



★ 课外英语
英语下午茶

Short Stories

英文故事小札

天星 尘影 / 编




远方出版社

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The action was not right
To see a world in grain of sand
And heaven in a wild flower
Hold infinity in the palm of your hand
And eternity in an hour

NICE DAY

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前 言

某著名小说家曾经说过：“英语的独特之处就在于，它使得任何在十四岁就离开校园的人在他长大之后，不可能再学习另外一门外语。”他的说法虽然有点偏执，但同时也指出了英语的独特魅力以及其巨大的语言影响力。对英语的理解和掌握不只是一门科学，还是一种艺术。随着世界经济快速发展和各国人民之间交流的进一步加强，掌握好英语不再只是一种升学的基本要求，更重要的是，它已经成为我们赖以在这个竞争日益激烈的“地球村”上更好生存的本领。

对于我国英语学习者来说，中学无疑是学习英语的最佳时期。十几岁的孩子，机械记忆力依然强健，理解力与日俱增，对一切文化财富都充满了好奇，正是汲取知识的大好时机。我们都知道打好英语基本功尤其重要，而我们认为，英语水平的增进在更大的程度上主要取决于阅读，因为阅读可以提供从词汇、语法到社会文化的方方面面的知识，让学生在微笑中

领悟,在见闻中成长。为此,我们编写了这套取材广泛的《英语下午茶》。

这套丛书集故事性、趣味性于一体,从中学生的英语实际水平出发,让学生在巩固课本词汇和语法的同时,能够充分发挥自学能力,展开广泛阅读,探索英语知识与技能。

本丛书难免有纰漏之处,请广大读者与同行不吝指正。

编 者



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The brave Indian girl who guided Lewis and Clark.

America Thanks You, Bird Woman!

The slim young, Indian squaw stood before the two tall men. "Captain Lewis," she said, "I want to go with you and Lieutenant Clark. I can help you find the way."

1

"Do you know how hard and long the trip will be?" Captain Lewis asked her. "We have to cross high mountains and paddle canoes on swift rivers. We won't turn back until we have reached the Big Water—the Pacific Ocean. No white man has ever made the trip. How can you, a girl, help us on such a hard journey?"

"I come from the Land of the Setting Sun," answered Bird Wonam. "As a child, I lived in the mountains. My people are still there. I know where there are passes through the mountains. I can help you in many ways. You are taking my husband with you. please take me."

"But you can't take your baby on this hard trip!" said Captain Lewis.

"I am strong and my baby will not be any trouble,"





answered the Indian girl. "I carry him on my back, out of the way."

"what do you say, Clark?" Captain Lewis asked his friend and partner.

"I say she should come with us," Lieutenant Clark answered.

"That's what I say, too," said Captain Lewis. "Bird Woman, we'll count on you to help us."

"I will help." she said, with a smile.

In that year, 1804, no one dreamed how very much Bird Woman would help! Without her, our great Northwest might now belong to England. She helped Lewis and Clark get through the wild country west of the Rocky Mountains. They had orders from President Jefferson to claim the Northwest for America. Could they have done it without their guide? Perhaps not.

Early in the trip, Bird Woman showed that she could think and act quickly. She, her husband and a few other men were in the front boat. In it were stored maps, medicines and other important supplies. Lewis and Clark had planned that one of them would always ride in this boat. But on that day they had both gone ashore to hunt.

Suddenly a storm blew up. The boat almost turned over. The frightened men began to shout. Bird Woman's husband began to cry and pray. But Bird Woman had no time to shout or cry. She was busy saving the supplies. When she saw them



sliding overboard, she jumped forward. Just in time, she snatched them from the tossing, whirling water.

Her brave act gave the men courage. They kept the boat from turning over.

As the trip went on, Bird Woman helped care for the men. She sewed their torn clothes with needles made of bird bones and thread made of animal hide. Later, their shoes and clothes began to wear out. She made new ones of buckskin for the grateful men.

Some of the men were sick from time to time. She showed them how to find foods to make them well. She dug roots of wild carrot and other plants.

At last the boats came to Bird Woman's home country. Lewis and Clark had only a rough deerskin map of the mountains and rivers. But Bird Woman remembered passes through the mountains. She seemed always to know the right way to go. Lewis and Clark soon learned to follow her without question.

One day a band of Shoshone (pronounced show-SHOW-nee) Indians rode up. Were they friends or enemies? What would happen now?

Suddenly Bird Woman ran forward. She threw her arms around the chief and burst into tears of joy. He was her brother!

The Shoshone chief called his sister by her Indian name, Sacajawea (sah-kah-jah-WAY-ah), meaning Bird Woman. "you and the white men are welcome," he said.





Lewis and Clark had brought bags of food as gifts. These Indians of the Far West had never before tasted sugar, squash, corn or beans.

The chief said he would guide Lewis and Clark across the mountains. But some of the Indians were angry. They would have to put off their buffalo hunt. So they made a plan to lead Lewis and Clark into the mountains and leave them there to die. Bird Woman was to them. She found out about the plan and told Captain Lewis.

The two men made more gifts to the Indians. Dancing, singing and story-telling also helped win them over. The Indians would keep their promise to guide Lewis and Clark.

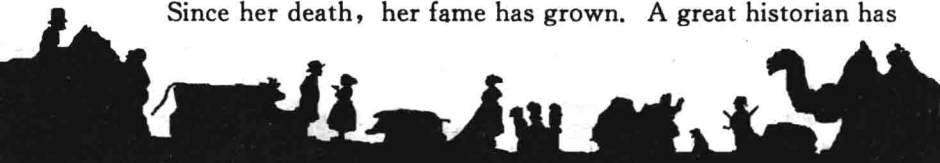
From this time on, the white men knew just how important Bird Woman was "Janey," their friend.

As pay for two and a half years of hard work, Bird Woman asked only one thing. She wanted to go all the way with the men to see the Big Water. Lewis and Clark let her go.

Her joy at the sight of the ocean was great. But even greater was her surprise at seeing the huge bones of a whale. In later years, she told her fish story to hundreds of Indians. They always yelled with laughter at her "big lie."

Bird Woman lived to be 100 years old. She had many free rides across the country in early stagecoaches. Everywhere she went, she had good things to say about white men.

Since her death, her fame has grown. A great historian has





called her one of the six most important American women of all time. She helped us gain the land that became four great states: Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon. America should say, "Thank you, Sacajawea!"





给刘易斯和克拉克当向导的勇敢的印第安女子

美国感谢你，鸟女！

6

苗条年轻的印第安女子站在两个高大的男人面前。“刘易斯上尉，”她说，“我想同你和克拉克中尉一起去，我能帮你们找到道路。”

“你知道这次旅行会有多么艰难，漫长吗？”刘易斯上尉问她。“我们得翻高山，划皮艇穿急流。我们要到达“大水”——太平洋岸边才回头。白人还从来没有作过这样的旅行。这样艰巨的旅程，你一个女子怎么帮得了我们？”

“我来自‘日落之乡’，”鸟女答道，“小时候我住在山里。我家里人还住在那儿。我了解哪里有山口可以穿山过岭。我可以在许多方面帮助你们。你们要带我丈夫一起去，那么请你们也带上我吧。”

“但是这次旅途艰难，你怎么能带上你的孩子！”船长刘易斯说。。

“我很结实，我的孩子也不会添麻烦的，”这位印第安女子回答说，“我把他背在背上，不碍事。”

刘易斯上尉问他的朋友兼同事，“克拉克，你看怎么样？”

克拉克中尉答道，“我说她应当跟我们一起。”





“这也是我的看法，”刘易斯上尉说，“鸟女，我们就靠你帮助了。”

她带着微笑说，“我会帮忙的。”

1804年那年头，谁也想不到鸟女会给他们这么大的帮助！没有她，我们广大的西北部现在也许属于英国了。她帮助刘易斯和克拉克穿过落基山脉西面的蛮荒地。刘易斯和克拉克是奉杰弗逊总统的命令去为美国宣布西北部的所有权属美国所有。倘若没有鸟女为他们做向导，他们两人办得到这件事吗？也许办不到。

在行程初期，鸟女就显示出她思想敏捷行动迅速。她，她的丈夫和其他一些人在前面一条船上。那条船上装有地图，药品和其它一些重要物资。刘易斯和克拉克本来计划他们两人中总有一人呆在那条船上，但是那天他们两都上岸打猎去了。

突然刮起一阵暴风，船差点儿翻了。受惊的男人们开始大声喊叫。鸟女的丈夫开始哭叫、祈祷。但是鸟女却顾不得哭喊，她正忙于抢救物资。当她看见那些物资要从船上滑到水中去时，她往前一跳，正好一把抓住，才没让物资掉进汹涌的旋涡中去。

她的勇敢行为使男人们增添了勇气。他们把船稳住，没有让它翻掉。

旅程一天天过去，鸟女帮助照顾男人们。她用鸟骨做的针和兽皮铸的线给男人们补撕破了的衣服。后来他们的鞋和衣服渐渐坏了，她用鹿皮给这些感恩不尽的男人们做了新的衣服和鞋。

不时有人生病。她教他们怎么找治病的食物。她挖野生胡萝卜和别的植物的块根来吃。

最后，船来到了鸟女的家乡。刘易斯和克拉克只有一张在鹿





皮上画了山河位置的粗略的地图。但是鸟女记得穿山的隘口。她似乎总是知道走哪条路对。刘易斯和克拉克不久便养成习惯，坚信不疑地跟着她走。

一天。一伙绥绥尼族的印第安人骑马迎面而来。他们是朋友还是敌人？会出什么事？

突然鸟女向前跑去。她伸出双臂抱住了印第安人的首领，并涌出了快乐的眼泪。那首领是她的哥哥！

这位绥绥尼族首领管他妹妹叫萨卡佳维亚。这是她的印第安名字，意思是鸟女。他说：“我们欢迎你和那些白人。”

刘易斯和克拉克带来了一袋袋的食物是作为礼物用的。这些糖，西戎芦，玉米和豆子是远在西部的印第安人从来没有尝过的。

这位首领说他愿给刘易斯和克拉克带路越过山区。但是有些印第安人很生气，因为他们猎杀野牛的事情得暂时搁下了。所以他们就制定了一个计划，把刘易斯和克拉克领进山里后，就把他们留在那里，让他们死在山里。鸟女发现了这个计划并告诉了刘易斯上尉。

他们两人又给印第安人送了一些礼。跳舞，唱歌和讲故事也起到了争取他们的作用。于是印第安人愿意遵守诺言，给刘易斯和克拉克带路。

从这一次遭遇以后，白人懂得了鸟女对他们来说是多么重要。她是他们的朋友，他们亲昵地叫她“珍妮”。

为他们艰苦工作了两年半之后，鸟女只提要求一件事作为报酬。她想一直跟他们起到底，去看看“大水”。刘易斯和克拉克答应了。

看到海洋欣喜不已，可是当她看到一副巨大的鲸鱼骨架时更