



# 经典!

## 美国学生 都在背的范文

重温美国语文教科书中的精华

主编◎张立杰 宋丽丽

· 初中版 ·

北京 **清华大学** 名师团队倾力译注

世界领先的教育理念：使用美国经典教科书学习纯正英文！

本书课文均精选自影响了美国五代人心灵的经典畅销书《麦加菲美德读本》

**沐浴纯粹的美德，感受纯正的美式教育，不出国就能体验的美国课程**  
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融入人文性、趣味性、综合性、开放性、现实性于一体的提升综合素质的中英双语阅读范本



中国宇航出版社

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中国对外翻译出版公司

· 北京 ·

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图书在版编目(CIP)数据

经典! 美国学生都在背的范文: 重温美国语文教科书中的精华: 初中版: 英汉对照 / 张立杰, 宋丽丽主编. --北京: 中国宇航出版社, 2013.1

ISBN 978-7-5159-0370-5

I. ①经... II. ①张... ②宋... III. ①英语—汉语—对照读物 IV. ①H319.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2012)第 309743 号

策划编辑 战颖  
责任编辑 杨宁

装帧设计 李彦生  
责任校对 王博

出版  
发行 **中国宇航出版社**

社址 北京市阜成路8号  
(010) 68768548

邮编 100830

网址 [www.caphbook.com](http://www.caphbook.com)

经销 新华书店

发行部 (010) 68371900  
(010) 68768541

(010) 88530478 (传真)  
(010) 68767294 (传真)

零售店 读者服务部  
(010) 68371105

北京宇航文苑  
(010) 62529336

承印 三河市君旺印装厂

版次 2013年1月第1版

2013年1月第1次印刷

规格 787×960

开本 1/16

印张 19.5

字数 371千字

书号 ISBN 978-7-5159-0370-5

定价 33.00元

本书如有印装质量问题,可与发行部联系调换

## 前言

在美国有这样一套英语阅读教材，它的销售量与《圣经》和《韦氏大辞典》不相上下，堪称“塑造了美国人的头脑”。它就是《麦加菲美德读本》，也被称为《美国语文》。它最初发行于19世纪中叶，从1836年到1961年，历经百余年之久，一直被美国1万多所学校用作阅读教材，其发行量达到1.22亿册。据维基百科介绍，从1961年以来，虽然其他一些教材逐步取代了它的地位，但是它从来没有从英语学习者的视线里消失，每年仍然以多达3万册的发行量在销售。这是任何其他个人所编纂的教材都难以企及的纪录。

《麦加菲美德读本》原编者麦加菲生前是一位道德哲学与神学教授，并历任辛辛那提学院、俄亥俄大学、伍德沃德学院院长，在讲授道德课程与经书内容方面享有很高的声誉。1835年，辛辛那提一家很小的出版公司要出版一系列面向初级水平学生的分级阅读教程。《汤姆叔叔的小屋》的作者哈丽雅特·比彻·斯托毫不犹豫地推荐了好友麦加菲教授担当此任。麦加菲教授秉着公共教育应该注重道德与精神方面培养的信念，编写了这套包含七个级别的阅读读本。这是美国最早的教材之一，以注重学生精神素养的熏陶为主，让学生在真正的文学文本的语境中培养阅读能力。

《麦加菲美德读本》之所以能够历经百年而处于不败之地有两个原因，其一在于其语言的循序渐进性，其二在于它蕴含了丰富的道德、人文、科技与社会思想。其循序渐进性主要表现在选材的词汇量，篇幅的长短，文类的覆盖面等等逐级提高，语言重复率高。其内涵主要表现在选材从短小精悍的儿歌、小故事到经典文学名家的小说、戏剧，无不包含动人的童趣、真挚的情感和丰富的精神营养，可以说篇篇都是美文，使学生在阅读中悟到很多励志与做人的道理，具有一举两得的效果。

鉴于其经久不衰的魅力，我们愿意对《麦加菲美德读本》进行改编，推出《经典！美国学生都在背的范文——重温美国语文教科书中的精华》

系列丛书，以适宜我国学生学习英语的方式把它再次呈现出来。本套丛书根据我国学生学习英语的程度，在保持《麦加菲美德读本》两大特色的基础上，精选读本中的美文，把读本改编成小学版、初中版和高中版三个级别，分别面向小学、初中、高中和大学一年级学生的读者。同时为了方便我国学生学习英语中阅读与写作的需要，在原文之后设计了“阅读理解问题”“课文新字”“课文好词”“经典句子”等板块。“阅读理解问题”，有助于启发学生思考，让学生能够积极地介入到美文之中，有阅读有思考，加深其对美文的理解与接受。“课文新字”“课文好词”“经典句子”，有助于学生更好地理解课文，扩大词汇量，积累词语，积累经典句子，为英语写作积累经典素材，同时增强英语语言的底蕴，提高英语写作水平。课文中文“翻译”则有利于学生更加准确地理解文章的涵义，陶冶情操，更加直观地了解西方文化。

《经典！美国学生都在背的范文——重温美国语文教科书中的精华》系列丛书，是学生学习英语的阅读读物，也是通过阅读英语美文进行美德教育的优秀范本：学生在阅读这些优美的英语文字的同时，从中感受到人文、道德、科技与社会思想的教育力量；在提高英语语言能力的同时，思考立人之本；在阅读学习中，潜移默化地形成影响他们一生的美德、人文的力量。本书应用范围广泛，既可以做课外读物，也可以做教材的补充材料在课堂上使用。

我们在编写本书的过程中力求认真、谨慎、精确，然而仍难免会出现各种错误。因此，如发现错误或不当之处，恳请读者谅解并指正，以帮助我们不断完善此套读本。

宋丽丽  
2012年12月  
于蓝旗营

## 导读

《经典！美国学生都在背的范文——重温美国语文教科书中的精华》（初中版）一书主要作为初中阶段的英语教材，同时亦可当做具有初中及以上英语水平学生及英语学习者的有效课外读物。

本书精选了美国著名教育家威廉·H·麦加菲主编的《麦加菲美德读本》即《美国语文》中的57篇文章，分成57课。所有文章都出自于英语作家之手，用优美的文字，转述了一个又一个动人的故事，展示了一幅又一幅美丽的人生画卷，让学生和英语爱好者在品味原汁原味英语的同时，唤醒并增强他们自身学习英语的兴趣。读本内容丰富且有一定深度，有利于读者有选择性地扩展阅读，而且，每课后的“阅读理解问题”，能启发他们思考，使其对文章有更深刻的认知，提高他们的阅读水平。此外，每课后的“课文新字”帮助读者增加词汇量，“课文好词”和“经典句子”，有助于增强学生的英语文化底蕴，在陶冶情操的同时，提高英语写作水平。而每篇课文的汉语翻译则有利于学生更加准确地理解文章的涵义，更加直观地了解西方文化，使其语言能力、文化品位在不知不觉中得到显著的提升。

本书内容涉及文学、个人修养、伦理道德和爱国主义等诸多方面，强调勤奋、诚实、善良、助人等优良品德。亚里士多德曾经说过：“幼年时养成的习惯可以改变人的一生。”初中生是未成年人，其心智尚未发展成熟，良好的美德引导是必不可少的。本书中《小证人》中小埃米莉的诚实；《最佳资产》中约翰·布鲁克的忠诚；《勤奋的好处》中查尔斯·布拉德的勤奋等等都是宝贵的精神资源，是美德教育的优秀范本。对于培养全面发展的新一代具有导向作用，有助于中国学生在欣赏优美的英语文字的同时，从中感受到道德教育的力量，潜移默化地形成影响他们一生的美德观念。

衷心期望本书能让学生和英语学习者在阅读中享受快乐，陶冶道德情操，提升人文素养，同时提高英语语言的运用能力。

张立杰


2012年12月

## 目录



- 1 LESSON 1  
Why the Sea Is Salt 海水为什么是咸的
- 5 LESSON 2  
Why the Sea Is Salt (Concluded) 海水为什么是咸的 (结局)
- 9 LESSON 3  
Smiles 微笑
- 14 LESSON 4  
Harry's Riches 哈里的财富
- 19 LESSON 5  
Harry and His Dog 哈里和他的狗
- 24 LESSON 6  
Susie's Composition 苏茜的作文
- 29 LESSON 7  
Coffee 咖啡
- 32 LESSON 8  
The Horse 马的故事
- 38 LESSON 9  
The Right Way 正确的道路
- 42 LESSON 10  
The Golden Rule 黄金准则


- 
- 47 LESSON 11  
Robinson Crusoe's House 鲁滨逊·克鲁索的房子
- 51 LESSON 12  
Robinson Crusoe's Dress 鲁滨逊·克鲁索的衣着
- 54 LESSON 13  
Knowledge Is Power 知识就是力量
- 56 LESSON 14  
Good Will 良好的意愿
- 62 LESSON 15  
The Way to Be Happy 通往快乐之路
- 67 LESSON 16  
Annie's Dream 安妮的梦
- 71 LESSON 17  
The Elephant 大象
- 75 LESSON 18  
Dare to Do Right 敢于伸张正义
- 79 LESSON 19  
Dare to Do Right (Concluded) 敢于伸张正义(结局)
- 83 LESSON 20  
The Rainbow Pilgrimage 彩虹朝圣之旅



- 
- 89 LESSON 21  
The Young Witness 小证人
- 95 LESSON 22  
Rivermouth Theater 河口剧院
- 99 LESSON 23  
Alfred the Great 艾尔弗雷德大帝
- 104 LESSON 24  
Burning the Fallow 燃烧的休耕地
- 109 LESSON 25  
The Attack on Nymwegen 偷袭纳梅亨
- 115 LESSON 26  
The Best Capital 最佳资产
- 121 LESSON 27  
My Mother's Grave 母亲的墓地
- 124 LESSON 28  
The Good Reader 优秀的朗诵者
- 131 LESSON 29  
The Gentle Hand 温柔之手
- 139 LESSON 30  
A Boy on a Farm 农场里的男孩儿

- 
- 142 LESSON 31  
Don Not Meddle 别管闲事
- 150 LESSON 32  
The Maniac 疯子
- 154 LESSON 33  
The Fish I Didn't Catch 我没有捕到的鱼
- 159 LESSON 34  
The Venomous Worm 有毒的虫子
- 162 LESSON 35  
“I Pity Them” “我同情他们”
- 165 LESSON 36  
King Charles II and William Penn 国王查尔斯二世和威廉·佩恩
- 170 LESSON 37  
The Righteous Never Forsaken 正直的人永远不会被抛弃
- 175 LESSON 38  
Lucy Forester 露西·福里斯特
- 183 LESSON 39  
The Town Pump 镇上的水泵
- 191 LESSON 40  
An Old-Fashioned Girl 旧式女孩

- 
- 196 LESSON 41  
The Discontented Pendulum 不满的钟摆
- 201 LESSON 42  
The Thunderstorm 暴风雨
- 204 LESSON 43  
The Tea Rose 香水月季
- 212 LESSON 44  
The Bobolink 食米鸟
- 218 LESSON 45  
Rebellion in Massachusetts State Prison 狱中叛乱
- 226 LESSON 46  
The Generous Russian Peasant 慷慨的俄罗斯农民
- 230 LESSON 47  
Mrs. Caudle's Lecture 考德尔夫人的演说
- 235 LESSON 48  
The Relief of Lucknow 勒克瑙解围
- 240 LESSON 49  
Behind Time 一切晚矣
- 243 LESSON 50  
An Iceberg 冰山
- 

- 
- 247 LESSON 51  
Advantages of Industry 勤奋的好处
- 251 LESSON 52  
About Quail 鹌鹑鸟
- 257 LESSON 53  
The Machinist's Return 机械师归来
- 263 LESSON 54  
Supposed Speech of John Adams 约翰·亚当斯的演讲
- 269 LESSON 55  
Control Your Temper 控制自己的情绪
- 273 LESSON 56  
William Tell 威廉·泰尔
- 291 LESSON 57  
William Tell (Concluded) 威廉·泰尔(结局)



# LESSON 1 Why the Sea Is Salt

海水为什么是咸的

## 作者简介

玛丽·豪伊特 1804年生于英国的科尔福德。她以诗歌和散文的形式写了大量儿童喜爱的故事，还翻译了许多瑞典、丹麦和德国作家的作品。这篇故事选自文集《彼得·德雷克的梦想，还有其他的故事》。

There were, in very ancient times, two brothers, one of whom was rich, and the other poor. Christmas was approaching, but the poor man had nothing in the house for a Christmas dinner; so he went to his brother and asked him for a **trifling**<sup>①</sup> gift.

The rich man was ill-natured, and when he heard his brother's request he looked very **surly**<sup>②</sup>. But as Christmas is a time when even the worst people give gifts, he took a fine ham down from the chimney, where it was hanging to smoke, threw it at his brother, and bade him begone and never to let him see his face again.

The poor man thanked his brother for the ham, put it under his arm, and went his way. He had to pass through a great forest on his way home. When he had reached the thickest part of it, he saw an old man, with a long, white beard, **hewing**<sup>③</sup> timber. "Good evening," said he to him.

"Good evening," returned the old man, raising himself up from his work, and looking at him. "That is a fine ham you are carrying." On this, the poor man told him all about it.

"It is lucky for you." said the old man, "that you have met with me. If you will take that ham into the land of the **dwarfs**<sup>④</sup>, the entrance to which lies just under the roots of this tree, you can make a capital bargain with it; for the dwarfs are very fond of ham, and rarely get any. But mind what I say: you must not sell it for money, but demand for it the 'old hand mill which stands behind the door.' When you come back, I'll show you how to use it."

The poor man thanked his new friend, who showed him the door under stone below the roots of the tree, and by this door he entered into the land of the dwarfs. No sooner had he set his foot in it, than the dwarfs swarmed about him, attracted by the smell of the ham. They offered him queer, old-fashioned money and gold and silver **ore**<sup>⑤</sup> for it; but he refused all their tempting offers, and said that he would sell it only for the old hand mill behind the door.



At this, the dwarfs held up their little old hands, and looked quite **perplexed**<sup>⑥</sup>. “We can not make a bargain, it seems,” said the poor man, “so I’ll **bid**<sup>⑦</sup> you all a good day.”

The **fragrance**<sup>⑧</sup> of the ham had by this time reached the remote parts of dwarf land. The dwarfs came flocking around in little troops, leaving their work of digging out precious ores, eager for the ham.

“Let him have the old mill,” said some of the newcomers; “it is quite out of order, and he doesn’t know how to use it. Let him have it, and we will have the ham.”

So the bargain was made. The poor man took the old hand mill, which was a little thing not half so large as the ham, and went back to the woods. Here the old man showed him how to use it. All this had taken up a great deal of time, and it was midnight before he reached home.

“Where in the world have you been?” said his wife. “Here I have been waiting and waiting, and we have no wood to make a fire, nor anything to put into the porridge pot for our Christmas supper.”

The house was dark and cold; but the poor man bade his wife wait and see what would happen. He placed the little hand mill on the table, and began to turn the **crank**<sup>⑨</sup>. First, out there came some **grand**<sup>⑩</sup>, lighted wax candles, and a fire on the hearth, and a porridge pot boiling over it, because in his mind he said they should come first. Then he **ground**<sup>⑪</sup> out a tablecloth, and dishes, and spoons, and knives and forks.

He was himself **astonished**<sup>⑫</sup> at his good luck, as you may believe; and his wife was almost beside herself with joy and astonishment. Well, they had a capital supper; and after it was eaten, they ground out of the mill every possible thing to make their house and themselves warm and comfortable. So they had a merry Christmas eve and morning.



## 第一课

### 海水为什么是咸的

远古时代，有两个兄弟，一个非常贫穷，另一个则非常富有。圣诞节即将来临，可穷弟弟家中却没东西做圣诞晚餐。于是，他去找哥哥，请求得到一份微薄的礼物。



而富有的哥哥却是个坏心眼，他得知兄弟来意后，他看上去非常生气。但是在圣诞节，不管什么样的人，即使最不好的人都是要送礼物的。于是哥哥拿了一块挂在烟卤上正在熏烤的精致火腿，把它扔给了弟弟，叫他滚开，并说再也不想看见他。

可怜的弟弟感谢哥哥给了火腿，夹着火腿就走了。在回家的路上，他必须穿过一片茂密的森林，走到密林最深处的时候，他看到一个留着长长的白胡子的老人在伐树。“晚上好。”年轻人问候说。

“晚上好。”老人回答，老人停下手中的活，抬起头来望着他。“你拿的这块火腿不错啊。”听到这话，穷弟弟就把自己的故事告诉了老人。

老人说：“你真幸运遇见了我。如果你带着这块火腿到小矮人们那里去，一定会卖个好价钱，他们最喜欢吃火腿了，可火腿稀缺。通往小矮人那儿的路口就在这棵树根下。但是记住：千万不要把火腿卖钱，而要拿它去换门后的那台旧手摇石磨。等你回来的时候，我教你如何用地磨石。”

穷年轻人对他的新朋友十分感激，于是，就走到了老人指给他的树根那里的石头下面的门口，穿过这扇门就到达了小矮人们居住的地方。他刚刚走进去，小矮人们就把他围了起来，是火腿的香味吸引他们来的。他们拿出奇特而古老的钱币以及金银矿石来和年轻人进行交换，但年轻人拒绝了他们所有诱人的提议，说他的火腿只能用来交换门后那台手摇石磨。

听到这里，小矮人们举起了手，看来都非常为难。“看来我们这桩生意做不成了，那么再见吧。”年轻人说道。

这时连小矮人们居住的最偏僻的地方都飘满了火腿的香味。小矮人们都不挖珍贵的矿石了，全都聚集到了一起，渴望分享火腿。

“给他那个破石磨吧，”有些新来的人说，“石磨坏了，他又不知道怎么用，给他石磨，我们就能吃到火腿了。”

于是他们达成了交易，贫穷的年轻人得到了破旧的手摇石磨。石磨很小，还没有火腿的一半大。年轻人拿着石磨回到了树林里，老人教给他如何使用石磨。前后经过了很长时间，年轻人回到家里的时候，已经是半夜了。

“你究竟到哪里去了？”他的妻子说，“我一直在等你，我们没有木柴生火，圣诞节的晚餐也没有米下锅里了。”

屋子里又黑又冷，年轻人请妻子再耐心一点，看一看将会发生什么。他把手摇石磨放到桌子上，开始转动石磨的曲柄。先是出来了一些点燃的大蜡烛，然后是壁炉的火，火上的锅里面煮着食物。在年轻人的心里这些东西应该是先出现的。之后他磨出了一块桌布、一些盘子、勺子以及刀叉。



可以想象，他本人对自己的好运惊呆至极，他的妻子惊喜若狂。当然了，他们吃了一顿丰盛的晚餐。吃过饭后，他们又磨出了他们需要的所有东西，使他们的家变得既温暖又舒适。这样他们度过了一个快乐的圣诞节。



### 课文新字

- ① *trifling* *adj.* 不重要的; 没什么价值的, 微不足道的
- ② *surly* *adj.* 粗鲁的, 不友好的
- ③ *hew* *v.* 砍, 劈
- ④ *dwarf* *n.* 矮人, 侏儒
- ⑤ *ore* *n.* 矿, 矿石
- ⑥ *perplexed* *adj.* 困惑的, 茫然的
- ⑦ *bid* *v.* 命令, 吩咐
- ⑧ *fragrance* *n.* 香味, 香气
- ⑨ *crank* *n.* 曲柄
- ⑩ *grind* *v.* 磨碎, 碾碎
- ⑪ *grand* *adj.* 宏伟的, 豪华的
- ⑫ *astonish* *v.* 使惊奇



### 阅读理解问题

1. How did the poor man find the way to the land of the dwarfs?
2. Do you think the old man would have told him if the poor man had not been so polite?





课文好词

**be fond of:** 喜欢, 爱

He was fond of history and geography.

**no sooner ...than...:** 刚……就……

We had no sooner set out than a thunderstorm broke.

**be beside oneself:** 发狂

When they learned of this they were beside themselves with hatred.

经典句子

He was himself astonished at his good luck, as you may believe; and his wife was almost beside herself with joy and astonishment. Well, they had a capital supper, and after it was eaten, they ground out of the mill every possible thing to make their house and themselves warm and comfortable. So they had a merry Christmas Eve and morning.

可以想象,他本人对自己的好运惊呆至极,他的妻子惊喜若狂。当然了,他们吃了一顿丰盛的晚餐。吃过饭后,他们又磨出了他们需要的所有东西,使他们的家变得既温暖又舒适。这样,他们度过了一个快乐的圣诞节。

## LESSON 2 Why The Sea Is Salt (Concluded)

海水为什么是咸的(结局)

When the people went by the house to church, the next day, they could hardly believe their eyes. There was glass in the windows instead of a wooden shutter, and the poor man and his wife, dressed in nice new clothes, were seen **devoutly**<sup>①</sup> kneeling in the church.

“There is something very strange in all this,” said everyone. “Something very strange indeed,” said the rich man, when three days afterwards he received an invitation from his once poor brother to a grand feast. And what a feast it was! The table was covered with a cloth as white as snow, and the dishes were all of silver or gold. The rich man could not, in his great house, and with all his wealth, set out such a table.

“Where did you get all these things?” **exclaimed**<sup>②</sup> he. His brother told him all about the bargain he had made with the dwarfs, and putting the mill on the table, ground out boots and shoes, coats and cloaks, stockings, gowns, and blankets, and bade his wife give them to the poor people that had gathered