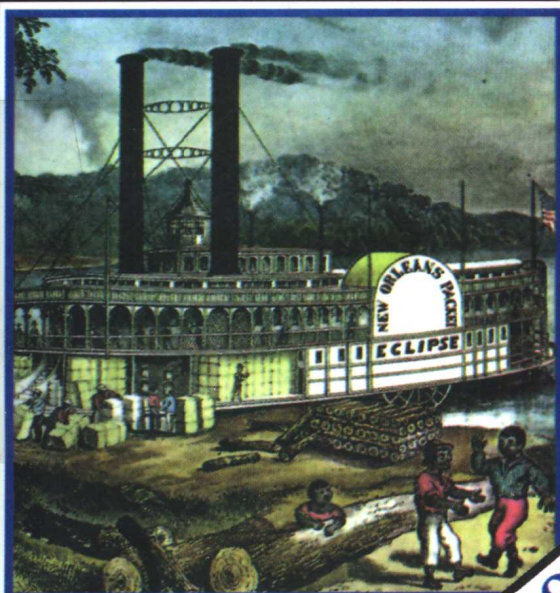


AAA 精释英语阅读系列 · 3 级

第一辑 · 2

汤姆·索耶 历险记

吉林科学技术出版社



IMPROVE YOUR
ENGLISH

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〔美〕 马克·吐温 原著
卜玉坤 郭立秋 导读

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汤姆·索耶历险记

马克·吐温（1835—1910）的真名叫萨缪尔·克莱门斯。他在密西西比河边渡过了童年时代。密西西比河一直令他迷恋，因此便成为他作品的主题之一（他的笔名实际是密西西比河上艄工经常使用的专有名词短语）。他过着一种四处漂泊的冒险生活，同时给各家报纸投稿。

他一生写了很多小说，但最著名的是《汤姆·索耶历险记》（1876）和《哈克贝利·费恩历险记》（1844）。

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,使学生在学习中不知不觉地克服了畏难情绪,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

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer

Mark Twain

Mark Twain (1835 – 1910), whose real name was Samuel Clemens, spent his boyhood by the Mississippi and was always fascinated by this river which became one of the main themes in his writing. (His pen-name was, in fact, an expression used by the Mississippi riverboat pilots). He led an adventurous life travelling and contributing to various newspapers.

He wrote many stories but the most famous are *"The Adventures of Tom Sawyer"* (1876) and *"The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn"* (1844).

TRUANT¹

"Tom!"

There was no answer.

"Tom!"

Still no answer.

"Where's that boy gone? Tom!"

The old lady looked all round the room. She looked under the bed, but found only the cat.

"If I catch that boy, " she muttered ² to herself.

She opened the door and looked out into the garden.

"Tom!" she shouted.

Then she heard a slight ³ noise behind her. She turned round just in time to catch the boy as he came out of a cupboard.

"And what have you been doing in there?"

"Nothing," said the the boy.

"Nothing! Look at your hands and your mouth! What is that stuff?"

"I don't know, Aunt."

"Well I know. It's jam. I've told you forty times that if you touched that jam I'd skin ⁴ you. Give me that stick."

"Look out, Aunt! Look behind you!"

The old lady turned round and Tom was out of the door in a flash, over the garden fence ⁵ and away.

"Damn that boy! Will I never learn? He's always playing tricks on me. And he seems to know just how far he can go, too. But I can't take a stick to him. I really can't. After all, he's my dead sister's boy. Ah well, he'll play truant today and I'll have to make him work tomorrow. It's hard to make the boy work on a Saturday but he hates work and I have to teach him a lesson."

Tom did, in fact, play truant and had a very good time, too. He got home just in time to help Jim, the coloured boy, saw ⁶ next day's wood. At least, he was there to tell Jim his latest adventures, while Jim sawed the wood. At supper, Aunt Polly tried to trick Tom into confessing that he hadn't gone to school.

"It was rather hot today, wasn't it, Tom?"

"Yes," answered Tom, cautiously.

"Not so hot now, is it?"

1. truant : *when one stays away from school without a good reason.*

2. muttered : *spoke in a low voice.*

3. slight : *small.*

4. skin : *take off the skin, meaning 'to beat'.*

5. fence : *barrier usually made of wood.*

6. saw : *cut.*

1. Answer the questions.

a) Who is looking for Tom?

.....

b) Where was Tom?

.....

c) What was he doing?

.....

d) What day of the week is it?

.....

e) Is the old lady Tom's mother?

.....

f) Has he got a mother?

.....

2. Look at this:

"If I catch that boy"

"If I catch that boy *I'll skin him*"

Now complete the following in the same way.

a) If Tom plays truant

.....

b) If he steals the jam

.....

c) If the teacher catches him

.....

d) If you help me saw the wood

.....

e) If he's under the bed

.....

f) If he gets to school late

.....

"No." What was Aunt Polly trying to say, wondered¹ Tom.

"Didn't you feel like a swim?"

"We used the pump on our heads. Look, my hair is still damp²."

Tom thought he was safe.

"You didn't have to undo³ your shirt collar where I sewed it, then."

Tom was confident⁴, now. He opened his jacket. His collar was securely sewed.

"Oh Tom," said Aunt Polly. "You're a good boy really."

She was half sorry that she had been wrong about him and half glad that, for once, he had been obedient.

"But, Auntie," came a voice. It was Sidney, Tom's younger brother.

"Didn't you sew Tom's collar with white cotton? Look! Now it's black!"

Tom was already running out of the door.

"I'll beat you for that, Sid," he shouted as he ran down the garden.

THE NEW BOY

Tom soon forgot that problem. He had something much more important on his mind. A black boy had just taught him how to whistle⁵ and he wanted to practice. He wandered down the road, whistling. It was a summer evening and it wasn't dark yet. Suddenly he saw a stranger in front of him. In the poor little village of St Petersburg a newcomer was an impressive curiosity, and this one was especially interesting. He was taller than Tom and very well-dressed - too well-dressed for a week-day. He even had shoes on, although it was only Friday! The more Tom looked at him, the more badly dressed he felt, and the more superior. Neither boy spoke. They stared⁶ at each other but did not speak or move. Finally, Tom said:

"I can beat you!"

"I'd like to see you try."

"Well, I can."

"No you can't."

"Yes I can."

"You can't."

"I can."

"Can't."

A pause.

"Well?" said the stranger.

1. **wondered** : asked himself.

2. **damp** : not dry.

3. **undo** : open.

4. **confident** : sure of himself.

5. **whistle** : make harmonious sounds through one's lips.

6. **stared** : looked for a long time.

3. Complete the tag questions and give the answers.

e.g. Tom didn't go to school,?
Tom didn't go to school, did he? No, he played
truant.

a) It wasn't a cold day,?

.....
.....

b) Tom's hair wasn't dry,?

.....
.....

c) He didn't say he went swimming,?

.....
.....

d) Tom's collar wasn't sewn with white cotton,?

.....
.....

e) Aunt Polly didn't use black cotton,?

.....
.....

f) Aunt Polly didn't notice the different cotton,?

.....
.....

4. Find the names of the following.

a) Tom's brother

b) Tom's aunt

c) The town where they live

d) The black boy who works for them

Now write a sentence about each.

.....
.....
.....
.....

"What's your name?" asked Tom.

"None of your business."

"Well, I'll make it my business."

"Why don't you, then?"

"You think you're clever¹, don't you?"

"Cleverer than you! And look at that hat!"

"I dare you to knock it off."

"And then?"

"I'll bounce a rock off your head."

"You're a liar²."

"You're another."

"You're afraid."

"I'm not."

Another pause.

Tom drew a line in the dust with his toe³.

"If you step over that line, I'll beat you till you can't stand up."

The new boy immediately stepped over it.

"Now," he said. "Let's see you do it."

"Don't push me."

"Well, you said you'd do it. Why don't you do it?"

"For two cents I will do it."

The new boy took two coins out of his pocket and held them out with scorn⁴.

Tom struck them to the ground.

In an instant the two boys were on top of each other, rolling and tumbling in the dirt, like two fighting cats. In a cloud of dust, Tom appeared sitting on top of the newcomer, beating him with his fists.

"Say 'enough'," he said.

The boy tried to get free. Tom went on beating him.

"Say 'enough'," he repeated.

At last the new boy managed⁵ to speak.

"Enough," he said, weakly. Tom let him go and he ran off down the road with Tom laughing at him. But as soon as Tom turned away, a stone hit him in the back. Tom turned and chased the traitor⁶ home. He stood at the enemy's gate for a long time but the boy stayed indoors, occasionally making faces at Tom from the window. Finally, the enemy's mother appeared.

1. **clever** : *smart, astute.*

2. **liar** : *a person who does not tell the truth.*

3. **toe** : *the 'fingers' of the feet.*

4. **scorn** : *disdain, feeling that the other does not merit respect.*

5. **managed** : *succeeded.*

6. **traitor** : *one who does not respect the rules.*

5. Put the following into indirect speech.

e.g. "What's your name?" asked Tom.

Tom asked him what his name was.

a) "Why don't you do it?" asked the stranger.

b) "Where are you going?" Mary asked her uncle.

c) "Who are you?" Aunt Polly asked the stranger.

d) "What's the time?" Tom asked Sidney.

e) "Which is yours?" Ann asked Harry.

f) "How old are you?" the stranger asked Tom.

6. Now do the same with these sentences.

e.g. "Don't push me" said Tom.

Tom told the stranger not to push him.

a) "Go away" said Tom.

b) "Come here at once" Auntie said to Sidney.

c) "Don't eat that!" said the doctor to the boy.

d) "Take off your hat" the gentleman said to the young man.

e) "Brush your teeth three times a day" the dentist said to the girl.

f) "Don't open that window" the man said to the woman.

"Get away, you horrid, vulgar boy!" she shouted.

Tom got home very late. He climbed in through the window but Aunt Polly was there waiting for him. His clothes were in a terrible state.

"That boy's going to work really hard tomorrow," she promised herself.

PAINTING THE FENCE

It was Saturday and a lovely summer's day. Everyone was on holiday, everyone was happy. Well, almost everyone. Tom looked at the fence in front of him and the happiness left his heart. Thirty yards¹ long and nine feet² high! He began to paint and then stopped to compare his white streak³ with the unending continent of unpainted fence. He sat down under a tree, discouraged. At that moment, he saw Jim skipping along with a bucket⁴ of water. He had always considered boring the job of fetching⁵ water from the village pump, but now it seemed much better than the job he had to do. You could take a long time and at the pump there were always lots of boys and girls.

"Hey, Jim," he called. Jim came over.

"How about swapping⁶ jobs for a bit? I'll get the water and you do some painting."

"Oh no, Master Tom," said Jim. "I couldn't do that. Your aunt said that I must go and get the water and not stop for anyone. She said you would ask me to paint and she told me I had to do my own job."

"Never mind what she said," said Tom. "I won't be long. She'll never know."

"I daren't, Tom. She'll beat me."

"She won't. She never beats anyone. Look, I'll give you a marble⁷."

The temptation was too much for Jim. He put down his bucket.

But in another minute he was flying down the street again, his bottom hurting; Tom was busy painting and Aunt Polly was walking back to the house with a slipper⁸ in her hand and a look of triumph on her face.

Tom's energy did not last long. He knew that the other boys would soon come along and tease⁹ him about his work. He pulled all his precious belongings out of his pocket: some marbles, bits of toys, rubbish - nothing he could sell.

Suddenly an idea came to him. He began painting.

After a few minutes, along came Ben Rogers. He was skipping along, eating an apple, and making strange noises like a steamboat. He stopped

1. **thirty yards** : approx. 30 metres.

2. **nine feet** : approx. 3 metres.

3. **streak** : line.

4. **bucket** : container for carrying water etc.

5. **fetching** : going and getting.

6. **swapping** : exchanging.

7. **marble** : small ball of glass.

8. **slipper** : soft shoe.

9. **tease** : make fun of.

7. Find six adjectives in the text and write a sentence with each.

e.g. "horrid" - The woman thought Tom was a horrid boy.

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8. Now find five verbs showing movement and make a sentence with each:

e.g. 'run' - he went running down the street.

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when he saw Tom hard at work.

"Hey Tom!" he said. "I'm going swimming. Don't you wish you could come? But of course you prefer working, don't you?"

"Working?" asked Tom, without stopping. "What do you call working?"

"Well, that's work, isn't it?"

"Perhaps it is and perhaps it isn't. Anyway, it suits¹ Tom Sawyer."

"Don't tell me you like doing that?"

"I don't see why I shouldn't like it. It's not every day a boy gets the chance to paint a fence."

He continued painting and then stood back to admire his work. Ben came closer². He took another bite of his apple. How Tom wanted that apple!

"Say, let me have a go, will you?" said Ben.

"Oh, I couldn't do that. My aunt Polly wouldn't like that. She's very particular about this fence. You really have to know how to do it. There aren't many people capable of doing it."

"Is that true? Oh, please let me try. Just a little."

"I can't, Ben. Really I can't. Even Sid isn't allowed³ to do it."

"I'll give you the rest of my apple."

The next moment Tom was lying under the tree munching⁴ the apple while Ben was happily painting the fence.

And when Ben was too tired to go on, there was Billy Fisher who did it in exchange for his knife; then Johnny Miller for a dead rat on a string. So the work went on, hour after hour.

By the middle of the afternoon, Tom was rich. Apart from the things mentioned above, he had twelve marbles, a key, a piece of chalk, a piece of blue glass, a tin soldier, two tadpoles⁵, six fireworks, a kitten with only one eye, a dog-collar - but no dog - and lots of other useless objects. The fence had three coats⁶ of paint on it and he had spent a nice relaxing day.

"It's not such a bad world after all," he said to himself.

He had discovered a great law of human action: in order to make a man desire something, it is only necessary to make it difficult to obtain.

TOM'S NEW LOVE

Aunt Polly was sitting snoozing⁷, the cat on her lap, when Tom came in. She was surprised to see him; she had expected him to have deserted his work a long time ago.

"Can I go and play now, Auntie?" he asked.

1. suits : is good for.

2. closer : nearer.

3. allowed : permitted.

4. munching : eating noisily.

5. tadpoles : baby frogs.

6. coats : layers.

7. snoozing : sleeping lightly.

9. Write a paragraph in your own words describing how Tom got the fence painted without doing it himself.

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10. Make a list of all the things Tom was given and write beside them 'useful' or 'useless' according to your opinion.

e.g. an apple - useful

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