

中学英语拾级读物

**GRADED
ENGLISH
READERS**

第四级

**Frosty
the Snow Man**

雪人弗罗斯泰

第4册

北京师范大学出版社

中学英语拾级读物

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雪人弗罗斯特

王碧霖 编注

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前 言

受国家教委中学司委托，由上海外国语学院、北京外国语学院、北京师范大学、华东师范大学所属的四家出版社编辑的《中学英语拾级读物》（简称《拾级读物》或《GE》）与读者见面了。这是中学英语教学的重要配套工程，旨在促进中学英语教学的改革。

取名《拾级读物》，不仅因为它有十个级别五十本书，而且还含“拾级而上”的寓意。中学生从初二开始阅读，一级一级地向上攀登，便可以达到甚至超过中学英语教学大纲关于阅读能力的规定——借助词典读懂浅近原著。

《拾级读物》的词汇量、每册字数及对应年级大致安排如下：

级别	词汇量	每册大约字数	对应年级
一	500—700	7 万	初二
二	600—900	7 万	初二、初三
三	800—1200	10 万	初三
四	1000—1500	10 万	初三
五	1400—1800	12 万	高一、高二
六	1700—2000	12 万	高二、高三
七	2000—2500	14 万	重点中学高三
八	2500—3000	16 万	外国语学校高三
九	3000—3500	18 万	高材生、中学教师
十	3000—3500	18 万	高材生、中学教师

阅读是学好任何语言的必由之路，也是获取信息的主要渠道。只做习题，不大量阅读是学不好英语的。近年来为了应付考试，复习题、模拟试题充斥市场，占去了师生大量宝贵的时间，而对他们外语能力的提高却收效甚微。这是外语教学中的一种偏向。《拾级读物》的出版正是为了扭转这种偏向。

《拾级读物》是学生自己阅读的书籍，但教师可帮助学生选择适合自己水平的书，也可进行适当的辅导或作阅读方法、速度的示范。阅读的目的是为了掌握信息。为提高效率，就要指导学生逐步摆脱语法和中文的束缚。第一抓文章大意和故事情节；第二注意学过语言现象的再现和在新环境下的发展。千万不要在新知识和难点上花过多精力。对于不理解的地方要教学生根据上下文去猜，猜不懂再查词典。在不影响理解全文的地方，要舍得放过难点。只有这样才能保持学生阅读的兴趣和速度，也只有这样才能培养阅读的好习惯。

《拾级读物》的级别，也是衡量学生阅读水平的客观尺度。为此，我们将出版一套相应的测试材料和教学参考书。

《拾级读物》是为中学生编的，因而也可以作为中学英语教师培训、进修的教材。老师先读了，辅导学生也就更方便了。

《雪人弗罗斯泰》是第四级中的第4册，供初三年级使用，本书的特点详见下页的“编注说明”。

鉴于编者水平经验有限，在选材、注释等各方面肯定有不少缺点，请广大师生、各界读者随时指出，供再版时参考。

《中学英语拾级读物》编辑委员会

编 注 说 明

这本读物是《拾级读物》第四级中的第4册，适合初三年级的学生阅读。本册共有读物47篇，是从美国近年来出版的中、小学的课外读物中编选的。文字难易适当，内容丰富多采，有故事、寓言、名人轶事、科普知识、科学幻想、短剧等。

语言与文化有密切的联系。为了使学生通过阅读增加对美国文化的了解，有几篇加了背景材料。每篇除原文外，还附有单词、短语或难句的注释，书后附有一个词汇总表。对词的注释范围是以初级中学英语课本一至六册教材（人民教育出版社1982—1984年出版）为依据的。凡是初中六册教材中没出现的单词，在这里都加了注释。本书共出现生词767个，其中包括派生词，如：unhappy, helper等；复合词，如horsecar, snowball, somewhere等。初三年级的生词率是2—3%。篇章排列的顺序是由易到难、由短到长。学生通过一学年的阅读能力的培养，到学年末的时候，阅读理解能力一定会有很大的提高。

由于编注者的水平和时间的仓促，书中的缺点和错误在所难免，敬请读者指正。

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1. About Balloons¹

This is the story of how balloons helped men find a way to fly.² A long, long time ago, some men were sitting around a fire. They were looking at smoke going up into the air. This made them think. Could smoke make a bag go up too? The men wanted to see.

They took a bag and held it over the smoke.³ The warm air made the bag go up into the sky.

Then the men made a big bag. Under this first balloon they put a basket. In the basket they put a pan⁴. In the pan was a fire. The fire made the air warm. The warm air made the big balloon go up too!

The men made one more balloon. It, too, had a basket and a pan. There was a fire in the pan. But this time there was something new. In the basket were a duck⁵, a goat and a sheep. When the balloon went up into the sky, the animals went too.

It would be a long time before men could fly.⁶ But balloons helped to find a way.

Notes:

1. about balloons 关于气球的故事 balloon [bə'lu:n] n. 气球
2. how balloons helped men find a way to fly 气球如何帮助人们找到飞上天空的方法
3. They took a bag and held it over the smoke. 他们把一个口袋放在烟的上边。
4. pan[pæn] n. 平底锅
5. duck[dʌk] n. 鸭子
6. It would be a long time before men could fly. 又过了很长时间人们才飞上了天空。

2. White Horse

by LeRoy Condie

Long, long ago, many horses lived in the desert. There were red horses and gray¹ ones. Some horses were all black. Others were black and white. And there was one beautiful white horse.

Indians² lived here on the desert. They liked to catch the wild horses and ride them. They would make the wild horses work for them.

One day an Indian boy saw the beautiful white horse.

"Over here! Come here! " he called to his friends. "Just look at that beautiful horse! How I wish I could catch him! " ³

The other boys came over to see the beautiful horse.

"I think we can catch him for you, " said the first boy. And with that, the boys jumped on their horses.

Faster as the wind went the Indian boys on their horses⁴. Away over the desert they went⁵.

Faster than the Indians went the wild horses.

Faster and faster they went, and the white horse was first all the way⁶.

Soon the wild horses became tired. They could run no longer. One by one⁷ the wild horses stopped.

But not the beautiful white horse. On and on he ran.

The Indian boys saw that the wild horses were tired. They saw that many of them had stopped.

One boy called out, "Faster! Ride faster! Soon we will get to the canyon⁸. Then the white horse will have to stop. We can catch him by the canyon." So the Indian boys went faster than ever. But the beautiful white horse went faster than all of them. Now the boys could see the canyon.

"White Horse! White Horse! Stop! Stop!" called the boys.

But the beautiful white horse did not stop. Down, down he jumped. Down into the canyon jumped the beautiful white horse⁹.

The Indian boys got off their horses and looked down into the canyon. "Where can he be?" they asked, for the beautiful white horse could not be seen.

Then one boy called, "I see him! Look up there in the sky! There is the beautiful white horse!"

And if you are an Indian, you too, can see the

white horse. Up in the sky he runs, faster than the wind.

Notes,

1. gray [grei] *a.* 灰色的
2. Indian ['indjən] *n.* 印第安人
3. How I wish I could catch him! 我多么希望能捉住他呀!
4. Faster as the wind went the Indian boys on their horses. 这些印第安孩子们骑着马风驰电掣般地跑着。
5. Away over the desert they went. = They went away over the desert.
6. was first all the way 一路领先
7. one by one 一个一个地
8. canyon ['kænjən] *n.* 山谷
9. Down into the canyon jumped the beautiful white horse.
= The beautiful white horse jumped down into the canyon.

3. The Little Boy with the Big Name

by Dorothy Binder

The little boy on the white fence was unhappy¹. It was his name that made him unhappy.

Braford Underwood Timothy Charles Hoppenpopper.

How would you like to have a long name like his? "Why can't I have a name like other boys?" he thought. He wanted to leave out some of his names.² But he couldn't leave out Hoppenpopper, for this was his last name³. Great-grandfather's name was Charles. He couldn't leave out that name. Grandfather's name was Timothy, so he couldn't leave out Grandfather's name. Underwood had been Mother's name, so he couldn't leave out Underwood. And he couldn't leave out Bradford, for that was his dad's name. "What can I do?"⁵ thought the boy.

A wise old owl⁶ was in the tree over the white fence. The owl was so wise, he could read the thoughts of the unhappy boy.⁷ "I can help you," said Wise Old Owl. "How can you help me?" asked the

boy. "I know you are wise, but what can you do about my name?"

"Do as I say," said Wise Old Owl. "Go home and get some paper. Put down on the paper the first letters of all your names. Then you will have a new name." Brad-ford Underwood Timothy Charles Hoppenpopper couldn't wait to see his new name. He jumped down from the fence and ran all the way home.⁸ One at a time,⁹ he put down on paper the first letters of all his names.

Then Bradford Underwood Timothy Charles Hoppenpopper smiled a big smile.

Do you know what the letters on the paper said?

BUTCH¹⁰ was his new name.

Notes,

1. fence [fens]n. 篱笆, 栅栏. unhappy [An'hæpi] a. 不高兴的
2. He wanted to leave out some of his names. 他想要省去他名字里的几个字. leave out 省去
3. last name 即 family name 姓. 西方人名放在前, 姓放在后. 如: Thomas Edison, 姓 Edison, 名字是 Thomas. 在这个故事里, 这个男孩的名字有四个词, Hoppenpopper 是他的姓.
4. great-grandfather 曾祖父
5. What can I do? 我该怎么办呢?
6. owl [aul]n. 猫头鹰 (西方认为猫头鹰是一种很聪明的鸟)
7. he could read the thoughts of the unhappy boy. 他能知道这个不高兴的男孩在想什么.

4. Space Man¹

SCOT'S DREAM²

It was Sunday night, and Scot was watching Space Man on TV. Scot watched Space Man get into the rocket³. Many times Scot had dreamed about being with Space Man. "It would be fun if I could get into that rocket too," thought Scot. "It would be fun to go far out into space!"

That was the last thing Scot thought about. He had gone fast asleep before Space Man had finished his trip.⁴ Scot began to dream.

TO THE MOON

The time had come for Space Man Scot to go to the moon. He would be the first boy to land on the moon!

Scot walked outside, and looked up at the rocket. The rocket was as tall as seven houses! It was as tall as seven schools! This was the rocket that would take Scot to the moon.

Scot went inside the tall rocket. Inside the rocket, men were getting ready to blast off⁵.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Blast off!

Space Man Scot began his trip to the moon! On and on into space went the rocket⁶. Then a part of the rocket fell away. When Scot looked out, he saw many, many lights.

Part of the time Scot talked on the rocket's radio. Part of the time he just looked out into space.

The rocket came to a stop at a Space Station⁷. Some workers at the station took Scot inside. They asked Scot to remember all the things he could about the trip. Then the men talked with Scot about the other rocket that would take him on to the moon. They helped Scot get ready.

In the morning Scot and three of the men got into the moon rocket. Again they were ready to go.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Blast off!

Away went the rocket with Scot and his friends inside.⁸ Away it went on its long trip to the moon.

ON THE MOON

At last the big rocket came to the moon. Scot and the men got out and looked around. What a strange place this was!

"Look here, Scot," said one man. "Do you see that big round thing that looks like a ball? You live on that ball. That's how your home looks from up here on the moon."

How strange it was for Scot to see that his home was on a big ball far out in space!

One man had a shovel⁹. He wanted to take something from the moon back with him.

The other men walked around and talked on the radio. Scot followed the men. He was not looking where he was going, and he fell down.¹⁰

Down, down Scot fell.

The dream was over, and so was Scot's trip to the moon.

"Well!" said Mother. "What are you doing down there?"

Scot laughed. "I just fell off the moon!" he said. "What a dream I had!"