in a travelling theatre troupe.

Throughout it all, he must battle against the evil ways of his uncle. As he takes on the responsibility of caring for his younger sister and widowed mother, Nicholas grows from a boy into a man.

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.

Fosé 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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Nicholas Nickleby

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Introduces the Nicklebys¹

There once lived in a quiet part of the Devonshire countryside in England, a man named Godfrey Nickleby. He **married late in life**² and only earned eighty pounds per year. After five years he had two sons, but still not very much money. And then one morning he received a **blackbordered letter**³ with the news that his rich uncle, Ralph Nickleby, had fallen by accident and died. This uncle left Godfrey no less than five thousand pounds **sterling**⁴.

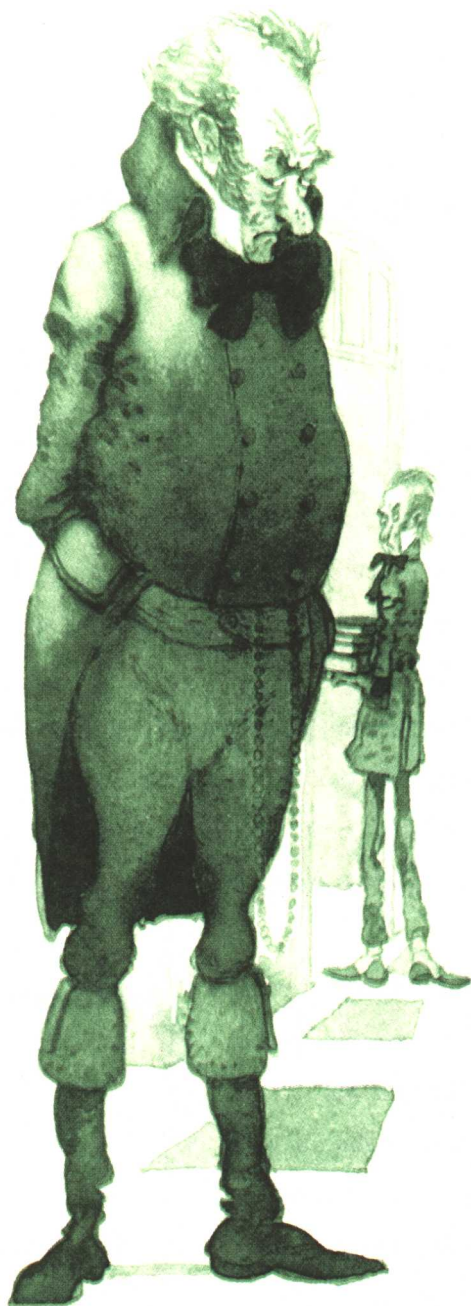
So Godfrey bought a small farm and lived there happily with his wife and two sons until he died. Godfrey had been so careful with his money that when he died, he could leave three thousand pounds to his elder son, Ralph, and one thousand and the farm to his younger son Nicholas.

Ralph believed that riches were the only true source of happiness and power. He also believed it was lawful to take money from others in any way he could, **just short of breaking the law**⁵. So he built up quite a business for himself in London. He let

- 1 尼克贝一家
- 2 结婚很晚
- 3 加上黑边的信(通知死亡的信)
- 4 英镑
- 5 只是不要违犯法律



Nicholas Nickleby



others borrow money at high interest¹, then took advantage of people in debt² and broke³ them. He was a usurer⁴.

Ralph did not have many friends, even though he was immensely⁵ rich. There was something in the very wrinkles⁶ of his face which told of a deep and evil cunning⁷.

The only person he had any regular contact⁸ with was his clerk⁹, Newman Noggs. There had been a time when Newman was a gentleman and had owned horses and dogs. But he had spent all his money, then borrowed from Ralph, and fallen deeper into debt. After that, Newman took to drinking¹⁰ and became partly paralyzed¹¹, so that he could only walk with a limp¹². Around that time Ralph decided Newman had to pay him back. So Newman lost everything and was forced to work off his debt¹³ as Ralph's clerk for many, many years to come. Newman became a man of few words who felt great bitterness toward his employer¹⁴.

The younger Nickleby brother, Nicholas, was quiet and peaceful, content¹⁵ with his life in the country. He eventually got married and the good lady bore him a son and a daughter. When the son was about nineteen and the daughter about fourteen, Nicholas decided it was time to see if he could make some more money. Most of what his father had

- 1 利息很高
- 2 欠债
- 3 使……破产
- 4 高利贷者
- 5 非常
- 6 皱纹
- 7 狡诈
- 8 经常接触
- 9 职员
- 10 开始酗酒
- 11 瘫痪
- 12 一瘸一拐地
- 13 以工作还债
- 14 雇主
- 15 满足



left him had been spent on his family and the children's education.

"Speculate¹ with it," his wife told him.

Mr. Nickleby said, "But what if we should lose it, then we would have nothing to live off², my dear."

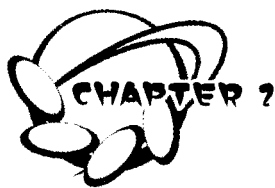
"Fiddlesticks³," said Mrs. Nickleby. "Young Nicholas is old enough to do something for himself, but he needs money to get started. And Kate, poor girl, think of her without a penny in the world! Think of your brother! Would Ralph be as rich as he is today if he had never speculated?"

"That's right," Mr. Nickleby said. "All right, I'll do it." Now speculating is a risky⁴ business, it means spending all your money on one thing which *may* bring in large profits⁵, but it may also bring in losses. And this is what happened to Mr. Nickleby. The run of luck⁶ went against him and he lost everything he owned.

When this happened, Mr. Nickleby started babbling⁷ wildly. And one day, he called his family around him, hugged⁸ his wife and children, then fell asleep and never woke up again.

- ① 做风险投资
- ② 赖以生活
- ③ 胡说
- ④ 冒险的
- ⑤ 利润
- ⑥ 命运之流
- ⑦ 喋喋不休
- ⑧ 拥抱





How Mr. Ralph Nickleby Likes Young Nicholas

Newman Noggs caught up with¹ his employer as he was walking down the street. “Here,” he said, handing a letter to Mr. Ralph Nickleby. As usual, Newman didn’t say much. “This came. Black wax, black border, woman’s hand.²”

Mr. Nickleby grunted³, “Black wax?” He glanced at the letter. “I know this handwriting. I wouldn’t be surprised if my brother were dead.”

“I don’t think you would,” said Newman quietly.

Mr. Nickleby snatched⁴ the letter from him. “Humph. He is dead,” was all he said as he walked away.

Newman came up next to him. “Children alive?”

“That’s the worst part. They are. And his wife too. And all three of them have come here to London, Newman. The breath is no sooner out of my brother when I⁵ am being asked to take care of a grown boy and girl and his wife. What are they to me? Nothing.”

- ① 追赶上
- ② 黑蜡、黑边、女人的笔迹。
- ③ 嘟囔
- ④ 一把抓住
- ⑤ 我的兄弟刚断气，我就……

This news interested Newman Noggs very much. He made very strange faces, almost as if he were laughing at his employer behind his back.

Mr. Ralph Nickleby must have sensed¹ something because he turned around and looked at his clerk as if he were a dog. "Go home!" he bellowed². Newman slunk³ away and disappeared into the crowd.

Ralph Nickleby changed his route⁴ and went straight to the address which had been on the letter. He knocked at the door, told the landlady⁵ the widow⁶ who was staying with her would not be able to pay her rent⁷ much longer, then he went upstairs to meet his sister-in-law. He entered the room and saw a lady all dressed in black, leaning on⁸ a very beautiful girl of about seventeen. A young man stepped forward and greeted Ralph as his uncle.

"Oh," growled⁹ Ralph, "you must be young Nicholas."

"Yes sir."

Ralph turned to his sister-in-law, who was holding a handkerchief to her eyes. "Come, come, husbands die every day."

"And brothers also, sir," said Nicholas.

Ralph ignored¹⁰ him. "What did my brother die of, ma'am¹¹?"

"A broken heart," she sobbed¹².

- 1 感觉到
- 2 咆哮;大声喊
- 3 溜走
- 4 路线
- 5 女房东
- 6 寡妇
- 7 租金
- 8 靠在……身上
- 9 声音低沉地说
- 10 不答理
- 11 夫人
- 12 啜泣



1 突然转身

2 轻蔑地

“There’s no such thing! Why is it, that if a man can’t pay his debts everyone says he died of a broken heart?”

“Some people have no hearts to break,”

Nicholas said quietly.

“How old is this boy?” Ralph whirled¹ around and pointed scornfully² at Nicholas.

“Nicholas is almost nineteen,” his mother said.

“Old enough to make a living for himself and not live off his mother.” Nicholas looked angrily at his uncle.

