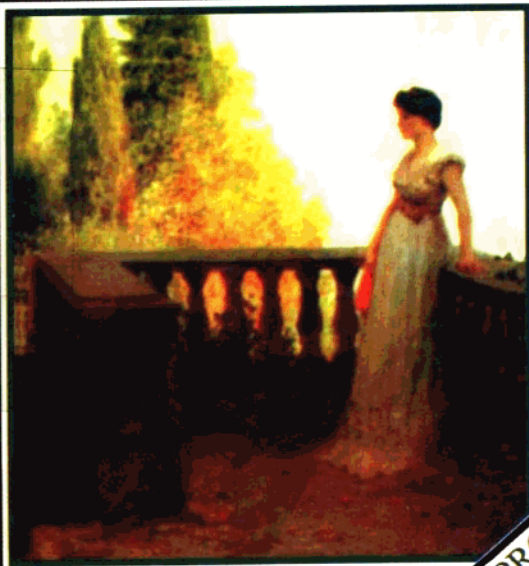


AAA 精释英语阅读系列 · 4 级

第一辑 · 4

幸福

吉林科学技术出版社



IMPROVE YOUR
ENGLISH

幸福及其他故事

凯瑟琳·曼斯菲尔德(1888~1923)生于新西兰惠灵顿。原名凯思琳·曼斯菲尔德。她立志走文学之路,于1908年离开新西兰去伦敦,在那里过着无拘无束的生活。她后来用凯瑟琳·曼斯菲尔德的笔名在伦敦一家最活跃的周刊《新时代》上发表短篇小说参与国际间的辩论,从此开始了她的写作生涯。

她以20世纪最优秀的短篇小说家而得到普遍承认。在她因肺结核而辞世后,其作品在法、德及英语国家中一直引起评论家的兴趣。

她生前发表的几部作品集包括《在一个德国公寓里》(1911),《先驱》(1918),《幸福及其他故事》(1920),《花园里的聚会及其他故事》(1922),去世后又陆续出版了《诗集》(1923),《幼稚及其他故事》(1924)和《一个神话故事》(1932)。

致 读 者

许多家长常常抱怨自己的孩子不爱学习英语。为了孩子学好英语,送他们参加各种学习班,甚至请家庭教师。但是,孩子的成绩还是上不去,往往事倍功半。

一位心理学家说过,学习的最大动力是兴趣。没有兴趣的学习,学什么也是注定学不好的。

说惯了自己的母语去学习英语,最大的困扰是枯燥、乏味。除了课堂上学过的单词和课文,什么也看不到,或者看不懂。在书店里买不到适于少年儿童初学英语可以阅读的书籍。

现在,我们出版的《AAA 精释英语阅读系列》,就是一套能激起学生学习兴趣的阅读书。这套引进 Libreria Meravigli Edirrice 的简化英语读物,全都是由英语专家根据世界名著,简化词汇量,编辑而成的。所选编的故事都十分生动有趣,为世界各国孩子们所喜爱,书上提供的练习也颇具趣味性。

全套书共分 4 级。1 级的词汇量为 300 个单词,就是说只要掌握 300 个单词就可以阅读;2 级的词汇量为 500 个单词;3 级的词汇量为 600~1000 个单词;随着词汇量的增多,就可以阅读 4 级了。在结构设计上,

本书也独具特色。1~3级左边是故事,右边是练习;4级左边是故事,右边是生词,书后是练习。设计这些练习和游戏,帮助学习语法知识,检验理解能力,不再需要多余的作业,一扫学生学习英语通常出现的恐惧感,使学生在学习中不知不觉地克服了畏难情绪,增加了安全感(Assurance)。

每篇故事短小精悍,既保留了世界名著的原貌,又使孩子们能一睹名著风采。每个故事独立成册,不用多少时间就能读完一册。“瞧,今天我又读了一本世界名著!”孩子们多高兴啊!这种学习上的成就感(Achievement),无疑是学好英语的强大动力所在。

从阅读1级开始吧!你只要掌握300个词汇就足够了。再增加200个词汇,就奔向2级;再增加100个词汇,就奔向3级……当你进入了AAA精释英语系列,就像踏上了高速行驶的列车,用难以置信的加速度(Acceleration)闯入英语世界。

祝你成功!

编者

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Katherine Mansfield

Bliss

and Other Stories

Katherine Mansfield (1888-1923) was born Kathleen Mansfield Beauchamp in Wellington, New Zealand. Determined to pursue a literary career, in 1908 she left New Zealand for London where she seems to have led a rather bohemian life. She began her career as a short story writer of international repute under the name of Katherine Mansfield in the "New Age", which was the liveliest weekly in London.

She is generally acknowledged as one of the finest short-story writers of the 20th century, and her work has been discussed by critics in the English-speaking world, France and Germany ever since her death from tuberculosis.

In a German Pension (1911), *Prelude* (1918), *Bliss and Other Stories* (1920), *The Garden-Party and Other Stories* (1922) were the only collections published before her death. Posthumous works include *Poems* (1923), *Something Childish and Other Stories* (1924), and *A Fairy Story* (1932).

La Spiga
LANGUAGES

BLISS AND OTHER STORIES

BLISS

Although Bertha Young was thirty she still had moments like this when she wanted to run instead of walk, to take dancing steps on and off the pavement, to bowl a hoop, to throw something up in the air and catch it again, or to stand still and laugh at – nothing – at nothing, simply.

What can you do if you are thirty and, turning the corner of your own street, you are overcome, suddenly, by a feeling of bliss – absolute bliss! – as though you'd suddenly swallowed a bright piece of that late afternoon sun and it burned in your bosom, sending out a little shower of sparks into every particle, into every finger and toe? ...

Oh, is there no way you can express it without being 'drunk and disorderly'? How idiotic civilization is! Why be given a body if you have to keep it shut up in a case like a rare, rare fiddle?

'No, that about the fiddle is not quite what I mean,' she thought, running up the steps and feeling in her bag for the key – she'd forgotten it, as usual – and rattling the letterbox. 'It's not what I mean, because – Thank you, Mary' – she went into the hall. 'Is nurse back?'

'Yes, M'm.'

'And has the fruit come?'

'Yes, M'm. Everything's come.'

'Bring the fruit up to the dining-room, will you? I'll arrange it before I go upstairs.'

Bliss: state of extreme happiness.

although: in spite of the fact that.

take dancing steps: make movements of the feet as if dancing.
pavement: hard surface at the side of a street for people to walk on. **bowl:** roll along the ground. **hoop:** large ring made of wood, metal or plastic. **throw:** send through the air with a movement of the arm.

you are overcome ... by a feeling of bliss: the sensation of happiness takes complete control over you. **absolute:** complete. **swallowed:** sent down the throat, from the mouth. **burned:** was on fire. **bosom:** the human chest. **shower:** fountain of many small pieces. **sparks:** small pieces of burning material thrown out by a fire. **particle:** very small piece. **finger:** one of the five movable parts of the hand. **toe:** one of the five movable parts at the end of your foot. **express:** show. **drunk:** condition when you have drunk too much alcohol. **disorderly:** uncontrolled, disturbing other people. **'drunk and disorderly':** official charge in a court of law. **idiotic:** stupid. **shut up:** closed, locked. **case:** box. **fiddle:** violin. **quite:** exactly. **mean:** want to say. **steps:** set of flat, usually stone, surfaces, each higher than the other. **feeling ... for:** trying to find by touch. **rattling:** making a metallic sound by shaking. **letter-box:** hole in the front of a door for receiving letters. **Is nurse back:** has the nurse come back. **nurse:** woman employed to look after children. **M'm:** Madam. **come:** arrived. **arrange:** put out, display, in a pleasing order.

It was dusky in the dining-room and quite chilly. But all the same Bertha threw off her coat; she could not bear the tight clasp of it another moment, and the cold air fell on her arms.

But in her bosom there was still that bright glowing place – that shower of little sparks coming from it. It was almost unbearable. She hardly dared to breathe for fear of fanning it higher, and yet she breathed deeply, deeply. She hardly dared to look into the cold mirror – but she did look, and it gave her back a woman, radiant, with smiling, trembling lips, with big, dark eyes and an air of listening, waiting for something ... divine to happen ... that she knew must happen ... infallibly.

Mary brought in the fruit on a tray and with it a glass bowl, and a blue dish, very lovely, with a strange sheen on it as though it had been dipped in milk.

'Shall I turn on the light, M'm ?'

'No, thank you. I can see quite well.'

There were tangerines and apples stained with strawberry pink. Some yellow pears, smooth as silk, some white grapes covered with a silver bloom and a big cluster of purple ones. These last she had bought to tone in with the new diningroom carpet. Yes, that did sound rather far-fetched and absurd, but it was really why she had bought them. She had thought in the shop: 'I must have some purple ones to bring the carpet up to the table.' And it had seemed quite sense at the time.

When she had finished with them and had made two pyramids of these bright round shapes, she stood away from the table to get the effect – and it really was most curious. For the dark table seemed to melt into the dusky light and the glass dish and the blue bowl to float in the air. This, of course in her present mood, was so incredibly beautiful. ... She began to laugh.

'No, no. I'm getting hysterical.' And she seized her bag and coat and ran upstairs to the nursery.

Nurse sat at a low table giving Little B her supper after her bath. The baby had on a white flannel gown and a blue

dusky: rather dark. **chilly:** cold.

threw off: took off quickly. **bear:** tolerate.

tight: constricting. **clasp:** *here*, feeling of being enclosed, held.

cold fell ... arms: her arms felt cold.

bright: brilliant. **glowing:** shining warmly.

unbearable: impossible to tolerate. **dared:** had the courage.

breathe: respire, take air into the body and let it out again.

fanning it higher: making the feeling inside her stronger, as the wind turn sparks into flames. **and yet:** however. **deeply:** with large, slow breaths. **cold:** expressionless. **gave ... back:** reflected.

radiant: beautiful and shining. **trembling:** shaking. **an air:** an expression.

divine: wonderful. **infallibly:** without doubt.

tray: flat piece of wood or metal for carrying small things.

bowl: deep, round container for fruit, etc. **dish:** plate. **shewn:** bright condition of the surface. **dipped:** put, immerse.

quite well: well enough.

tangerines: small, sweet oranges. **stained:** marked, coloured.

smooth: having an even surface, not rough. **silk:** very fine, smooth material. **bloom:** *here*, covering of fine powder. **cluster:** bunch, group. **fast:** *i. e.* the purple grapes. **tone in:** match.

carpet: woollen covering for the floor. **sound:** seem.

far-fetched: unbelievable.

bring ... up to: match.

sense: sensible, logical.

bright round shapes: the fruit. **stood away:** stepped back.

get the effect: see how it looked.

most curious: very strange. **For:** because. **melt:** *here*, disappear. **bowl:** deep, round container for fruit, etc. **float:** *here*, be suspended in the air. **mood:** state of feeling at a certain moment.

hysterical: losing control. **seized:** picked up.

nursery: special room for children.

supper: last meal of the day.

flannel: smooth warm material. **gown:** loose dress.

woollen jacket, and her dark, fine hair was brushed up into a funny little peak. She looked up when she saw her mother and began to jump.

'Now, my lovey, eat it up like a good girl,' said Nurse, setting her lips in a way that Bertha knew, and that meant she had come into the nursery at another wrong moment.

'Has she been good, Nanny?'

'She's been a little sweet all the afternoon,' whispered Nanny. 'We went to the park and I sat down on a chair and took her out of the pram and a big dog came along and put its head on my knee and she clutched its ear, tugged it. Oh, you should have seen her.'

Bertha wanted to ask if it wasn't rather dangerous to let her clutch at a strange dog's ear. But she did not dare to. She stood watching them, her hands by her side, like the poor little girl in front of the rich little girl with the doll.

The baby looked up at her again, stared, and then smiled so charmingly that Bertha couldn't help crying:

'Oh, Nanny, do let me finish giving her her supper while you put the bath things away.'

'Well, M'm, she oughtn't to be changed hands while she's eating,' said Nanny, still whispering. 'It unsettles her; it's very likely to upset her.'

How absurd it was. Why have a baby if it has to be kept – not in a case like a rare, rare fiddle – but in another woman's arms?

'Oh, I must!' said she.

Very offended, Nanny handed her over.

'Now, don't excite her after her supper. You know you do, M'm. And I have such a time with her after!'

Thank heaven! Nanny went out of the room with the bath towels.

'Now I've got you to myself, my little precious,' said Bertha, as the baby leaned against her.

She ate delightfully, holding up her lips for the spoon and then waving her hands. Sometimes she wouldn't let the spoon go; and sometimes, just as Bertha had filled it, she waved it away to the four winds.

funny: amusing. **peak**: shaped into a point.

lovey: little love. **eat it up**: eat everything.

setting: positioning. **meant**: signified, was a sign that.

a ... sweet: a good girl. **whispered**: spoke quietly.

pram: four-wheeled carriage for transporting a baby, pushed by hand. **knee**: joint in the middle of the leg. **clutched**: grasped, took hold in the hand. **tugged**: pulled hard or violently.

clutch: grasp, take hold in the hand. **dare**: have the courage.

stared: looked fixedly.

charmingly: sweetly, giving pleasure. **couldn't help**: could not avoid. **crying**: saying suddenly and in a loud voice. **do let me**: *note use of auxiliary to give emphasis, please allow me.*

oughtn't: should not. **be changed hands**: be passed to another person. **whispering**: speaking quietly. **unsettles her**: makes her troubled, anxious, irritable. **It's very likely to**: it will very probably.

upset: trouble. **absurd**: ridiculous, stupid.

fiddle: violin.

offended: hurt in feelings. **handed ... over**: gave.

excite: make excited.

have such a time with her: find the baby difficult to handle.

Thank heaven: *exclamation of relief.*

towels: cloths for drying something wet.

to myself: entirely for me with no interference.

leaned: rested for support.

delightfully: in a pleasing way. **holding up**: *here, opening.*

waving: moving.

let ... go: release. **just**: as soon as.

waved it away: knocked it away. **to the four winds**: everywhere.

When the soup was finished Bertha turned round to the fire.

'You're nice - you're very nice!' said she, kissing her warm baby. 'I'm fond of you. I like you.'

And, indeed, she loved Little B so much - her neck as she bent forward, her exquisite toes as they shone transparent in the firelight - that all her feeling of bliss came back again, and again she didn't know how to express it - what to do with it.

'You're wanted on the telephone,' said Nanny, coming back in triumph and seizing her Little B.

Down she flew. It was Harry.

'Oh, is that you, Ber? Look here. I'll be late. I'll take a taxi and come along as quickly as I can, but get dinner put back ten minutes - will you? All right?'

'Yes, perfectly. Oh, Harry!'

'Yes?'

What had she to say? She'd nothing to say. She only wanted to get in touch with him for a moment. She couldn't absurdly cry: 'Hasn't it been a divine day!'

'What is it?' rapped out the little voice.

'Nothing. *Entendu*,' said Bertha, and hung up the receiver, thinking how more than idiotic civilization was.

They had people coming to dinner. The Norman Knights - a very sound couple - he was about to start a theatre, and she was awfully keen on interior decoration, a young man, Eddie Warren, who had just published a little book of poems and whom everybody was asking to dine, and a 'find' of Bertha's called Pearl Fulton. What Miss Fulton did, Bertha didn't know. They had met at the club and Bertha had fallen in love with her, as she always did fall in love with beautiful women who had something strange about them.

The provoking thing was that, though they had been about together and met a number of times and really talked, Bertha couldn't yet make her out. Up to a certain point Miss Fulton was rarely, wonderfully frank, but the certain point

round to: towards.

fire: *here*, fire-place.

fond of: full of love for.

indeed: in fact; *here*, it was true.

bent: leaned. **forward:** to the front. **exquisite:** delicate. **shone:** gave out a reflected light. **firelight:** light given off by the fire. **came back:** returned. **express:** show.

You're wanted on the telephone: somebody has called you on the telephone. **coming back:** returning. **seizing:** taking suddenly and roughly in her arms.

Down she flew: she ran downstairs.

Look here: *here*, listen.

come along: come.

put back: delayed by.

What had she to say?: what was she trying to say?

get in touch: be in contact, communicate.

absurdly: foolishly, in a ridiculous manner. **cry:** exclaim. **divine:** wonderful. **rapped out:** said sharply.

hung up: replaced. **Entendu:** I understand and will do as you ask. **receiver:** part of the telephone held in the hand. **more than:** very, extremely.

sound: dependable, sensible. **couple:** *here*, husband and wife.

about to: on the point of. **start:** establish, organize. **awfully:** very. **keen on:** interested in.

asking to dine: inviting to dinner.

find: discovery; *here*, unusual and interesting new acquaintance.

did fall: *emphatic*, tell.

something ... about them: some strange quality.

provoking: annoying, tantalizing.

been about: gone out.

couldn't yet: still was not able to. **make ... out:** understand.

rarely: unusually. **frank:** sincere.

was there, and beyond that she would not go.

Was there anything beyond it? Harry said 'No.' Voted her dullish, and 'cold like all blonde women, with a touch, perhaps, of anæmia of the brain'. But Bertha wouldn't agree with him; not yet, at any rate.

'No, the way she has of sitting with her head a little on one side, and smiling, has something behind it, Harry, and I must find out what that something is.'

'Most likely it's a good stomach,' answered Harry.

He made a point of catching Bertha's heels with replies of that kind ... 'liver frozen, my dear girl', or 'pure flatulence', or 'kidney disease', ... and so on. For some strange reason Bertha liked this, and almost admired it in him very much.

She went into the drawing-room and lighted the fire; then picking up the cushions, one by one, that Mary had disposed so carefully, she threw them back on to the chairs and the couches. That made all the difference; the room came alive at once. As she was about to throw the last one she surprised herself by suddenly hugging it to her, passionately, passionately. But it did not put out the fire in her bosom. Oh, on the contrary!

The windows of the drawing-room opened on to a balcony overlooking the garden. At the far end, against the wall, there was a tall, slender pear tree in fullest, richest bloom: it stood perfect, as though becalmed against the jade-green sky. Bertha couldn't help feeling even from this distance, that it had not a single bud or a faded petal. Down below, in the garden beds, the red and yellow tulips, heavy with flowers, seemed to lean upon the dusk. A grey cat, dragging its belly, crept across the lawn, and a black one, its shadow, trailed after. The sight of them, so intent and so quick, gave Bertha a curious shiver.

'What creepy things cats are!' she stammered, and she turned away from the window and began walking up and down. ...

How strong the jonquils smelled in the warm room. Too strong? Oh, no. And yet, as though overcome, she flung

beyond: farther than.

voted: judged.

dullish: not very interesting or exciting. **cold:** not expressive or passionate. **a touch:** a little. **anaemia:** medical condition, lack of enough blood. **brain:** the mass of soft, grey matter in the head, centre of the nervous system. **at any rate:** in any case.

on one side: tilted to the side. **has something behind it:** means something. **find out:** discover.

Most likely: very probably. **It's a good stomach:** she has a good digestive system. **made a point of:** always thought it necessary to. **catching ... heels:** making ... stop and think. **liver:** large reddish-brown organ in the body which produces bile and purifies the blood. **frozen:** become ice. **pure:** here, simply. **flatulence:** gas in the alimentary canal. **kidney:** one of a pair of organs in the abdomen that separates urine from the blood. **disease:** illness, disorder of body. **drawing-room:** sitting-room. **picking up:** taking. **disposed:** placed, arranged.

couches: sofas.

surprised herself: did something she could not explain. **hugging:** embracing, putting arms around. **passionately:** with strong emotion. **put out:** extinguish.

overlooking: having a view of.

slender: small in circumference, slim.

In fullest, richest bloom: full of flowers. **becalm:** still, not moving. **jade-green:** green like jade (hard green stone used carved into ornaments). **help:** avoid. **bud:** flower or leaf before it opens. **a faded petal:** a petal that has lost colour, freshness and vigour. **beds:** areas for flowers. **tulips:** garden plants. **heavy with:** here, full of. **lean upon:** rest against. **dusk:** time just before it gets quite dark. **dragging:** here, crawling, moving on. **belly:** stomach. **crept across:** moved slowly with the body close to the ground. **its shadow:** here, close behind, like a shadow. **trailed after:** followed. **intent:** showing fixed attention. **shiver:** trembling that cannot be controlled. **creepy:** frightening. **stammered:** spoke with a tendency to repeat rapidly the same sound or syllable (e.g. *g-g-give me that p-p-pen*). **jonquils:** kind of narcissus. **overcome:** made weak.

down on a couch and pressed her hands to her eyes.

'I'm too happy – too happy' she murmured.

And she seemed to see on her eyelids the lovely pear tree with its wide open blossoms as a symbol of her own life.

Really – really – she had everything. She was young. Harry and she were as much in love as ever, and they got on together splendidly and were really good pals. She had an adorable baby. They didn't have to worry about money. They had this absolutely satisfactory house and garden. And friends – modern, thrilling friends, writers and painters and poets or people keen on social questions – just the kind of friends they wanted. And then were there books, and there was music, and she had found a wonderful little dressmaker, and they were going abroad in the summer, and their new cook made the most superb omelettes. ...

'I'm absurd. Absurd !' She sat up; but she felt quite dizzy, quite drunk. It must have been the spring.

Yes, it was the spring. Now she was so tired she could not drag herself upstairs to dress.

A white dress, a string of jade beads, green shoes and stockings. It wasn't intentional. She had thought of this scheme hours before she stood at the drawing-room window.

Her petals rustled softly into the hall, and she kissed Mrs Norman Knight, who was taking off the most amusing orange coat with a procession of black monkeys round the hem and up the fronts.

'... Why! Why! Why is the middle-class so stodgy – so utterly without a sense of humour! My dear, it's only by a fluke that I am here at all – Norman being the protective fluke. For my darling monkeys so upset the train that it rose to a man and simply ate me with its eyes. Didn't laugh – wasn't amused – that I should have loved. No, just stared – and bored me through and through.'

'But the cream of it was,' said Norman, pressing a large tortoiseshell-rimmed monocle into his eye. 'you don't