

A FRESHMAN ENGLISH READER

英语泛读教程

第一册

杨冬丽 曹 艳 编著

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前 言

《英语泛读教程》第一册供高等学校英语专业一年级第一学期教学使用，目的是使学生增加英语国家文化背景知识、扩大英语词汇量、养成勤于思考的习惯以提高其英语阅读能力。

按照《高等学校英语专业基础阶段英语教学大纲》的要求，泛读课为单项技能训练课，其特点主要表现在“泛”与“读”两个方面。泛读教材所选用的阅读材料内容广泛，涵盖社会生活的各个方面。同时，阅读材料的文体丰富，既有文学作品，又有记叙文、说明文、议论文、新闻、广告等语言风格的文章。泛读课的主要任务是指导学生通过大量的阅读实践，培养善于思考的阅读习惯，掌握各种阅读方法，提高阅读的速度和准确性。另外，泛读课还可以使学生在广泛阅读的过程中逐步扩大词汇量，使其能较快地消除阅读理解中的词汇量不足这一严重障碍，高效率地增强学生的阅读技能。

《英语泛读教程》的课文选自经典著作、现代及当代期刊和优秀教材读本，题材包括社会、政治、经济、文化、历史、文学、艺术、宗教、医学、风土人情、科普知识等学科领域。

《英语泛读教程》第一册共 17 个单元。第 1 单元至第 16 单元每个单元分三个部分。第一部分 (Section A) 的内容在课堂上处理，学生课前不需要预习。

词汇测试 (Warm-up Activity) 所选的单词出自 Section A 的课文，为课文中的生词或常用词，目的是帮助学生阅读课文。

课文遵循由浅入深、循序渐进的原则，长度从 600 单词左右逐渐增加。基于泛读课的特点，本教程着重使学生尽可能广泛地接触具有生命力、地道而又鲜活的素材，以便从中汲取语言知识和各方面的多种信息，真正达到扩大知识面、增加词汇量、开拓视野、提升能力的教学初衷。因此，每单元 Section A 中除阅读理解 (Reading Comprehension) 外，综合练习主要是结合阅读的内容检验学生词汇、句法以及语言的综合能力——其中包括词汇练习 (Vocabulary)、难句翻译 (Translation of Sentences) 和与课文内容相关的完型填空 (Cloze) 等。

第二部分 (Section B) 所选课文长度一般超过第一部分的课文，主要是相关题材的深化或补充，供学生课外阅读，由教师在课堂上进行检查，对有一定难度的文章也可由教师结合 Section A 的内容作适当讲解。

第三部分 (Section C) 包括三至四篇相关内容的短文，用于快速阅读的训练。该项练习必须在规定的时间内完成，教师可根据学生的情况适当调整阅读时间以期收到最佳效果。

作为学生课堂或课外讨论的内容，每个单元后列有思考题。

阅读技巧（Reading Skills）归纳为一个单元（Unit 17），与其他各单元的内容相结合，指导学生能动地运用阅读技巧提高阅读速度和效率，在阅读练习中使学生掌握如何根据上下文判断生词词义、熟悉英语句子结构并了解文章题材与中心思想的区别以及事实与观点的区分。通过广泛的阅读和有针对性的练习，重点培养学生恰当运用阅读技巧和分析文本中心思想的能力，并能够对文本进行初步的鉴赏和分析，为下一阶段的学习奠定扎实的基础。

《英语泛读教程》编者

2004 年 6 月

CONTENTS

Unit 1	Detective Sketches.....	(1)
Text	Your Breakfast Is Served, Madam.....	(2)
Text	The Missing Five-pound Note	(5)
Unit 2	Language Learning	(11)
Text	Myths and Misconceptions about Reading.....	(12)
Text	Not Just Parrot-Talk.....	(16)
Unit 3	Personality and Genetics.....	(21)
Text	You Are What You Think.....	(22)
Text	Science Looks Twice at Twins.....	(25)
Unit 4	Historical Figures.....	(31)
Text	Socrates	(32)
Text	Queen Cleopatra.....	(35)
Unit 5	Politics and Justice.....	(41)
Text	The United Nations: The World in One Building.....	(42)
Text	Creative Justice.....	(46)
Unit 6	Mysteries.....	(53)
Text	The Bermuda Triangle.....	(54)
Text	Flying Objects.....	(58)
Unit 7	Bible Stories.....	(65)
Text	The Garden of Eden.....	(66)
Text	The Boat of Noah.....	(69)
Unit 8	Short Fiction.....	(75)
Text	A Double-dyed Deceiver.....	(76)
Text	The Midnight Visitor.....	(81)
Unit 9	Traditions and Values.....	(87)
Text	Lessons from Jefferson.....	(88)
Text	American Values and Assumptions.....	(92)

Unit 10 Psychology	(98)
Text Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs	
—Psychology in Business	(99)
Text Where Do Dreams Come From?	(102)
Unit 11 Natural Gifts	(110)
Text The Sense of Wonder	(111)
Text The Seven Gifts	(114)
Unit 12 Health	(119)
Text Health Risk	(120)
Text The Nutrients in Food	(123)
Unit 13 Space Exploration	(129)
Text Space Politics	(130)
Text Messages to the Unknown	(133)
Unit 14 Friendship and Honesty	(138)
Text On Friendship	(139)
Text Why the Tortoise's Shell Is Not Smooth?	(143)
Unit 15 Way of Life	(149)
Text Living as a Navajo	(150)
Text Interesting Scenes from Ninotchka	(154)
Unit 16 Festivals and Holidays	(160)
Text The First Thanksgiving	(161)
Text The Fourth of July	(165)
Unit 17 Reading Skills	(171)
Text How to Figure Out the Meaning of Unfamiliar Words	
in Reading	(171)

Unit 1

Detective Sketches



Section A

Directions: *This part is to be read in class. Please do not preview.*

Warm-up Activity

For each item, choose the one closest in meaning to the italicized word or phrase.

- At last he found the *slip* marking his place in the book.
A. slide B. narrow piece of paper C. fall
- The football club tried to *tempt* the player with offers of money.
A. appeal to B. distract C. attract
- They *suspected* him to be the murderer.
A. believe to be guilty B. guessed C. supposed
- The policeman *flipped through* the book to see what was inside it.
A. opened quickly
B. turned over the pages quickly
C. read quickly
- He promised to *accompany* his girlfriend to the party.
A. protect B. shelter C. escort
- Their apartment was *burgled* while they were away on holiday.
A. destroyed B. stolen C. burnt
- The doctor *performed* the operation successfully.
A. carried out B. finished C. put off
- I *apologized* to her for stepping on her foot.
A. greeted B. comforted C. said sorry

Text

Your Breakfast Is Served, Madam

In England, if you stay in a hotel, your breakfast can be brought to your room. That's really good service, but sometimes this may lead to unpleasant things as is revealed in the following short play.

Narrator: Ladies and gentlemen, my friends and I are about to present you with a puzzling problem. We would like each of you to try to solve it, so please pay careful attention for the next few minutes.

The problem appears in a short play we are going to perform. The scene is a hotel room. Miss Muffett has been staying there for two days. At the moment she is alone, but she will soon be visited by three different people. Please look closely at these characters, for one of them is acting very suspiciously.

(Exit narrator.)

Miss Muffett: (on the telephone) Hello. Is this Reception? Good. Would you please send up a copy of the *Daily Telegraph*¹ to Room 321? Oh, and a cup of tea. Thank you.

(Knock at the door.)

Goodness! ²That was quick. Yes ... just a minute. I'll come and open the door.

Waiter: Good morning, Madam. Here is your breakfast.

Miss M: My breakfast? What do you mean?

Waiter: The breakfast you ordered. Cereal, bacon, eggs, toast, and coffee. Shall I put it over here on the table?

Miss M: I'm very sorry, but I'm afraid there's been some mistake. I didn't order breakfast. I only asked for a cup of tea.

Waiter: Really? I do apologize, Madam. Reception must have given me the wrong number. ³ They definitely said Room 326.

Miss M: But this is Room 321, not 326.

Waiter: Room 321? Oh, no! I'm so sorry to have disturbed you.

Miss M: Never mind. We all make mistakes... especially first thing in the morning.

(Exit waiter, closing the door. Knock at the door.) This will be my tea. Come in!

Man: Oh, what are you doing here?

Miss M: I beg your pardon? How dare you burst into my room like this! Who are you? What do you want?

Man: What are you doing in my room, and how did you get in here?

Miss M: What do you mean? This is *my* room.

Man: There must be some mistake. Room 323 is *my* room.

Miss M: But this is Room 321.

Man: Room 321? Are you sure? (He looks at the door.) My goodness, I simply

¹ *Daily Telegraph*: a newspaper in Britain

² Goodness= my goodness: an expression of surprise

³ Reception must have given me the wrong number: It must be the reception desk which has given me the wrong number.

don't know what to say! I'm very sorry. I don't know how I could have been so stupid. I do apologize.

Miss M: That's quite all right.

(Exit man, closing the door.)

Miss M: I wonder when I'm going to get my cup of tea? (Knock at the door.)
That'll be the cup of tea at last. Come in!

Waitress: Good morning, Madam. Here is your tea and your newspaper.

Miss M: Good. Just put them down here, would you? That's fine. Thank you.
(Picks up newspaper.) Oh, but wait a minute! This is the *Daily Mirror*.⁴ I ordered the *Daily Telegraph*.

Waitress: I'm ever so sorry, Madam. Reception must have mixed up the order.
I'll go back down and get you a copy of the *Telegraph* immediately, Madam.

(Exit waitress, closing the door.)

Miss M: Oh, dear!⁵ I think it's going to be one of those days—just one of those days.⁶ ...

Narrator: And indeed, Miss Muffett was right, for later that day it was discovered that several rooms in the hotel had been burgled. If you were watching and listening to the play carefully, you may have noticed something rather suspicious about one of the characters. If you were a detective, which of them would you want to question, and why?

From *English Teaching Forum*, October, 1981

Total words: about 550

Total reading time: _____

Exercises

I. Reading Comprehension

Directions: Choose the best answer.

- What does the narrator warn the reader about?
 - Too many people have come to Miss Muffett's room
 - Miss Muffett would be mistaken.
 - One of the three people visiting Miss Muffett is acting suspiciously.
 - Service in this hotel is always mixed up.
- Miss Muffett felt surprised when she heard the first knock at the door because _____.
 - she was not expecting anybody
 - she never had visitors early in the morning
 - she didn't expect that the reception would be so quick to send up her order .
 - she did not order breakfast
- How did Miss Muffett feel when the man burst into her room?
 - She was displeased because she did not have her tea.
 - She was delighted to see her neighbour

⁴ *Daily Mirror*: another newspaper in Britain

⁵ Oh, dear!: another way to express surprise

⁶ one of those days: an expression used for complaint, i.e., one of those days when everything goes wrong

- C. She was angry because the man didn't knock before entering.
 - D. She was confused because she didn't know who the man was.
4. Which of the three visitors acted suspiciously?
- A. The waiter.
 - B. The waitress.
 - C. The man.
 - D. All of them.
5. What clue from the play leads you to suspect the man?
- A. No one is so careless as to mix up the orders.
 - B. No one is so absent-minded as to take the *Mirror* for the *Telegraph*.
 - C. Nobody is so stupid as to take a big breakfast for a cup of tea.
 - D. Nobody will knock the door before entering his or her own room.

II. Vocabulary

Directions: Fill in the blank in each sentence with the appropriate form of the word given in the brackets.

1. Rabbit is _____ by its long ears. (character)
2. Radio _____ is not very good in the remote areas. (receive)
3. The noise of cars passing along the road is a continual _____ to our quiet at home. (disturb)
4. The _____ weather spoiled our travel abroad. (pleasant)
5. The man was charged with _____. (burgle)
6. He asked in an _____ voice if we would mind getting out of his way. (apologize)
7. We often _____ her for her twin sister during our high school days. (mistake)
8. This book attempts to _____ the position of the state government in city affairs. (definite)

III. Cloze

Directions: Read the following passage and decide on the most appropriate word from among the four choices given for each blank.

A flash of lightning lit up the dark sky for a second. Sule glanced up. "Sure it ___1___ like rain. But you do not say: 'It will rain.' You are only a mortal. You say only: 'If it is the will of Allah, it ___2___ rain.'" Sule was a deeply ___3___ man, according to his lights. His religion forbade being dogmatic or prophetic about the future, about anything. His fear of Allah was quite ___4___. It was his firm belief that Allah left the question of a means of making a living for each man to decide for himself. Allah, he was ___5___, gives some people more than they need ___6___ others with too little could help themselves ___7___ some of it. It could certainly not be the intention of Allah that some stomachs remain ___8___ while others are overstuffed.

Dogo snorted. He had ___9___ prison sentences in all the major towns in the country. Prison had become for him a home from home. Like his companion in crime, he feared no man; but, ___10___ him, he had no religion other than self-preservation. "You and your religion," Dogo said in derision. "A lot of good it has done you."

Sule did not reply. Dogo knew ___11___ experience that Sule was sensitive

about his religion, and the first sign he would get that Sule had lost his ___12___ would be a blow on the head. The two men never pretended that their partnership had anything ___13___ with love or friendship or any other luxurious idea: they operated together when their prison sentences allowed, because they found ___14___ convenient. In a partnership that each believed was for his own special benefit, there could be ___15___ fancy code of conduct.

- | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 1. A. seems | B. pretends | C. looks | D. appears |
| 2. A. could | B. will | C. would | D. might |
| 3. A. intelligent | B. powerful | C. respectful | D. religious |
| 4. A. genuine | B. untrue | C. touching | D. affected |
| 5. A. doubtful | B. firm | C. sure | D. uncertain |
| 6. A. so as to | B. so that | C. in order to | D. only that |
| 7. A. with | B. about | C. to | D. without |
| 8. A. empty | B. full | C. vacant | D. bare |
| 9. A. finished | B. received | C. served | D. accepted |
| 10. A. unlike | B. similar to | C. afraid of | D. indifferent to |
| 11. A. for | B. about | C. from | D. of |
| 12. A. anger | B. temper | C. patient | D. rage |
| 13. A. to do | B. to connect | C. to combine | D. to mix |
| 14. A. so | B. much | C. it | D. more |
| 15. A. some | B. any | C. a little of | D. no |

Section B

Directions: *Preview this part before you come to class.*

Text

The Missing Five-Pound Note

A five-pound note is missing from the office. Can it be found? Who has stolen it? With these questions in mind, read the following short play and try to find the answer.

Narrator: Nobby Stiles and Jim Dixon work in the same office, but they have never been good friends. One Friday morning a five-pound note has been stolen, and when a policeman calls to interview the two office boys, Nobby tries to throw the blame on Jim.¹ (Exit narrator.)

Policeman: Now then,² Nobby, you say there were just two of you at the office this morning when the five-pound note disappeared.

Nobby: That's right, just Jim and me.

¹ to throw the blame on Jim: to make Jim responsible for the missing five-pound note

² Now then: used at the beginning of a sentence to attract the attention of the listener

Policeman: And where did the five-pound note come from in the first place?³

Nobby: It arrived in an envelope, in payment of a bill.⁴

Policeman: You mean someone dared to send cash by an ordinary mail?

Nobby: Oh, that often happens, and it's not the first time it has disappeared, either. There's someone with light fingers⁵ around here.

Jim: Well, you needn't look at me like that, Nobby Stiles. After all, it was you who opened the letter, and you who took out the five-pound note in the first place.

Nobby: Well, I always check the mail for the boss before he gets here, don't I?

Jim: Perhaps you check it too well sometimes!

Policeman: Now then you two, just stop it. (Turning to Nobby) If you opened the letter, Nobby, and took out the five-pound note, then how did it get stolen?

Nobby: That's exactly what I'd like to know. I got here at eight o'clock this morning, a few minutes before Jim— he's often a bit late. I'd begun opening the mail when I realized I'd forgotten to buy the boss's newspaper on the way to the office.

Jim: I fetch the paper on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays, and it's Nobby's turn the rest of the week.

Nobby: I normally buy it at the newsagent's ⁶ round the corner, so I just went out to get a copy this morning.

Jim: Yes, that's right, because you were leaving the office just as I arrived.

Policeman: And where was the five pounds all this time, Nobby?

Nobby: Well, usually it's the boss who looks after money—the safe's in his office—but since he hadn't arrived, I folded and slipped it into my desk dictionary here.

Policeman: Why did you do that?

Nobby: Well, I didn't want to carry it out into the street, and I wasn't going to leave it lying around to tempt anyone coming into the office as soon as I had left for a moment!

Policeman: So you hid it in this dictionary. (He flicks through the book.) Well, it's certainly a good hiding place, all 364 pages of it!

Nobby: You're right, and that's what I thought! I slipped it in between pages 123 and 124—one, two, three, and four, that's easy to remember. That's why I put the note there, so I could find it quickly when I got back.

Policeman: Clever boy!

Nobby: Yes. I was only out for a minute or so. The dictionary was in the same place when I returned, but when I opened it the money was gone. And I know where. I'm afraid that the only other person in the office at that time was Jim.

Jim: But I tell you, I didn't take the money.

Policeman: I'm sure you didn't, Jim, but I think I know who did. Nobby Stiles,

³ in the first place: usually means "first", but here it means "at first or originally"

⁴ in the first place: usually means "first", but here it means "at first or originally"

⁵ someone with light fingers: someone who has the habit of stealing small things

⁶ newsagent's: newspaper stand, a place to sell newspapers

you'd better accompany me to the police station, young man.

Narrator: And the policeman was right, for Nobby later admitted that he had stolen the money and hidden it outside the office when he went for the newspaper. But what made the policeman suspect Nobby?

Adapted from *English Teaching Forum*, October, 1981

Total words: about 600

Total reading time: _____

Reading Comprehension

Directions: Do the following multiple-choice questions.

1. We can learn from this dialogue that _____.
 - A. money had never been stolen in that office
 - B. money was often stolen in that office
 - C. it was not in the office that the money was stolen
 - D. it was not the first time that money was stolen
2. Jim said that Nobby sometimes checked the mail too well. What did he mean by this?
 - A. Nobby always checked the mail very carefully.
 - B. Nobby would sometimes take cash from the mail.
 - C. Nobby only checked the mail sometimes.
 - D. Nobby sometimes checked the mail carefully and at other times he did not do so.
3. Nobby meant to tell the policeman in the interview that _____.
 - A. he didn't like Jim
 - B. Jim was lazy in his work
 - C. Jim was a suspicious character
 - D. The boss like him better than Jim
4. When the policeman called Nobby a 'clever boy', his intention was _____.
 - A. to praise Nobby for acting sensibly
 - B. to give Nobby the impression that his explanation was accepted as the truth
 - C. to find fault with Nobby
 - D. to hear whether Nobby had anything else to say
5. The officer didn't believe Nobby had put the money in the dictionary because _____.
 - A. Jim would have known about it
 - B. it would still be in the dictionary
 - C. You can't put a bill between pages 123 and 124. They are the two sides of one piece of printed paper
 - D. Pages 123 and 124 were torn out of the dictionary
6. Finally we can decide that Jim was _____.
 - A. careless
 - B. innocent
 - C. faithful to his boss
 - D. Patient with Nobby

Section C

Directions: *This part is to be read through quickly in class. Try to finish the questions and the passages within 7 minutes. Please do not preview.*

Questions 1 and 2 are based on the following passage.

1. If you want to see a performance by the Beijing Peking Opera Theater, which phone number would you ring?

A. 6841-9283

B. 6848-5462

C. 6301-6688

D. 6523-3320

2. supposing you have some free time after 7:00p.m. on July 1st, which performance or exhibition can you go to?

A. Traditional Chinese music.

B. Chinese modern operas.

C. Peking Opera.

D. Lao Dao's recent paintings.

CONCERTS

New concert hall: The movie theater of the National Library of China has been turned into a concert hall after months of renovation.

The Guotu Concert Hall will open to the public for the first time on June 30th. After the opening ceremony, the China National Song and Dance Theater will present highlights of Chinese modern operas from the past 50 years.

Program: excerpts for Chinese modern operas including "The Whit-haired Girl," "Red Rocks" and more.

Time: 7:30p.m., June 30th

Place: Guotu Concert Hall at the National Library of China

Tel: 6841-9283

Chinese music: The Traditional Band of China National Song and Dance Theatre will perform traditional Chinese music, under Liu Wenjin, composer and director of the theater.

Program: "Butterfly Lovers", "Moonlight Reflected on Number Two Spring", "The Night is Deep" and other traditional pieces.

Time: 7:30 p.m., July 1st-2nd

Place: Guotu Concert Hall at the National Library of China

Tel: 6848-5462

EXHIBITIONS

One-man show: Lao Dao is presenting his most recent paintings at the Wanfung Gallery.

Titled "Spanning the Space", the exhibition features about 30 works created from synthetic materials.

Time: 9:00a.m.-5:00p.m. until July 1st

Place: 136 Nanchizi Dajie, Dongcheng District

Tel: 6523-3320

STAGE

Peking Opera: The Liyuan Theater presents traditional Peking Opera excerpts in short programs for foreign audiences and in original styles. With

an explanation in English, the performances are from the Beijing Opera Theater.

Time: 7:30p.m. July 3rd-5th

Place: liyuan Theater, Qianmen Jianguo Hotel, Xuanwu District

Tel: 6301-6688

Questions 3 and 4 are based on the following passage.

3. What did Dogo and Sule look like?

A. Intelligent. B. Sharp. C. Foolish. D. Powerful.

4. The two men were out in the street late at night _____.

A. to be on duty B. to guard the streets
C. to observe the night sky D. to steal

There had been a clear moon. Now the night was dark. Dogo glanced up at the night sky. He saw that black clouds had obscured the moon. He cleared his throat. "Rain tonight," he said to his companion.

Sule, his companion, did not reply immediately. He was a tall, powerfully-built man. His face, as well as his companion's, was a stupid mask of ignorance. He lived by thieving as did Dogo, and just now he walked with an unaccustomed limp. "It's wrong to say that," he said after a while, fingering the long, curved sheath-knife he always wore on his upper left arm when, in his own words, he was 'on duty'. A similar cruel-looking object adorned the arm of his comrade. "How can you be sure?"

"Sure?" said Dogo, annoyance and impatience in his voice. Dogo is the local word for tall. This man was thickset, short and squat, anything but tall. He pointed one hand up at the moving clouds. "You only want to look up there. A lot of rain has fallen in my life, those up there are rain clouds."

They walked on in silence for a while. The dull red lights of the big town glowed in crooked lines behind them. Few people were out, for it was already past midnight. About half a mile ahead of them the native town, their destination, sprawled in the night. Not a single electric light bulb glowed on its crooked streets. This regrettable fact suited the books of the two men perfectly. "You are not Allah," said Sule at last. "You may not assert."

Questions 5 to 8 are based on the following passage.

5. Where did Mr. Jones live in 1945?

A. In New York.
B. In a rooming house in Brooklyn.
C. In a flat in Manhattan.
D. In an apartment in Brooklyn.

6. When and where did the author happen to meet Mr. Jones again?

A. Several months later when the author went back to the rooming house.
B. In 1950 when he was working in New York.
C. In 1955 when the author was in Moscow.
D. In 1955 in Wall Street.

7. Why was the author so surprised when he saw Mr. Jones again ten years later in Moscow?

A. Because he could hardly recognize Mr. Jones.
B. Because he failed to notice Mr. Jones at once.

- C. Because he found that Mr. Jones was neither a blind man nor a helpless cripple.
 - D. Because Mr. Jones wouldn't speak to him.
8. What was Mr. Jones?
- A. A consultant.
 - B. A fortune-teller.
 - C. A drug dealer
 - D. A secret agent

During the winter of 1945 I lived for several months in a rooming house in Brooklyn. Mr. Jones lived in the room next to mine. My room was the smallest in the house, his the largest, a nice big sunshiny room, which was just as well, for Mr. Jones never left it: all his needs were attended to by the middle-aged landladies. Also, he was not without visitors; on the average, a half-dozen persons visited his room each day, from early morning until late in the evening. He was not a drug dealer or a fortune-teller; no, they just came to talk to him and apparently they made him small gifts of money for his conversation and advice. If not, he had no obvious means of support.

Mr. Jones was a handsome man, about forty. He wore gold-rimmed glasses with pitch-black lenses, he was blind, and crippled, too—according to the sisters, the use of his legs had been denied him by a childhood accident, and he could not move without crutches. Mr. Jones had a telephone. He was the only tenant with a private line.

Later I moved to Manhattan. Several months later, I returned to the house to collect a box of books I had stored there. While the landladies offered me tea and cakes in their lace-curtained living-room, I inquired of Mr. Jones.

The woman lowered their eyes. Clearing her throat, one said: "It's in the hands of the police." The other offered: "We've reported him as a missing person." The first added: "Last month, twenty-six days ago, my sister carried up Mr. Jones's breakfast, as usual. he wasn't there. All his belongings were there."

"It's odd--"

"—how a man totally blind, a helpless cripple..."

Ten years pass.

Now it is a zero-cold December afternoon, and I am now in Moscow. I am riding in a subway car. One of the few passengers is a man sitting opposite me, a man who has bright eyes, blue as a peacock's.

After a doubtful instant, I simply stared, for even without the black glasses, there was no mistaking that lean, distinctive face with the single star-shaped birthmark.

I was just about to cross the aisle and speak to him when the train pulled into a station, and Mr. Jones, on a pair of fine sturdy legs, stood up and strode out of the car. Swiftly the train door closed behind him.

Questions for consideration.

1. What helps the policeman make his correct judgment?
2. What is the lesson we can draw from the short plays?

Unit 2

Language Learning



Section A

Directions: *This part is to be read in class. Please don't preview.*

Warm-up Activity

For each item, choose the one closest in meaning to the italicized word or phrase.

1. Good students *assimilate* knowledge quickly.
A. absorb B. imitate C. recognize
2. She seems completely *disinterested* in her work.
A. willing to act fairly B. uninterested C. uninteresting
3. The loud noise *distracted* me from working.
A. shocked B. annoyed C. took me off
4. She was *frustrated* by the amount of criticism her play received.
A. angered B. discouraged C. startled
5. You should not *vocalize* the words if you want to speed up your reading.
A. memorize B. say C. spell out
6. Water *transmits* sound.
A. sends from one place to another
B. transforms
C. translates
7. Only those who are *flexible* can quickly adapt to a new cultural environment.
A. gentle B. polite C. able to change to suit new needs
8. The existing methods of production are expensive and *inefficient*.
A. inexpensive B. not efficient C. insufficient