

Cosmos Reader  
The Happy Prince and Other Tales

# 读快乐王子 学英语

Oscar Wilde 著  
李怡萍 译



 华东理工大学出版社  
EAST CHINA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PRESS

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Then do not squander time;  
for that's the stuff life is made of.*  
**Benjamin Franklin**

你热爱生命吗？  
那么，别浪费时间，  
因为生命是由时间组成的。  
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译者/李怡萍

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# 前言

## 天才洋溢的作家

奥斯卡·王尔德(Oscar Wilde, 1854—1900)出生于爱尔兰,被誉为19世纪的英国才子,与肖伯纳(G·Bernard Shaw, 1856—1950)齐名。他在不到30岁就已在文坛头角峥嵘,当时以剧作家的身份受到肯定,其脍炙人口的戏剧作品包括:《温夫人的扇子》(*Lady Windermere's Fan*)、《不可儿戏》(*The Importance of Being Earnest*)、《理想的丈夫》(*An Ideal Husband*)等,都是经得起时间考验的千古绝唱。



但王尔德的才情并不局限在戏剧方面,他在诗歌、童话、小说和艺术评论等方面的成就也同样受到瞩目。特别是童话,他的第一部值得关注的著作,即1888年出版的童话《快乐王子》,这本书可称得上是世界儿童文学的经典之作。童话创作奠定了他在文坛上的影响力,也树立了他独特的写作风格。

## 不平凡的出身

王尔德出身于都柏林的一个家世卓越的家庭；父亲威廉·王尔德爵士(Sir William Wilde)是位医生，在医学界和文化界都颇有建树；母亲简·弗兰西丝卡(Jane Francesca)，是位诗人与作家，热爱文学。在不平凡的家庭中长大的王尔德，从小天资聪慧，外貌出众，可说是天之骄子。他在求学阶段表现优异，以奖学金就读都柏林的圣三一学院(Trinity College)，并在该校获得多项荣誉。后来又进入牛津大学莫德林学院(Magdalen College)，并曾以诗作《Ravenna》获奖(Newdigate Prize)。

牛津大学毕业后，王尔德迁居英国，很快地被伦敦上流社会接纳，被追捧为天才，并成为当时风行一时的“唯美主义”代言人，而他的作品也处处可嗅到浓厚的唯美色彩。



之后他到美国作巡回演讲，由于其机智的谈吐和过人的才气，让他风靡全美，在将近一年内，就展开了 140 场演讲，其受欢迎的程度可见一斑。

## 戏剧性的一生

他的作品在 19 世纪的保守社会引起了不少轰动,而他的开放作风,也经常遭人非议,尤其有关他的同性恋传闻,更是无法兼容于保守的社会观念。

当时他与一位年轻人艾尔弗雷德·道格拉斯(Alfred Douglas)过从甚密,引起道格拉斯的父亲强烈反对,还公开侮辱他,王尔德因而便告道格拉斯的父亲诽谤罪。开庭时,王尔德运用机锋锐利的言词,反驳对方的提问,还不时引起法庭内哄堂大笑。尽管如此,这场官司还是败诉,他反成了被告,因同性恋被判入狱两年,导致声败名裂,妻儿隐姓埋名,移居国外。

1897 年出狱后,王尔德到法国定居,最后因穷困潦倒,三年后死于巴黎,结束了璀璨的一生,年仅 46 岁。



## 《快乐王子》童话故事

这位恃才傲物的文学奇葩,是在儿子出生之后开始写童话故事,以便为儿子讲故事。王尔德在 1888 年出版《快乐王子》,1891 年又出版另一童话著作《石榴之屋》(*A House of Pomegranates*),前者含五篇故事,后者收录了四篇故事。

《快乐王子》至今依然是英国最著名的童话作品之一,多次再版,其收录的故事包括:《快乐王子》(*The Happy Prince*)、《夜莺与玫瑰》(*The Nightingale and the Rose*)、《自私的巨人》(*The Selfish Giant*)、《忠实的朋友》(*The Devoted Friend*)、《了不起的火箭》(*The Remarkable Rocket*)。

在王尔德的童话故事中,处处展现了人性中至善至美的光辉面,并流露出对阶级社会的讽刺,以及对人的关怀。王尔德的华丽词藻、冷隽和机锋,同样在他的童话故事中表露无遗,使得他的童话不仅能吸引小孩,对成人更有不可抗拒的魅力。



## 王尔德的主要作品

- 1880 年 Vera(戏剧《薇拉》)
- 1881 年 Poems(《诗集》)
- 1888 年 The Happy Prince and Other Tales  
(童话《快乐王子和其他故事》)
- 1891 年 A House of Pomegranates  
(童话《石榴之屋》)
- 1891 年 The Picture of Dorian Gray  
(《道林·格雷的画像》)
- 1891 年 The Soul of Man Under Socialism  
(散文集《社会主义下人的灵魂》)
- 1892 年 A Woman of No Importance  
(戏剧《无足轻重的女人》)
- 1892 年 Lady Windermere's Fan  
(戏剧《温夫人的扇子》)
- 1893 年 Salomé(戏剧《莎乐美》,原著用法语写成)
- 1893 年 The Duchess of Padua  
(戏剧《帕都瓦公爵夫人》)
- 1894 年 Sphinx(诗作《斯芬克斯》)
- 1895 年 An Ideal Husband(戏剧《理想的丈夫》)
- 1895 年 The Importance of Being Earnest  
(戏剧《不可儿戏》)
- 1897 年 De Profundis(《深渊书简》,写给道格拉斯的  
书信集,1905 年作者死后出版)
- 1898 年 The Ballad of Reading Gaol  
(诗作《瑞丁监狱之歌》)

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**Unit 1**  
**The Happy Prince**  
**快乐王子**



## MP3 1

High above the city, on a tall **column**<sup>1</sup>, stood the statue of the Happy Prince. He was **gilded**<sup>2</sup> all over with thin leaves of fine gold, for eyes he had two bright **sapphires**<sup>3</sup>, and a large red ruby glowed on his **sword-hilt**<sup>4</sup>.

He was very much admired indeed. "He is as beautiful as a **weathercock**<sup>5</sup>," remarked one of the Town Councilors who wished to gain a reputation for having artistic tastes; "only not quite so useful," he added, fearing lest people should think him unpractical, which he really was not.

"Why can't you be like the Happy Prince?" asked a sensible mother of her little boy who was crying for the moon. "The Happy Prince never dreams of crying for anything."

"I am glad there is some one in the world who is quite happy," muttered a disappointed man as he gazed at the wonderful statue.

"He looks just like an angel," said the Charity Children as they came out of the cathedral in their bright scarlet cloaks and their clean white **pinafors**<sup>6</sup>.

"How do you know?" said the Mathematical Master, "you have never seen one."

"Ah! but we have, in our dreams," answered the children; and the Mathematical Master frowned and looked very severe, for he did not approve of children dreaming.

在城市上空,有一根高高的石柱,快乐王子的雕像就耸立其上。雕像全贴满了一层薄薄的金箔,明亮的蓝宝石做成他的双眼,剑柄上还嵌着一颗闪闪发光的硕大红宝石。

大家都对他赞不绝口。“他像风标一样漂亮,”一位想展现自己有艺术品位的市议员这么说,但又怕别人说他不切实际,而他其实是很务实的人,随即又补了一句:“只是不如风标那么实用。”

“你为什么不能像快乐王子一样呢?”一位明理的母亲对哭喊着要月亮的小儿子说,“快乐王子从来不会梦到哭着要东西。”

“世上还有如此快乐的人,真让我欣慰。”一位失意的男子凝视着这座壮观的雕像,喃喃自语地说道。

“他看起来就像是天使,”一群孤儿院的孩童们说。他们身披大红斗篷,再套上雪白的连身围裙,正从教堂走出来。

“你们是怎么知道的?”数学教师问道,“你们又没见过天使的模样。”

“我们见过啊,在梦里见过。”孩子们答道。数学教师皱皱眉头,表情严肃,因为他不赞成小孩子做梦。

## Word Bank

1. column ['kɒləm] *n.* 圆柱
2. gild [gɪld] *v.* 镀金;涂上金色
3. sapphire ['sæfəɪə(r)] *n.* 蓝宝石
4. sword-hilt ['sɔ:dɪhɪlt] *n.* 剑柄
5. weathercock ['weðəkɒk] *n.* 风标
6. pinafore ['pɪnəfɔ:(r)] *n.* 围裙;无袖连身衫

One night there flew over the city a little Swallow. His friends had gone away to Egypt six weeks before, but he had stayed behind, for he was in love with the most beautiful Reed. He had met her early in the spring as he was flying down the river after a big yellow moth, and had been so attracted by her slender waist that he had stopped to talk to her.

“Shall I love you?” said the Swallow, who liked to come to the point at once, and the Reed made him a low bow. So he flew round and round her, touching the water with his wings, and making silver ripples. This was his **courtship**<sup>7</sup>, and it lasted all through the summer.

“It is a ridiculous **attachment**<sup>8</sup>,” **twittered**<sup>9</sup> the other Swallows; “she has no money, and far too many relations”; and indeed the river was quite full of Reeds. Then, when the autumn came they all flew away.

After they had gone he felt lonely, and began to tire of his lady-love. “She has no conversation,” he said, “and I am afraid that she is a **coquette**<sup>10</sup>, for she is always **flirting**<sup>11</sup> with the wind.” And certainly, whenever the wind blew, the Reed made the most graceful **curtseys**<sup>12</sup>. “I admit that she is domestic,” he continued, “but I love traveling, and my wife, consequently, should love traveling also.”



有天夜里，一只小燕子从城市上空飞过。他的同伴们早在六个星期前就飞往埃及去了，只有他留下来，因为他爱上了美丽的芦苇小姐。他是在早春时节遇上她的，当时他正沿着河追逐一只大黄蛾。他被她那纤细的腰身深深吸引住，便停下来和她说话。

“我可以爱你吗？”燕子问道，他喜欢单刀直入。芦苇向他低头鞠躬，于是他就绕着她一圈一圈地飞，并用翅膀轻抚着水面，激起银色的涟漪。这是燕子的求爱方式，他就这样持续了一整个夏天。

“这种恋情真可笑，”其他燕子窃窃私语道。“她没什么钱，亲戚又一大堆。”的确，河边到处都是芦苇。等秋天一到，燕子全都飞走。

燕群飞走后，他觉得很孤单，对自己的爱人也渐渐厌倦起来了。“我跟她完全说不上话，”他说，“而且她恐怕是个轻佻的女子，因为她老是跟风调情。”的确，只要风一来，芦苇就优雅地行屈膝礼。“我承认她是个居家型的人，”燕子继续说，“但是我热爱旅行，而我的妻子当然也应该喜爱旅行才是。”

## Word Bank

7. courtship ['kɔ:tʃɪp] *n.* 求爱；追求
8. attachment [ə'tætʃmənt] *n.* 爱慕；附件
9. twitter ['twɪtə(r)] *v.* (鸟)吱吱叫；叽叽喳喳地说话
10. coquette [kəʊ'ket] *n.* 卖弄风情的女子
11. flirt [flɜ:t] *v.* 调情
12. curtsy ['kɜ:tsɪ] *n.* (妇女)屈膝礼(= curtsy)

## MP3 3

“Will you come away with me?” he said finally to her; but the Reed shook her head, she was so attached to her home.

“You have been **trifling with**<sup>13</sup> me,” he cried. “I am off to the Pyramids. Good-bye!” and he flew away.

All day long he flew, and at night-time he arrived at the city. “Where shall I **put up**<sup>14</sup>?” he said; “I hope the town has made preparations.”

Then he saw the statue on the tall column.

“I will put up there,” he cried; “it is a fine position, with plenty of fresh air.” So he **alighted**<sup>15</sup> just between the feet of the Happy Prince.

“I have a golden bedroom,” he said softly to himself as he looked round, and he prepared to go to sleep; but just as he was putting his head under his wing a large drop of water fell on him. “What a curious thing!” he cried; “there is not a single cloud in the sky, the stars are quite clear and bright, and yet it is raining. The climate in the north of Europe is really dreadful. The Reed used to like the rain, but that was merely her selfishness.”

Then another drop fell.

“What is the use of a statue if it cannot keep the rain off?” he said; “I must look for a good **chimney-pot**<sup>16</sup>,” and he determined to fly away.

But before he had opened his wings, a third drop fell, and he looked up, and saw—Ah! what did he see?



“你愿不愿意跟我走?”他终于问她。然而芦苇却摇了摇头,她实在舍不得离开她的家。

“原来你一直在玩弄我,”他大叫着,“我要去金字塔了,再见!”说完就飞走了。

他飞了一整天,夜晚才来到这座城市。“我该上哪儿过夜呢?”他说,“但愿这个城市已为我准备好地方了。”

这时,他看见了高大圆柱上的雕像。

“我就在那里过夜吧,”他高声说,“这个地方真不错,空气新鲜。”于是,他就飞落在快乐王子的两脚之间。

“我可住在黄金屋里,”他环顾四周后,自言自语道,准备入睡。就在他把头枕在翅膀下的时候,忽然一颗大大的水珠打在他身上。“真奇怪!”他叫了起来,“天上连一朵云都没有,星星如此清澈明亮,竟会下起雨来了!北欧的天气真要命。芦苇倒是蛮喜欢雨的,但那纯粹是她自私的想法。”

接着又落下一滴来。

“一座雕像连雨都挡不住,还能干什么?”他说,“我得去找一个可避雨的烟囱躲躲。”于是他决定飞走。

可是在他还没来得及展开翅膀时,第三颗水珠又掉下来了。他抬头往上看,看见了……啊!他看见了什么?

## Word Bank

13. trifle with 玩弄;戏弄

14. put up 过夜;准备住宿

15. alight [ə'laɪt] v. 飞落下来

16. chimney-pot ['tʃɪmniːpɒt] n. 烟囱顶部的通风管

