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The Little Warhorse

小战马

(加)西顿 (Seaton, E.T.) / 著
张荣超 / 译

A very brave rabbit to run up the Mercedes-Benz, such as horses, just like small horses gallop on the battlefield, so we'll call it a small horse.

有一只非常勇敢的兔子，跑起来如战马奔驰，就跟驰骋在战场上的小战马一样，所以我们就把它叫作小战马吧。

与美国人
同步阅读的英语丛书

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快速提升英语水平

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英语是当今世界上主要的国际通用语言之一，也是世界上最广泛使用的语言。世界上有二十多个国家把英语作为官方语言或第二语言使用。据不完全统计，在全球差不多每十个人中就有一个人在讲英语。目前全世界的经济贸易、商业文书、政府交往、学术论文、旅游交通、银行文件语言等等都需要用到英文；互联网上的原版资料90%为英文；70%以上的邮件是用英文书写或用英文写地址的；全世界科技出版物70%以上用英语发表；全世界的广播节目中60%是用英语进行播放交流的；绝大部分的国际会议是以英语为第一通用语言（90%以上的国际会议用英语召开），它也是联合国的正式工作语言之一。

原本的非英语国家也早已将英语口语及课程普及化。大多数国家的高等学府、大学院校都开设英语语言文学专业，青少年也从小学习英语课程。仅在中国，就有一百多所大学设有英语专业或英语相关专业。随着我国对外开放的不断扩大化，科学技术不断进步，国际地位不断提高，迫切需要造就一大批精通外语的专门人才。而学好英语这门语言，对于我们来说，大有裨益：

第一，从小培养良好的英语读说听写基础，较早阅读原版图书和国外文献资料，增加课外知识，开阔眼界。

第二，英语是中考、高考的必选重点科目，即使不选择英语类专业，如果英语口语、写作或者翻译有一技之长，也会被社会广泛需要。

第三，具有英语语言优势可以增加被重点学校录取的几率，同时，不管将来从事哪个行业，英语交流都是必不可少的交际工具。

总之，加强英语学习已然刻不容缓，从今后的发展趋势来看，它就像我们的一日三餐一样不可或缺。

令人欣喜的是，我们的英语素质教育越来越受到重视，教师、家长和学生都逐渐意识到英语学习的重要性和必要性。其中对于基础英语教育而言，进行大量的原版英文阅读对提高英文学习水平是很有效的。国家教育部颁布的《英语课程标准》也对学生课外英语阅读提出了更高的标准和要求。

为全面提升英语爱好者的英语阅读能力，让亲爱的读者既读到原汁原味的英文原著，同时又能循序渐进，轻松愉快地学习世界文学文化，我们隆重推出了“读名著 学英语”阅读书系。

衷心希望亲爱的读者在阅读“读名著 学英语”系列图书的过程中有所收获，让大家不再感到英语学习沉闷枯燥，而是有章有法，在潜移默化中得以领悟，轻松提高学习兴趣；同时帮助更多的读者爱上英文，阅读英文，享受英语文化的极美盛筵。

前言 Preface

以动物为主角的故事由来已久，不论是古希腊的《伊索寓言》，还是中世纪法国的动物史诗《列那狐的故事》，动物都被披上人的外衣，赋予人的思想感情，成为表达人类思想的载体。而19世纪末，欧内斯特·汤普森·西顿却另辟蹊径，一反以往动物故事的写作模式，开创了“动物小说”这一体裁，力求真实地展现野生动物的生活场景和情感世界。

欧内斯特·汤普森·西顿（Ernest Seton Thompson, 1860—1946），是加拿大著名的博物学家、作家、艺术家、教育学家、探险家，被誉为“动物文学之父”。西顿从小热爱大自然，悉心观察各种飞禽走兽，为获得第一手材料，他长发披肩、衣衫褴褛、手持画板和笔记本，像幽灵一样出没于群山之中，追寻着动物的足迹，写下了动人的动物故事，并为这些故事绘制了几千幅插画。他一生中都在倡导“大自然是非常美好的事物”的观念，最崇拜狼和印第安人。他觉得狼是动物中最聪明神圣的物种，而印第安人则是人类中最好的人种，因为他们和大自然相处得最和谐，也最尊敬大自然。因此他自称“黑狼”，并终生倡导贴近自然的生活方式。

从19世纪90年代至1946年过世，西顿完成了大约60部著作，并在杂志上发表过400余篇文章，其中著名的有《野生动物的生活》4卷、论文《马尼托巴的鸟类》、短篇小说《温尼伯格之狼》和《沙丘牡鹿的踪迹》、故事集《动物记1——我所知道的野生动物》、《动物记2——动物英雄》等。

西顿动物小说是不可多得的动物小说经典，他充分尊重动物的个性，根据搜集到的第一手材料，从动物自身的角度进行叙述的，生动而真实。西顿

动物小说没有任何人为虚构，没有任何主观臆造，是真实得令人震撼的世界名著。

1898年出版的《我所知道的野生动物》（即《西顿动物故事》）取得了巨大的成功。由于这本书，西顿与当时的美国总统西奥多·罗斯福成为了好朋友。据说，英国作家吉卜林的《丛林之书》也是在这本书的启发之下写成的。

本书从西顿最著名的动物小说中精选了《小战马》、《喀伦坡狼王——洛波》、《宾果》、《野马飞毛腿》和《春田之狐》并汇编成册，以中英对照的方式为广大读者呈现西顿作品的无穷魅力：

——“小战马”并非是一匹马，而是一只长耳兔的名字，它跑得快，头脑灵，更具有无与伦比的勇气和胆量，常常把讨厌的猎狗玩弄于股掌之间。

在一次镇上的野兔大围剿时，它被抓住送到了跑狗场上，成了赛狗们追逐的目标。但伟大的“小战马”从来没有被抓住过，让猎狗吃尽了苦头，成了赛狗场上的英雄。后来，他在发号员米奇的帮助下回到了故乡的紫花苜蓿丛中……

——在喀伦坡草原上，存在着一位威力无穷的统治者，那就是著名的狼王洛波。多年来，洛波率领狼群在喀伦坡平原上纵横无敌，屠群羊，杀小牛，斗群狗，辱猎人，所向披靡，令牧人闻风丧胆。

它深爱自己的妻子白狼布兰卡，而这一点却恰恰被狡猾凶悍的猎人发现并利用……

——宾果的主人是西顿，但西顿把宾果送人了，可宾果依然还是把西顿当做自己的主人一样看待。有一天，西顿不小心被捕狼机夹住了，一直到深夜，都没有一个人经过。这时，不知从哪儿窜出一群狼，它们发现了西顿，露出白牙，向他慢慢地逼近，西顿彻底绝望了，因为他根本无力并且无法逃跑。

突然，山丘上一声厉吼，西顿吓了一跳，又来了一匹“黑狼”！可是它的叫声，却吓得狼群逃之夭夭。驱散狼群后，那头强壮的“黑狼”朝着西顿走来，仔细一瞧，才发现原来它就是宾果！后来，宾果帮西顿拿来扳手，打开



捕狼机，西顿得救了……

——飞毛腿是一匹外形俊美、体格健壮的野马，而这恰恰让它成为了人类猎捕的目标。在故事的结尾，飞毛腿为了获得自由，即使摔下悬崖粉身碎骨也在所不惜……

——《春田之狐》讲述了在埃林达尔森林中的母狐狸维克森一家的经历：她有三只小狐狸，有的被狗弄死，有的被人们用锄头拍死；第四只小狐狸却幸运地存活下来，母狐狸见到这一幕幕绝望的场景，心里悲痛欲绝。第四只小狐狸成了她唯一的亲人，可是她为了让这个孩子获得自由，她给小狐狸吃了有毒的鸡，小狐狸死了，母狐狸维克森也离开了埃林达尔松林，从此不知所踪……

西顿深厚的人道主义思想为我们挖掘出了动物生命中的可贵品质，从而为人类检视自身立起了一面镜子。他的作品使我们获得了阅读描写“人”的文学所无法替代的独特的审美体验和艺术感动。我们被他作品中描写和表现的富有灵性的动物世界所吸引和迷醉，为动物生命的神秘而震惊，为动物生命的尊严而感动。一百多年来，他的作品风靡全球，成为世界各国动物小说爱好者的必读经典。

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Little Warhorse, The History of a Jack-rabbit

小战马——一只长耳兔的故事

Hard times and easy times had long followed in turn and been taken as matters of course; but recent years in the State of Kaskado had brought to the Jack-rabbits a succession of remarkable ups and downs.

长久以来，苦难的日子和顺当的年月总是轮流不断地交替着，并被视为一种很自然的现象。可是最近几年的卡斯喀多州，却给长耳兔带来了一连串显著的盛衰沉浮。



I

The Little Warhorse knew practically all the Dogs in town. First, there was a very large brown Dog that had pursued him many times, a Dog that he always got rid of by slipping through a hole in a board fence. Second, there was a small active Dog that could follow through that hole, and him he baffled by leaping a twenty-foot irrigation **ditch** that had steep sides and a swift current. The Dog could not make this leap. It was "sure medicine" for that **foe**, and the boys still call the place "Old Jacky's Jump." But there was a Greyhound that could leap better than the Jack, and when he could not follow through a fence, he jumped over it. He tried the Warhorse's mettle more than once, and Jacky only saved himself by his quick dodging, till they got to an Osage hedge, and here the Greyhound had to give it up. Besides these, there was in town a rabble of big and little Dogs that were troublesome, but easily left behind in the open.

In the country there was a Dog at each farm-house, but only one that the Warhorse really feared; that was a long-legged, fierce, black Dog, a brute so swift and **pertinacious** that he had several times forced the Warhorse almost to the last **extremity**.

For the town Cats he cared little; only once or twice had he been threatened by

ditch *n.* 沟渠；
壕沟

foe *n.* 敌人；反
对者

pertinacious *a.*
顽固的；执拗的
extremity *n.* 极端；
绝境

小战马几乎认识镇子上所有的狗。首先，是一条褐色的大狗。小战马被它追过好多次，每次都是靠穿过木栅栏上的一个小洞，才把它摆脱。其次，是一条动作利索的小狗，它也能跟着穿过那个小洞，如果碰上它的话，小战马就会跳过一条二十英尺宽的、堤岸很陡、水流湍急的灌溉渠，以便阻挡它——那条小狗是跳不过去的。所以对这个敌人来说，跳越灌溉渠是最灵验的“良方”。这儿的孩子们，直到今天还管这个地方叫“老兔跳跃处”哩。可是，有条猎狗跳起这道渠来比小战马还要出色，而且碰到栅栏钻不过的时候，它还能一下子跳过去。这条猎狗不止一次地考验过小战马的勇气，小战马也只好用迅速躲闪的办法逃命，只有躲进奥塞奇人扎的篱笆中，才能让那条狗放弃追逐。除了上面说的这三只以外，镇上还有一些乱七八糟、大大小小的狗。尽管这帮家伙也很讨厌，但小战马只需在空地上跑上那么一阵子，就能很轻松地把它们甩开。

在这个地区，每个农庄都养着一条狗，但真正让小战马害怕的却仅有一只，那是一条长腿儿、凶猛的黑狗。这家伙动作敏捷，性子执拗，有好几次，小战马都差点被它逼到了绝境。

小战马很少关注镇子上的那些猫儿，因为它们就威胁过

them. A huge Tom-cat flushed with many victories came crawling up to where he fed one moonlight night. Jack Warhorse saw the black creature with the glowing eyes, and a moment before the final rush, he faced it, raised up on his haunches, —his hind legs, —at full length on his toes, —with his broad ears towering up yet six inches higher; then letting out a loud churr—churr, his best attempt at a roar, he sprang five feet forward and landed on the Cat's head, driving in his sharp hind nails, and the old Tom fled in terror from the weird two-legged giant. This trick he had tried several times with success, but twice it turned out a sad failure: once, when the Cat proved to be a mother whose Kittens were near; then Jack Warhorse had to flee for his life; and the other time was when he made the mistake of landing hard on a **Skunk**.

But the Greyhound was the dangerous enemy, and in him the Warhorse might have found his fate, but for a curious adventure with a happy ending for Jack. He fed by night; there were fewer enemies about then, and it was easier to hide; but one day at dawn in winter he had lingered long at an **alfalfa** stack and was crossing the open snow toward his favorite form, when, as ill-luck would have it, he met the Greyhound **prowling** outside the town. With open snow and growing daylight there was no chance to hide, nothing but a run in the open with soft snow that hindered the Jack more than it did the Hound.

Off they went—superb runners in fine **fettle**—how they skimmed across the snow, raising it in little puff—puff—puffs, each time their nimble feet went down. This way and that, swerving and dodging, went the chase. Everything favored the Dog, —his empty stomach, the cold weather, the soft snow, —while the Rabbit was handicapped by his heavy meal of alfalfa. But his feet went puff—puff so fast that a dozen of the lit-



它那么一两次。在一个有月亮的晚上，一只由于获得许多胜利而得意洋洋的大雄猫，爬到它正在吃东西的地方。小战马看到了这个眼睛闪闪发亮的黑家伙，于是就在最后展开冲击的一刹那之前，一个转身跟大雄猫来了个面对面，同时伸直两条腿，踮着脚直挺挺地站了起来，一对几乎有六英寸长的大耳朵高高地竖着。接着，它又尽力模仿吼叫的声音，大声地“咕咕、咕咕”叫了两声。接下来又往前跳了五英尺远，一家伙扑到大雄猫脑袋上，锋利的后爪狠狠地扎进了大雄猫的肉里。大雄猫看到这么一只两条腿的大怪物，吓得没命地逃掉了。这种妙计，它后来又成功地试过好几次，但是有两回却遭到了悲惨的结局，有一回是遇上了一只正在陪伴着小宝宝们的猫妈妈，害得小战马只好逃命；另一次是搞错了对象，狠狠地扑在一只臭鼬身上。

skunk *n.* 臭鼬

然而，那条猎狗却是个危险的敌人，要不是发生了一次大团圆结局式的惊奇冒险，小战马可能已经死在它的手里了。小战马总是在夜间进食，因为这时候周围的敌人比较少，躲起来也比较容易。但是有一回，在一个冬天的大清早，当它在一片紫花苜蓿地里徘徊了很长时间后，正要穿过空旷的雪地朝它最爱的地方跑去的时候，运气很不好，偏偏碰上了那只正在镇外游荡的猎狗。积雪的空地、越来越亮的天色，使它除了在旷野上奔跑，根本找不到躲藏的机会，而软绵绵的积雪，对长耳兔的妨碍作用却又比对猎狗的来得大。

alfalfa *n.* 苜蓿；
紫花苜蓿

prowl *v.* 徘徊；潜行

fettle *n.* 情绪；身
体状况

它们飞快地往前奔去，精神饱满，劲头十足，真是一对卓越的赛跑能手。它们掠过空旷的雪地，每当轻捷的脚儿往下踩去的时候，就扬起一小撮雪花，响起一阵轻微的扑——扑——扑的声音。它们一会儿朝东，一会儿往西，又是躲闪，又是迂回。对那只猎狗说来，情况是非常有利的——空

the snow-jets were in view at once. The chase continued in the open; no friendly hedge was near, and every attempt to reach a fence was cleverly stopped by the Hound. Jack's ears were losing their bold up-cock, a sure sign of failing heart or wind, when all at once these flags went stiffly up, as under sudden renewal of strength. The Warhorse put forth all his power, not to reach the hedge to the north, but over the open prairie eastward. The Greyhound followed, and within fifty yards the Jack dodged to foil his fierce pursuer; but on the next tack he was on his eastern course again, and so tacking and dodging, he kept the line direct for the next farm-house, where was a very high board fence with a hen-hole, and where also there dwelt his other hated enemy, the big black Dog. An outer hedge delayed the Greyhound for a moment and gave Jack time to dash through the hen-hole into the yard, where he hid to one side. The Greyhound rushed around to the low gate, leaped over that among the Hens, and as they fled cackling and fluttering, some Lambs bleated loudly. Their natural guardian, the big black Dog, ran to the rescue, and Warhorse slipped out again by the hole at which he had entered. Horrible sounds of Dog hate and fury were heard behind him in the hen-yard, and soon the shouts of men were added.

How it ended he did not know or seek to learn, but it was remarkable that he never afterward was troubled by the swift Greyhound that formerly lived in Newchusen.

空的肚子，寒冷的天气，软软的积雪——而一顿饱饱的紫花苜蓿，却给长耳兔招来了不少麻烦。但它还是扑扑地跑得那么快，一转眼就在雪地上印下了好几十个黑脚印儿。追逐继续在空旷的雪地上进行着，附近找不到一簇友好的树丛，有好几次，小战马想跑近篱笆墙，但全被猎狗巧妙地挡住了。现在小战马的耳朵也不再那么雄赳赳地竖着了，这肯定是一种灰心泄气的表现。但是突然间，也许是一下子又恢复了气力，它又把耳朵像两面旗帜似地挺直起来。小战马用足全身气力，但它不是朝北面的树丛，而是朝着东边那片空旷的草原奔去。猎狗紧紧地跟在后面，小战马没跑上五十码路，就使了个拐弯躲闪法，搅乱一下凶猛的追逐者的视线。但是，它在跑了一段路以后，便又回到朝东的路线上。就这样，它躲闪又跑回，一直朝邻近的一家农庄跑去。那儿有一道挺高的木板围墙，墙上还有个鸡洞门，而它的另一个可恨的敌人，那条大黑狗，也住在那儿。这时候，一簇外围的树丛把猎狗耽搁了一下，长耳兔就乘机冲过鸡洞来到谷场上，在一边躲了起来。猎狗顺着围墙，急匆匆地跑到那扇低矮的大门跟前，一个纵身跳了过去，正好落在一群母鸡当中，吓得那些鸡咯咯直叫，拍着翅膀四下乱窜，弄得几只小羊也咩咩地大声叫了起来。那条经常保护它们的大黑狗马上跑来营救它们，于是，小战马又从进来的小洞里溜了出去。它听见后面谷场上，响起了一阵可怕而又猛烈的狗咬狗的声音，接着又添上了人们的喊叫声。

对于这件事情的结局，小战马不知道，也没有法子去打听。但有一点非常清楚，那就是从此以后，这条原先住在纽丘森的快腿猎狗，就再也没有找过它的麻烦。

II

Hard times and easy times had long followed in turn and been taken as matters of course; but recent years in the State of Kaskado had brought to the Jack-rabbits a succession of remarkable **ups and downs**. In the old days they had their endless fight with Birds and Beasts of Prey, with cold and heat, with **pestilence** and with flies whose sting bred a **loathsome** disease, and yet had held their own. But the settling of the country by farmers made many changes.

Dogs and guns arriving in numbers reduced the ranks of Coyotes, Foxes, Wolves, Badgers, and Hawks that preyed on the Jack, so that in a few years the Rabbits were multiplied in great swarms; but now pestilence broke out and swept them away. Only the strongest—the double-seasoned—remained. For a while a Jack-rabbit was a rarity; but during this time another change came in. The Osage-orange hedges planted everywhere afforded a new refuge, and now the safety of a Jack-rabbit was less often his speed than his wits, and the wise ones, when pursued by a Dog or Coyote, would rush to the nearest hedge through a small hole and escape while the enemy sought for a larger one by which to follow.

The Coyotes rose to this and developed the trick of the relay chase. In this one Coyote takes one field, another the next, and if the Rabbit attempts the "hedge-ruse" they work from each side and usually win their prey. The Rabbit remedy for this, is