

中学生英汉对照小读物

马的故事

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

ENGLISH
CHINESE



民主与建设出版社

中学生英汉对照小读物

马的故事

本书编委会编

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

马的故事:英汉对照/《中学生英汉对照小读物》编委会编.
—北京:民主与建设出版社,1995.8

(中学生英汉对照小读物)

学校图书馆装备用书

ISBN 7-80112-035-3

I. 马… II. 中… III. ①英语—语言读物,文学②中学
英语课—课外读物 IV. H319.4

民主与建设出版社出版发行

(地址:北京市东城区王府井大街22号 邮编:100006)

河北保定西城胶印厂印刷

开本:787×1092 1/32 印张:3.75

1995年8月第1版 1995年8月第1次印刷

字数:77千字 印数:0001—5000

(每套30本)总定价:105.00元

本书编委会

主 编：刘文武 蒋卫杰

副主编：叶文殊 陈凌智

编 委：邓先明 乔晓燕

刘叶青 曹振国

THE HORSE

Fernand Douin had a horse. It was a horse on wheels and it had no head.

Every day Fernand and his nine friends rode the horse. They were Gaby's gang, and the gang always played together. Gaby did not want more than ten boys and girls in his gang. All the gang were under twelve years old, but Gaby himself was nearly twelve.

Everybody in the gang had two rides each day. They started outside Fernand's house at the top of a hill. Each boy or girl got on the horse and rode it down the hill. The road crossed another road, and then the horse went faster and faster to the bottom. Then it began to climb and that was the end of the ride.

Little Bonbon stood at the crossroads. He saw when something was coming along Cecil Road and waved. Then the rider tried to stop the horse. He put his feet down hard on the ground. This was the only way to stop the horse.

Gaby was the fastest; once he did not put his feet down at all.

They often fell off the horse. Fernand once hurt his knee, but it soon got better. Marion once went into the back of a car and the horse's front legs broke off. Now the horse had no legs but only three wheels. It had never had a head.

Fernand's father gave him the horse. Old Blache found it. Old Blache went from house to house and took away old things. He sold it to Monsieur Douin for twenty cigarettes. Fernand liked his present very much.

HOW THE HORSE BROKE

Little Bonbon had an elder brother, Tatave. Now Tatave was going to start his first ride.

'Tatave's so heavy,' said Marion. 'That horse will break under him.'

Bonbon waved; there was nothing coming along Cecil Road. Tatave went down Poor Street and past Bonbon. He was going fast, but not faster than Gaby. Then he went round the bend in the road and most of the gang could not see him. They waited. Then they heard a crash and the sound of breaking galss.

'Oh dear! Tatave has crashed,' said Gaby.

'Let's go and look,' said Fernand. He was thinking of his horse. They ran down the hill to the others. They saw Zidore first. He was pulling the horse along on two wheels. Tatave was carrying the third wheel in his hand. Melie was there too. She was the gang's doctor; she was a small girl and she was laughing.

'Old Zigon was just round the bend,' said Zidore. 'He was pulling his hand—cart full of bottles. Tatave came round

the bend and put his feet down to stop. But he could not stop soon enough and went into the cart. ’

‘Is Old Zigon hurt?’

‘No, but Tatave has broken about twenty bottles, and Old Zigon is very angry. ’

Marion said, ‘We’ll take him thirty tomorrow. I know a place where there are lots of bottles. It’s near where the trains go—near the railway. ’

Tatave had hurt his knee and there was blood on it. Marion’s dog, Fifi, looked at it, but all the others were looking at the horse.

‘My horse!’ said Fernand. ‘There is nothing like it in the whole of France!’

‘Your father will put the wheel on,’ said Marion. ‘He’ll repair the horse. He has repaired it before. ’

Fernand was not sure. ‘I don’t know if he can. It’ll be very difficult. We’ve broken the front part which holds the wheel. ’

Little Bonbon was crying. ‘It’s not fair. I haven’t had my firstride yet’. Sadey the gangwalked up the hill to Fernand’s house. Fernand put the horse against the garden wall. ‘I’ll leave it there. My father will see it when he comes home. If he can repair it, he’ll start at once. ’

MARKET DAY

At the market

It was Thursday, market day. Once a week people came into the town to buy and sell. The market was in the largest square in the town. It was full of people. The gang was walking through the market; the boys were in front and the three girls followed.

Mairon was there with her dog, Fifi, Fifi had short yellow hair. Marion had found him when he was ill and had taken him home. She often took sick dogs home. She kept them in boxes in the garden until they were better. Then she found new homes for them. While she was making them better, she trained them. She whistled, and when she whistled they came to her. The dogs always remembered kind Marion and her whistle.

'Look!' said Gaby. 'There's Roublot! Let's go and watch him.'

Roublot once said that Gaby had stolen a cigarette — lighter from him. It was not true; Gaby never stole anything. Roublot took him to Police Inspector Sinet. So Gaby's father went and told Roublot in front of everyone, 'If you say things like that again, I'll beat you.' Gaby's father was a big strong

man who worked on the railway. Now Roublot did not like the gang, and the gang did not like Roublot.

Roublot was selling a food-cutter. 'It's very good. It can cut all your food. Look!'

'He won't sell one,' said Marion. 'You can only use them once. Then they're no good and you must throw them away.'

'He never sells anything,' said Gaby. 'He doesn't care if he sells anything or not. I think that he comes here for some other reason.'

Roublot's face turned to the right very often while he was talking. Many people passed. What was Roublot looking for — or who? Then Gaby saw Inspector Sinet. The Inspector walked quickly and stopped. Then he started to walk quickly again.

'He's following someone,' said Gaby. It was almost dark but Gaby could just see the man. He was in rough blue clothes—workman's clothes.

Marion had not seen Sinet or the man; she was watching Roublot. 'Roublot is afraid,' she said, 'What is he afraid of?'

Fernand led the gang away across the square. Marion looked back. 'Roublot has gone!' she said. 'And he has left everything behind!'

After the market

Fernand and Marion were walking along together.

'My father should be home now,' Fernand said. When they reached his home, the horse was at the side of the road. 'But I put it against the wall. Some body has fallen over it. I hope that my father can repair it.'

He looked up and saw a man walking along the street. He was coming from the square. It was Roublot! Roublot was surprised to see them.

'What do you want?' Fernand asked.

Roublot did not answer and he did not stop. He walked nearer, holding his arms out. He looked very unfriendly. He was going to push the children against the wall. When Marion saw this, she put two fingers in her mouth and whistled.

Roublot saw three big, hairy, ugly dogs. They were coming from the end of the street and moving silently. Marion whistled again and pointed to Roublot. He turned at once and ran back to the square as fast as he could.

Marion laughed. They were the three largest and most dangerous dogs in Louvigny. But they were not dangerous to Marion because she had trained them. She made a low sound and they stopped. They came back to her and sat in front of her, looking at her. 'Good dogs!' she said. They turned and went away.

Fernand was still laughing. 'That's nothing,' said Marion. 'If I go on whistling, forty or fifty dogs come to me. Dogs always remember. Shall I stay with you a little longer? Roublot might come back.'

‘Oh no,’ answered Fernand. ‘He’s had such a fright. He won’t come back. And my father will be here very soon.’

‘What did Roublot want?’ Marion wondered. But there was no answer, and she and Fifi went home.

When Monsieur Douin came home, he found Fernand sitting in the doorway. His arm was round the horse.

‘Why are you sitting out here in the cold? Come into the house.’

‘The horse is broken. The front wheel came off.’

‘Bring it into the kitchen where I can see it. It’s too dark here.’

In the kitchen Fernand waited. ‘No,’ his father said at last, ‘I can’t do it myself. But I’ll ask my friend Rossi to do it. He repairs cars, and I’m sure that he can repair this. But my friends will laugh if I carry it like this.’

‘We can take the other two wheels off,’ Fernand said. ‘If it has no head and no wheels, it won’t look like a horse. Then no one will laugh at you.’

So they took the wheels off. Then they pushed the body of the horse into the hall.

WHAT HAPPENED TO SINET?

Next day Gaby took some of the strongest boys in his gang with him. They went to a place near the railway. If people did not want to keep things, they threw them away there. Mar-

ion led them to a place where there were a great many bottles. The bottles were old but not broken. The boys had a small cart, and they soon filled it with forty or fifty bottles. They pushed the cart to Old Zigon's hut.

'There!' said Gaby. 'We broke some of your bottles when the horse hit your cart. So we've brought you these.' Old Zigon was very pleased.

As they went back through the town, Gaby looked in through the window of a cafe. It was full. He said to the others, 'Look, there's Roublot! What is he doing here? He only comes to Louvigny on market days.'

Roublot was sitting at the far end of the room. Two big, rough-looking men were talking to him across the table. Their three heads were very close together.

'I wonder what they are talking about,' said Gaby 'It must be very important.'

Fernand looked behind him. The light from the cafe fell on Inspector Sinet. There was a cut on his face, and his right eye was black.

'Has he been in a fight?' Fernand wondered.

But Inspector Sinet walked past. He did not notice the children, and he did not look into the cafe.

Fernand spoke to the others: 'You remember last night when he was following someone in the square. Something happened after that. I wonder what. A fight, perhaps? And the Inspector was hurt.'

THE HORSE IS REPAIRED

All Saturday the rain poured down. After school Fernand left his friends and went straight home. Marion was not with him; she was trying to get some money. They wanted to go to the cinema on Sunday. At six o'clock she reached Fernand's house.

'I've got the money,' she said. 'These an old lady who has a small dog. It was ill, and I made it well again in two days. I don't take money when I help dogs; but I did this time. As we haven't got the horse, we'll have nothing to do on Sunday. So we'll need some money, to go to the cinema.'

A few minutes later Fernand's father opened the door. 'I've got it!' he said. 'Help me to move it inside the house.'

The headless horse stood on its three wheels outside the door. 'My friend Rossi put back the wheels by himself. He straightened them and oiled them. He has done it very well. You must remember to thank him.' Fernand tried each wheel; they all turned well. Marion cleaned the dust off the body.

Then Monsieur Douin said, 'On my way home two men came out of the cafe. One of them put his hand on my arm and asked, "What have you got there?" I showed him the horse. He said, "I'll give you five thousand francs for it." I laughed and pushed him away. But he and his friend followed me as far as the square. Several times he said, "I want to buy that horse."

And each time he wanted to give me more money. When I reached the end of our road he was saying, "Ten thousand; I'll give you ten thousand francs." It was difficult to get free from him.'

Fernand and Marion looked up. 'Who was it?' asked Fernand.

"I don't know who it was. — But he isn't right in his mind. No one would pay a penny for that horse. No one would really want it.'

"It's my horse," said Fernand. "You can tell the man that! And he can't have it. I wouldn't sell it for all the money in the world.'

TWO MEN

Of course Fernand had the first ride on the horse. He said, 'It never ran better.'

Then the other children rode down the hill on the horse. Little Bonbon went three times. Fat Tatave came with his bad leg; he had a clean cloth round his knee. Marion came down; at the crossroads she came very close to the nose of an old grey horse. Gaby went faster than ever.

In the afternoon people filled the streets. They were going home from the cafe or the cinema or the football ground. Fernand was the first to notice the men. There were two of them, and he had never seen them before. They were big and their

clothes were not like other people's. As he came to the end of his last run, Fernand saw them standing outside Marion's house.

"That's all for tonight," said Fernand. Marion saw the men, too. The gang kept close to Fernand and the horse as they went back up the hill.

At home Monsieur Douin asked Fernand, "Well, how did it go?"

"Even better than when it was new. But some people stood watching us for quite a long time."

"What people?" asked Monsieur Douin.

"Come here! Look!" Fernand opened the door just a little. Monsieur Douin looked out. The two men had come up the hill and were on the other side of the road. They passed the house but did not turn their heads.

Monsieur Douin closed the door. "Those are the two men who wanted to pay me ten thousand francs for your horse without a head! Tell me if you see them again."

PEPE AND UGLY — — AND MARION'S DOGS

The men waited till the next Tuesday. It was five o'clock. Half the gang was with Gaby in front of Fernand's house. The others were waiting lower down, shouting every time the horse

came round the bend. They watched Zidore go over the cross-roads. He was going very fast.

Three minutes passed, but Zidore did not come back.

'What's he doing?' said Juan. He was going to ride the horse next. Then Gaby remembered Monsieur Douin's story.

'Come on! Quickly!' he called to the others.

They ran down to the end of the road. Fernand, Zidore and the three girls were having a fight with the two big men. One of the men was holding the front of horse, he was trying to pull it away from the children. Berthe and Marion were holding on to the left wheel and Zidore and Fernand were holding on to the right wheel. They were all shouting. Marion's twelve dogs were jumping up and down inside the garden. They were making a great noise and trying to get out.

When the men saw more children coming, they dropped the horse.

Fernand said to Gaby, "They want to buy our horse, but we won't sell."

'Ten thousand francs!' said the bigger of the two men. 'You can buy a much better horse with that. A new horse with a head.'

'No, we can't!' said Gaby. 'They haven't made horses like that for years. And it's Fernand's horse and we all play with it.'

Fernand pushed the horse behind him. The ten children stood in line.

‘Give them the money, Pepe,’ said one of the men. ‘We want the horse.’

‘You can’t have it!’ said Gaby.

Pepe moved nearer with his hand out. He was going to hit Gaby. ‘Come on, Ugly,’ he said, ‘let’s start with this one.’

Marion laughed and put two fingers to her mouth. Three big dogs came. They had terrible burning eyes and open mouths. They drove the two men down the road. The men called for help while the dogs pulled their nice coats to pieces. They rolled on the ground with their arms over their faces. ‘Help! Help!’ they cried.

Marion called her dogs. Two of them, Hugo and Cesar, came back to her holding pieces of the two men’s clothes. But the third, Fritz, did not like clothes; he was a killer. Marion had called him back just in time.

Breathing heavily, the two men stood up. Then, half running, half walking, they went away.

‘They won’t come back again,’ said Zidore.

‘The dogs wanted to kill them. The men know that, so now they’ll be afraid of the dogs.’

Juan said wisely, ‘If they’ve got a plan, they’re sure my to come back.’ ‘But’, said Fernand, ‘What is so wonderful about horse? It’s not made of gold!’

They all looked carefully at the horse, but it was just the same as before.

‘I don’t know,’ said Gaby. ‘I’m very surprised that two