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四级	800 - 1000	PET	初中二年级	15
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六级	2000	FCE	高中一年级	14
七级	2500 — 3000	FCE	高中二年级	9
八级	3500	CAE	高中三年级	8

ISBN 7-5083-2841-8









ISBN 7-5083-2841-8

定价:9.00π

阅读空间 · 新课标英语分级读物



--第7级--

The Cricket on the Hearth

壁炉上的蟋蟀

原著: Charles Dickens

翻译: 王秀珍

译审: 侯 坤

中国电力出版社 www.sidf.com.cn



京权图字 01-2004-5899

图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

壁炉上的蟋蟀 = The Cricket on the Hearth / (英) 狄更斯 (Dickens, C.) 著: 王秀珍译, —北京: 中国电力出版社, 2005

(阅读空间·新课标英语分级读物·7级)

ISBN 7-5083-2841-8

I. 壁··· II. ①狄···②王·· III. 英语—阅读教学—中学—课外读物 IV. G634.413

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2004) 第 107342 号

The Cricket on the Hearth by Charles Dickens

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责任编辑;赵筱妹

出版发行:中国电力出版社

社 址:北京市西城区三里河路 6 号 (100044)

网 址: http://www.sjdf.com.cn

印 刷:北京地矿印刷厂

开尺寸本: 130 × 200

印 张: 7.5

字 数: 216 千字

版 次: 2005年11月第1版, 2005年11月第1次印刷

书 号: ISBN 7-5083-2841-8

定 价: 9.00元

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这是一套针对英语为外语的学生而出版的世界文学名著分级读物。丛书的编写紧密结合新《英语课程标准》的要求,按难易程度分为6个级别,适合3至8级(即初一至高三)学生的阅读需求,帮助学生在语言技能、语言知识、学习策略和文化意识等方面达到新课标的培养目标。

这套书的英文注释版出版后,引起社会广泛关注,被迅速选定为国家教育部专项任务项目——"中小学英语真实阅读教学推广实验"的推荐用书;经中国教育学会外语教学专业委员会推荐,各地中小学英语教研员和教师正积极参与课题实验。相信该英汉对照版同样会成为各层次读者英语学习的首选。

丛书主要有以下特点:

囊括西方经典文学名著,在帮助学生提高语言水平的同时, 能通过阅读与自己外语水平相当的简写本一窥文学名著之全貌。

按新课标分级,英汉对照版的各册词汇量从700词到3500词,满足中学生的阅读需要。语言难度循序渐进,有助于教师拓展学生的语言知识和文化背景信息,提升学生的英语阅读技能。

语言浅显、生动、地道,以英汉对照的形式出版,既保留了英文的原汁原味,中英文双语又可为读者在阅读英文时扫除语言障碍,能够充分调动读者的阅读兴趣,使英语阅读更轻松。

希望本丛书能够高效地增强我国学生的英语阅读能力,提升 他们的文学素养。













随着国家《英语课程标准》的颁布和实施,中小学英语教学进入了一个新的阶段。新课标对学生课外阅读量和阅读目标都提出了更高的要求。作为课堂阅读的继续和延伸,课外阅读是中学英语阅读教学中的一个重要环节。新课标对课外阅读的新要求需要广大英语教师更好地解决以下三个问题:

- ** 如何激发和持久地保持学生的阅读兴趣?
- 如何将课外阅读活动与课堂阅读活动有效地结合?
- 如何在有限的课堂教学指导下监控和评价学生的课外阅读效果?要解决上述问题,可以从以下几个方面考虑:

阅读选材 阅读材料的题材和难度是影响学生阅读兴趣的主要因素,因此教师在选择和推荐课外阅读材料时,首先应注意阅读材料是否符合学生的认知水平和语言水平,并在两者间找到平衡点。许多材料容易读懂,但对该年龄段的学生可能内容太过浅显,引不起学生的兴趣;也许材料符合学生的心理和认知水平,但语言太难,使学生望而却步。另外,阅读材料还应给学生提供更多的英语国家文化背景知识。许多英语文学名著、寓言故事等在英语国家家喻户晓,人们在言谈、写作时往往予以引用,如同我们引用古诗词和成语一样。如果学生对此毫不了解,就会造成交流和理解上的困难。这套百本之巨的《阅读空间·新课标英语分级读物》(西方文学名著系列)是在《英语课程标准》推广以来出版规模最大的一套中小学生英语阅读丛书,选题的设计者严格按照新课标的各个级别遴选阅读材料,提倡让英语阅读更轻松、更系统、更高效,这样的主导思想和策划方案无疑是正确的。这套丛书分级明确,语言浅显、地道,且与《英语课程标准》的分级标准相匹配,教师可以根据学生的外语水平和兴趣爱好帮助学生选择。

练习活动 阅读的练习和活动形式也是影响学生阅读兴趣的另一个重要因素。在以往的阅读教学中,由于教学时间的限制和应试的压力,阅读的练习和活动形式往往局限于单一的限时应试练习,给学生带来很强的压迫感,严重地影响了他们的阅读兴趣。因此,教师应该设计类型丰富、形式活泼的练习与活动,使学生从被动的阅读者转变为积极的参

与者,并使学生获得更多实践英语和使用英语的机会,如此才能激发和增强他们的阅读热情和兴趣。《阅读空间·新课标英语分级读物》丛书检测方式灵活,其多样化的阅读训练题型,对有意识地培养学生正确的学习策略很有意义。这套丛书的检测训练层级清晰,从初级的看图配话、趣味学用、拼字游戏、常识判断,到较深层的读前思考、推论归纳、背景探索,加上组对练习与互动讨论,明确地突出了学生语言应用能力的培养。

系统性与连续性 阅读材料的系統性,是指根据《英语课程标准》,从语言知识、语言技能、文化意识和学习策略等几个方面,对阅读材料的进行科学分级,使学生能够循序渐进,拾级而上。阅读材料的连续性,则是指阅读材料的篇幅和内容的关联性能够让课堂阅读活动延续并拓展到课外。阅读教学中经常采用的短篇限时阅读,虽然容易控制时间,提高阅读速度,但是因学生的阅读能力存在差异而不能"面向全体",且阅读限时和单一的应试练习形式也很难将课堂阅读活动延伸到课外。市面上的英文名著简写本版本虽多,但像《阅读空间·新课标英语分级读物》这样内容系统、分级明确,并配有大量形式多样、活泼的分项练习的,确实不多。它弥补了短篇阅读理解内容相对独立,不具有连续性的缺陷,使阅读活动能够从课堂延伸到课外。学生可以自己选择他们喜欢的、适合自己水平的读本,教师可以通过诸如写故事梗概、预测故事情节、进行小组讨论等多样、互动的阅读练习与活动,将学生在课堂中的思维延伸到课外,并在下一次课堂教学中检验和评价学生上一次课外阅读活动的结果。

希望有更多的一线教师积极总结自身的教学经验,广泛开展和参与阅读教学的课题研究与探讨,总结出更好、更有效率的阅读教学方法。

中国教育学会外语教学专业委员会理事长 人民教育出版社外语分社社长

> 龚亚夫 2004年 4 月 18 日





查尔斯·狄更斯(1812—1870)是英国文学史上最享有盛名、最多产、最受欢迎的小说家之一。他是家里的八个孩子之一,由于父亲收入低、入不敷出,全家得在财务困境中挣扎。他的童年主要在肯特州的占松度过,他的很多作品即以英格兰的这片土地为背景。

查尔斯在即将步入青年之时,他跟家人返回了伦敦,在那里,他父亲被关进了马夏尔西的债务人监狱。查尔斯随即被送去工作,这个时期的经历在他身上留下了深深的烙印,并反映在他的作品中,尤其是在《大卫·科波菲尔》一书中。

他最早成功出版的是一系列短篇作品,起初发表在不同的期刊上,后来这些作品收进了《"博茲"札记》(1836)一书中,以及《匹克威克外传》这本于1836年至1837年间以连载形式出版的文集中。在《匹克威克外传》里,那些让人难忘的角色迅速广泛地吸引了公众,使得狄更斯很快就成为全国人民的最爱。

狄更斯作品的主要特点是把社会评论和幽默融为一体。由于他善于把握对喜剧场景的感觉,因而他的小说主题的冷酷常会得以调和,人物在心理上不是特别复杂,而是突显的、令人难忘的,他们一直以来都与当今一样为人们所熟知。然而,随着他年纪的增长,其小说的喜剧成分却多少有些让步于对社会不公的猛烈抨击了。

他最著名的小说包括《雾都孤儿》(1838)、《尼古拉斯·尼克贝》(1839)、《大。卫·科波菲尔》(1850)、《荒凉山庄》(1853)、《艰难时世》(1854)、《双城记》。(1859) 和《远大前程》(1862)。有时狄更斯因为在写作中过于感情化而受到批。评——但是他知道这种感伤情绪对读者很有吸引力。也有人批判狄更斯以连载的形式出版他的小说,然而,这却是他能够保持引发公众兴趣、保证成功的另一种方式。

狄更斯 58 岁与世长辞,未能完成他的最后一部小说《艾德温·德鲁德之谜》。他 去世后被安葬在威斯敏斯特修道院的诗人角一地。

《壁炉上的蟋蟀》(1845)是狄更斯第三本深受欢迎的圣诞书目。在这个内容涉及夫妻之爱和父母之爱的简易而又吸引人的故事中,狄更斯展开了他早期的一个想法:把一只朴实无华、活泼快乐的蟋蟀勾勒成一个神奇的观察家和评论家去品评家庭琐事。尽管某些当代批评家谴责狄更斯的多愁善感、

幼稚平庸,大多数人却很欣赏贯穿在这个迷人故事当中的那种亲切、温暖和同情,事实证明它的魅力巨大

无边、持久不变。

THE CRICKET ON THE HEARTH

A Fairy Tale of Home

To

LORD JEFFREY

this little story is inscribed with the affection and attachment of his friend

THE AUTHOR
December 1845

CHARA CTERS

JOHN PEERYBINGLE, a carrier, a lumbering, slow, honest man CALEB PLUMMER, a poor old toymaker, in the employ of Tackleton

EDWARD PLUMMER, son of the preceding

TACKLETON (called "Gruff and Tackleton"), a stern, ill-natured, sarcastic toy-merchant

MAY FIELDING, a friend of Mrs. Peerybingle

MRS. FIELDING, her mother, a little, peevish, querulous old lady

MRS. MARY PEERYBINGLE ("Dot"), John Peerybingle's wife

BERTHAPLUMMER, a blind girl; daughter of Caleb Plummer

TILLY SLOWBOY, a great clumsy girl; Mrs. Peerybingle's nursemaid

壁炉上的蟋蟀

一部家庭童话

献给杰弗瑞阁下

这个小故事铭记了他朋友对他的关爱和忠诚

作者记

1845年 12 月

人 物

约翰·皮埃瑞宾格,一个笨拙、迟缓、老实巴交的运货夫

卡莱勃·普拉默,一个贫穷、年老的玩具制造者,受雇于塔克尔顿

爱德华·普拉默,卡莱勃·普拉默的儿子

塔克尔顿(又称为"古卤夫和塔克尔顿"),是一个粗暴、坏脾气、 喜欢讽刺挖苦别人的玩具商人

梅·费尔丁, 皮埃瑞宾格夫人的朋友

费尔丁夫人,梅·费尔丁的母亲,一个小个子、易怒、爱发牢骚的 老太太

玛丽·皮埃瑞宾格夫人 ("小不点儿"), 约翰·皮埃瑞宾格的夫人 **贝莎·普拉默**, 盲人少女, 卡莱勃·普拉默的女儿

蒂利·斯洛博伊,一个非常笨拙的女孩,皮埃瑞宾格夫人的女佣

Chirp the First

The Kettle began it! Don't tell me what Mrs. Peerybingle said. I know better. Mrs. Peerybingle may leave it on record to the end of time that she couldn't say which of them began it but I say the Kettle did. I ought to know, I hope? The Kettle began it full five minutes by the little waxy-faced Dutch clock in the corner before the Cricket uttered a chirp.

As if the clock hadn't finished striking, and the convulsive little Haymaker at the top of it, jerking away right and left with a scythe in front of a Moorish Palace, hadn't mowed down half an acre of imaginary grass before the Cricket joined in at all!

Why, I am not naturally positive. Every one knows that. I wouldn't set my own opinion against the opinion of Mrs. Peerybingle, unless I were quite sure, on any account whatever. Nothing should induce me. But this is a question of fact. And the fact is, that the Kettle began it, at least five minutes before the Cricket gave any sign of being in existence. Contradict me, and I'll say ten.

Let me narrate exactly how it happened. I should have proceeded to do so in my very first word, but for this plain consideration — if I am to tell a story I must begin at the beginning; and how is it possible to begin at the beginning, without beginning at the Kettle?

It appeared as if there were a sort of match, or trial of skill you must understand, between the Kettle and the Cricket. And this is















哩 哩 第一声

是水壶先出声的!别告诉我皮埃瑞宾格夫人说了些什么。 我比你更清楚。皮埃瑞宾格夫人可能一如她以往的样子, 最终 也说不清是哪一个先出声的、不过我要说、是水壶先出声的。 我希望,我应该知道?按照墙角处那只装饰着面容焦躁的小荷 兰人的时钟计算,在水壶已经开始响了足足有五分钟之后,蟋 蟀才开始嗶嗶叫的。

就好像在蟋蟀参加鸣唱以前,那只小钟还没有报完时似 的,就好像钟顶上的那个小割草人抽风般拿着镰刀在摩尔式宫 殿前边左一跳、右一跳地、还没有割完半英亩那想象中的青草 似的。

噢,我不是生性就这样独断的,人人都明白这一点。除非 是十分有把握,要不然我是无论如何也不会让自己的观点与皮 埃瑞宾格夫人的观点相冲突。没有什么诱使我这样做。但这是 一个非常现实的问题。事实就是,在蟋蟀还没有显示出一点存 在的迹象之前, 水壶就至少已经叫了五分钟了。要是我有不苟 同之处, 那就是我说叫了有十分钟了。

让我来准确地描述一下这是怎么回事吧。刚开始时. 我真 应当先那样讲的,但是出于一个简单的考虑——我要是打算讲 故事,就得从头开始:不过,如果不从水壶讲起,又怎么可能 算从头开始呢?

看来、在水壶和蟋蟀之间好像有一种你必须理解的配合或 是技巧。这就是这件事情发生的源由和方式。













what led to it and how it came about.

Mrs. Peerybingle going out into the raw twilight, and clicking over the wet stones in a pair of pattens that worked innumerable rough impressions of the first proposition in Euclid all about the yard — Mrs. Peerybingle filled the Kettle at the water-butt. Presently returning, less the pattens (and a good deal less, for they were tall and Mrs. Peerybingle was but short) she set the Kettle on the fire. In doing which she lost her temper, or mislaid it for an instant; for, the water — being uncomfortably cold, and in that slippery, slushy, sleety sort of state wherein it seems to penetrate through every kind of substance, patten rings included — had laid hold of Mrs. Peerybingle's toes, and even splashed her legs. And when we rather plume ourselves (with reason too) upon our legs, and keep ourselves particularly neat in point of stockings, we find this, for the moment, hard to bear.

Besides, the Kettle was aggravating and obstinate. It wouldn't allow itself to be adjusted on the top bar, it wouldn't hear of accommodating itself kindly to the knobs of coal; it would lean for ward with a drunken air, and dribble, a very Idiot of a Kettle, on the hearth. It was quarrelsome, and hissed and spluttered morosely at the fire. To sum up all, the lid, resisting Mrs. Peerybingle's fingers, first of all turned topsy-turvy, and then, with an ingenious pertinacity deserving of a better cause, dived sideways in — down to the very bottom of the Kettle. And the hull of the Royal George has never made half the monstrous resistance to coming out of the water, which the lid of that Kettle employed against Mrs. Peerybingle, before she













皮埃瑞宾格夫人走出屋外,进入那阴寒的黄昏里,木底鞋"咔嗒咔嗒"地踩在潮湿的石头上,踩得院子里到处都是那数也数不清的欧几里得几何学第一命题似的粗糙痕迹——皮埃瑞宾格夫人在大水桶边把水添加到水壶里。她很快又回来了——没有穿那双木底鞋(她个子矮多了,因为木鞋的鞋跟很高而皮埃瑞宾格夫人却身材矮小)——把水壶放在火上。放水壶时,她生气了,或许是那一瞬间没有把水壶放好;因为水冰冷得令人难受,在那种湿漉漉、滑溜溜的雨夹雪的天气里,它似乎能穿透任何物质,包括木底鞋的鞋环——水泡到了皮埃瑞宾格夫人的脚趾上,甚至还溅湿了她的腿。当我们颇为自鸣得意于有一双美腿(肯定会有理由的)——尤其是事关长袜子——需要保持得特别干净时,我们就会发现这种时刻的这种事情让人难以容忍。

此外,水壶也是怒火冲天、顽固不化的。它不会允许自己受制于顶架杆,也不会让自己和和气气地去通融那些煤球;它会像喝醉了似的摇摇晃晃地斜着身子,把水滴洒在壁炉上,真是十足的傻瓜水壶。它愠怒地发出"嘶嘶"的响声,然后闷闷不乐地把水溅到火上。一句话,壶盖不听皮埃瑞宾格夫人手指的指挥,先是乱转一气,然后固执中又有一股机灵之气,使得这种固执也有了更好的理由——侧着身子掉下去了,掉到壶底了。沉没的旗舰"皇家乔治号"的船身在出水时,那猛烈的抵抗绝对不及壶盖所做的一半,这只壶盖在皮埃瑞宾格夫人重新把它捞起来之前,却这样跟她狠斗了一场。















got it up again.

It looked sullen and pig-headed enough, even then; carrying its handle with an air of defiance, and cocking its spout pertly and mockingly at Mrs. Peerybingle, as if it said, "I won't boil. Nothing shall induce me!"

But Mrs. Peerybingle, with restored good humour, dusted her chubby little hands against each other, and sat down before the Kettle, laughing. Meantime, the jolly blaze uprose and fell, flashing and gleaming on the little Haymaker at the top of the Dutch clock, until one might have thought he stood stock still before the Moorish Palace, and nothing was in motion but the flame.

He was on the move, however; and had his spasms, two to the second, all right and regular. But his sufferings, when the clock was going to strike, were frightful to behold; and when a Cuckoo looked out of a trap-door in the Palace, and gave note six times, it shook him, each time, like a spectral voice — or like a something wiry, plucking at his legs.

It was not until a violent commotion and a whirring noise among the weights and ropes below him had quite subsided, that this terrified Haymaker became himself again. Nor was he startled without reason; for these rattling, bony skeletons of clocks are very disconcerting in their operation, and I wonder very much how any set of men, but most of all how Dutchmen can have had a liking to invent them. There is a popular belief that Dutchmen love broad cases and much clothing for their own lower selves; and they might know better than to leave their clocks so very lank and unprotected, surely.















即使在那当儿,水壶看上去也是绷着脸与桀骜不驯的,壶把带着一股不屑的神气,壶嘴无礼地噘着,嘲弄地对着皮埃瑞宾格夫人,仿佛在说:"我就不把水煮开。说什么我都不依你。"

但是皮埃瑞宾格夫人的心情又好起来了,她对拍着掸干净那两只胖胖的小手,笑着在水壶前边坐了下来。这时,欢快的火焰上下跳跃着,闪闪地发着亮光,照到荷兰钟顶上的那个小割草人身上,一直照到有人也许会以为他就是那样静静地站在摩尔式宫殿前边的,除了火焰什么东西都不会动。

然而,小割草人却在挪动着;一秒钟抽动两次,正轨而且有规律。但是,在敲钟时,他的痛苦看了却让人害怕;当布谷鸟从宫殿的活门向外张望并鸣叫六下时,每一下都像是鬼怪的声音让他颤栗——或者说,像有细长的东西扽着他的腿脚。

直到小割草人下边的重物和绳索那儿发生的剧烈骚动和"呼呼"作响的嘈杂声差不多都消失后,被吓坏了的他才恢复过来。他感到惊恐也不是无缘无故的;因为这些"卡拉卡拉"直响、像骷髅骨架似的钟表在运转时那副样子令人惊惶失措。我真的不明白,有那么一伙子人,特别是荷兰人,怎么会喜欢上发明这些东西呢。人们普遍认为,荷兰人自己身处低地,品性中喜欢箱子大、衣服多;他们当然该更懂得不能把钟表部件做得如此细长却毫不加以保护。













Now it was, you observe, that the Kettle began to spend the evening. Now it was that the Kettle, growing mellow and musical, began to have irrepressible gurglings in its throat, and to indulge in short vocal snorts, which it checked in the bud, as if it hadn't quite made up its mind yet to be good company. Now it was that after two or three such vain attempts to stifle its convivial sentiments, it threw off all moroseness, all reserve, and burst into a stream of song so cosy and hilarious, as never maudlin nightingale yet formed the least idea of.

So plain too! Bless you, you might have understood it like a book — better than some books you and I could name, perhaps. With its warm breath gushing forth in a light cloud which merrily and gracefully ascended a few feet, then hung about the chimney-corner as its own domestic Heaven, it trolled its song with that strong energy of cheerfulness, that its iron body hummed and stirred upon the fire; and the lid itself, the recently rebellious lid — such is the influence of a bright example — performed a sort of jig, and clattered like a deaf and dumb young cymbal that had never known the use of its twin brother.

That this song of the Kettle's was a song of invitation and welcome to somebody out of doors to somebody at that moment coming on, towards the snug small home and the crisp fire; there is no doubt whatever. Mrs. Peerybingle knew it, perfectly, as she sat musing before the hearth. It's a dark night, sang the Kettle, and the rotten leaves are lying by the way; and above, all is mist and darkness, and below, all is mire and clay; and there's only













