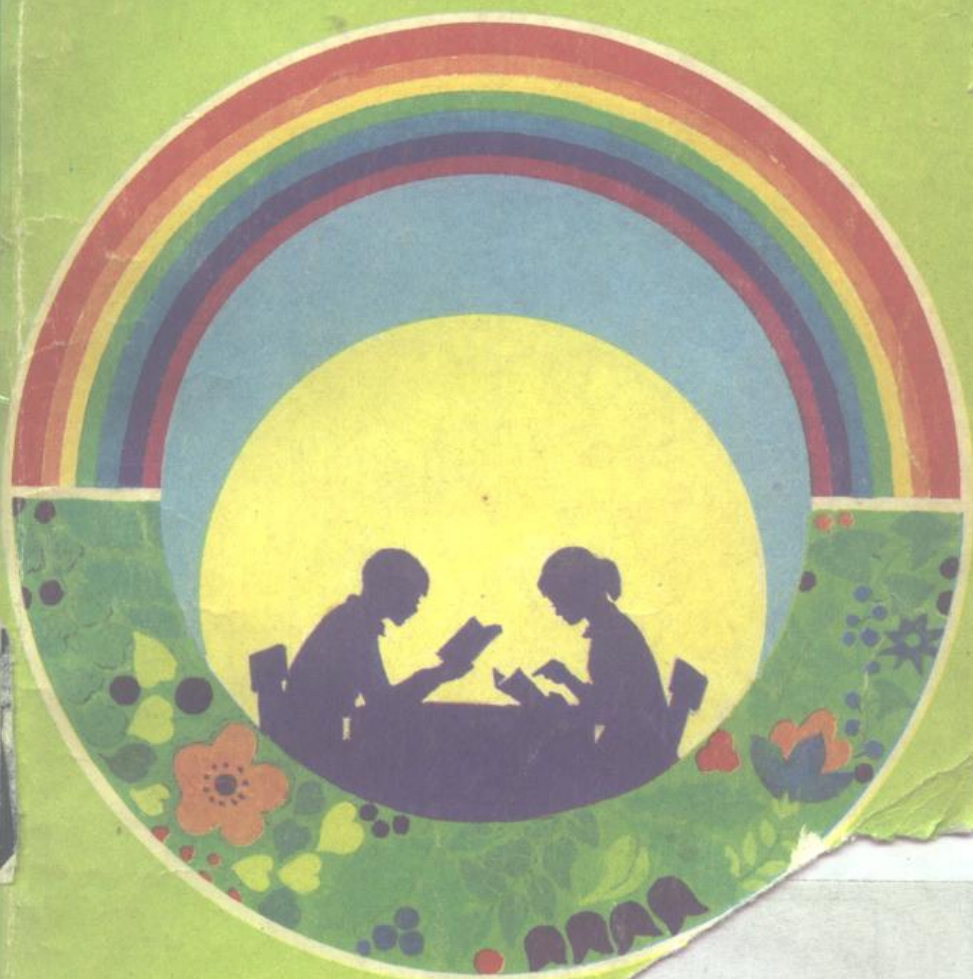


PRAIRIE—TOWN BOY

草原小镇的男孩



简易英语读物

Prairie-Town Boy

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C·桑迪博格 (C. Sandburg) 著

A·T·基钦 (A. T. Kitchin) 改写

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注释

人民教育出版社

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《草原小镇的男孩》叙述了著名诗人、作家、历史学家卡尔·森迪博格(Carl Sandburg)成长的过程。森迪博格的父母从瑞典到美国伊利诺斯一个新的小镇落户。父亲不识字，是瑞典铁路上铁匠的助手。母亲是个牧鹅人，在一家饭店帮厨。

本书以自述的方式叙述森迪博格在家庭、学校、农场的生活动。以1000个常用词写成，文字浅显易懂，内容富有教育意义，生词和难句都加了汉语注释，适合高中学生、大学低年级学生和同等英语程度的自学者阅读。

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Prologue¹: Prairie² Town

People from New England³ and their children owned⁴ much of the town of Galesburg⁵, Illinois⁶, and they took the lead⁷ in politics, churches, schools, and colleges. Scotch-Irish⁸ people had come from Kentucky and Tennessee⁹. Many Swedes had become a power¹⁰ in politics and business. In the two and a half blocks between our house and the railroad yards¹¹ the Swedes

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1. prologue ['prəʊləg] *n.* (戏剧的) 开场白; 序幕。 2. prairie ['preəri] *n.* 大草原(这里指美国中西部的大草原)。 3. New England ['nju: 'ɪŋlənd] *n.* 新英格兰(美国东北六州 Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut 和 Rhode Island 的总称)。 4. own [əʊn] *vt.* 所有; 拥有。 5. Galesburg ['geɪlsbɜ:ɡ] *n.* 盖尔斯堡(地名)。 6. Illinois [ɪli'noɪ, ɪli'noɪz] *n.* 伊利诺斯(美国州名)。 7. take the lead 领先。 8. Scotch-Irish ['skɒtʃ 'aɪərɪʃ] *adj.* 苏格兰人和爱尔兰人混合血统的。 9. Tennessee [ˌtene'si:] *n.* 田纳西(美国州名)。 10. power ['paʊə] *n.* 权力; 势力。 11. railroad yards (铁路)调车场。 railroad ['reɪlroʊd] *n.* 铁道; 铁路。 yard [jɑ:d] *n.* (铁路)车场。

were largest in number, with a few Irish and Germans. And in the early 1890's many Italians—some thirty men, women, and children—lived in two houses next to the railroad tracks.

Often in the 1890's I used to think about how young the prairie town of Galesburg still was—nearly twenty thousand people, and they had all come in only fifty years. Before that it was nothing but rolling prairie.¹ The men who had built the town could stand² hard work. They had broken³ the prairie, made the first roads and streets, and built the first schools and churches of the town and country⁴ where I was born and raised.⁵ They built the college, too, that was to be the center of light and hope⁶ for young people then and in the future.

They had left Ohio⁷, New York⁸, Tennessee, or Kentucky in a wagon⁹ holding family—sometimes six,

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1. Before that it was nothing but rolling prairie. 在这之前,除了翻滚的大草原外,什么也没有。 2. stand [stænd] *vt.* 忍受;经受。 3. break [breik] (broke, broken) *vt.* 开垦。 4. country ['kʌntri] *n.* 乡村。 5. raise [reiz] *vt.* 抚养。 6. ... that was to be the center of light and hope 期望成为光明和希望的中心。 7. Ohio [əu'haɪəu] *n.* 俄亥俄(美国州名)。 8. New York ['nju: 'jɔ:k] *n.* 纽约(美国州名)。 9. wagon ['wæɡən] *n.* 四轮运货马车。

eight, or ten children—and all their belongings¹. They had driven their horses over country that was wild and without roads. At night they slept in the open² wherever they were and began their journey³ again at daylight. Some had made part of their trip on river boats. These were the people who arrived before the railroad came to Knox⁴ County⁵ in 1854.

At the time I was born, one early settler⁶ stood out⁷ above all others in the town and county—George W. Brown. As a farm boy in Saratoga⁸ County, New York, he learned the carpenter's trade⁹, and worked on the earliest railroads of the Mohawk¹⁰ Valley. He heard of good cheap land in Illinois, and in 1836, when he was twenty-one, he and his wife rode a covered¹¹ wagon west for weeks on weeks. The rains came nearly every day and the wagon wheels got

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1. belonging [bi'lɒŋɪŋ] *n.* (常用复数)所有物; 行李。
 2. in the open 在户外; 在野外。
 3. journey ['dʒɜːni] *n.* 旅行; 旅程。
 4. Knox [nɒks] *n.* 诺克斯(地名)。
 5. county ['kaunti] *n.* (美国的)县。
 6. settler ['setlɜ] *n.* 移居者; 开拓者。
 7. stand out 突出。
 8. Saratoga [ˌsærə'təʊgə] *n.* 萨拉托加(地名)。
 9. carpenter's trade 木工手艺。 carpenter ['kɑːpɪntə] *n.* 木工; 木匠。
 - trade [treɪd] *n.* 手工艺。
 10. Mohawk ['məʊhɔːk] *n.* 莫霍克(地名)。
 11. covered ['kʌvəd] *adj.* 有盖的。

stuck in the soft ground and had to be lifted out.¹ In July, when he was nine miles from Galesburg, he traded his horses for land². His wife ran³ the farm while he built houses for other people. He saved what money he could while he thought and studied and worked on a machine to plant corn.

In the spring of 1852 he planted with his machine sixteen acres⁴ of corn for himself and eight acres for a neighbor. That year he hoped to finish ten machines, but he completed only one. He sold his farm animals, even his last horse, to get the money that he needed. Then he sold his farm and borrowed more money. In 1856 his shops in Galesburg were at last finished and he made six hundred corn planters⁵. The next year he made a thousand. By 1865 people all over the Midwest⁶ were using the machines.

When I was a boy the Brown Cornplanter Works made and sold eight thousand machines a year. His

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1. ... and the wagon wheels got stuck in the soft ground and had to be lifted out. 车轮子陷进松软的地里, 不得不把车轮子抬起推出来。get stuck 陷住。 2. ... he traded his horses for land.他用马来换取土地。
3. run [rʌn] (ran, run) vt. 经营。 4. acre ['eɪkə] n. 英亩。 5. planter ['plɑːntə] n. 播种机。 6. (the) Midwest ['mɪd'west] n. (美国的)中西部。

shops covered all of a city block except a corner which he kept for the new Methodist church where he went to services every week.¹

When we walked the four-and-a-half dusty² miles of the Knoxville Road to the county fair³, we passed the old home of Isaac⁴ Guliher⁵. Born in Kentucky, he had moved to Sangamon⁶ County, Illinois, in 1830, and at seventeen years of age, in 1832, he fought in the Black Hawk Indian War⁷ and served under Captain Abraham Lincoln. He moved to Knox County in 1833. Twenty-five years later, when Lincoln was on his way from Knoxville to Galesburg to debate with⁸ Stephen⁹ A. Douglas¹⁰, he was told

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1. His shops covered ... every week. 除了他每周去作礼拜的新卫理公会教堂的一角外, 他的工场占据了整个一块街区。
shop *n.* 工场; 车间。Methodist ['meθədɪst] *adj.* 卫理公会的。go to service 作礼拜。 2. dusty ['dʌstɪ] *adj.* 满是灰尘的。 3. fair [fɛə] *n.* 定期集市。 4. Isaac ['aɪzək] *n.* 艾萨克(男名)。 5. Guliher ['gʌlihə] *n.* 加利荷(姓)。 6. Sangamon ['sæŋgəməʊn] *n.* 圣哥蒙(地名)。 7. the Black Hawk Indian War 黑鹰印第安战争(也称作 the Black Hawk War 黑鹰战争)。 8. debate with 与……辩论。debate [dɪ'beɪt] *vi.* 争论; 辩论。 9. Stephen ['sti:vən] *n.* 斯蒂芬(男名)。 10. Douglas ['dʌɡləs] *n.* 道格拉斯(姓)。

that this was the house where Isaac Guliher lived. Lincoln stopped, and a mile of wagons following him waited for ten minutes while Lincoln walked in for a drink of cold water with old Sangamon County friends.

Knox College, Lombard College, and Brown's Business College gave Galesburg the name of "College City." Several times I met on streets near Knox College a little man who would bow his head to me without speaking and to whom I would bow in return. Once on Main Street I heard a man say, "That man used to know Abe Lincoln." I learned that he had been elected to serve in the Education office of the state of Illinois seven times and served fourteen years, that his room in the State House at Springfield was next to one Lincoln used when he was running for President, and that he and Lincoln had had friendly talks.¹

1. ... that his room in the State House at Springfield was next to one Lincoln used ... friendly talks. (我还得知,) 在斯宾菲尔德州政府他自己房间的隔壁, 曾是林肯竞选总统时使用过的, 并且他和林肯进行过友好的谈话。next to 相邻。run for 竞选。

This was Newton¹ Bateman², sometimes called "Little Newt," president of Knox College. He was born in New Jersey³ in 1822. His father took his wife and five children west to Illinois in a covered wagon in 1833. Near Jacksonville⁴ the mother fell ill and died, and people in fear of⁵ the illness buried her so fast that her grave⁶ wasn't marked⁷. Her youngest son Newton in after years⁸ tried to find the grave, but he never could.

In his effort⁹ to get an education he lived for a time¹⁰ on eleven cents¹¹ a week and walked from house to house selling things for sewing. He had wanted to become a minister but decided to teach. He was head of the Jacksonville schools and started the State Teachers Association¹². He was president of Knox College from 1875 to 1892, the longest time any president

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1. . Newton ['nju:tn] *n.* 牛顿(男名)。 2. Bateman
 ['beitmən] *n.* 贝特曼(姓)。 3. New Jersey [nju:'dʒæ:zi]
n. 新泽西(美国州名)。 4. Jacksonville ['dʒæksnvil]
n. 杰克逊维尔(地名)。 5. in fear of 惧怕……。
 6. grave [greiv] *n.* 坟墓。 7. mark [mɑ:k] *vt.* 作记号。
 8. in after years 在后来的年月。 9. effort ['efət] *n.*
 努力; 艰难的尝试。 10. for a time 一度。 11. cent
 [sent] *n.* 分(100 cents = 1 dollar)。 12. association
 [ə,səusi'eɪʃən] *n.* 协会。

of Knox had stayed. It was said that under him more students went out into the world and made big names for themselves than under any president before him. "He had character¹," I heard one man say, "and it reached the students."

Little Newt dropped out² as president of Knox when he was seventy, but went on teaching under a new president—John Huston³ Finley⁴, twenty-nine years old and "the youngest college president in the United States." I met Finley several times on the street, but he passed by, his head down, his mind far away. Finley made Knox College known over the country as a college where Lincoln and Douglas had debated.

In those years as a boy in that prairie town I got education in bits and pieces of many kinds, not knowing that they were part of my education. I met people in Galesburg not easy to know, and later when I read Shakespeare⁵ I saw that he, too, found the

1. character ['kærɪktə] *n.* (人的)性格; 特性。 2. drop out 退出。

3. Huston ['hju:stən] *n.* 休斯顿(男名)。

4. Finley ['fɪnli] *n.* 芬利(姓)。 5. Shakespeare ['ʃeɪkspɪə] *n.* 莎士比亚(William, 1564—1616, 英国剧作家及诗人)。

same kinds of people not easy to know. I met little wonders among animals and plants that never lost their wonder for me, and I found later that these same wonders had a deep interest for Emerson¹, Thoreau², and Walt Whitman³. I met folk⁴ stories when I was young, long before I read them in books. All had their part, small or large, in the education I got outside of books and schools.

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1. Emerson ['eməsn] *n.* 爱默生, (Ralph Waldo, 1803—1882, 美国哲学家, 散文家及诗人)。 2. Thoreau ['θə:rəu] *n.* 索洛 (Henry David, 1817—1862, 美国作家)。 3. Walt Whitman ['wɔ:lt 'hwtmən] *n.* 沃尔特·惠特曼 (1819—1892, 美国诗人)。 4. folk [fəuk] *adj.* 民间的。

1. Home Folks

I remember nothing of the house where I was born—a three-room wooden¹ house on Third Street, the second house east of the Chicago², Burlington & Quincy Railroad tracks, in Galesburg, Illinois. The date was January 6, 1878, a little after midnight. The first baby, some three years earlier, was my sister Mary. My mother and father wanted a boy. I was a welcome man child.³

Mary once pointed to the baby bed in later years and said, "When they took me out they put him in." A year and a half later they took me out to put Mart in.

I was born on a cornhusk⁴ mattress⁵. Until I was past ten, when we became a family of nine, the mat-

1. wooden ['wudn] *adj.* 木制的。 2. Chicago [ʃi'kɑ:gəu]

n. 芝加哥(美国城市)。 3. welcome *adj.* 受人欢迎的。

I was a welcome man child. 我是个受人欢迎的男孩子。

4. cornhusk ['kɑ:nhʌsk] *n.* (整只)玉米的壳。 5. mat-

tress ['mætris] *n.* 床垫。

tresses were filled with cornhusks. As we all slept well on cornhusks and never knew the feel of softer beds until many years later, we liked what we had.

We moved to another three-room one-story¹ house, on the north side of South Street. Here I watched my father work in a garden and plant and dig potatoes² and carrots³. I liked the feel⁴ of potatoes and carrots as my fingers brushed off⁵ the good black earth, and I threw them into baskets. Here we had the horse Dolly—small, old, fat, and slow. Dolly pulled us in a four-wheeled, two-seater wagon out from the town streets and houses to where we saw for the first time the open country, rolling prairie and trees, miles of rail fences, fields of corn and grain, the wonder of farm animals and horses feeding on the prairie.

We usually went to the Swedish⁶ Lutheran⁷ church, though about once a month, on a Sunday morning, Father would say, "We are going to the

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1. one-story ['wʌn-'stɔ:ri] *adj.* 一层楼的。 2. potato [pə'teɪtəʊ] (*pl.* potatoes) *n.* 土豆。 3. carrot ['kærət] *n.* 胡萝卜。 4. feel [fi:l] *n.* 感觉。 5. brush off 掸掉。 brush [brʌʃ] *vt.* 擦; 掸。 6. Swedish ['swɪ:dɪʃ] *adj.* 瑞典(式)的。 7. Lutheran ['lʃu:θərən] *adj.* 路德教的。

Kranses'¹. " John and his wife Lena² Krans lived seven miles out from town on a thirty-acre farm. Lena was a cousin³ of my mother. The faces of those four Swedish-born Americans lighted up when they saw one another, and their talk ran warm and pleasant. The Swedish words flew about too fast for us children to be sure of what they were saying. But when they talked of the trip from Sweden, six to ten weeks on a sailing ship, their food only the black bread and cheese⁴ and a little meat that they had brought along, we understood that it had been hard going. Often we heard from Father and Mother, "In the old country we had *white* bread only at Easter⁵ and Christmas. Here in America we have *white* bread every day in the year."

The Kranses⁶ were the nearest relatives⁷ we had in America except for the Holmes family in Galesburg. When John and Lena Krans bought their farm in the early 1870's, they worked from daylight to dark eight or nine months of the year until at last the farm was

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1. the Kranses 克朗斯家。Krans [krænz] *n.* 克朗斯(姓)。
 2. Lena ['li:nə] *n.* 莉娜(女名)。 3. cousin ['kʌzn] *n.* 堂(表)兄弟;堂(表)姐妹。 4. cheese [tʃi:z] *n.* 乳酪;干酪。
 5. Easter ['i:stə] *n.* (耶稣)复活节。 6. the Kranses 克朗斯夫妇;克朗斯一家人。 7. relative ['relatɪv] *n.* 亲戚。