

朗朗 · 阅读

# LANGLANG READERS

English & Chinese

## *The Hunchback of Notre-Dame*

巴黎圣母院

有组织的犯罪

ORGANIZED CRIME

午餐

THE LUNCHEON

哥伦布和鸡蛋

COLUMBUS AND THE EGG

辛德勒的名单

SCHINDLER'S LIST

外文出版社

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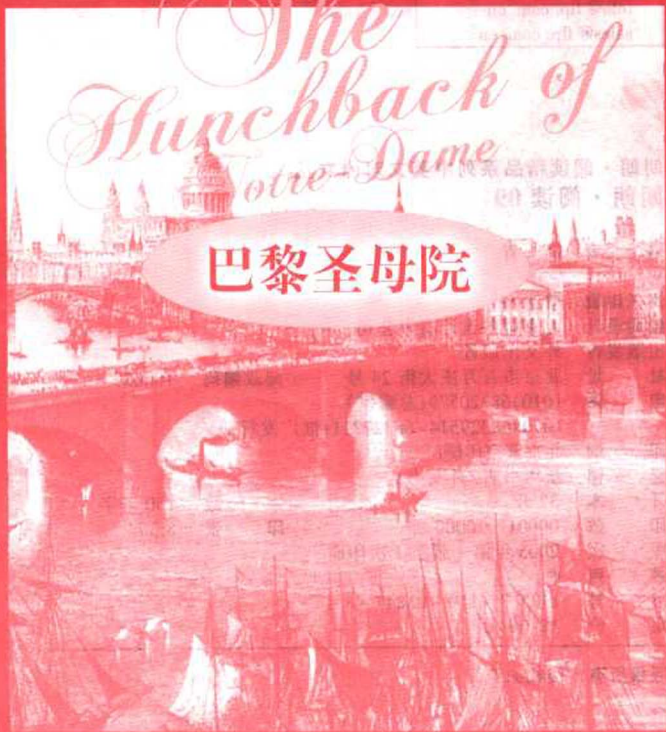
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# 目 录

## CONTENTS

散文经典	<b>CLASSICAL ESSAY</b> <i>I Never Write Right</i> 我不懂写作 ..... 2
生活新知	<b>LIFE AND KNOWLEDGE</b> <i>The Secrets of Memory</i> 记忆的奥秘 ..... 8
环球之旅	<b>AROUND THE WORLD</b> <i>Organized Crime</i> 有组织的犯罪 ..... 20
美丽人生	<b>BEAUTIFUL LIFE</b> <i>The Teacher</i> 教师 ..... 32
说文解字	<b>WORD AND EXPRESSION</b> <i>Turkey/ White Elephant</i> 火鸡/白象 ..... 56/ 62
英语快餐	<b>ENGLISH SALOON</b> <i>English on Board</i> 机上实用英语 ..... 66
名人名言	<b>FAMOUS QUOTATION</b> <i>Sports Star</i> 体育名星 ..... 68

幽默乐园

HUMOUR

- Twenty Dollars for Pulling a Tooth*  
拔一颗牙收费 20 美元 ..... 70
- Where Is God?*  
上帝在哪里? ..... 70

赠言赠诗

QUOTATION AND POEM

- Best Friendship Quotes*  
永恒的友谊 ..... 72

英文金曲

ENGLISH SONG

- Casablanca*  
卡萨布兰卡 ..... 74

短篇小说

SHORT STORY

- The Luncheon*  
午餐 ..... 76

西方逸事

WESTERN ANECDOTE

- Columbus And The Egg*  
哥伦布和鸡蛋 ..... 92

电影赏析

ENGLISH THROUGH FILM

- Schindler's List*  
辛德勒的名单 ..... 98

文学名著

LITERATURE WORKS

- Three Kingdoms Chapter 75*  
三国演义第七十五回 ..... 172
- The Hunchback of Notre-Dame*  
巴黎圣母院 ..... 198



## 前 言

《朗朗·阅读》(LANGLANG READERS)是外文出版社为大中学生和广大英语爱好者精心策划的一套英语课外读物,是针对教育部对目前英语教学现状提出的意见编撰的,旨在为广大中学生和大学低年级学生提供一套既实用又轻松的中英文对照读物。

这套书编排形式活泼新颖,文章短小精悍,图文并茂,注释详实,这是本书的第一个特点;

本书的第二个特点是取材广泛,纵横古今中外,品类繁多,包罗影视文(章)网(络)。

我们拟先推出 10 本,以后再陆续添加。在本丛书的成书过程中,许多人都付出了大量的时间、精力和心血。我们在此向他们表示由衷的感谢。

尽管我们在尽最大的努力做好每一件事,但是失误仍然在所难免。希望广大读者一如既往地对我们的工作进行监督与批评。

## I Never Write Right

When I was fifteen, I announced to my English class that I was going to write and illustrate my own books. Half the students sneered <sup>①</sup>, the rest nearly fell out of their chairs laughing. "Don't be silly, only geniuses can become writers," the English teacher said smugly, "and you are getting a D this semester." I was so humiliated I burst into tears.

That night I wrote a short sad poem about broken dreams and mailed it to the Capri's Weekly newspaper. To my astonishment, they published it and sent me two dollars. I was published and paid writer. I showed my teacher and fellow students. They laughed. "Just plain dumb luck," the teacher said. I tasted success. I'd sold the first thing I'd ever written. That was more than any of them had done and if it was just dumb luck, that was fine with me.

During the next two years I sold dozens of poems, letters, jokes and recipes. By the time I graduated from high school, with a C minus average, I had scrapbooks <sup>②</sup> filled with my published work. I never mentioned my writing to my teachers, friends or my family again. They were dream killers and if people must choose between their friends and their dreams, they must always choose

## 我不懂写作

十五岁的时候，我对英语班上的同学宣布说准备写书，并自己画插图。有一半学生开始窃笑，剩下的一半则几乎从椅子上笑得跌到地上。“别傻了，只有天才才能成为作家，”英文老师自以为是地说道，“而你这个学期成绩可能是D。”我羞愧得放声大哭。

那天晚上，我写了一首梦想破灭的伤心短诗，寄给了《卡普里周报》。出乎意料的是，他们把诗发表了并给我寄来两美元。我的作品发表了。我拿给老师和同学看，他们都笑我，“瞎猫逮着死耗子，”老师说道。我尝到了成功的喜悦。第一篇作品就卖出去了。就算这是瞎猫逮着死耗子，也比他们任何人都强，这对我来讲已经很不错了。

在接下来的两年里，我卖掉了几十首诗歌、书信、笑话和食谱。中学毕业时，我的平均成绩是C<sup>-</sup>，但我的剪贴簿里贴满了我的作品。我再也没有向老师、同学或家人提起过自己的写作情况。他们都是无情的毁梦者，如果人们必须从朋友和梦想之间作出选

散文经典

① sneer[snɪə]

n. 冷笑，嘲笑

② scrapbook

n. 剪贴簿



their dreams.

I had four children at the time, and the oldest was only four. While the children napped, I typed at my ancient typewriter I wrote what I felt. It took nine months. Just like a baby I chose a publisher at random and put the manuscript in an empty Pampers'diapers package, the only box I could find. I'd never heard of manuscript boxes. The letter I enclosed read: "I wrote this book myself I hope you like it. I also do the illustrations. Chapter six and twelve are my favourites. Thank you." I tied the string around the diaper box and mailed it without a self addressed stamped envelope and without making a copy of the manuscript.

A month later I received a contract, an advance and royalties<sup>①</sup>, and a request to start working on another book. Crying Wind the title of my book, became a best seller, was translated into fifteen languages and Braille and sold worldwide. I appeared on TV talk shows during the day and changed diapers at night. I traveled from New York to California and Canada on promotional<sup>②</sup> tours, My first book also became required reading in native American schools in Canada.

The worst year I ever had as a writer I earned two dollars. I was fifteen, remember? In my best year I earned 36, 000 dollars. Most years I earned between five thousand and ten thousand. No, it isn't enough to live

择,他们总该选择后者。

现在我有四个孩子,最大的只有四岁。孩子们进入梦乡时,我就在那台老掉牙的打字机前写下自己的感受,我花了九个月,就像十月怀胎,然后随意选择了一家出版社,将手稿装在空“潘泊斯”尿布盒子里——我唯一能找到的盒子。我从没听说过手稿箱。在附信中我写道:“这本书是我写的,希望你喜欢。插图也是我画的。我本人最喜欢第六章和第十二章。谢谢。”我捆好尿布箱,就寄了出去,甚至没有加盖地址,也没留手稿的复印件。

一个月后,我收到一份合同、一份预付款和特许权,以及另一本书的约稿。我的《哭泣的风》成了最畅销的书,并被译成 15 国文字和盲文,销往世界各地。白天我出现在电视的脱口秀节目中,晚上则回家换尿布片。我从纽约到加利福尼亚、加拿大去做促销活动。我的第一本书也成为加拿大本土美语学校的必修课教材。

自从成了作家,我挣得最少的一年只有两美元,那时我十五岁,还记得吗?而最多的一年我挣三万六千美元。更多的年份我挣的钱在五千到一

① royalties [ˈrɔɪəlti]

n. 特许权,专利权税,版税

② promotional

[prəˈmouʃənəl] adj.

提升的,推销的,发还的

on, but it's still more than I'd make working part time and it's five thousand to ten thousand more than I'd make if I didn't write at all. People ask what college I attended, what degrees I had and what qualifications I have to be a writer. The answer is: "none." I just write. I'm not a genius. I'm not gifted and I don't write right. I'm lazy, undisciplined, and spend more time with my children and friends than I do writing. I didn't own a Thesaurus until four years ago and I use a small Webster's dictionary that I'd bought at K-Mart for 89 cents. I use an electric typewriter that I paid 129 dollars for six years ago, I've never used the word processor. I do all the cooking, cleaning and laundry for a family of six and fit my writing in a few minutes here and there. I write everything in longhand on yellow tablets while sitting on the sofa with my four kids eating pizza and watching TV when the book is published, I type it and mail it to the publisher, I've written eight books. Four have been published and three are still out with the publishers. One stinks. To all those who dream of writing, I'm shouting at you: "Yes, you can. Yes, you can. Don't listen to them." I don't write right but I've beaten the odds. Writing is easy, it's fun and anyone can do it. Of course, a little dumb luck doesn't hurt.

万之间。不，这当然不够维持生活，但总比兼职赚得多，而且比我不写作要多赚了五千到一万美元。人们问我上过什么大学，得过什么学位，我成为作家的资格是什么。答案是：“一概没有。”我只是写。我不是天才。我并没有天赋也不懂写作。我懒惰，散漫，与孩子和朋友相处的时间要多于写作的时间。直到四年前我才有了本词典。我用的是在 K 市场里买来的一本 89 美分的韦氏小词典。我用的打字机是六年前花 129 美元买的。我从来不使用文字处理机。在我们这个六口之家我要做饭，要搞室内清洁，还要洗衣服。我常是这里写几分钟，那里写几分钟。所有的东西我都是坐在沙发上速记到黄色的笔记簿上，我写作时孩子们在一边吃比萨饼看电视。书写完了，我就打出来寄到出版社。我写了八本书。四本已出版，三本在出版社，一本写砸了。对于想写作的人，我想说一声：“行的，你准行。不要听别人。”我不懂写作，可是我战胜了不可能。写作很容易，十分有趣，谁都可以。哪怕是瞎猫逮着死耗子也行。

## ***The Secrets of Memory***

*By Lee Smith*

The alarm finally goes off in your head around 3 p. m. Your face flushes and your hands plow through the papers on your desk. You have accidentally stood someone up for lunch. It get worse. You can't remember who. And still worse: You can't recall where you left your glasses, so you can't look up the name in your appointment book.

Why does our memory betray us? Is this a precursor of Alzheimer's disease? Are there ways to make memory clear again?

First, reassurance: a momentary loss of memory is probably not a sign of Alzheimer's<sup>①</sup>. People between 65 and 75 face only a four to ten percent chance of Alzheimer's versus a 20 to 48 percent chance for those over 85. Yet almost all of us will be tripped up by forgetfulness as we age. Memory may begin to get a little shaky even in our late 30s, but the decline is so gradual that we don't start to stumble until we're in our 50s. In recent years some neuroscience researchers have begun to pay more attention to this condition, called age-associated memory impairment.

**Making Memories.** Many scientists believe new information is absorbed and then processed into memory in

## 记忆的奥秘

李·史密斯

下午三点左右，警报终于在你脑中响起，你的脸红了，手在桌上的文件中乱摸，你忘了和某人的午餐约会。更糟糕的是你记不清约谁了。比这还糟糕：你想不起来眼镜放在哪了，因此你无法在记事本中查出这个人的名字。

为什么我们的记忆力靠不住？这是不是老年性痴呆症的前兆。有没有使记忆重新清晰的办法？

首先，请放心：暂时的记忆丧失不一定是老年性痴呆的征兆。65-75岁之间的人只有4%-10%的人有可能患这种病；而85岁以上的人在20%-48%之间。然而，随着年龄的增长，我们几乎都会受健忘的困扰。甚至我们近40岁时记忆力就开始有点不可靠了，不过这种衰退逐渐加深，我们要到50多岁才开始丢三落四。近些年，一些神经学研究人员已开始更加关注记忆力随着年龄的增长而减退的问题。

记忆的形成。许多科学家认为，新的信息是由脑子中部的海马体吸收，

生活新知

① Alzheimer  
['ælsəmaɪn] n. 早老性痴呆



the hippocampus, a seahorse-shaped organ in the center of the brain. The memories are then stored in sometimes bizarre patterns in various parts of the brain. The names of natural things, such as plants and animals, are apparently lodged in one part of the brain; the names of chairs, machines and other man-made stuff are in another. Nouns seem to be separated from verbs.

While age affects our ability to remember, other factors also make a difference. Marilyn Albert, a researcher at Massachusetts General Hospital, notes that among elderly people she has been studying, those who are less educated, less active physically and less able to control their day-to-day lives tend to experience greater memory loss than the better educated, who regard themselves as more in control.

**Five Types.** While most people distinguish between long-term and short-term memory, many scientists believe there are actually five types of memory, each with a different likelihood of decaying over time. In order of durability <sup>①</sup>, they are as follows.

**Semantic.** The memory of what words and symbols mean is highly resilient; about half of Aszheimer's patients retain much of their semantic memory. It's unlikely you'll forget what "prom" and "mess hall" mean, even though you haven't used the words in years. Nor do you forget religious symbols and corporate trademarks or what distinguishes a

然后加工成记忆的。各种记忆随之储存在脑子的不同部位，有时储存的方式是稀奇古怪的。自然界事物的名称，如动植物的名称明显地停留在脑子的一侧；而椅子、机器和其他一些人造物品的名称则留在另一侧；名词与动词也似乎分开储存。

年龄影响我们的记忆力，其他因素同样会带来差别。马萨诸塞州总医院的研究人员马里琳·艾伯特发现，在她研究的老年人中，那些受教育程度低、不喜欢体育活动、在日常生活中自制能力差的人，比那些受过良好教育、认为自己控制力强的人更容易出现记忆力衰退现象。

**五种记忆形式。**虽然大多数人把记忆分为长期和短期两种，但是，许多科学家认为实际上有五种形式，每种随着时间推移其衰退的情况不同。以持续时间长短为序，这五种形式为：

**语法的记忆。**人们对于字词和符号的意思记忆得非常持久，大约一半的老年性痴呆症患者保留着许多语义方面的记忆。尽管你已多年不用“舞会”和“食堂”了，但是却不大可能忘掉它们；同样地，你也不会忘记宗教信条

生活新知

① durability  
[ˌdʒʊərəˈbɪlɪti] n. 耐久

cat from a dog. You can add words to your semantic memory until death.

**Implicit.** Chances are, you will never forget how to ride a bike, swim or drive a car—skills that depend on automatic recall of a series of motions. Conditioned responses, such as reaching for a handkerchief when you sense a sneeze, also aren't likely to disappear. Loss of implicit memory is a sure sign of serious mental deterioration <sup>①</sup>.

**Remote.** This is data collected over the years from schools, magazines, movies, conversations, wherever. Remote memory appears to diminish with age in normal people, though the decline could be simply a retrieval problem. "It could be interference," says Johns Hopkins neurologist Barry Gordon. "We have to keep sorting through the constant accumulation of information as we age. "

**Working.** Now we enter territory that erodes for most people. This is extremely short-term memory, lasting no more than a few seconds. It is the brain's boss, telling it what to cling to. In conversation, working memory enables you to hang on to the first part of your wife's sentence while she gets to the end. It also lets you keep several things in mind simultaneously—to riffle through your mail, talk on the phone and catch the attention of a