

AAA 精释英语阅读系列 · 4 级

第一辑 · 1

# 快乐王子

吉林科学技术出版社



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[英] 奥斯卡·王尔德 著  
赵文学 白 莉 导读

吉林科学技术出版社

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赵文学 白 莉 导读

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## 快乐王子

奥斯卡·王尔德(1854~1900) 1854年生于爱尔兰。曾就读于都柏林三一学院和牛津大学马格德兰学院。大学期间,王尔德投身于唯美派文学运动,由于智慧过人而赢得广泛的声望。

大学毕业后,王尔德迁居伦敦,不久便成为伦敦各界的宠儿。他的讽刺,辛辣的社会批评和洞察力,反传统的思想以及奇异的行为成为伦敦人街谈巷议的话题。1895年,他被指控有同性恋行为,判处两年监禁。这件丑闻使先前的崇拜者和朋友疏远了他。最后穷困潦倒的他于1900年死在巴黎。

《快乐王子及其它故事》发表于1888年。这本童话集具有象征意义及道德内容,老少咸宜,经久不衰。

王尔德的其它主要作品包括他唯一的一部小说《道林·格雷的画》,剧本《温德米尔夫人的扇子》(1892)、《一个无足轻重的女人》(1893)、《理想丈夫》(1895)及《诚挚的重要性》(1895)。

## 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 Edirrie 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,使学生在不知不觉中克服了畏难情绪,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,不要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

AAA 精释英语阅读系列

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Oscar Wilde

# The Happy Prince

and other tales

**Oscar Wilde** (1854 -1900) was born in Ireland in 1854. He attended Trinity College in Dublin and Magdalen College at Oxford. While still a university student, Wilde became involved in the aesthetic movement, and gained a wide-spread reputation for his brilliant wit.

After completing his studies, Wilde moved to the capital, and rapidly became the darling of London society. His irony, biting social criticism and insight, unconventional ideas, and eccentric behaviour made him the talk of the town. A scandal brought his downfall in 1895. He was accused of homosexuality, and sentenced to two years in prison. Ostracized by his former admirers and friends, demoralized and in poor health, Wilde died in Paris in 1900.

*The Happy Prince and Other Tales* was published in 1888. It is a collection of fairy tales with symbolic and moral content. This famous work of Oscar Wilde has been read and re-read by young and old alike over several generations.

Other well-known works by Oscar Wilde include his only novel, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (1891), and his plays: *Lady Windermere's Fan* (1892), *A Woman of No Importance* (1893), *An Ideal Husband* (1895), and *The Importance of Being Earnest* (1895), which is considered his masterpiece.

## THE HAPPY PRINCE

High above the city, on a tall column, stood the statue of the Happy Prince. He was gilded all over with thin leaves of fine gold, for eyes he had two bright sapphires, and a large red ruby glowed on his sword-hilt.

He was very much admired indeed. 'He is as beautiful as a weathercock,' remarked one of the Town Councillors who wished to gain a reputation for having artistic tastes; 'only not quite so useful,' he added, fearing lest people should think him impractical, which he really was not.

'Why can't you be like the Happy Prince?' asked a sensible mother of her little boy who was crying for the moon. 'The Happy Prince never dreams of crying for anything.'

'I am glad there is some one in the world who is quite happy,' muttered a disappointed man as he gazed at the wonderful statue.

'He looks just like an angel,' said the Charity Children as they came out of the cathedral in their bright scarlet cloaks, and their clean white pinafores.

'How do you know?' said the Mathematical Master, 'you have never seen one.'

'Ah! but we have, in our dreams,' answered the children; and the Mathematical Master frowned and looked very severe, for he did not approve of children dreaming.

One night there flew over the city a little Swallow. His friends had gone away to Egypt six weeks before, but he had stayed behind, for he was in love with the most beautiful Reed. He had met her early in the spring as he was flying down the river after a big yellow moth, and had been so attracted by her slender waist that he had stopped to talk to her.

'Shall I love you?' said the Swallow, who liked to come to the point at once, and the Reed made him a low bow. So he flew round and round her, touching the water with his wings, and making silver ripples. This was his courtship, and it lasted all through the summer.

'It is a ridiculous attachment,' twittered the other Swallows, 'she has no money, and far too many relations;' and indeed the river was quite full of Reeds. Then, when the autumn came, they all flew away.

After they had gone he felt lonely, and began to tire of his

**gilded**: coated or covered with gold. **fine**: thin.

**sapphires**: blue transparent precious stones. **ruby**: red precious stone. **glowed**: sparkled, shone.

**weathercock**: vane in the shape of a cock which turns to indicate the direction of the wind. **Councillors**: representatives of the people at the town hall. **fearing lest**: for fear that

**sensible**: wise, having good sense.

**crying for the moon**: desiring impossible things.

**muttered**: said in a low voice. **gazed**: looked.

**looks just like**: resembles exactly.

**pinafores**: aprons used by school girls

**did not approve**: did not like.

**Swallow**: a small bird with long pointed wings and a forked tail.

**Reed**: tall grass usually growing on river banks.

**come to the point**: speak openly and directly. **at once**: immediately. **a bow**: a bending of the head or body to show respect or agreement. **ripples**: waves. **lasted**: endured.

**attachment**: devotion, love. **twittered**: chirped.

**relations**: relative.

**tire**: to become tired

lady-love. 'She has no conversation,' he said, 'and I am afraid that she is a coquette, for she is always flirting with the wind.' And certainly, whenever the wind blew, the Reed made the most graceful curtsies. 'I admit that she is domestic,' he continued, 'but I love travelling, and my wife, consequently, should love travelling also.'

'Will you come away with me?' he said finally to her; but the Reed shook her head, she was so attached to her home.

'You have been trifling with me,' he cried, 'I am off to the Pyramids. Good-bye!' and he flew away.

All day long he flew, and at night-time he arrived at the city. 'Where shall I put up?' he said; 'I hope the town has made preparations.'

Then he saw the statue on the tall column. 'I will put up there,' he cried; 'it is a fine position with plenty of fresh air.' So he alighted just between the feet of the Happy Prince.

'I have a golden bedroom,' he said softly to himself as he looked round, and he prepared to go to sleep; but just as he was putting his head under his wing a large drop of water fell on him. 'What a curious thing!' he cried, 'there is not a single cloud in the sky, the stars are quite clear and bright, and yet it is raining. The climate in the north of Europe is really dreadful. The Reed used to like the rain, but that was merely her selfishness.'

Then another drop fell.

'What is the use of a statue if it cannot keep the rain off?' he said, 'I must look for a good chimney-pot,' and he determined to fly away.

But before he had opened his wings, a third drop fell, and he looked up, and saw — Ah! what did he see?

The eyes of the Happy Prince were filled with tears, and tears were running down his golden cheeks. His face was so beautiful in the moonlight that the little Swallow was filled with pity.

'Who are you?' he said.

'I am the Happy Prince.'

'Why are you weeping then?' asked the Swallow, 'you have quite drenched me.'

'When I was alive and had a human heart,' answered the statue, 'I did not know what tears were, for I lived in the Palace of Sans-Souci, where sorrow is not allowed to enter. In the daytime I played with my companions in the garden, and in the evening I led the dance in the Great Hall. Round the garden ran a very lofty wall, but I never cared to ask what lay beyond it,

**acquette**: a flirt. **flirting**: playing at love without serious intentions

**curtsies**: act of bending the body in sign of respect.

**shook her head**: said "no". **attached to**: loved.

**trifling**: playing. **I am off**: I am leaving.

**where shall I put up?**: where shall I sleep or spend the night.

**alighted**: landed.

**yet**: nevertheless.

**dreadful**: terrible.

**selfishness**: egoism.

**use**: utility. **off**: away.

**pity**: compassion.

**weeping**: crying.

**drenched**: soaked, made wet.

**Palace of Sans-Souci**: palace without worries or preoccupations

**sorrow**: sadness.

**lofty**: very high. **what lay beyond it**: all the things that were outside of the walls.

everything about me was so beautiful. My courtiers called me the Happy Prince, and happy indeed I was, if pleasure be happiness. So I lived, and so I died. And now that I am dead they have set me up here so high that I can see all the ugliness and all the misery of my city, and though my heart is made of lead yet I cannot choose but weep.'

'What, is he not solid gold?' said the Swallow to himself. He was too polite to make any personal remarks out loud.

'Far away,' continued the statue in a low musical voice, 'far away in a little street there is a poor house. One of the windows is open, and through it I can see a woman seated at a table. Her face is thin and worn, and she has coarse, red hands, all pricked by the needle, for she is a seamstress. She is embroidering passion-flowers on a satin gown for the loveliest of the Queen's maids-of-honour to wear at the next Court-ball. In a bed in the corner of the room her little boy is lying ill. He has a fever, and is asking for oranges. His mother has nothing to give him but river water, so he is crying. Swallow, Swallow, little Swallow, will you not bring her the ruby out of my sword-hilt? My feet are fastened to this pedestal and I cannot move.'

'I am waited for in Egypt,' said the Swallow. 'My friends are flying up and down the Nile, and talking to the large lotus-flowers. Soon they will go to sleep in the tomb of the great King. The King is there himself in his painted coffin. He is wrapped in yellow linen, and embalmed with spices. Round his neck is a chain of pale green jade, and his hands are like withered leaves.'

'Swallow, Swallow, little Swallow,' said the Prince, 'will you not stay with me for one night, and be my messenger? The boy is so thirsty, and the mother so sad.'

'I don't think I like boys,' answered the Swallow. 'Last summer, when I was staying on the river, there were two rude boys, the miller's sons, who were always throwing stones at me. They never hit me, of course; we swallows fly far too well for that, and besides, I come of a family famous for its agility; but still, it was a mark of disrespect.'

But the Happy Prince looked so sad that the little Swallow was sorry. 'It is very cold here,' he said; 'but I will stay with you for one night, and be your messenger.'

'Thank you, little Swallow,' said the Prince.

So the Swallow picked out the great ruby from the Prince's sword, and flew away with it in his beak over the roofs of the town.

**so:** in this way.

**ugliness:** ugly or unpleasant things.

**misery:** poverty. **lead:** a dark and heavy metal.

**I cannot choose but weep:** I can only cry.

**solid:** pure.

**remarks:** comments.

**worn:** tired. **coarse:** rough.

**a seamstress:** a woman who earns her living by sewing.

**embroidering:** sewing.

**but:** except for.

**fastened:** fixed

**the Nile:** famous river in Egypt.

**coffin:** box for a dead person

**linen:** fine cloth.

**withered:** dried up.

**rude:** impolite.

**mark:** sign.

**was sorry:** felt sad.

**beak:** protruding part of a bird's mouth.

He passed by the cathedral tower, where the white marble angels were sculptured. He passed by the palace and heard the sound of dancing. A beautiful girl came out on the balcony with her lover. 'How wonderful the stars are,' he said to her 'and how wonderful is the power of love!' 'I hope my dress will be ready in time for the State-ball,' she answered; 'I have ordered passion-flowers to be embroidered on it: but the seamstresses are so lazy.'

He passed over the river, and saw the lanterns hanging to the masts of the ships. He passed over the Ghetto, and saw the old Jews bargaining with each other, and weighing out money in copper scales. At last he came to the poor house and looked in. The boy was tossing feverishly on his bed, and the mother had fallen asleep, she was so tired. In he hopped, and laid the great ruby on the table beside the woman's thimble. Then he flew gently round the bed, fanning the boy's forehead with his wings. 'How cool I feel,' said the boy, 'I must be getting better;' and he sank into a delicious slumber.

Then the Swallow flew back to the Happy Prince, and told him what he had done. 'It is curious,' he remarked, 'but I feel quite warm now, although it is so cold.'

'That is because you have done a good action,' said the Prince. And the little Swallow began to think, and then he fell asleep. Thinking always made him sleepy.

When day broke he flew down to the river and had a bath. 'What a remarkable phenomenon,' said the Professor of Ornithology, as he was passing over the bridge. 'A swallow in winter!' And he wrote a long letter about it to the local newspaper. Every one quoted it, it was full of so many words that they could not understand.

'To-night I go to Egypt,' said the Swallow, and he was in high spirits at the prospect. He visited all the public monuments, and sat a long time on top of the church steeple. Wherever he went the Sparrows chirruped, and said to each other, 'What a distinguished stranger!' so he enjoyed himself very much.

When the moon rose he flew back to the Happy Prince. 'Have you any commissions for Egypt?' he cried; 'I am just starting.'

'Swallow, Swallow, little Swallow,' said the Prince, 'will you not stay with me one night longer?'

'I am waited for in Egypt,' answered the Swallow. 'Tomorrow my friends will fly up to the Second Cataract. The river-



**by:** near, in the vicinity of.

**ready:** prepared.

**lazy:** unwilling to work.

**masts:** high poles on a ship.

**bargaining:** agreeing to buy or sell

**scales:** balance.

**tossing:** turning .

**hopped:** jumped.

**thimble:** a small metal cup worn on a finger while sewing.

**fanning:** cooling.

**cool:** fresh. **getting better:** improving, getting well.

**sank into a delicious sleep:** fell asleep.

**curious:** strange.

**a good action:** a good deed

**When day broke:** after sunrise

**as:** while.

**quoted:** cited, repeated.

**high spirits at the prospect:** a good mood thinking about it.

**chirruped:** chirped or sang repeatedly.

**distinguished:** elegant

**commissions:** orders

**longer:** more