

新课标

强化提高  
高一版

# 高中英语拓展阅读

English Reading for Students

陈玲 周青主编

Reading

Students

English

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# 前言

《全日制普通高中英语教学大纲(试用)》中指出:“在高中英语教学中,听、说、读、写要进行综合训练,在进一步提高听、说、读、写的同时,要侧重培养阅读能力。阅读是理解和吸收书面信息的手段,它有助于扩大词汇量,丰富语言知识,了解英语国家的社会和文化。要指导学生查阅字典、语法等工具书,鼓励学生根据上下文猜测词义,使学生逐渐获得独立阅读的能力。”

从教学大纲中我们可以看出,学习英语要综合提高,因为听、说、读、写相互影响,缺一不可。而阅读是其中的重点。阅读除了精读教材外,更重要的是进行泛读训练,因为只有多读,才能扩展背景知识、加强语言感觉、巩固和扩大词汇量。本套书的特点就是紧紧围绕教纲的精神和新课标的要求来编写,强调基础的扎实、能力的培养和实战的训练相结合。具体有以下几个特点:

1. 材料的精选 本套书的材料基本上来自国外的报刊杂志,语言和风格都保持原味。内容丰富多彩,既有社会热点、文化风情、人生万象,也有科技纵横、历史回眸、心路历程,等等;风格也各有特色,有明晰,也有曲折;有热情,也有哀伤;有理性,也有幽默。总之它要展示的就是原汁原味的“英语国家社会和文化”知识,而这些知识又是符合中学生阅读口味,是他们所关心和想要了解的。

2. 能力的注重 本套书在文章长短和难易程度上,都经过精心的安排。每个单元基本上按先易后难来编排文章。在内容、风格、语言和篇幅上力求体现新课程标准的要求。每两个单元后我们精选了一组“佳作欣赏”,它们在语言程度上要更高一点,在内容和表达上也更有感染力,以供有余力的学生阅读和欣赏提高之用。

3. 基础和实战的结合 本套书以3篇左右文章组成一个单元,要求同学在半小时以内完成阅读和习题。习题的形式和考试相仿,它的重点放在考查同学对主要内容尤其是隐藏含义的理解上。对于超纲的词汇我们做了注释,但我们鼓励学生尽量少看注释,就像大纲说的,“根据上下文猜测词义”。

最后我们要感谢为我们推荐文章的老师和同学,同时一些文章的作者姓名和地址不详,希望他们能及时和我们联系,以奉酬谢。

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# Unit One

## 1 Harry Houdini: the Man of Many Secrets

### 神秘的哈里·胡迪尼

Harry Houdini was one of the greatest American *entertainers*<sup>①</sup> in the theater this century. He was a man famous for his escapes—from *prison cells*<sup>②</sup>, from wooden boxes floating in rivers, from locked *tanks*<sup>③</sup> full of water. He appeared in theaters all over Europe and America. Crowds came to see the great Houdini and his “*magic*” *tricks*<sup>④</sup>.

① 艺人

② 单人牢房

③ 大的容器, 箱子

④ “魔法”花招

Of course, his secret was not magic, or *supernatural*<sup>⑤</sup> powers. It was simply strength. He had the ability to move his toes as well as he moved his fingers. He could move his body into almost any position he wanted.

⑤ 超自然

Houdini started working in the entertainment world when he was 17, in 1891. He and his brother Theo performed card tricks in a club in New York. They called themselves the Houdini Brothers. When Harry married in 1894, he and his wife Bess worked together as magician and assistant. But for a long time they were not very successful. Then Harry performed his first prison escape, in Chicago in 1898. Harry *persuaded*<sup>⑥</sup> a detective to let him try to escape from the prison, and he invited the local newspaper-men to watch.

⑥ 说服

It was the publicity that came from this that started Harry Houdini's success. Harry had fingers trained to escape from *handcuffs*<sup>⑦</sup> and toes trained to escape from ankle chains. But his biggest secret was how he unlocked the prison doors. Every time he went into the prison cell, Bess gave him a kiss for good luck—and a small *skeleton key*<sup>⑧</sup>, which is a key that fits many locks, pass quickly from her mouth to his.

⑦ 手铐

⑧ 万能钥匙

Harry used these prison escapes to build his fame. He arranged to escape from the local prison of every town he visited. In the afternoon, the people of the town would read about it in their local newspapers,



and in the evening every seat in the local theater would be full. What was the result? Worldwide fame, and a name remembered today.



**Choose the best answer to the following questions:**

1. Harry Houdini was a famous \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. actor  
 B. prisoner  
 C. card trick player  
 D. magician
2. When did Houdini begin to perform his first prison escape?  
 A. 1891  
 B. 1894  
 C. 1898  
 D. He was 17 years old.
3. What strength had Houdini got?  
 A. He could move his body into any position.  
 B. He had magic powers.  
 C. He had supernatural powers.  
 D. He could do many card tricks.
4. How could Houdini unlock the prison doors?  
 A. He had fingers trained to open the door.  
 B. He had toes trained to open the door.  
 C. His wife passed him a key secretly.  
 D. He persuaded a detective to help him.

## 2 Violin Prodigies

### 小提琴天才

Violin prodigies, I learned, have come in *distinct*<sup>①</sup> waves from distinct regions. Most of the great performers in the late 19th and early 20th centuries were born and brought up in Russia and Eastern Europe. I asked Isaac Stern, one of the world's greatest violinist the reason for this *phenomenon*<sup>②</sup>. "It is very clear," he told me. "They were all *Jews*<sup>③</sup> and Jews at the time were severely *oppressed*<sup>④</sup> and ill-treated in that part of the world. They were not allowed into the professional fields, but they were allowed to achieve excellence on a *concert*<sup>⑤</sup> stage." As a result, every Jewish parent's dream was to have a child in the music school because it was a passport to the West.

Another element in the *emergence*<sup>⑥</sup> of prodigies, I found, is a society that values excellence in a certain field to *nurture*<sup>⑦</sup> talent.



Nowadays, the most nurturing societies seem to be in the Far East. "In Japan, a most competitive society, with stronger discipline than ours," says Isaac Stern. Children are ready to test their limits every day in many fields, including music. When western music came to Japan after World War II, that music not only became part of their daily lives, but it became a discipline as well. The Koreans and Chinese as we know, are just as highly *motivated*<sup>⑧</sup> as the Japanese.

⑧ 被激发了积极性的,  
有进取心的

That's a good thing, because even prodigies must work hard. Next to hard work, *biological inheritance*<sup>⑨</sup> plays an important role in the making of a prodigy. J. S. Bach, for example, was the top of several generations of musicians, and four of his sons had *significant*<sup>⑩</sup> careers in music.

⑨ 生物遗传性

⑩ 重要的,重大的,值得  
注意的

### Choose the best answer to the following questions:

- In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, many violin prodigies \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. went to Russia and Eastern Europe  
B. came from Russia and Eastern Europe  
C. became famous in Russia and Eastern Europe  
D. studied in Western countries
- There were some reasons that made Jewish children to study in the music school, but one is NOT true.  
A. They wanted to go to the West.  
B. They were not allowed into the professional fields.  
C. They were more talented than other children in the music.  
D. They were allowed to achieve excellence in the music.
- Now in the Far East, many children study music because \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. they lived in a competitive society  
B. they liked to test their limits every day  
C. they were interested in the music  
D. their parents wanted to discipline them
- Besides working hard, \_\_\_\_\_ is important to be a prodigy.  
A. education  
B. society  
C. parents' thought  
D. biological inheritance



### 3 General Tom Thumb<sup>①</sup>

#### 拇指将军汤姆

When Charles Stratton was five, he stopped growing. His mother took him to see the famous *showman*<sup>②</sup>, P. T. Barnum. Mr Barnum thought a small person would be the perfect *addition*<sup>③</sup> to his show. He hired Charles' parents along with him, and they traveled the world together.

① 拇指,此处借用“拇指姑娘”的故事,意为“袖珍人”

② 表演者

③ 附加物

He gave the two-foot-tall Charles a new name, General Tom Thumb. He taught Tom how to sing, dance, act and tell jokes. When he felt Tom was ready to perform on stage, he made up ads. To *stir up*<sup>④</sup> great interest, he said that Tom was eleven years old and had come from England.

④ 激起

During the show, Tom fought battles *pretendedly*<sup>⑤</sup> with tall people. He also danced upon a wooden plate held by a person who was eight feet tall.

⑤ 假装地

Tom's act was very popular and brought in a lot of money. By the time Tom was an adult, he had grown very rich. He had become a millionaire at the age of twenty-five.

Fortunately for Tom, Mr. Barnum added more little people to his show, and Tom became lucky in love as well. One of the little people was Lavinia Warren, a school teacher. Tom was able to win her love, and they married.

The *ceremony*<sup>⑥</sup> and reception were the talk of the town. They were attended by many rich and famous people and by about two thousand guests. Crowds filled the streets of New York to have a look at their *tiny*<sup>⑦</sup> wedding carriage. The couple even met with President Abraham Lincoln during their honeymoon, just before going to live in Tom's house in Connecticut.

⑥ 庆典

⑦ 小的,袖珍的

Their wedding, which took place during the Civil War, provided a welcome escape from the sad problems of war. Not willing to let this bit of sunshine *fade*<sup>⑧</sup>, communities throughout the country *sponsored*<sup>⑨</sup> “Tom Thumb” weddings. In these weddings, small boys and girls, all dressed up, went through marriage ceremony for fun.

⑧ 暗淡

⑨ 发起,主办



**Choose the best answer to the following questions:**

- Charles' mother took him to see Mr. Barnum and \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. wanted him to look after her son      B. hoped her son grow high  
C. hoped her son get a job                D. hoped to make money
- Mr. Barnum gave Charles a new name, General Tom Thumb, because \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. Charles looked like a thumb            B. Charles was very short  
C. this was a popular name                D. Mr. Barnum liked the name
- One of the following was not Charles' job.  
A. Fight "battles" with tall people        B. Dance upon a wooden plate  
C. Perform on stage                          D. Make up ads
- Charles' wedding attracted people's attention because \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. they wanted to escape from the sad problems of war  
B. it was a ceremony for fun  
C. the president attended the wedding  
D. they wanted to have a look at the two little people

## 4 A Loving "Detective"

### 爱情“侦探”

A few years ago, I found a wallet by chance in the street and picked it up. In the wallet there were only three dollars and a letter that looked as if it had been carried around for years. I opened the letter and saw it had been written almost 60 years ago, and was *signed*<sup>①</sup> Hannal. It was written to Michael.

I read it carefully, hoping to find some *clue*<sup>②</sup> of the wallet's owner. I called information to find the phone number for the address shown on the letter. The *operator*<sup>③</sup> told me that a woman named Alice knew Hannal who, perhaps was the person I wanted. I phoned Alice and was told that Hannal was now living in a *nursing house*<sup>④</sup>. So I went there to see her without delay. Hannal was a sweet, elderly person with a warm smile and friendly eyes. I told her about finding the wallet and showed her the letter. She said she had loved Michael very much, and for him, she never did marry.

I took the *lift*<sup>⑤</sup> to the ground floor. At the door I talked with the guard and showed him the wallet. To my pleasant surprise, he said he was sure it was Michael's, and he was on the third floor of the same



building.

When Michael saw the wallet he smiled and said it was his. I told him about the wallet, the letter and Hannal herself. He grew pale and asked eagerly where and how she was. He said he had always loved Hannal and never married either.

The three of us took the lift to the fifth floor. We walked into a room where Hannal was watching TV. The guard went over to her, pointing to Michael, and asked if she remembered the man. She looked for a moment, but didn't say a word. After a long while, the two of them *embraced*<sup>⑥</sup>, held hands and started to talk.

⑥ 拥抱

Three weeks later, Hannal and Michael held their wedding, with all the people at the nursing home joining the celebration.



**Choose the best answer to the following questions:**

1. Who wrote the letter sixty years ago in the story?  
A. Hannal                      B. Michael                      C. Alice                      D. The story teller
2. The writer found Hannal by \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. visiting her friends                      B. asking a guard  
C. reading newspapers                      D. calling
3. The writer found the Michael by \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. asking Hannal                      B. asking a guard  
C. asking a nurse                      D. looking for him in the nursing building
4. Hannal never did marry because \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. she didn't know where Michael lived  
B. she didn't know if Michael loved her or not  
C. she loved Michael very much  
D. Both B and C



## Unit Two

### 5 A Broken Vase

#### 一个碎花瓶

##### (一)

This is an old story about a poor young man who was in love with a rich beautiful girl.

They both lived in London. The girl's house, a big comfortable house, was *situated*<sup>①</sup> in a quiet street near an old park. The young man lived on the *outskirts*<sup>②</sup> of the city in an old wooden hut near the *docks*<sup>③</sup>.

① 位于……,坐落于……

② (常用复) 外围,郊区

③ (常用复) 船坞,船厂

One day the girl invited the young man to come to dinner on her birthday. The young man wanted to make her a present. He wanted to buy something beautiful for her, but he did not know how to do it, as he had little money.

The next morning he went to a shop. There were many fine things there: rings, watches *and what not*<sup>④</sup>.

④ 诸如此类,等等

But all of them were very expensive. Then he saw a vase, it was so beautiful that he could not take his eyes off. That was a good present for his sweetheart, but it was also rather expensive.

As he was looking at the vase for about half an hour, the manager of the shop had noticed him. The young man looked so *pale*<sup>⑤</sup>, sad and unhappy that the manager understood everything and decided to help him. He showed the young man another vase broken into many pieces and said:

⑤ 苍白的,灰白的

"I shall order my servant to *pack*<sup>⑥</sup> it and take it to your sweetheart. When he enters the house he will fall down and drop it. The girl will think that the servant broke the vase."

⑥ 包,打包

On the birthday the servant came to the girl's house and fell down as soon as he entered the room full of people. There was horror on the faces of the guests, the girl began to cry. But when she unpacked the





vase everybody saw that each piece was packed *separately*<sup>⑦</sup>.

⑦ 分开地,分隔地

And that was the end of the young man's love.

(二)

Agatha Christie went out at night. She never forgot the night when she met a robber many many years ago.

That evening, she was invited to a birthday party which lasted until 2 o'clock in the morning. Without company Agatha walked home along the quiet street.

Suddenly from the shadow of a dark building a tall man with a sharp knife in his right hand ran out at her. "Good morning, lady," the man said in a cool voice, "I don't think you wish to die here."

"What do you want?" Agatha asked.

"Your *earings*<sup>⑤</sup>. Take them off!" Agatha's *knitted brows*<sup>⑥</sup> became smooth. She tried to cover her *necklace*<sup>⑦</sup> with the collar of her overcoat while she used the other hand to take off both of her earrings, and then threw them on the ground.

⑤ 耳环

⑥ 皱紧的眉头

⑦ 项链

"Take them and let me go," she said. The robber looked at her feeling uncertain. He saw the girl didn't care for the earrings at all, only trying to protect the necklace. He realized the necklace would cost much more, so he said, "Give me your necklace."

"Oh, sir. It's not worth much. Please let me keep it."

"Stop talking rubbish. Quick!"

With shaky hands, Agatha took off her necklace. As soon as the robber disappeared, she picked up her earrings and ran as fast as she could to one of her friends.

The earrings cost 480 pounds and the necklace the robber had taken away cost only 6 pounds 10 shillings.



**Choose the best answer to the following questions:**

1. What was the mistake about the vase?
  - A. It was broken by the servant.
  - B. Each piece of the vase was packed separately.
  - C. It was packed neatly.
  - D. It was broken and frightened the girl.
2. Who made the mistake?
  - A. The manager of the shop
  - B. The servant

- ## 6 *Changed Lives*

# 重铸人生

Then, she was killed in a car accident. The next morning Lewis