

英语阅读成长计划丛书

ROYAL
LITERATURE READERS

英国学生 母语课本

关于美德、语言、智慧、梦想的心灵读本

6

主 编：戴 欣

分册主编：戴 欣 夏晓林

适合
高三至大学

南开大学名师团队倾力译注

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前言



阅读能启迪心灵，阅读能增长见识，阅读能陶冶情操，而英语阅读不仅能使读者达到上述目的，更能培养学习英语的兴趣，从而提高自身的英语水平。《英语阅读成长计划丛书——英国学生母语课本》就是一套伴你成长的英语读物，丛书中精选了青少年成长中的精彩故事，是学生学习英语、汲取知识、领悟道理的理想选择，学生一定会从中受益匪浅。

《英语阅读成长计划丛书——英国学生母语课本》系列丛书选材于英国学生使用过的经典教材，语言地道，优美流畅，使读者不出国门，便可以与英国的学生共享规范的英语读本。通过阅读本套丛书，读者不仅可以培养规范地道的英语语感，提高英语阅读能力和表达能力；还可以熟悉英国乃至世界其他国家的历史文化，领略不同地区的自然风貌与人文景观，加深对世界重要历史事件的了解；更可以切身体会外国人的日常生活，及其价值理念。

本套丛书之所以称为经典读本，并且曾被广泛用于英语国家中小学教材，最重要的原因有三个方面。第一，整套丛书内容难度循序渐进，伴随读者小学至高中，甚至大学的各个阶段。第二，每册图书精选的文章，不仅考虑到其经典性、可读性，还考虑到适合

该阶段读者的阅读需求。第三，所选文章主题丰富，体裁多样，内容涵盖了文化、历史、旅游、体育、家庭生活、动物世界等诸多方面；文体有寓言、童话、日记、诗歌、叙事故事等。整套丛书为读者呈现一个色彩斑斓的阅读世界，或沉稳大气，或含蓄隽永，或华丽奔放，或清新流畅，或诙谐有趣。书中所配的大量精心绘制的插图，帮助读者通过直观的视觉效果，更深入、更全面地理解文章内容。

为了更加适合中国学生阅读本系列丛书，使其更易理解英文原文的含义，每篇文章均配以流畅的中文译文，以不同阶段学生喜爱的生动语言进行翻译，更能吸引读者的阅读兴趣。此外，对于原文中出现的生词、词组、俚语、古英语等均给予详细的解释。

《英国学生母语课本 1》适合三年级至五年级的读者；

《英国学生母语课本 2》适合六年级至八年级的读者；

《英国学生母语课本 3》适合八年级至九年级的读者；

《英国学生母语课本 4》适合高中一年级至高中二年级的读者；

《英国学生母语课本 5》适合高中二年级至高中三年级的读者；

《英国学生母语课本 6》适合高中三年级至大学的读者。

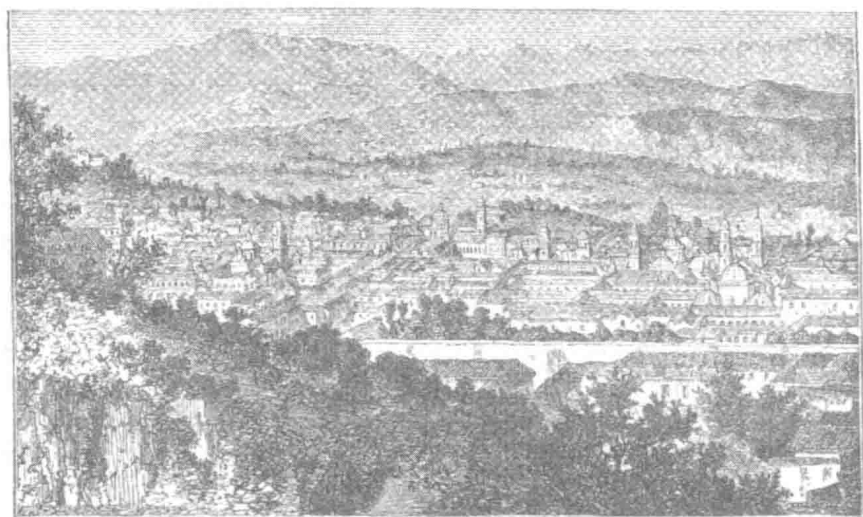
上述分级方法为建议分级，读者可根据自己的需求和阅读的兴趣进行选择。

坐着谈，何如起来行？亲爱的读者朋友，让我们一起徜徉于本系列丛书展示的大千世界之中，跋涉于火山脚下，冰河湖面，古战场遗址，漫步于英语国家的街头巷尾，把我们的英语打造得更地道、更流畅吧！



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AMONG THE ALLIGATORS 在鳄鱼群中

课文

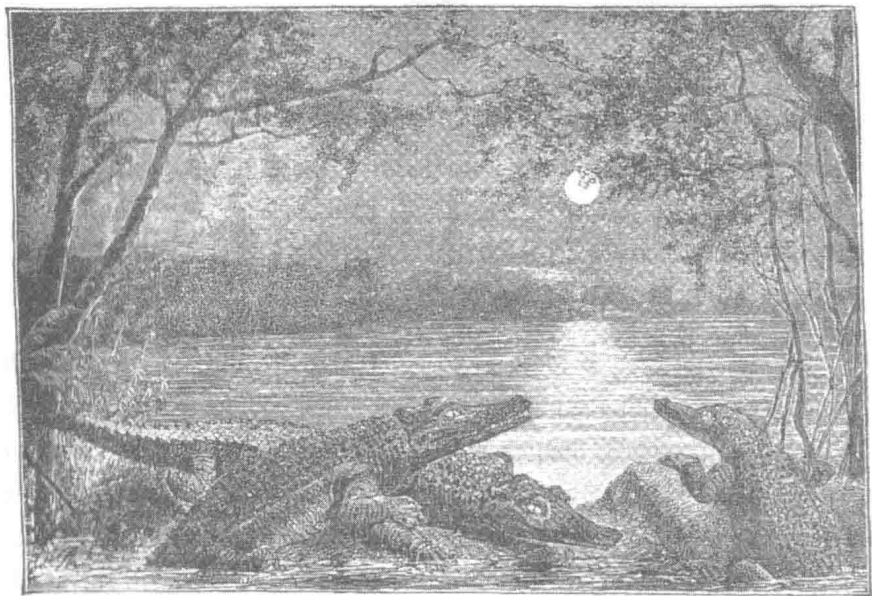
1. One afternoon in May, I had paddled a few miles up a **sluggish** Florida river, in an almost uninhabited part of the country. As evening fell, I returned in the canoe, floating with the current. The woods were full of perfume, and I drifted idly along, drinking in the balmy breath of the pines and the fragrance of the lilies and other flowers which grew on every side.

2. The gentle hum of insects filled the air, and softened the shrill voices of the frogs among the reeds, while now and then trills of **exquisite** bell-like notes rang out from the throats of mocking-birds. Myriads of fire-flies flashed and faded in the thick undergrowth. Presently the moon sent her pale light through the thick foliage of the trees, and the misty vapour over the river shone with a faint silvery sheen. Enchanted with the beauty of the night, I let the current drift me slowly onward, though the damp air warned me to hasten my return.

3. As I entered a wide **lagoon** surrounded by a rank growth of marshy plants, I found the air filled with a musky odour. I knew by experience that it was the odour given out by the alligator. Soon I heard that sharp clacking noise which these creatures are fond of making with their huge jaws; and presently I saw a large alligator not fifteen feet away on my right, close to the bank of the river. In the bright moonlight, and in that clear water,

alligator *n.* 鳄鱼
sluggish *adj.* 缓慢的

exquisite *adj.* 悦耳的
lagoon *n.* 泻湖



the long body of the creature shone grayish-green. Every mark on it was distinct. Right ahead I saw another, and there was still another to my left; and farther on, in the shadow of the reeds, lay one, two, three big ones and several small ones. In front, the waters swarmed with them.

4. Drifting like a log with the stream, the canoe did not attract their attention. It was necessary to steer very carefully, however, in order to escape a collision with them, as one of them might return the blow with a snap of his **formidable** jaws. In spite of all my **precautions**, while passing under the shadow of some great trees, I ran straight upon the back of a large female alligator without seeing her. She did not move; and as the canoe grated against her side in passing on, her eyes glared into mine so near that I could have touched them with my fingers. I **cocked** my rifle, but the great creature made no effort to attack me. Then I saw about twenty

formidable *adj.* 令人生畏的
precaution *n.* 谨慎

cock *v.* 竖起

little alligators regain their places on her back and head, from which my canoe had thrown them.

5. Now and then an alligator would lash the water furiously with its powerful tail, and utter a strange sighing bellow. One after another all those within hearing would join in, making the waters foam and gleam, and raising a deafening noise with their hoarse cries and snapping jaws. I did not relish the thought that a slap of some powerful tail might knock me into the water; so I went ashore, and climbed up an oak which overhung the river.

6. The North American alligators do not attack man, and I had never heard of any one being injured by them in Florida; but I did not care to risk being thrown into the water among them. The Florida waters teem with fish, which furnish the alligators with all the food they need; but I once saw a small hog, which was feeding on the river-bank, seized and borne off shrieking and struggling in the jaws of an alligator.

7. Sitting on a convenient branch, I watched the alligators for an hour or so. The smaller ones **gambled** and **frolicked** like kittens, chasing one another over the backs of the older ones, and **tumbling** about with the liveliest and most graceful movements. Sometimes a large one would sweep a tribe of small fellows off his back, and pursue them to the bottom of the river. Returning with one in his jaws, he would let it go and catch it again, playing with it some time before allowing it to escape.

8. After the frolicking company went out of sight, I followed them in the canoe, and soon overtook them. **Paddling** quickly, I dashed through the startled **throng**. They dived in great alarm under the water, and for some time I could trace them by the **phosphorescent** gleam they made

gambol v. 跳跃
frolic v. 嬉戏 (文中为该词的变形)
tumble v. 翻滚

paddle v. 用桨划船
throng n. 群
phosphorescent adj. 发出磷光的

in their headlong rush. I passed herd after herd as I made for the mouth of the river. Their not unpleasant **musky** odour was **wafted** to where our **schooner** lay moored, half a mile out at sea; and now and then, high above the wash of the waves on the low, sandy shore, rose that low, **hoarse** bellowing, as their curious voices blended in a chorus of strange sounds.

译文

1. 五月的一个下午，在水流缓慢的佛罗里达河上，我逆流划船数英里，来到乡间一处几近荒无人烟的地方。夜幕降临时，我返回独木舟，顺流漂浮在河面上。树林散发着浓香，我任小舟自由飘荡，尽情领略河两岸松枝的香气，以及百合与其他花卉的混杂花香。

2. 空气中昆虫和缓的嗡嗡声，使芦苇丛中的尖利刺耳的蛙鸣柔和了几分。嘲鸫的歌喉唱出银铃般的音符，时而加入虫鸣与蛙叫的混响之中。忽明忽暗的，是低矮树丛中的一群群萤火虫。此时，月光穿透茂密的树木枝叶铺撒在地面，银白色的雾气弥漫在河上。我沉醉在美丽的夜色里，听任缓缓流淌的河水载着小船前行，毫不理睬湿漉漉的空气向我发出的应该迅速离开的提示。

3. 随后，我来到一个水域宽广的泻湖，湖畔茂密地生长着沼泽地特有的植物。空气中富含类似麝香的气味，我从以往的经验里得知，这气味是短尾鳄的身体散发出来的。我听到尖利刺耳的持续不息的硬物碰击声——短尾鳄喜欢碰击自己硕大的上下颚，制造出这种声音。然后，我看到湖里的一只巨大短尾鳄，距离我右侧不到十五英尺，离湖岸边相当近。在清澈的湖水中，在皎洁的月光下，短尾鳄颇长的身躯闪烁着灰绿色的微光，身体的所有特征都清晰可见。朝正前方望去，我看到另一只短尾鳄，朝左侧望去，我又看到

musky *adj.* 发出麝香味道的
waft *v.* 飘荡

schooner *n.* 帆船
hoarse *adj.* 沙哑的

一只。朝更远处望去，在芦苇丛的阴影里，卧着一只、两只、三只大短尾鳄，还有几只小家伙。船的前方水域里，伏卧着大批短尾鳄。

4. 我的独木舟看起来很像一根顺流漂移的原木，没有引起那些短尾鳄的注意。即便如此，我划船时还必须十分小心，以避免与短尾鳄相撞，否则，很可能会激起一只短尾鳄张开它那令人生畏的大颚进行回击。尽管我万分谨慎地划着船，在经过岸边几棵巨树遮蔽水面的浓荫区域时，我因为看不清楚，独木舟竟然碰撞了一只巨大的母鳄鱼的背部。独木舟紧擦着母鳄鱼的身侧继续前行。受了撞击的母鳄鱼纹丝不动，我觉得它瞪视我的双眼似乎就在我身边，伸手就可以触摸到。我竖起了猎枪，这庞然大物却没有要攻击我的迹象。随后，我看到大约二十只幼鳄爬回母鳄鱼的脊背上和头上。刚才的撞击使这些幼鳄纷纷落入水里。

5. 有只短尾鳄不时地以强悍的尾巴击打湖水，同时发出怪异的叫声。听到叫声的其他短尾鳄陆续也开始以尾击水，那片水域立刻波光粼粼，泡沫翻滚。大批鳄鱼一面嘶哑地嚎叫，一面响亮地撞击上下颚，制造出震耳欲聋的混响。我不想拥有被强健有力的鳄鱼尾巴拍到湖水中的体验，于是赶紧上岸，爬到一棵枝干伸向湖面的橡树上。

6. 北美的短尾鳄通常不向人类发动攻击，我从未听闻佛罗里达州发生过鳄鱼伤人的事件，但是我仍不愿意去冒被扔进鳄鱼堆的风险。佛罗里达水系中鱼类丰盛，能够完全满足短尾鳄的食量所需。但是，我曾经看到一只小猪在河岸边觅食，忽然被一只短尾鳄用颚咬住，小猪尖声嚎叫，拼命挣扎，还是被短尾鳄拖走了。

7. 坐在一株上下方便的树枝上，我花了大约一个小时观察这些鳄鱼。幼鳄像小猫仔似的跳跃嬉戏，在成年鳄鱼身上奔跑追逐，四处翻滚，姿态极为活泼优雅。有时，一只成年鳄鱼会将一批幼鳄统统从自己脊背上赶下去，还把它们往水池底下赶。它用颚叼着一只幼鳄返回，张开嘴放它走，然后又把它叼住，这样与它玩耍很长时



间才真正让它跑开。

8. 那群打闹嬉闹的鳄鱼渐渐游远了，我划着独木舟跟了过去，很快就追上了它们。我快速地用桨划着独木舟，朝着这惊醒的一群鳄鱼冲撞而去。它们大吃一惊，立刻潜入水下，在一段时间里，我通过观察水中磷光的闪动追踪它们的水下行动。在划船向河口行进的过程中，我与一头又一头鳄鱼擦身而过，它们身上散发出的类似麝香的味道一直飘荡到我们的帆船抛锚之处，大约入海半英里；时不时地还传来时高时低的沙哑鳄鱼叫声，声音高过海浪冲刷海滩的哗哗声，多只鳄鱼引人好奇的叫声融合成一场罕见的合唱。

WORD
EXERCISE

1. Show the connection in meaning between *sluggish*, *sluggard*, *slug*, *slack*, and *slouch*.

2. Make a few sentences containing words like *per'fume* and *perfume'*, whose meaning changes with a change of accent.

3. Give the meaning of *chant*, and show how the root-meaning has changed in the words *enchantment* and *incantation*.

MEASUREMENT OF TIME

时间的测量

课文

1. How did men first measure time? We can picture to ourselves how our **ancestors** turned their eyes in wonder to the great sun; how they watched him rising higher and higher till he reached his noonday strength, then sinking lower and lower until he disappeared beneath the western horizon and left the world to darkness.

2. The great sun has sunk to rest, and in his place have come the gentle moon and thousands of twinkling stars. But again the sun rises, shines, and sets. Again he is followed by moon and stars. Man's first lesson in time has now been learned: the light he calls day, the darkness night.

3. Of all the heavenly bodies, the moon is the only one that seems to change its form and size. At one time it is a mere **crescent**, at another it is a full circle. Man counts the days from new moon to new moon, or from full moon to full moon, and calls the period a month. This is the second step in counting time.

4. He next observes changes in the length of the days and in the heat of the sun. He sees the flowers spring up, blossom, and decay, and the trees put on their gay garments of green, change them to sober brown, and finally lose them altogether. His ideas of seed-time, harvest, and winter are formed, and he begins to count the moons from seed-time to seed-time, or