

(英汉对照)



现代文学短篇名著选

上海外语教育出版社

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华英杉 编译

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序

学习英语和学习其他外语一样,听、说、读、写都有其重要性,四者缺一不可,但在一定的学习阶段或因工作的特殊需要,四者可以有所偏重。

如果撇开工作的特殊需要不谈,一个人已初步具备相当的外语基础,在继续前进的学习道路上,一般说来,应该在阅读上狠下功夫。阅读可以最有效地帮助他扩大词汇,分析词义的微妙差别,掌握难度大的复杂表达方式。至于深入了解所学语言的国家的历史及文化等等,使语言联系实际,成为有血有肉的东西,阅读也是一条最便利的途径。

以词汇为例,一个受过普通教育的英美人的词汇量总是很可观的,经过分析,其中大部分都是来自阅读。他写作水平的高低也往往决定于他读书的多少。我们在学习和运用汉语的过程中,也是有这种体会的。

因此,我们在打下一定的外语基础后,从事广泛阅读,实有必要。这时以阅读为主,又辅以听、说、写,或者还加上译,前进的步子便自然加快了。必须强调,在这一阶段应把大量读书放在首位,否则片面抓听、说、写,会感到语言材料日益枯竭的。听的东西总不如读的东西多。写和说不能老是那一套单词和句子。

然而对于大多数青年人,特别是那些以自学为主的,还必须在进入大量阅读以前,有好的教材为他们引

路，否则他们在浩瀚的书海中也许会迷失航向。

华南师大的几位老师有鉴于此，特地提供了这样一部英语教材。我觉得它至少具有以下优点：

1)材料选自各种著述，内容丰富多彩，不单调，不枯燥。

2)文章均出自名家手笔，值得反复学习，细心咀嚼。

3)作者以英国人居多，美国人次之，加拿大一人(但英国出生)，语言地道纯正。

4)每篇选文长短适中，过涉艰深的词句经过英国教材专家的适当修改，便于我们一般读者消化吸收，而又保存原文的韵味。

5)语言新鲜生动，绝无陈腐气息，因为作者都是近代现代人。

6)附有汉译，有助于读者加深理解，减少疑难。

至于附载的评论及作者生平简介，也是富于参考价值的。读者手此一册，弄通学通，然后循序以求，扩大阅读的领域，将见开卷有益，不难取得很好的英语造诣。因此我十分乐意为本书写这篇序言。

戴镛龄

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The Awful Fate of Melpomenus Jones

STEPHEN LEACOCK

SOME PEOPLE — not you nor I, because we are so awfully¹ self-possessed — but some people, find great difficulty in saying good-bye when making a call² or spending the evening. As the moment draws near when the visitor feels that he is fairly³ entitled to go away he rises and says suddenly, 'Well, I think I ...' Then the people say, 'Oh, must you go now? Surely it's early yet!' and a pitiful struggle⁴ follows.

I think the saddest case of this kind of thing that I ever knew was that of my poor friend Melpomenus Jones, a clergyman — such a dear young man and only twenty-three! He simply couldn't get away from people. He was too modest to tell a lie, and too religious to wish to appear rude. Now it happened that he went to call on some friends of his on the very first afternoon of his summer vacation. The next six weeks were entirely his own — absolutely nothing to do. He chattered a while, drank two cups of tea, then prepared himself for the effort and said suddenly:

'Well, I think I ...'

But the lady of the house said, 'Oh, no! Mr Jones,

can't you really stay a little longer?

Jones was always truthful. 'Oh, yes,' he said, 'of course, I — er⁵ — can stay.'

'Then please don't go.'

He stayed. He drank eleven cups of tea. Night was falling. He rose again.

'Well now,' he said shyly, 'I think I really ...'

'You must go?' said the lady politely. 'I thought perhaps you could have stayed to dinner ...'⁶

'Oh well, so I could, you know,' Jones said, 'if ...'

'Then please stay. I'm sure my husband will be delighted.'

'All right,' he said feebly, 'I'll stay,' and he sank back into his chair, just full of tea and miserable.

Papa came home. They had dinner. All through the meal Jones sat planning to leave at eight-thirty. All the family wondered whether Mr Jones was stupid and ill-tempered, or only stupid.⁷

After dinner mama tried to 'draw him out',⁸ and showed him photographs. She showed him all the family museum, several hundreds of them — photos of papa's uncle and his wife, and mama's brother and his little boy, an awfully interesting photo of papa's uncle's friend in his Bengal uniform,⁹ an awfully well-taken photo of papa's grandfather's partner's dog, and an awfully wicked one of papa as the devil for a fancy-dress ball.

At eight-thirty Jones had examined seventy-one photographs.

There were about sixty-nine more that he hadn't. Jones rose. 'I must say good night now,' he pleaded.¹⁰

'Say good night!' they said, 'why it's only half past eight! Have you anything to do?'

'Nothing,' he admitted, and muttered something about staying six weeks, and then laughed miserably.

Just then it turned out that the favourite 'child of the family, such a dear little boy, had hidden Mr Jones's hat; so papa said that he must stay, and invited him to a pipe and a chat.¹¹ Papa had the pipe and gave Jones the chat, and still he stayed. Every moment he meant to take the plunge¹², but couldn't. Then papa began to get very tired of Jones and finally said, with irony¹³, that Jones had better stay all night, they could make up a bed for him. Jones mistook his meaning and thanked him with tears in his eyes, and papa put Jones to bed in the spare room and cursed him heartily.¹⁴

After breakfast next day, papa went off to his work in the city, and left Jones playing with the baby, broken-hearted.¹⁵ His nerve¹⁶ was utterly gone. He was meaning to leave all day, but the thing had got on his mind and he simply couldn't. When papa came home in the evening he was surprised and angry to find Jones still there. He thought to get rid of him with a joke, and said he thought he'd have to charge him for his board, he! he! The unhappy young man stared wildly for a moment, then shook papa's hand, paid him a month's board¹⁷ in advance, and broke down and sobbed like a child.

In the days that followed he was moody and unapproachable. He lived, of course, entirely in the drawing-room, and the lack of air and exercise began to affect his health. He passed his time in drinking tea and look-

ing at the photographs. He would stand for hours gazing at the photograph of papa's uncle's friend in his Bengal uniform — talking to it, sometimes swearing bitterly at it. His mind was obviously failing.

At length the crash came. They carried him upstairs in a raging delirium of fever. The illness that followed was terrible. He recognised no one, not even papa's uncle's friend in his Bengal uniform. At times he would start up from his bed and shriek, 'Well, I think I ...' and then fall back upon the pillow with a horrible laugh. Then, again, he would jump up and cry, 'Another cup of tea and more photographs! More photographs! Har! Har!'

At length, after a month of agony, on the last day of his vacation, he passed away. They say that when the last moment came, he sat up in bed with a beautiful smile of confidence playing upon his face, and said, 'Well — the angels are calling me; I'm afraid I really must go now. Good afternoon.'

And the rushing of his spirit from its prison-house was as quick as a hunted cat passing over a garden fence.

注释:

1. awfully: 意思是“very”. 喜欢夸张的人在口语中常用这个词。

2. making a call: 拜访。等于paying a visit.

3. fairly: 这个副词通常表示程度,如fairly warm相当温暖,比very语气稍弱。但本句中的fairly并不表示程度。fairly entitled是“完全有理由去做什么事”之意。句子幽默地暗示在那个社会里,探访朋友并不是一桩乐事,只不过是一种不得不履行的社会习惯而已。

4. pitiful struggle: 意思是宾主双方都想快一点完事, 但出于礼貌, 谁也不愿先开口。作者把双方客套的暗示形容为“pitiful struggle”。
5. er: 没有意思的象声词, 当一时想不起恰当的话时便使用它。
6. you could have stayed to dinner ...: 故事发展的关键在这里。当女主人说她以为琼斯可以留下来吃晚饭, 并不出于真意, 只是礼貌的客套, 而琼斯是个古板的老实人, 却为难地接受了“邀请”。
7. and ill-tempered, or only stupid: 琼斯先生脾气并不坏。只不过是出于担心走不成而沉默不语。
8. “draw him out”: 逗他说话, 不让他感到无聊。
9. in his Bangal uniform: 这个短语的时代背景告诉我们, 那是二十世纪初年。当时英国国王是爱德华七世, 那时称为“爱德华时期”。那时富家子弟从军是一件时髦的事。许多人在印度服役。照片里的人显然是孟加拉兵团的一个军官。
10. pleaded: 恳求。
11. Papa had the pipe and gave Jones the chat. 爸爸自己一面抽着烟斗, 一面闲扯。请读者想象一下, 这句话所创造出来的气氛: 琼斯作为一个虔诚的牧师, 自然讨厌烟味, 加上他又急于离去, 也无心听小孩爸爸的闲扯。
12. take the plunge: 突然作出果断的决定。
13. with irony; 带着嘲弄的口气。
14. heartily: 作者使用这个词有强烈的感情色彩, 表示主人以咒骂琼斯来消气。
15. broken-hearted: 伤心透了。这里当然是指琼斯本人。
16. nerve: 作“勇气”解。
17. board: 伙食费

思考题：

1. What is the cause of Jones' death?

琼斯的死因是什么？

2. Honesty is considered a virtue. Why did it cause Jones all the trouble?

诚实是美德，为什么诚实反而为琼斯招来烦恼？

作者简介：

斯蒂芬·利科克 Stephen Leacock, (1869—1944) 出生于英国汉普郡。7岁时全家移居加拿大。受教育于加拿大和美国，因此被看作为北美洲作家。

利科克以他出色的幽默小说著称于英语语区的国家，但他的成就却远超于此；他是加拿大蒙特利尔市麦吉尔大学的经济学家和政治学的教授，同时也是出色的文学评论家；他对马克·吐温和狄更斯作过深刻的研究，发表过评论文章。他自己的幽默小说，在某些方面借鉴了马克·吐温的特点，即借夸大现实生活中的某些现象而取得极其明显的幽默讽刺效果。

琼斯的厄运

斯蒂芬·利科克

有些人——当然不是你和我啰，因为我们都那么有自制力——但真有一些人，对他们来说，要在访友和晚间聚会中跟别人告别，是一件难乎其难的事。到了该告别的时候，拜访者觉得自己完全有理由走了，便匆匆站起来说：“嗯，我想我……”这

时主人说：“哦？您真要走？时间还早嘛！”于是随之而来的便是可怜可悲的“挽留”和离去两者之间的执拗。

我所知道这类事的最为可悲的例子莫过于我可怜的朋友琼斯的遭遇了。他是一个牧师——一个年仅23岁的可亲的年青人！但是要他和别人告别，简直是难上加难。他谦虚谨慎，从不说谎；他笃信宗教，从不粗鲁无礼。这回正是暑假的第一个下午，他在拜访一些朋友。以后的六个星期可以完全由他自己支配——连一丁点儿的公务也不会有了。他闲谈了一会，喝了两杯茶，便准备对付那恼人的告别，于是突然说道：

“嗯，我想我……”

但女主人却说：“琼斯先生请别走，难道您不能多留片刻吗？”

老实的琼斯只好说：“是的，我……当然……我可以……留下来。”

“那就请别走了。”

琼斯就这么留下来了。他一共喝了十一杯茶。待夜幕降临之际，他再一次站起来，很不好意思地说：

“嗯，现在我想我真的……”

“您一定得走了吗？”女主人十分有礼貌地说道。“我还以为您可以留下来吃晚饭呢！……”

“唷，您知道我是可以的，”琼斯说，“如果……”

“那就请留下来吧，我丈夫肯定会高兴的。”

“好吧，我留下。”琼斯有气无力地说，一屁股坐回原来的椅子上。真是一肚子茶水满腔愁。

主人回家后便吃晚饭。琼斯一面吃一面心里嘀咕着，打算八点半无论如何要告别了。而主人家个个心里纳闷，不知道琼斯先生是蠢人一个呢还是脾气蹇扭，或者别无他故就是蠢人一个而已。

饭后，女主人想引他说话，给他看照片，把他们的家庭博物馆——好几百张照片翻出来。里面有男主人叔父伉俪的，小

舅子和他的孩子的，穿着孟加拉军团制服的叔父的朋友的——这幅看起来满有趣。还有男主人祖父的老搭档的爱犬，它照得十分神气。还有男主人在一次化装舞会上扮作魔鬼的那一张，一副十足的凶相。

到八点半，琼斯已欣赏了71张，没有看的约摸还有69张。于是琼斯站起来，带着恳求的声音对主人说：

“我得和您们说晚安了。”

“晚安！”他们说，“才八点半呀，您有事吗？”

“没有什么事，”他照实说，然后又不清不楚地说什么他可以逗留六个星期，接着可怜地笑了笑。

事有凑巧，这时主人家的爱子，一个十分讨人喜欢的小孩，把琼斯的帽子藏了起来，于是主人说琼斯非得留下来不可了。他请琼斯抽口烟，再闲聊一会。琼斯哪有这份心思，还是由主人自己去抽，去闲扯，但琼斯毕竟还是留下了。以后琼斯每次想走，总没有勇气启齿。男主人开始对他厌倦了。最后他带着挖苦的口气说琼斯最好还是在他家过夜吧，还说他们可以替他安排个床铺。琼斯误以为是主人的真意，含着眼泪表示感谢。主人在一间空置的房间里把他安顿好，心里却狠狠地咒骂他。

次日，吃罢早点，主人进城上班去，留下伤心透顶的琼斯和他的小孩玩耍。这时，琼斯已完全鼓不起劲来。一整天他都想离开，但他老有这个念头，可就是办不到。傍晚主人返家后发现琼斯居然还呆在他家里，十分惊讶。又非常恼火。他想开个玩笑把他打发走，说要收琼斯的伙食费，嘻！嘻！听了这话，琼斯目瞪口呆地望着主人。过了好一会儿他才使劲地握了一下主人的手，预付了一个月的膳费。这时他再也控制不住自己了，象小孩那样呜咽抽泣起来。

随后的几天，琼斯的情绪坏极了。没有人可以接近他。不用说他整天只能呆在客厅里，由于空气闷人，又缺乏走动，他的健康受到了影响。他靠喝茶，看照片来打发时光。他常常呆站好几个小时，凝视着男主人叔叔的朋友的那张穿着孟加拉军

团制服的照片，时而对它说话，时而又狠狠地咒骂。很显然，他的神经开始不正常了。

琼斯的健康终于到了不可收拾的地步，他发着高烧，说着胡话。他们只好把他抬到楼上去。他随后发的病是可怕的：他什么人都认不出来，就连照片里穿着孟加拉军团制服的那个男主人叔叔的朋友都认不出来了。他有时倏地从床上坐起来尖叫：“嗯，我想我……”然后随着一阵可怕的笑声又倒在枕头上。接着又再一次跳起来高叫：“再给我一杯茶，再给我多些照片，多些照片，哈哈。”

经过一个月的折磨，到琼斯假期的最后一天，他终于与世长辞。他们说他在死前的那一刻，脸上呈现出美丽的，满有信心的微笑，他说：“好了，天使们在召唤我了，恐怕我一定得走了，再见。”

他的灵魂匆匆离开禁锢它的躯体，就象一只被人追赶的猫儿跳过花园的篱笆那样。

何鸿举 译

Eveline

JAMES JOYCE

SHE sat at the window watching the evening 'enter the avenue. Her head was leaned¹ against the window curtains, and in her nostrils was the odour of dusty cotton cloth. She was tired.

Few² people passed. The man out of the last house passed on his way home; she heard his footsteps clacking³ along the concrete pavement and afterwards crunching⁴ on the path before the new red houses. Once there used to be a field there in which they used to play every evening with other people's children. Then a man from Belfast bought the field and built houses on it — not like their little brown houses⁵, but bright brick house with shining roofs. The children of the avenue used to play together in that field — the Devines, the Waters, the Dunns, little Keogh the cripple, she and her brothers and sisters. Ernest, however, never played: he was too grown up. Her father used often to hunt⁶ them in out of the field with his blackthorn stick. Still⁷ they seemed to have been rather happy then. Her father was not so bad then; and besides, her mother was alive. That was a long time ago; she and her brothers and sisters were all grown

up; her mother was dead. Tizzie Dunn was dead, too, and the Waters had gone back to England. Everything changes⁸. Now she was going to go away like the others, to leave her home.

Home! She looked round the room, reviewing⁹ all its familiar objects which she had dusted once a week for so many years, wondering where on earth all the dust came from. Perhaps she would never see again those familiar objects from which she had never dreamed of being divided.

She had consented to go away, to leave her home. Was that wise? She tried to weigh¹⁰ each side of the question. In her home anyway¹¹ she had shelter and food; she had those whom she had known all her life about her. Of course she had to work hard, both in the house and at business. What would they say of her at the Stores¹² when they found out that she had run away with a fellow¹³? Say she was a fool, perhaps; and her place would be filled up by advertisement. Miss Gavan would be glad. She had always spoken harshly to her, especially whenever there were people listening.

'Miss Hill, don't you see these ladies are waiting?'

'Look lively¹⁴, Miss Hill, please.'

She would not cry many tears¹⁵ at leaving the Stores.

But in her new home, in a distant unknown country, it would not be like that. Then she would be married — she, Eveline. People would treat her with respect then. She would not be treated as her mother had been. Even now, though she was over nineteen, she sometimes felt herself in danger of her father's violence. She knew it