中学生英语读物

Eight Folk Tales 八个民间故事

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内容简介

本书收集了非洲和东方一些国家流传的八个民间故事。故事的主人公有贫苦的猎手,美丽机智的小姑娘,善良的商人,也有勇敢、聪明的小山羊。故事描述他们如何同邪恶势力,如巫婆、盗贼、食尸鬼、鳄鱼、狼狗作斗争,最后取得胜利。故事情节生动有趣,文字流畅浅易。对语言难点加了汉语注释,配有插图,适合初中三年级学生和同等程度的读者阅读。

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1. Zaloat¹ and the Hyena²

Zaloat was a little goat. He was not strong, he was not big, but he had three beautiful sisters. The three beautiful sisters went out every morning and every afternoon. They found a very good field where there was a lot of green grass. Zaloat always stayed in the village where there was nothing to eat except bits of paper and dirt and pieces of cloth. He was very small and he did not grow any bigger; but his sisters were getting fatter and fatter.

One day Zaloat said to his sisters, "You become fatter every day. What do you eat?"

The sisters did not want Zaloat to know about their good field.

There was a very bad hyena in that field.

^{1.} Zaloat [zə'ləut] (山羊名)。 2. hyena [hai'i:nə] n. 囊物。 3. They found ... a lot of green grass. 她们找到了一块青草丰盛的草地。 4. except [ik'sept] prep. 除……之外。 5. dirt [də:t] n. 脏东西。



The three sisters knew that Zaloat loved eating. They said, "He will stay in the field until the sun goes down and then the hyena will come and eat him." So they did not tell Zaloat the truth. They said, "Oh, we only eat bits of paper and bits of cloth and dirt. We do not find any good food in the places where we go."

Zaloat looked at them. "They are not telling me the truth," he thought; so he said

to them, "I do not believe you. Put your foot in your mouth and bring up what you have been eating!, then I shall see what you have been eating."

The sisters did this and he saw that they had been eating² rich green grass. But Zaloat had been eating only dirt and bits of paper and cloth. So Zaloat said to them, "Where did you find this rich green grass? You must take me to the field of rich green grass."

They said, "Dear brother Zaloat, you love eating. We know that you will not leave the place once Hyena you have begun eating, and when night



comes the hyena will catch you and eat you."

"You must take me there," he said. "I must go to the place where you eat."

^{1.} bring up what you have been eating 把你们所吃的东西吐出来。
2. had been eating 是过去完成进行时,表示在过去某一时刻(即动词 saw 所表示的动作)以前一段时间里一直在进行的动作。

So the three sisters took Zaloat to their field and Zaloat began to eat. He ate — and he ate — and he ate, and he did not think of what his sisters had told him about the hyena. The sun went down and Zaloat was there, eating — and eating — and eating.

"Come away, come away, Zaloat," said his sisters. "Do come away." But he did not hear them.

Then the hyena came.

The hyena went to the three sisters and said to the first, "What is that thing in your mouth that makes a noise?"²

"That is my tongue³," said the sister-goat⁴.

"What are those things at the side of your head?"

"Those are my ears," said the sister-goat.

"What are those things like jewels⁵ in the front of your head?"

"Those are my eyes," said the sister-goat.

^{1. &}quot;Do come away." "走吧!" (句中的 Do 表示强调语气。)

^{2. &}quot;What is that thing ... a noise?""你嘴里发出声音来的那玩意儿是什么?" 3. tongue [tʌŋ] n. 舌头。 4. sistergoat n. 羊姐姐。 5. jewel ['dʒu:əl] n. 宝石。

"And what is that little thing behind you?" said the hyena.



"That is my tail," said the sister-goat.

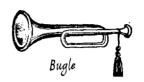
The hyena looked at her and she was very afraid. He said, "I shall eat you."

Then the hyena questioned the second sister-goat in the same way¹, and the second sister-goat gave the same answers; and the hyena looked at her and he said, "I shall eat you." And it was the same with the third

^{1.} in the same way 同样地;用同样的方式。

sister-goat. 1

Zaloat was still eating happily. Then the hyena came to Zaloat and he said, "What is that thing



Shield

in your mouth which makes a noise?"

"That?" said Zaloat. "That is my bugle². Soldiers have a bugle. They blow it when they make war³."

"What are those things at the side of your head?"

"Those are my shields⁴," said Zaloat. "They keep me safe.⁵"

"And what are those things at the front of your head — those things like jewels?"said the hyena.

^{1.} And it was ... the third sister-goat. 羊三姐的情况也是这样。 2. bugle ['bju:gl] n. 号角; 军号。 3. make war 打仗。 4. shield [fi:ld] n. 盾。 5. They keep me safe. 它们保我安全。

"Those are the fires of my eyes1."

"And what are those things on the top of your head?"

"Those are my spears²," said Zaloat. "I shall drive those spears into your body³ and you will die."



Then the hyena was afraid and he ran away. Zaloat ran after him⁴ and drove him far away. The hyena never came back to the field again. So Zaloat and his three sisters were very happy and they got fatter — and fatter — and fatter.

^{1.} fires of my eyes 我眼睛发射出来的火焰。 2. spear[spia] n. 矛。 3. drive those spears into your body 把那些长矛刺到你身体里去。 4. ran after him 追赶他。



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2. Muhammad Arbab¹ and His Dogs²

Muhammad Arbab and his sister Fatimah³ lived in the country. They lived very far away from people. Every day as soon as the sun came up into the sky Muhammad Arbab used to⁴ get up out of bed and go to the



Muhammad Arbab [məˈhæməd ˈαːbəb] 穆罕默德·阿不布 (人名)。
 dog n. 狗。
 Fatimah [fəˈtimə] 法蒂玛 (女名)。
 used to 表示过去经常的习惯。如: used to get up at six (以前)总是在六点起床。

forest. He had three dogs which helped him to catch animals in the forest¹. The names of the dogs were Aradaib, Sasoo and Nimrah². When the sun was hot in the middle of the day he came home, and ate, and he slept for a little. Then he went out again. He came back to the hut when it was dark and the door was shut. Then Arbab said:

"O sleeping sister open the door.

Your brother is back and will go out no more."3

Now Zaas⁴ was a ghoul⁵. He ate men. He lived near the place where Muhammad Arbab and his sister had their hut. Zaas wanted to eat Muhammad Arbab and his sister. Every night he came near the hut and he heard what Muhammad Arbab said to his sister when he wanted her to open the door.

^{1.} forest ['forist] n. 森林。 2. Aradaib, Sasoo, Nimrah [ərə'deib, sə'su:, 'nimrə] (狗名)。 3. "O Sleeping sister ... go out no more."这两句话的意思是: "睡觉的妹妹,把门儿开开。你哥哥回来,再也不走开。" no more = not any more 不再。
4. Zaas [za:s] (鬼妖名)。 5. ghoul [gu:l] n. (东方故事中的)食尸鬼。



One night when it was very late and Muhammad Arbab had not come back yet, Zaas went to the door of the hut and he said in his ugly voice:

"O sleeping sister open the door.

Your brother is back and will go out no more."

Fatimah knew that this was Zaas's voice

and she said to him:

"Go away, you may not pass.

Your voice is like the voice of an ass."

So Zaas went away, very angry.

Every night Zaas came to the door and tried to make his voice sound like the voice of Muhammad Arbab. But his voice was ugly and Muhammad Arbab's voice was soft and sweet².

Then Zaas went to a Wise Man³ in the village. He said to the Wise Man, "Make my voice soft and sweet like the voice of Muhammad Arbab. If you do not do this I shall eat you." Then the Wise Man was afraid and he said to Zaas, "Show me your tongue and I will see if I can do anything for you. Open your mouth and I will see what I can do."

So Zaas opened his mouth. Then the Wise Man worked at it⁴ and he worked at it, and after a long time he said, "Now your voice

^{1. &}quot;Go away ... the voice of an ass."意思是: "不准进来快快走,你的声音象驴吼。" ass [æs] n. 驴。 2. sweet adj. 甜的; 甜美的。 3. Wise Man 聪明人;智者。 4. worked at it (这里的意思是)改造他的舌头。

will be soft and sweet like the voice of Muhammad Arbab. But if you eat beetles your voice will become as it used to be. I know how much you like eating beetles, but you must not eat beetles, or your voice will become ugly again."

Zaas was very pleased. He ran away. He said, "Now I can eat Muhammad Arbab, or I can eat his sister Fatimah; or I can eat both of them! — first one, then the other."

He hid behind a tree near the hut and waited for the night to come. It was a long, long time. As he sat there hiding,² he saw a big fat beetle passing near his foot.

"No,"he said, "no, I will not eat it or my voice will become ugly." He waited.

Another fat beetle came, a fatter beetle than the first one. He said, "No, no, I will not eat it."

He sat and waited. He had had nothing

^{1.} beetle ['bi:tl] n. 甲虫。 2. As he sat there hiding, ... 当他坐在那儿躲着的时候,