

中学生英汉对照小读物

# 虎的故事

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# Tiger

## Is This Sport?

I shall never forget the first wild tgress I ever saw. It was love at first sight<sup>①</sup>.

As a learner forester, I had to spend at least 20 nights of every month in the wild. One day I was on my way back to camp when I suddenly saw something running. I realised there were two animals a little larger than dogs. They had lines across their skins.

A few steps further on, I saw the half-eaten body of an animal. I realised I had seen two young tigers. I decided to climb a tree, and wait for them to return for their meal. For an hour, nothing happened.

Then as the light began to disappear, I heard quick steps on the dry leaves behind me. I turned my head, and saw a golden body with black lines across it; obviously the mother of the two young ones.

When nothing happened after a couple of minutes, I moved my head very slowly. She was right under my tree, hardly a couple of metres below me. But clearly she had not

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① love at first sight 一见倾心

picked up my smell.

My first wild tigress

My heart beat faster, and I made a little anxious movement — it produced a small sound from the metal part of my belt. She looked up, jumped, and was off. Within a few days, I heard that she was shot, and the young ones were caught.

During my studies at Forester College I got a clear understanding of the living conditions of India's wildlife. Only as a forester could I study nature under the sun and stars. And I was able to live with tigers in the wild for days and nights continuously. Often we knew of each other's presence, but probably even more often we did not.

I found an ancient camera in a little shop, and photography became my main delight. When I had any money in my pocket, I used to rush to the nearest shop for a film. My new wife often had to forgive me when money for the house found its way to the camera shop.

The last lecture at college was by the top forester, Mr M I Chaturvedi. During his life he had been a famous tiger hunter.

"Shoot your first tiger in your first year," he told us.

I was determined to do the right thing, so I borrowed a gun. A tiger had killed a buffalo, so that night I decided to wait for the tiger to return.

When I climbed up into a tree, above the dead buffalo, the last rays of the sun were still lighting up the valley. In an hour, it was dark, and I heard the evening bells from a distant



village. And minutes after the bells had died away<sup>①</sup> I heard sounds from beneath me.

The body of the buffalo was being pulled. then some animal began to eat. My companion was an experienced Forest Guard. and now he pressed my arm. I aimed the big gun. And as he switched on his torch. I fired.

With a deep—throated “Oonooh” the animal jumped into the bushes. Birds called, and monkeys screamed. then after a time there was silence. I shone my torch over the body of the buffalo. It was not there. A low, throaty sound came from the bushes—obviously the tiger had been hit.

A thousand thoughts flooded through my mind. Was this courage. or murder in the dark? The picture of the tiger's beauty refused to leave my thoughts. And with every painful sound from the bushes, my felings of guilt increased. I didn't sleep.

When the birds called, and sunlight lit the valley once more. I saw the tiger. His legs were up. and his eyes were open. It was difficult for me to wear a brave smile.

He seemed to look in my eyes. and ask the reason for his He eath: “Is this sport. when all the urles are to your advantage?”

I could not even tell myself he was a man — eater. or even a cattle—killer. Full of guilt. I touched his body to beg his

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① to dic away (风、声音等) 渐息, 渐弱

pardon. ①

Evenh today the scene is fresh as that morning. And the open eyes of that tiger have stayed in my mind all my life.

I have never repeated that murder. And to get over my guilt. I have given my life's work to the tiger.

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① to beg sb's pardon 求饶, 赔不是, 道歉

# 虎

## 这是娱乐活动吗？

我永远不会忘记我所见到的第一只野生雌虎，它使我一见倾心。

我作为一个正在实习的林务员，每个月至少有20个夜晚必须在荒野中度过。有一天，我在回营的路上突然看见有什么东西在跑。我发现那是两只动物，比狗略大些，皮毛上有横向花纹。

再向前几步，我看见一具吃剩下的动物尸体。我意识到，刚才看到的是两只虎崽。我决定爬到树上，等着它们再返回来吃食。一小时过去了，什么事也没有发生。

后来，在天开始黑下来的时候，我听到身后的枯叶有急促的脚步声。我一回头，看见了一个带着黑色条纹的金黄色身体，很显然，这是那两只虎崽的母亲。

几分钟过去了，没有什么动静。我慢慢地摇了摇头。它就在我的树下，离我不到两三米，然后它分明没有嗅出我的气味。

我的第一只野生雌虎！

我的心跳加剧，稍微有些不安地动了一下，我的皮带上的金属配件发出轻轻的响声，它向上望望，跳起来，然后跑

掉了。没有几天，我听说这只雌虎被射中，两只虎崽也被捉住了。

我在林业学院学习期间，清楚地了解到印度野生动物的生存条件。但只有在我成为林务员时，才能昼夜研究大自然，夜以继日地在野外与老虎一起生活，我们往往彼此知道对方的存在，但可能更多的时候，我们并不知道。

我在一家小店铺里发现了一架旧式摄影机，于是摄影成为我的主要爱好。我的腰包里一有钱，总是迫不及待地到离我最近的商店里去买一卷胶卷。当维持生计的钱流入照相器材商店时，新婚的妻子常常不得不原谅我。

高级林务员 M. D. 查图维迪先生生前曾是位著名的猎虎者，我在学院的最后一节课由他讲授的。

他对我们说：“你们要在第一年打死头一只虎。”

我下决心去做这件应做的事。因此，我借了一支枪。有一只老虎咬死了一头野牛，所以我决心在那天夜里等候老虎回来。

当我爬上死牛旁边的一棵树上时，太阳的余辉仍然照着山谷。一个小时后，夜幕降临了。我听到从远处一个村子里传来的晚钟声。钟声渐息，几分钟后我的下方传出声响。

野牛的尸体正被撕开，接着有一头野兽开始吃起来。我的同伴是一个经验丰富的护林员，这时他挤了一下我的臂膀，我瞄准了那只大家伙。当我的同伙打开手电筒时，我开火了。

随着一声由咽喉深处发出的“嗷嗷”声，这头野兽跳进了灌木丛中。鸟儿叫了起来，猴子也喊了起来，过了一会儿便成万籁俱寂。我用电筒向野牛尸体处照去，尸体不见了。随后一声由喉部发出的低沉声从灌木丛中传来，显然，虎已被

击中了。

千头万绪涌上我的心头，这算勇气还是在黑暗中的屠杀呢？我的脑海中总是浮现着那只漂亮老虎的情景。随着从灌木丛中传来的一声声的惨叫，我的负罪感越来越重，难以入寐。

当鸟儿啼鸣，阳光再次照亮山谷时，我看见了这只虎。它四脚朝天，眼睛睁着。这使我很难露出一丝勇敢者的微笑。

它似乎在盯着我的眼睛，询问自己的死因：“既然所有的法则都是对你们有利的，那么，这就是娱乐活动吗？”

我甚至不能对我自己说，这是一只食人虎或一只食牛虎。我满怀着负罪感，抚摸着它的尸体，它向道歉。

直至如今，这一幕我依然记忆犹新，就像在早上发生的一样。那双圆睁的虎眼使我终生难忘。

我再也没有重蹈屠杀的履辙，为了克服我的负罪感，我把自己的毕生事业献给了老虎。

## The Gold and the Black

An Indian tiger is 3 metres from the nose to the end of the tail. And it is almost one metre tall at the shoulder. But it is not the only tiger.

The tigers that crossed over to the Indonesian islands are smaller than the Indian tiger. Malaysian tigers are hardly  $2\frac{1}{2}$  metres long—in India, an animal of this size would be a young one.

In warmer climates, animals are usually smaller—it is easier for them to get rid of ①heat. So the Javan, Sumatran, and Indo—Chinese tigers are smaller.

But in a cold climate, a larger body and longer hair help to keep the heat in. So the Siberian tiger is considerably larger than the Indian—almost 4 metres in length. (But it fails to ②change to the colour of the snows in the long Siberian winter. Why? Its enemies surely see its colour and its black markings very easily.) The Chinese tiger is smaller than the Siberian.

Where did the tiger come from? Its colour and pattern suggest tall grasslands with some forests. It seems likely that the tiger entered India from the north—west—certainly many of the animals it hunts came from this direction.

What a beautiful skin! But the colours and patterns are not of course just for our admiration. They help to hide the tiger in different types of country: so that he can surprise the animals he attacks.

The broken lines up and down his body are of different lengths and widths. They begin along the centre of the back, and they end towards the under—side. On the legs, the lines go across the width, and they form rings round the tail. The orange colour changes to light brown and white below the body.

In grassland, the yellow of the body is lost among the dry

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① to get rid of 摆脱, 解脱, 除去

② to fail to 未能

grass. and the broken black lines look like the shadows of the leaves. When the tiger is hiding under a bush. the lines look like shadows of the bushes.

In dry forests. he can hardly be seen against the brownish — yellow leaves and the shadow — pattern. Even when he is sitting and cooling himself in water. the bright sunlight tricks your eye—you can easily mistake him for a rock in the river.

The tiger's pattern and colouring can seem too obvious when the animal is close. But in the jungle. he almost disappears. In the changing light and shade of the forest. every tiger is a bush. and every bush is a tiger. Often I have seen a tiger only when my elephant had almost stepped on it.

Even if you recognise the tiger's shape. you can lose it again almost immediately. As soon as you move your eyes. it will be very difficult to discover this huge animal again—and it may be sitting only 6 metres away from you.

But the tiger hunts mostly in the dark. so what is the purpose of his appearance? And who is his enemy, except for man?

If it was easy to see him, the daytime animals would always give out warning and alarm calls, and he would get no peace. And the black lines across the body break up<sup>①</sup> the tiger's solid appearance during the last light of day—his main hunting hours.

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① to break up 弄破，打碎：拆散，拆开：改变

## 金黄色和黑色

印度虎从鼻子到尾端长 3 米，肩高将近 1 米。但是，老虎不仅仅只此一种。

迁徙到印度尼西亚群岛的虎比印度虎小，马来西亚虎身长不足 2.5 米，在印度，这样大小的虎是幼虎。

生长在亚热带地区的动物一般个子较小，因为体积小易于散发体内热量。因此，爪哇虎、苏门答腊虎以及印度支那虎都比较小。

不过在寒带地区，虎的体积大、毛长，有利于保持体内的热量。因而西伯利亚虎比印度虎大得多，几乎长达 4 米。（然而这种虎，在漫长的西伯利亚的冬天，并没有使自己的皮毛变成雪白的颜色，原因何在？它颜色和黑色条纹必然会被它的敌人轻而易举地发现。）中国虎则比西伯利亚虎小。

虎来自什么地方？它的颜色和图案表明它来自带有森林的劲草丛生的草原。它似乎是从西北部进入印度的，当然，老虎所猎食的多种动物都来自这个方向。

多么漂亮的皮毛？然而虎皮的颜色和图案当然不仅为赢得人们的赞美，而且有助于老虎在各种不同类型的地区中隐藏，以便能出其不意地袭击其它动物。

它的全身上下布满长短宽窄不一、断断续续的条纹。这些条纹从脊背中间开始向两侧延伸至下腹，颜色也由橙色变成浅棕色，腹部是白色。腿上的条纹呈横向，尾巴上的花纹是环形。



在草原上，黄色的躯体与枯干的荒草浑然一体，而断断续续的黑色条纹看上去颇似叶子的荫影。当老虎隐藏在灌木丛下的时候，它的条纹犹如那些灌木的影子。

在干枯的森林里，它在棕黄的叶子及其荫影的衬托下很难被看出来。甚至当它坐在水里乘凉时，明亮的阳光使你的眼睛产生错觉，很容易将老虎误认为是河里的一块岩石。

老虎离近时，虎皮上的图案和颜色可能显得非常清晰，但在丛林中则几乎看不见了。在明亮与黑暗变幻无常的森林里，每一只老虎似乎是一丛灌木，而每丛灌木又似乎是一只虎。常常是当我骑的大象几乎踏着那只老虎时，我才看见它。

即使你辨认不出老虎的身影，也可能在瞬间又消失了。一转眼，你想再发现这只庞然大物就不那么容易了，而它可能就在距你仅6米的地方坐着。

但是，老虎大多在黑暗中猎食，那么它的这一外貌起什么作用呢？它的敌人除了人类还有谁呢？

如果它很容易被发现，那么在白天里出没的动物就会经常发出警告和惊恐的叫声，而使它得不到安宁，并且在夕阳西下时——它的主要猎食时间，身上的横向黑色条纹就会改变老虎的整个形态。

## Looking and Listening

The tiger lives alone. There are good reasons for this.

He could not see far in thick forest or woodland. So hunting in a group would not be successful. The animals that the