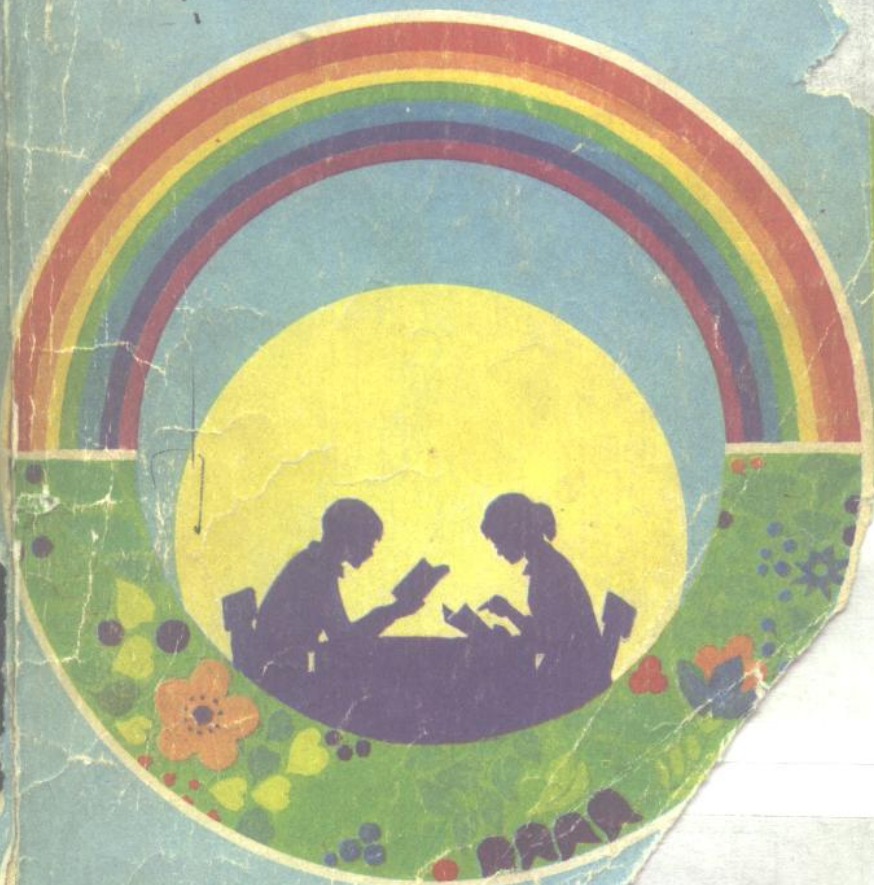


EASY ENGLISH READER
兔
簡易英語讀物

THE HUMAN COMEDY

人 间 喜 剧



人民教育出版社

简易英语读物

The Human Comedy
人间喜剧

W. 萨洛阳 (W. Saroyan) 著

E. 张伯伦 (E. Chamberlain) 改写

张献臣 注释

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小说通过对麦考利一家的悲欢离合的描述，深刻地揭露了战争给美国人民带来的恐惧和不幸。小说主人公霍默·麦考利从小失去了父亲，母亲失业，哥哥在前线打仗，弟弟和妹妹还小，不能帮助妈妈干活。14岁的霍默不得不走出校门，在一家电报局找了一份工作，帮助投递电报，以便能够挣点钱帮助妈妈养家糊口。电报局常常收到从前线寄来的战士阵亡的电报，霍默感到很不安，觉得自己是个“死亡信使”，常常给一些欢乐幸福的家庭带去不幸和痛苦。尤其使他恐惧和不安的是怕收到哥哥在前线阵亡的消息。但是这个噩耗最终还是传来了。霍默陷入了极度的痛苦和悲哀之中。最后，一位哥哥在部队的好朋友来到家里，受到全家的欢迎，被视为死去的哥哥，给这个家庭带来了温暖和光明。

本书语言朴素简练，通俗易懂，富有生活气息。对生词和语言难点都作了汉语注释，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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*Ulysses*¹

A little boy named Ulysses Macauley² one day stood over the new hole made by a small animal in the ground near his house in the town of Ithaca³, California⁴. The animal pushed up fresh dirt and looked out at the boy, who was certainly a stranger but maybe not an enemy. Before this wonder had been fully enjoyed by the boy⁵, one of the birds of Ithaca flew into the old tree near the house and broke into song⁶, moving the boy's wondering interest from the earth to the tree. Next, best of all⁷ he heard a train far away. He listened, and felt the earth under him

-
1. Ulysses [ju(:)'lisi:z] 尤利西斯。 2. Ulysses Macauley [mæ'kauli] 尤利西斯·麦考利。 3. Ithaca ['iθəkə] n. (地名)伊萨卡城。 4. California [,kæli'fɔ:njə] n. 加利福尼亚(美国州名)。 5. Before this wonder had been fully enjoyed by the boy ... 当这个男孩对这个奇异的東西还没有玩够的时候……。 6. break into song 突然唱起歌来。 break into 突然……起来。 7. best of all 首先; 第一。

shake with the moving of the train. Then he broke into running, moving (it seemed to him) faster than any life in the world.

He was just in time to see the whole train pass. He waved to the engineer¹, but the engineer did not wave back to him. He waved to five others who were with the train, but not one of them waved back. At last he saw a Negro² looking out. Above the noise of the train, Ulysses heard the man singing:

“Weep³ no more, my lady, O weep no more today
We will sing one song for the old Kentucky⁴ home
For the old Kentucky home far away.”

Ulysses waved to the Negro too, and then a wondrous⁵ and unexpected⁶ thing happened. This man, black and different from all the others, waved back to Ulysses, shouting: “Going home, boy—going back where I belong!”

The small boy and the Negro waved to each other

-
1. engineer [ˌendʒiˈniə] *n.* 火车司机; 工程师。 2. Negro [ˈniːgrəʊ] *n.* 黑人。 3. weep [wi:p] (wept [wept], wept) *vi.* 哭泣。 4. Kentucky [kenˈtʌki] *n.* 肯塔基(美国州名)。 5. wondrous [ˈwʌndrəs] *adj.* 惊人的; 异常的; 奇怪的。 6. unexpected [ˌʌnikspektɪd] *adj.* 想不到的; 意外的。

until the train was almost out of sight¹.

Then Ulysses looked around. There it was, all around him, funny and lonely—the world of his life.² The strange, wonderful, senseless³ yet beautiful world. He saw an old man walking by. Ulysses waved to this man too, but the man was too old and tired to be pleased. The old man looked at Ulysses as if both he and the boy were already dead.

The little boy turned slowly and started for home. He still listened to the passing of the train, the singing of the Negro, and the joyous words: “Going home, boy—going back where I belong.” After a little he smiled the smile of the Macauley people—the gentle, wise, secret smile which said “Yes” to all things.⁴

When he saw the Macauley house, Ulysses began to dance along, kicking up his toes⁵. He fell, but got to his feet and went on.

His mother was near the door. She watched the

-
1. out of sight 看不见。 2. There it was, ... the world of his life. 在那儿，他的周围好玩而又寂寞——那就是他生活的世界。 funny ['fʌni] adj. 好玩的；有趣的。 3. senseless ['senslɪs] adj. 没有知觉的。 4. After a little ... to all things. 过了一会儿，他脸上露出了麦考利人的温柔，聪慧而又神秘的微笑，那种对一切事情都说“行”时的微笑。 gentle ['dʒentl] adj. 温柔的。 secret ['si:krit] adj. 神秘的。 say yes (to) 同意……；说“行”。 5. toe [təʊ] n. 脚尖。

out of sight 看不见

toe 脚尖

boy fall and get up. He came quickly and quietly and stood beside her, then went to look for eggs. He found one. He brought it to his mother and very carefully handed it to her, by which he meant what no man can guess and no child can remember to tell¹.

2

*Homer*²

His brother Homer sat on the seat of an old bicycle which was fighting its way through the dirt of a country road. Homer Macauley wore a telegraph messenger's³ coat which was far too big and a hat which was not quite big enough. The sun was going down in a sleepy evening peace deeply loved by the people of Ithaca.⁴ All about the messenger fruit trees rested in

1. by which he meant ... remember to tell 他那样做是什么意思, 没有人猜得出来, 也没有一个孩子能回忆起说得上来。

2. Homer ['həʊmə] n. 霍默。 3. messenger ['mesɪndʒə] n. 信使; 邮递员。 4. The sun was going ... by the people of Ithaca. 太阳在伊萨卡人所深爱的宁静的黄昏中坠落。 sleepy

['sli:pi] adj. 寂静的; 昏昏欲睡的。 peace [pi:s] n. 安宁; 和平。

soo hand 2m to

the old, old earth of California. Even though he was moving along fast, Homer was not missing any of the beauty¹. Look at that! he kept saying to himself of earth and tree, sun and grass and cloud. Look at that, will you? He burst² out with a shouting of music — simple, beautiful and funny. In his mind his mother and his sister Bess³ joined in the music, and last of all, to bring the whole family together, an accordion⁴ came into the group as Homer remembered his brother Marcus⁵.

When he reached the town he passed a sign without reading it:

ITHACA, CALIFORNIA

ithaca.

it haca

EAST, WEST—HOME IS BEST

He stopped to watch a long train full of soldiers roll by. He waved to the men, just as his brother Ulysses had waved to the men on the other train. A great many soldiers waved back.

go ①

go down 脚突

go down 降落

go

-
1. beauty ['bju:ti] n. 美;美景。 2. burst ['bɜ:st] vi. 突然爆发;突然发生。 3. Bess [bes] 贝斯。 4. accordion [ə'kɔ:dʒən] n. 手风琴。 5. Marcus ['mɑ:kus] 马库斯。

The Telegraph Office

It was evening in Ithaca when Homer drew up¹ in front of the telegraph office. Homer saw Mr. Spangler², the manager of the telegraph office, counting the words of a telegram³ which a tired-looking⁴, troubled young man had just handed him.

“Fourteen words collect,” Spangler said. He stopped a minute, looking at the boy. “Little short of money?”⁵

The boy couldn't answer right away, but soon he said. “Yes, sir. A little. But my mother will send me enough to get home on. How long will it take the telegram to get to her?”

“Well,” Spangler said, “I'll send it right through fast.”⁶ Without looking at the boy again he went

1. draw up 使(车,马)停下。 2. Mr. Spangler ['spæŋglə] 斯潘格勒先生。 3. telegram ['telɪgræm] n. 电报。 4. tired-looking adj. 脸色疲倦的。 5. Little short of money? 钱有点不够吗? short of 缺少。 6. I'll send it right through fast. 我将发加急电报。

through his pockets, and took out a handful of¹ money and a hard-boiled² egg.

"Here," he said. He handed the boy the money. "You can pay me back when your mother answers." He showed him the egg. "I've had it seven days. Brings me luck³."

The boy looked at the money. "What's this?" he said.

"It's nothing," Spangler said.

"Thanks," the boy said. "Thanks," he said again, and hurried out of the office.

Spangler took the telegram over to William Grogan⁴, the night telegraph operator⁵. "Send it paid, Willie," he said. "I'll pay for it myself."

Mr. Grogan began to send the telegram, letter by letter.

Please telegraph thirty
DEAR MA. PLEASE TELEGRAPH THIRTY
DOLLARS. ^{Want} TO COME HOME. I AM
FINE. EVERYTHING O.K.

Everything fine

JOHN

-
1. a handful of 一把。handful ['hændful] n. 少数; 一小撮。 2. hard-boiled ['hɑ:d 'bɔɪld] adj. 煮熟的; 煮老的。
3. luck [lʌk] n. 幸运。 4. William Grogan ['wɪljəm 'grɒɡən] 威廉·格罗根。 5. the night telegraph operator 夜班报务员。 operator ['ɒpəreɪtə] n. 操作人员。

Homer Macauley looked to see what telegrams were on hand for delivery¹, or if there were any calls to take.

Mr. Spangler watched him. Then, "How do you like being a messenger?" he said.

"How do I like it?" Homer said. "I like it better than anything. You sure² get³ to see a lot of different people. You sure get to go to a lot of different places."

"Yes," Spangler said. "How did you sleep last night?"

"I was tired but I slept fine."

"Did you sleep a little at school today?"

"A little."

"What about sports?" Spangler said. "I mean what about not being able to take part in them because of this job?"

"We have a physical education class every day."

"Is that so?" Spangler said. "I used to run the

1. Homer Macauley looked ... for delivery 霍默·麦考利看一看手头还有什么电报需要投递。 on hand 在手头。 delivery [di:'liveri] *n.* 投递。 2. sure [ʃʊə] *adv. & adj.* (美国口语)的确;一定;有把握的。 3. get *vi.* (开始)……起来;逐渐……起来。

two-twenty low hurdles¹ when I went to Ithaca High School². Valley Champion.³” He stopped a little, then went on. “You really like this job, don’t you?”

“I’m going to be the best messenger this office ever had,” Homer said.

“O. K.,” Spangler said. “Just don’t kill yourself—don’t go too fast. Above all things⁴, don’t lose a telegram.”

“Yes, sir.”

“Working nights is different from working days. Some places you may have to go—well, don’t be afraid. People are people. Don’t be afraid of them. How old are you?”

“Sixteen,” Homer said.

“I know,” Spangler said. “You said that yesterday to get this job. How old are you?”

“Fourteen,” Homer said.

“Well,” Spangler said, “you’ll be sixteen in two years. If there’s anything you don’t understand, ask me.”

“Yes, sir. What about singing telegrams?⁵”

-
1. two-twenty low hurdles 220 米低栏。two-twenty (美国用法)220。hurdle [ˈhɜːdl] n. (体育)跳栏。
 2. high school (美国)中学。
 3. Valley Champion 河谷地区冠军。champion [ˈtʃæmpjən] n. 冠军。
 4. Above all things 最重要的。
 5. What about singing telegrams? 电报歌如何唱呢?

“Nothing to them¹,” Spangler said. “Let’s say Mr. Grogan over there was sent a birthday telegram. How would you do it?”

Homer went over to Mr. Grogan and sang:

“Happy birthday to you—
Happy birthday to you—
Happy birthday, dear Grogan—
Happy birthday to you.”

“Thank you,” Mr. Grogan said.

“That’s fine,” Spangler said, “but you’d sing ‘dear Mr. Grogan.’ What will you do with the fifteen dollars² a week?”

“Give it to my mother,” Homer said.

“All right,” Spangler said. “From now on you’re part of this office. Watch things—listen carefully—keep your eyes and ears open. What about your future?”

“Future?” Homer said. “Well, I don’t know for sure, but I guess I’d like to be somebody some day. Do something with music—some day.”

“That’s fine,” Spangler said, “and this is the place to start. Music all around you—real music—straight from the world—straight from the hearts of people. Hear those telegraph keys³? Beautiful music.”

1. Nothing to them 那些无关紧要。 2. dollar [ˈdɒlə]
n. 美元。 3. telegraph keys 电报机打字键。

“Yes, sir,” Homer said.

Spangler asked suddenly, “You know Chatterton’s store¹? Go get two day-old pies². Here’s the money.”

“Yes, sir,” Homer said. He caught the piece of money Spangler threw to him and ran out of the office.

Spangler turned to the telegraph operator and said, “What do you think of him?”

“He’s a good boy,” Mr. Grogan said.

“I think he is,” Spangler said. “Belongs to a good, poor family. No father. Brother in the Army. Mother works in the summer. Sister goes to school. He’s two years under age³, that’s all.”

“I’m two years over age,” Mr Grogan said. “We’ll get along⁴.”

Spangler got up. “If you want me, I’ll be at Corbett’s⁵. Share the pies between you—” He stopped as Homer came running into the office with two pies.

“What’s your name again?” he almost shouted.

“Homer Macauley,” Homer said.

-
1. Chatterton’s store 查特顿商店。Chatterton [ˈtʃætətɒn] (姓氏)查特顿。 2. day-old pies 当天做的馅饼。pie [paɪ] n. 馅饼。 3. He’s two years under age 他还差两岁不够工作年龄。 4. get along 关系相处融洽。 5. Corbett’s [ˈkɒrβət] 科勃特(咖啡店)。