

小书虫 点滴英语 简易英汉对照读物

触摸英语 感觉原著

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# LIFE AND STORY

生活故事  
(小品文)

司树森 / 主编  
熊德锐 / 审定



Many a little make a mickie.

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## 内容提要

发自心底的声音最美,最能打动人心,不管是汉语世界还是英语世界,生活中有许多经典的哲理,永恒的情愫是自古不变的。所以在这里,我们精心为大家精心选择了12篇异域作者原创的小品文,带上你的感动跟我读吧!

你会看到家长对老师诚挚的感激,孩童对同伴纯洁的爱,路人对陌生人的救助,年过八旬的老太太捧着刚获得的大学毕业证安详的乘鹤西去,父亲对女儿的绵绵祝福……茶余饭后,细细读来,将涌现感动一幕幕,温暖一幕幕,因为它们都是作者用心抒写的信仰——爱、善良、感激、祝福……我们所坚信的人世间最美的字眼。

在流淌的,温暖的文字中学习原汁原味的英语,同时陶冶情操,震撼灵魂,是我们的初衷。

## 前 言

学习英语,尤其是学好英语不存在速成的捷径,只有勤奋刻苦,循序渐进,日积月累,博览精思,大胆实践,打下坚实的语言、知识基础才可能达到英语学习的理想境界。正所谓“锲而不舍,金石可镂;驽马十驾,功在不舍。”

众多成功者的实践和经验证明:初、中级的广大英语学习者,尤其是中、小学生甚或大学生在打基础的阶段,应该听、说、读、写齐头并进,小学生可侧重听、说,扎扎实实打好基础。读书,读书,最重要的还是读书。学习英语,使用英语的整个过程就是一个不断接触、认真模仿和反复练习的过程,业精于勤,功成于练,而首先是阅读实践(应包括朗读、默读、精读和泛读)。无论古今中外,阅读都是培养语感,养成用英语思维,用英语流畅表达思想的最有效的途径之一。阅读的过程就是记忆单词、扩大词汇量和学习词汇用法的过程。大量阅读也是有效促进和提高其他各项听、说、写、译技能的好方法,而简易读物尤其是英汉对照简易读物对提高阅读理解能力、打好语言基础、全面提高综合运用能力极为有效。为此我们推出了《小书虫简易英汉对照读物》系列丛书。本丛书是为中学生、大学生和广大初、中级英语爱好者、自学者精心策划的一套英文原版课外读物。

本丛书编排形式活泼新颖,文章短小精悍,图文并茂,英汉对照,既方便阅读又宜于携带。

本丛书选材广泛,纵横古今中外,品类齐全,丰富多彩,包罗世界文学名著、优美动人的童话、广为流传的名人轶事和人们所喜闻乐见的影视文(章)网(络)的精彩片段。坚持阅读既可开阔视野、陶冶心灵又可激励人生、奋勇向前。

本丛书的实用性极强,通过阅读增加词汇量,提高阅读理解能力,最重要的是可以受到纯正地道英语情境的熏陶,从而增强语感。

最后,在本丛书的成书过程中,许多中、外朋友都付出了大量的时间和辛勤的劳动。我们在此向他们表示由衷的感谢。

本丛书由司树森教授担任主编,熊德锐教授审订。

尽管我们在尽最大努力做好每一件事,但是不妥之处或错误仍在所难免。敬请广大读者不吝指教,以便修正。

司树森

2006年5月

Learn English By Reading Original Works

触摸英语·感觉原著

# Life and Story

## 生活故事

(小品文)

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## A Humble Gift

It is the last day of the school year and I stand empty-handed with no gift to give you.

It isn't that I haven't tried to think of something thoughtful and kind ... quite to the contrary <sup>①</sup>. For months, I have combed <sup>②</sup> catalogs, browsed <sup>③</sup> specialty shops <sup>④</sup> and department stores, inquired of novelty <sup>⑤</sup> shops, and even searched the internet only to realize that no bauble <sup>⑥</sup> or trinket <sup>⑦</sup> or card could measure up <sup>⑧</sup> to the feelings of a mother's grateful heart and a teacher's loving dedication.

How I wish a colorful bundle of fresh wildflowers could reflect the beauty of your way with children—the constant patience and nurturing, the gentle encouragement. A keepsake <sup>⑨</sup> basket laden with soothing soaps and bath oils would eventually serve only as a common gift were its sturdy <sup>⑩</sup>, woven walls not filled to overflowing with examples of the individual ways you have touched the lives of your students.

Jewelry would surely be nice, but what can I afford that would not soon tarnish <sup>⑪</sup> or grow quickly out of style? You deserve the gems of royalty for your perseverance <sup>⑫</sup> and creativity, your devotion and talent. During the past year, I have given you many small gifts,



## 一份谦卑的礼物



今天是本学年的最后一天，我两手空空，没有任何礼物送给您。

不是我没有花心思力图找到一件既有意义又能聊表寸心的礼品……恰恰相反。几个月来，我翻遍种种商品目录，去过数家特色商店、百货店，询问过饰品商店，甚至在因特网上搜寻过，但到头来只是觉得小饰物、小玩艺或贺卡怎么能抵得上一位母亲充满感激的心和一位老师充满爱意的奉献呢？

我多么希望送给您一束散发着泥土芳香的五彩缤纷的野花，它们能体现您善待孩子的美——持久的耐心、呵护和温柔的鼓励。一只装满润肤香皂和浴油的坚实精制的礼篮，如果它那篮框内不是满盛您一个个触动学生心灵的具体事例，那终究也不过是一件普通的礼物。

首饰当然不错，但什么样的珠宝不会很快失去光泽或旋即过时，而我又能买得起呢？以您的坚韧和创造性，您的敬业和才能，您应当拥有皇家的珠宝。在过去的一年里，我已经送给您

### New Words

- ① to the contrary 相反地
- ② comb [kəʊm] vt. 在……搜寻，在……四处找
- ③ browse [braʊz] vt. 浏览，随意观看
- ④ specialty shop (主美) 特色商店 (专营某类商品或专为某类顾客而设)
- ⑤ novelty ['nɒvəlti] n. 小饰物 (常用复数；此处为定语，用单数)
- ⑥ bauble ['bɔ:bl] n. 花哨的小玩意儿
- ⑦ trinket ['trɪŋkɪt] n. 小装饰物，廉价首饰
- ⑧ measure up 合格，符合标准
- ⑨ keepsake ['ki:psɛk] n. 纪念品
- ⑩ sturdy ['stɜ:di] adj. 结实的
- ⑪ tarnish ['tɜ:niʃ] vt. 使失去光泽，使变暗淡
- ⑫ perseverance [pə:'si:vɪərəns] n. 坚持不懈





mostly intangible<sup>①</sup> ones.

At the moment the first school bell rang last August, I placed in you my trust, believing you would teach my child and reserve respect for me as a parent. I added to that my constant and fervent<sup>②</sup> prayers that you would be objective<sup>③</sup> and fair with the ability to set limitations while offering my child a chance to learn self-control and to soar a bit in the process. I sincerely petitioned<sup>④</sup> that your classroom would be a safe haven for my child to grow and learn, lending itself to<sup>⑤</sup> the crazy, yet somehow perfect, mixture of self-discipline and controlled instruction. I prayed for your health and your happiness, and your ability to be supplied with the tools necessary to complete your task as teacher and educator and mentor<sup>⑥</sup>. I offered you my time as often as I could, and my support for your endeavors. Occasionally, I even offered you a challenge when I spoke my mind, sometimes standing firm, sometimes backing down<sup>⑦</sup> with a renewed assurance or a “wait and see” attitude!

I wish with all my heart I could put a delicate ribbon on a gayly<sup>⑧</sup> wrapped package and give you a “something” to express my appreciation and affection, but I have nothing to give you that would surpass the most precious gift I have ever had to offer and which you already so graciously accepted months ago—the one you have held close to your heart, laughed with and probably cried with,





许多小礼物,其中大部分是无形的。

去年8月学校的铃声第一次响起时,我就对您寄予信任,相信您会教育好我的孩子,同时保留对我作为一个家长的尊重。在信任的基础上我给您以不断的、热烈的祈祷,希望您在给我孩子机会让他学会自控又尝试翱翔的同时,您能客观、公正地给孩子设定限制。我真诚地祈祷您的教室是我孩子成长、学习最安全的地方,是自律与有节制的教诲近乎不可能但可称完美的结合。我为您的健康、您的幸福祈祷,为您作为一名教师、一名教育者、一名导师所必备的种种能力和才干而祈祷。我常尽量抽出时间,支持您的工作。但偶尔我也会直抒己见向您挑战:有时坚持己见,有时会由于得到您重申的保证而放弃我原来的主张,或采取一种“等等看”的态度!

我由衷地祈望,我能用一条精美的丝带绕在一个用鲜艳的礼品纸包装的礼盒上送给您点“什么”,以表达我的感激和爱戴,但是我再没有什么能比得过数月前我已送给您的、您也欣然接受的最为宝贵的礼物——那礼物您已将其紧贴心头,并与之一起欢笑,

#### New Words

- ① intangible [in'tændʒəbl] *adj.* 无形的
- ② fervent ['fɜ:vənt] *adj.* 热烈的
- ③ objective [əb'dʒektiv] *adj.* 客观的, 无偏见的
- ④ petition [pi'tiʃən] *vr.* 祈求, 恳求
- ⑤ lend oneself to sth. 协助, 参与, 适于
- ⑥ mentor ['mentɔ:] *n.* 贤明的顾问, 导师, 指导者
- ⑦ back down 放弃原来的主张
- ⑧ gayly ['geɪli] *adv.* 花哨地





applauded and scolded, encouraged and molded—my child!

And today, as my child returns to my side for the summer, the gift I humbly give to you is found deep within my heart...

I give to you my thanks.





也可能一起哭泣,称赞过也训斥过,鼓励着和塑造着的——我的孩子!

今天,当我的孩子返回到我的身边过暑假时,我谦恭地送给您我的礼物,是出自我内心深处的……

请接受我深深的谢意。





## Where Has All My Salary Gone?

The two-year study at the business school was really a big investment. Not only did I use up all my savings for it, but I also had to borrow a chunk<sup>①</sup> of money from others. The anxious expectation for a return for the investment accompanied me all the way till I graduated at last. The various plans for a rosy future aside, I needed money, first of all, to pay off the debt I owed. Therefore, unlike many of my friends going on a grand<sup>②</sup> tour around the globe after graduation, I started to work, right after I left Cornell, with my current company in Louisville, Kentucky.

I received my first pay stub<sup>③</sup> after working in the company for fifteen days. Our company pays out salary twice a month, which is the practice<sup>④</sup> of most companies in the States. Since I had filled in the paperwork on the first day at work, giving permission to our payroll<sup>⑤</sup> department to deposit the paycheck directly into my bank account, what I received was just a detailed statement. When I went through the statement, I was appalled<sup>⑥</sup> at what I saw—the net<sup>⑦</sup> pay I received was much less than I had expected and the tax I had to pay was eye-popping<sup>⑧</sup>. On the left side of the statement were my earnings for the two weeks and on the right side were the deductions<sup>⑨</sup> of



## 我的薪水都到哪儿去了？



在商学院的两年学习确实是一项很大的投资。我为此不仅用光了所有的积蓄，还向别人借了一大笔钱。对投资回报的急切期盼一直伴随着我，直到我终于毕业。除去对美好未来的各种设想之外，我现在首先急需钱来偿还所欠下的债务。因此，当我的许多朋友毕业后就去作全球旅行时，我一离开康奈尔大学，马上就到肯塔基州的路易斯维尔市，来我现在所在的这家公司上班了。

我工作 15 天后，收到了第一张工资单。我们公司每月发两次工资，在美国大多数公司都这样做。因为我工作的第一天填了表，允许我们的工资部门直接把工资支票存到我的银行账户上，所以我收到的仅仅是一个详细的说明。当我仔细看过工资说明时，我大吃一惊——我拿到手的工资比我预想的少得多，而我付的税令人瞠目结舌。工资表的左边列的是我两星期的收入，右边是不同名目的税收。有联邦税，肯塔基州税和路易斯

### New Words

- ① chunk [tʃʌŋk] *n.* [口] 相当大的部分
- ② grand [grænd] *adj.* [口] 好的，快乐的，称心的
- ③ stub [stʌb] *n.* (票据等的)存根，票根
- ④ practice ['præktɪs] *n.* 惯常做法，惯例，习俗
- ⑤ payroll ['peɪrəʊl] *n.* 工资总额，发放工资额
- ⑥ appall [ə'pɔ:l] *v.* 使惊骇
- ⑦ net [net] *adj.* 净的，纯的
- ⑧ eye-popping ['aɪ'pɒpɪŋ] *adj.* [口] 令人瞠目吃惊的
- ⑨ deduction [dɪ'dʌkʃən] *n.* 扣除额，减少数







different taxes, which included federal withholding<sup>①</sup> (i.e. federal tax), Kentucky state withholding (i.e. state tax) and Louisville municipal<sup>②</sup> withholding (i.e. city tax). All those taxes added up to 30% of my paycheck. What was more unbelievable was the withholding on my signing bonus<sup>③</sup>. When I accepted the offer from this company, it gave me a certain amount of money as a reward for doing that. My signing bonus was taxed at the rate of 45%.

Dismayed, I called one of my friends working in Chicago and complained about the high tax rate. After I vented<sup>④</sup> all out to her, she told me that, compared with her, I ought to have nothing to gripe<sup>⑤</sup> about. As she was single, her tax bracket<sup>⑥</sup> was higher than mine. In addition to the federal tax, state tax (Illinois has a higher state tax than Kentucky) and city tax, she had to pay the county tax, which added up to 35% of her paycheck. Plus, the cost of living in Chicago was much higher than in Louisville. Now it turned out that her case was even worse than mine. I offered her all the understanding and solace<sup>⑦</sup> that I intended to seek from her.

As time went by, I began to accept the tax fact. However, I had to adjust my aggressive<sup>⑧</sup> financial<sup>⑨</sup> plan, since I realized that it would not be easy for me to save money to pay off my debt in a short time. So where else has my salary gone besides going to the different taxes? Every month there are two big-item expenses for me: my

