

AAA 精释英语阅读系列 · 3 级

第一辑 · 3

三人同舟

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ENGLISH

三人同舟

杰罗姆 K·杰罗姆 (1859—1927) 出生在英国斯塔福德郡的沃尔索尔。他 14 岁时就开始工作，成为一名铁路雇员。之后，他当过教师，做过演员，最后成了一名记者。1888 年他发表了《三人同舟》和《一位懒惰者的幻想》。这两本书都获得了极大的成功。1892 年，他帮助创刊了有插图的月刊杂志《懒汉》。1893 年，他创刊了《今日》周报。他还写了一个十分成功的剧本《第三个背影的消失》，这是一个内容严肃的戏剧，讲的是一个耶稣基督般的人物对一群卑贱之人所产生的影响。在第一次世界大战期间，他是一名战地救护车司机。

《三人同舟》“记述了真实发生的故事”，其中“乔治·哈利斯和蒙特马伦西并不是诗一般的理想圣贤，而是有血有肉的生灵，尤其是体重如 12 块石头的乔治，其人性刻画得更令人信服。”正如作者所述，这正是本书的美之所在。但杰罗姆描写的世界并非像诗一般完美无瑕，因为那是一个永远不可复得的世界。《三人同舟》在不同程度上向我们展示了第一次世界大战的恐惧和幻灭之前英格兰岛国上的田园风光和生活。

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

Three Men in a Boat

Jerome K. Jerome

Jerome K. Jerome (1859 - 1927) was born at Walsall in Staffordshire. He began work at fourteen as a railway clerk. Later he worked as a teacher, actor and finally as journalist. In 1888 he published *Three Men in a Boat* and *The Idle Thoughts of an Idle Fellow*. Both of these books were great successes. In 1892 he helped found an illustrated monthly magazine called *The Idler* and in 1893 he founded a weekly paper called *Today*. He also wrote a very successful play called *The Passing of the Third Back*. This was a serious play about the effect of a Christlike figure on a group of sordid persons. He served as an ambulance driver during the First World War.

Three Men in a Boat is "a record of events that really happened" and "George and Harris and Montmorency are not poetic ideals, but things of flesh and blood - especially George, who weighs about twelve stone." This is, according to the author, the main beauty of the book. But the world described by Jerome does have something extremely poetic about it because it is a world that is lost forever. *Three Men in a Boat* shows us the more or less idyllic world that existed in England before the horrors and disillusion of the First World War.

La Spiga

THE INVALIDS

There were four of us – George, and William Samuel Harris, and myself, and my dog, Montmorency. We were sitting in my room, smoking, and talking about how bad we were – bad from a medical point of view I mean, of course.

We were all feeling tired and were get quite nervous about it. Harris said that he often felt giddy¹, and that he didn't know what he was doing; and then George said that he felt giddy and did not know what he was doing. I had problems with my liver. I had been reading an advertisement for liver medicine. This advertisement gave a list of the symptoms you have when your liver is not well. I had all of them.

It is a most extraordinary thing, but I never can read an advertisement for a medicine without being forced to the conclusion that I am suffering from the particular disease described, in its worst form.

I remember going to the British Museum one day to read about the treatment for some minor illness I had. I got down the book, and read what I wanted to read; and then, stupidly, I began to read about other diseases. I forget, which was the first disease I read about – some terrible disease, I know – and, before I had read the list of 'premonitory'² symptoms³ I was convinced that I had the disease.

I sat there horrified. Then I read about all the other diseases in the book and discovered that I had them all, except housemaid's knee⁴.

I sat and thought about this. I thought what an interesting case I must be for doctors. Medical students would not need to walk around the hospitals if they had me. I was a hospital in myself. All they needed to do would be to walk round me, after that, take their diplomas.

I went to my medical man. He is an old chum⁴ of mine. He said: "Well, what's the matter with you?"

I said:

"I will not take up you time, dear boy, with telling you what is the matter with me. Life is short, and you might be dead before I

1. **giddy** - feeling as if you were moving around in circles or falling.
2. **premonitory** - warning.
3. **housemaid's knee** - a minor disease caused by kneeling on the floor too much.
4. **chum** - friend.

1. Put the following sentences into the past tense.

Example:

I smoke too many cigarettes.

I smoked too many cigarettes.

a) We feel quite tired.

b) I can never read an advertisement for medicine without feeling sick.

c) I go to a doctor friend of mine when I feel sick.

d) I sit in front of the television every night.

e) I often think about my medical problems.

2. Say whether the following sentences are *True* or *False*.

Example:

Montmorency was the author's doctor. *False*

a) The author and his friends felt sick and tired, and they were worried about this.

b) The author could not read a description of a disease without thinking that he had that particular disease.

c) The author was worried because he had a horrible disease called housemaid's knee.

d) The author thought that he would be interesting for medical students to study.

finished. So I will tell you what is not the matter with me. I don't have housemaid's knee."

Then I told him how I had discovered it all.

Then he opened me and looked down me, and held my wrist¹, and then he hit me over the chest when I wasn't expecting it - a cowardly thing to do. After that, he sat down and wrote a prescription and gave it to me, and I put it in my pocket and went out.

I did not open it. I took it to the nearest chemist's² and handed it to him. The man read it, and then handed it back.

He said that he did not have the medicines my friend had prescribed.

I said:

"You are a chemist?"

He said:

"I am a chemist. If I was a co-operative store³ and a family hotel combined, I might be able to help you. But I am only a chemist."

I read the prescription. It went:

1 lb beefsteak, with

1 pt bitter beer

every 6 hours.

1 ten-mile walk every morning.

1 bed at 11 sharp⁴ every night.

And don't fill your head with things you don't understand.

I followed my doctor's instructions, with the happy result - speaking for myself - that my life was preserved, and is still going on.

Anyway, to return to our story, we sat there for half an hour, describing to each other our diseases.

"What we want is rest," said Harris.

"Rest and a complete change," said George. "The stress upon our brains has produced a general depression throughout our system. We need a change of scene!"

George said:

1. **wrist** - the joint between the hand and the lower part of the arm.
2. **chemist** - the person who sells medicine.
3. **co-operative store** - stores that sold food at low prices.
4. **sharp** - exactly, (often sharp means pointed and is used to describe knives).

3. Write out the doctor's prescription in complete sentences.

Example:

1 glass wine, every 6 hours.

Drink one glass of wine every six hours.

(pt = pint, lb = pound)

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4. Complete the following sentences.

Example:

If you need some medicine, you go to the *chemist's* .

a) If you need some bread, you go to the

b) If you need some meat, you go to the

c) If you have problems with you teeth, you go to the

d) If you want to have your hair cut, you go to the

"Let's go up the river.

He said we should have fresh air, exercise, and quiet; the constant change of scene would occupy our minds (including what there was of Harris's); and the hard work would give us a good appetite, and make us sleep well.

The only one who was not happy with the suggestion was Montmorency. He never did care for ¹ the river.

We were three to one, however, and Montmorency lost the vote.

THE FOOD QUESTION

Then we discussed the food question. George said:

"Begin with breakfast." (George is so practical.) "Now for breakfast we shall want ² a frying-pan, a teapot and a kettle and a stove."

For other breakfast things, George suggested eggs and bacon, which were easy to cook, cold meat, tea, bread and butter and jam³. For lunch, he said we could have biscuits, cold meat, bread and butter, and jam – but no cheese. Cheese fills up the whole boat with its smell. It gets everywhere. You don't know if you are eating apple pie, or German sausage, or strawberries and cream. It all seems cheese. There is too much odour about cheese.

I remember a friend of mine buying a couple of cheeses at Liverpool. They were splendid cheeses with extremely powerful odour that you could smell from three miles away and that could knock a man down at two hundred yards. I was in Liverpool at the time, and my friend asked me if I could take the cheeses back to London for him. He had to stay in Liverpool for more than two days, and the cheeses would have gone bad.

"Oh, with pleasure, dear boy," I replied, "with pleasure."

I called for the cheeses, and took them away in a cab⁴. It was a very old cab pulled by a very old animal that the driver had the courage to call a horse. When we started out the horse went extremely slowly, but when the horse smelled the cheese he went at least three miles an hour. Then the wind blew in the horse's

1. to care for - to like.

2. to want - to need (obviously, to want can also mean to desire).

3. jam - marmalade.

4. cab - taxi.

5. Answer the following questions.

- a) Why did George think that going up the river was a good idea?
- b) What did they decide to take for breakfast and lunch?
Would you like these things for breakfast and lunch?
- c) Why isn't it a good idea to bring cheese?
- d) Why did the author carry back his friend's cheeses?

6. Put the following sentences into direct speech.

Example:

He said we should have fresh air, exercise, and quiet.

"We shall have fresh air, exercise, and quiet," he said.

- a) He said that the hard work would give us a good appetite.
- b) George suggested eggs and bacon for breakfast.
(Use "Why don't we or "Let's")
- c) My friend asked me if I could take the cheeses back to London for him.
- d) He said that he had to stay in Liverpool for more than two days and the cheeses would have gone bad.

direction and he went even faster than cripples ¹ and old ladies!

When we arrived at the train station two men had to hold the horse because he was so excited; I do not think they would have controlled the horse if someone had not thought of covering up his nose.

I took my ticket and went up to the platform with my cheeses - everybody moved aside quite respectfully as I passed. The train was crowded ², and I had to get into a carriage where there were already seven other people. One old gentleman objected, but I got in. I put my cheese on the rack ³, sat down, and, with a pleasant smile, said it was a warm day. A few moments passed, and then the old gentleman began to move around.

"It's very crowded in here," he said.

"It's very oppressive," said the man next to him.

And then they both began sniffing ⁴, and, at the third sniff, they smelled the cheeses directly, and got up without another word and got out. And then a robust lady got up, and said it was terrible that a respectable married woman should be bothered in this way. The remaining four passengers sat in the carriage for a while, until a solemn-looking man in the corner, who seemed to be an undertaker, said that the smell made him think of a dead baby. The other three passengers tried to get out of the door at the same time, and hurt themselves.

I smiled at the solemn man, and said I thought we were going to have the carriage to ourselves; and he laughed pleasantly and said that some people made such a fuss ⁵ over a little thing. But even he grew strangely depressed after we had started. When we reached Crewe, I asked him to come and have a drink. He accepted and we went and had a drink. After the drink he went off quietly and got into another carriage, which I did not think was a very nice thing to do.

From Crewe I had the compartment to myself, though the train was crowded. As we came to the different stations, the people, seeing my empty carriage, would run to it. "Here, Maria; come along, here are some seats." "All right, Tom; we'll get in here," they

1. **cripples** - *persons who cannot use their legs.*

2. **crowed** - *filled with people.*

3. **rack** - *shelf.*

4. **to sniff** - *to smell the air to discover an odor.*

5. **to make a fuss** - *to be nervous or anxious.*

7. Put the following sentence into the conditional.

Example:

Someone thought of covering up the horse's nose. We controlled it.

If someone had not thought of covering up the horse's nose, we would not have controlled it.

a) I brought the cheese onto the train. I had the carriage to myself.

b) The old lad smelled the cheese. She got up and left the carriage.

c) My friend had to stay in Liverpool for business. He asked me to take the cheese to London.

d) They tried to get out of the door quickly. They hurt themselves.

8. Put into the singular.

Example: We were tired and nervous.

I was tired and nervous.

a) We were sitting in my room.

b) They like boating.

c) The men went to the river for their holiday.

d) The women did not like the smell of the cheese.

e) The cheeses are in the kitchen.

would shout¹. And they would run, carrying heavy bags, and try to get in the door to my compartment before anyone else. And one would open the door and come in and fall back into the arms of the man behind him; and they would come and have a sniff and go into another carriage, or pay the difference and go to first class.

From Euston I took the cheeses to my friend's house. When his wife came into the room, she smelt round for an instant. Then she said:

"What is it? Tell me the worst."

I said:

"It's cheeses. Tom bought them in Liverpool, and asked me to bring them up with me."

And I added that I hoped she understood that it was not my idea to bring the cheeses; and she said that she was sure of that, but that she would speak to Tom about it when he came back.

My friend had to stay in Liverpool longer than he had expected; and three days later, since he had not returned home yet, his wife came to my house. She said:

"What did Tom say about the cheeses?"

I replied that he had said that they should be kept in a moist² place and that nobody should touch them.

She said:

"Nobody's likely to touch them. Had he smelt them?"

I thought he had smelt them, and added that he liked the cheese very much.

"Do you think he would be angry," she asked, "if I gave a man some money to take them away and bury³ them?"

I answered that I thought he would never smile again.

She had an idea. She said:

"Would you mind keeping them for him? Let me send them to your house."

"Madam," I replied, "I like the smell⁴ of cheese and the journey from Liverpool with the cheeses was a happy ending to a pleasant holiday. But, in this world, we must consider other people. My

to shout - to say very loudly.

moist - humid, damp.

bury - to place in the ground and then cover up, to hide.

smell - odour.

9. Change the following sentences according to the examples.

Example: Nobody's likely to touch it. It is not probable (likely) that anybody will touch it.

Example: He is not likely to come before eight o'clock. It is not likely that he will come before eight o'clock.

a) Nobody's likely to read this book.

b) Bill's not likely to buy a gift.

c) Nobody's likely to eat that cheese.

d) Sara's not likely to come to dinner to-night.

10. Put the following sentences into direct speech.

Example: She asked me what it was.

"What is it?" she asked.

a) I added that I hoped she understood that it was not my idea.

b) I replied that he had said that they should be kept in a moist place.

c) I added that he liked the cheese very much.

d) I answered that I thought he would never smile again.

landlady is a widow. She does not like have any trouble. I am afraid that she would consider your husband's cheeses as trouble."

"Very well, then," said my friend's wife, "I shall take the children and go to an hotel until the cheeses are eaten. I refuse to live in the same house with them."

As much as I like cheese, therefore, I think we were right in deciding not to take any.

After this discussion we decided on all the food we would take and planned the day of our departure. The next day was Friday. We would pack on Friday and leave early Saturday morning.

COMIC SONGS

Our boat was waiting for us at Kingston just below the bridge. We walked over to it and stepped in.

"Are you all right, sir?" said the man.

"Right it is," we answered, and we pushed off and went out into the waters which, for two weeks, were to be our home.

It was a glorious morning, late spring or early summer, as you wish to call it, when the delicate green of grass and trees is turning deeper green; and the year seems like a beautiful young girl about to become a woman.

Later in the day, we stopped under some trees by Kempton Park and had lunch. It is a pretty little spot there under some trees near the river. We had just begun the third course¹ – the bread and jam – when a gentleman in shirt sleeves² came up to us, and wanted to know if we knew that we were trespassing³. We said that we had not thought about it enough to be able to come to a definite conclusion, but if he said that we were trespassing we would believe him.

He assured us that we were trespassing, and we thanked him, but he did not go away, and seemed to be unhappy, so we asked him if there was anything we could do for him. Harris, who is always very friendly, offered him some bread and jam.

I imagine that he belonged to some society whose members could not eat bread and jam, because he refused it quite angrily.

1. **third course** - *dessert.*

2. **in shirt sleeves** - *without a jacket.*

3. **to trespass** - *to go onto private property without permission.*

11. Write a summary of the story of the cheeses.

A blank sheet of lined paper with horizontal ruling lines.