

英语名篇阅读精选

初级版
4

MOSQUITO TOWN

蚊子城



● 英语名篇精选 ● 句型斜体标出 ● 加注典型例句

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英语名篇阅读精选④

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蚊 子 城

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前 言

英语界著名人士在谈及英语学习方法时，无不强调大量阅读的重要性。他们认为大量阅读是学习英语屡试不爽的好方法。大量阅读对于英语学习的作用，是其他任何形式的练习都无法达到的。在大量阅读中，已学过的词汇和句型多次复现，无需强记便能掌握它们。许多语言现象会在阅读中被自然而然地吸收，使英语水平在不知不觉中提高。即便是高考，也处处显示出阅读能力的重要。不仅是阅读理解题，其他题型也都是在读懂、读准的前提下才能回答正确。可以说，大量阅读是学好英语的必由之路。为配合教学改革，大力开展课外阅读，我们编选了这套“英语名篇阅读精选”，它具有以下特点：

一、本书由多年在重点中学工作的一线教师编著。他们教学经验丰富，熟悉教学大纲和中考、高考范围。书中斜体标出部分和所加注释都是初、高中应掌握的语言重点。

二、这套书是在进行教学改革、开展课外阅读的过程中，从大量英国出版的英语读物中筛选出来的，是历届学生非常喜欢的经典名篇，内容丰富，故事性强，体裁多样，文笔流畅。它们可使学生在兴趣盎然的阅读中接触新鲜、活泼、原汁原味的地道英语，不断提高学习英语的兴趣。

三、注释详尽，阅读方便；所加注释不仅针对该

句本身，还有适当扩展；典型句型，斜体标出；重点词汇，另给例句。丛书分初级版（适合初中学生阅读）、中级版（适合高中学生阅读），均按由易到难的顺序编排，有初一基础即可开始按序阅读。非常有利于提高学生的自学能力。对家中无条件辅导和师资缺乏地区的学生更为适宜。

新的教学理念，最重要的就是要教给学生一个终身受益的学习方法。参加本套丛书编注的老师，每送一届毕业班，都会收到学生的大量来信。几乎所有来信中都提到，由于在高中掌握了科学的学习方法，很快就能适应大学的学习，而且在大学阶段的英语学习中仍然游刃有余。其中有不少人在英语竞赛、四、六级考试、TOFEL 和 GRE 考试中的成绩名列前茅。丛书主编的教改经验于 2002 年 3 月在中央电视台播出后，已在多所学校推广，均收到明显效果。

开始阅读，每天所用时间不要多，但贵在坚持，绝不能一曝十寒，也不能只限于一套丛书。内容要不断扩展，难度要不断增加。更要讲究方法，注意精读和泛读相结合，每篇文章至少读两遍。大量阅读会读出自信、读出奇效。愿这套丛书的出版，能对莘莘学子更快、更好地掌握英语有较大帮助。

编者水平所限，错误难免，敬请读者指正。

编 者

2008 年 10 月

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Mosquito Town

蚊子城

Chapter 1

It was six o'clock, and the sun was appearing¹ in the east. All the mosquitoes were leaving Bamboko.² They were *flying to*³ their homes in Mosquito Town.

Mosquito Town was half a mile from Bamboko and it was beside a lake. It was a beautiful place, and the mosquitoes loved it. They loved the wet grass. They loved the dark corners⁴ among the trees. They loved it because it was quiet. The only sound was their own song.

One old mosquito was already at home. She had a thin body⁵ and very long feelers.⁶ Her name was Zambra⁷

¹ appear [ə'piə] vi. 出现, 显露 A rainbow (n. 彩虹) appeared in the sky after the rain.

² Bamboko 虚拟的城镇名

³ fly to ... 朝……方向飞去 fly (flew, flown) vi. 飞 (1) Next week the manager (n. 经理) will fly to America. fly (flew, flown) (2) The plane flew northward (adv. 朝北) to the Changjiang River Valley. 那架飞机往北朝长江流域飞去。

⁴ ...corner ['kɔ:nə] n. 角落 The piano is in the corner of the room.

⁵ a thin body 瘦弱的身体

⁶ feeler ['fi:lə] n. 触角, 触须

⁷ Zambra ['zæmbərə] 老蚊子的名字

Zambra was sitting *in front of*¹ her house and *waiting for her children*.² She washed her feelers while she was waiting. "They'll soon be here," she said to herself. "Then I can *go to sleep*".³

She had two hundred children, and they all lived with her. Her husband was dead, so she had to *look after* them⁴ by herself⁵. It was hard work.

Zambra's house was the best house in Mosquito Town. It was big enough for all her family⁶. Her friends lived in small holes under the trees, but Zambra lived in a snake's hole. The snake lived there too, but he did not trouble them.

Zambra always reached⁷ home before her daughters. They had to⁸ find their food in Bamboko, and they flew

¹ in front of her house: in front of sb./sth. 在……的……前面 (1)Our teachers often stand in front of the blackboard to give us class. in the front of ... 在同一物的前面 (1)There are a lot of pictures in the front of the book.

² wait for her children 等她的孩子回来 wait for sb./sth. 等某人/某物

³ go to sleep, 入睡 go to bed 就寝 Yesterday evening I went to bed at 10:00 but I went to sleep at half past ten.

⁴ look after them 照顾他们 look after sb. The old woman has a nurse (n. 保姆) to look after her after her operation. [ɔpə'reiʃən] n. 手术

⁵ by herself 凭她自己 by oneself 独自地, 单独地 (1)I can carry the box by myself. (2)They can finish the work before supper by themselves.

⁶ It was big enough for all her family. 房子很大, 足以容纳下她全家。

⁷ reach [ri:tʃ] vt. 到……, 到达…… reach + n. I reached the airport at 8:00 and the plane took off at 10:00. (take off v. 起飞)

⁸ had to 不得不 have to 的过去式 (1)I haven't got a bike so I have to go to school on foot every day. (2)The Wangs' (王家的) house was on fire (着火) last Sunday and they had to put up a tent (搭一个帐篷) to live in for the time being. (临时)

there every night. She was old and she did not want to go far for her food. She had her own supply.¹ One old man did not live in Bamboko. He lived alone beside the lake. His blood was thin², but it was good enough for Zambra. She went to him every night and had a good drink of blood. Then she came home early.

Some young mosquitoes arrived now and sat down beside her. She counted³ them. She always counted her children in the morning and *listened to* their news. This morning they sat quietly and did not talk. They *looked tired*.⁴ “What is the news today, children?” Zambra asked. “You’re *looking very thin*.”

“The news is bad, mother,” they all cried. “We couldn’t get any food.”

“If you all talk *at the same time*, I shan’t be able to hear you properly.⁵ Now, Mitsi,”⁶ she *pointed a feeler at* one,⁷

¹ supply [sə'plai] *n.* 供应, 补给

² His blood was thin 他的血液很稀薄

³ ... count [kaunt] *vt.* 数, 计算

⁴ They looked tired 他们看起来很累。句型: look+*adj.* 看起来…… The lady looks young.

⁵ If you all talk at the same time, I shan’t be able to hear you properly. 如果你们都同时一起说, 我就根本没法听清楚你们说些什么。(properly ['prɒpəli] *adv.* 适当地, 正确地, 完全地)

⁶ Mitsi (小蚊子的名字)

⁷ She pointed a feeler at one. 她用一根触须指着一只蚊子 point sth. at ... 把……对准/指向…… Don’t point your fingers (*n.* 手指) at others and it is not polite (*adj.* 有礼貌的) to do that.

“you’re the oldest. Tell me quickly. What happened?”

Mitsi was not a pretty child. She had only five legs. The sixth one came off¹ in a fight when she was quite small. She *was always ready to fight for* her food.²

“We told you yesterday, mother,” she answered. “We’ve told you *many times*,³ but you never listen. Strange things are happening in Bamboko.” She was tired and hungry, but she tried hard to be patient.⁴

“Strange things? I don’t understand you⁵, Mitsi. What happened last night?”

“We couldn’t get near the people. It *becomes harder* every day.”

“That’s your fault,” Zambra answered angrily.⁶ She still did not understand their trouble. “It isn’t easy, but

¹ come off 脱落, 分离, 掉下 The button (*n.* 钮扣) has just come off my coat. 这颗钮扣刚从我的外衣上掉下来。

² She was always ready to fight for her food. 句型: be ready to do sth ... 随时准备干…… The girl is kind enough and she is always ready to help others when they are in trouble. (be in trouble 陷入困境) ... fight for ... 为……而战 Two dogs fight for a bone (*n.* 骨头), and a third runs away with it. (……另一只狗把骨头叼跑了)(鱼蚌相争, 渔翁得利)

³ many times 多次

⁴ patient ['peɪʃənt] *adj.* 耐心地的, 耐烦的 be patient with sb. 对某人有耐心的/能忍受的 be patient of ... 对事物有耐心的/能忍受的 (1) In our daily (*adj.* 日常的) life we should be more patient with others. (2) Are you patient of hardships? 你能忍受困难吗?

⁵ I don’t understand you 我不明白你说的话。

⁶ angrily ['æŋgrɪli] *adv.* 生气地, 愤怒地

you have to be patient and wait for your chance¹. You haven't learnt the tricks² properly. I *try to teach* you, but you don't listen."

"It's not our fault —" Mitsi began. Mother's tricks were old. They needed new ones,³ clever ones.



At that moment Buzu⁴ arrived with thirty or forty sisters. They too were tired and hungry. Some of them *looked ill*.

"Did you find any food?" Zambra asked them in a worried⁵ voice.

"No, mother," Buzu replied. She was a pretty mosquito and she was Zambra's favorite child. Some were fat and some were thin, but Buzu's body was the right shape⁶ and she had beautiful legs. She was clever too,

¹ wait for your chance 等待机会

² trick [trik] *n.* 诀窍, 窍门; 计策

³ ... new ones (=new tricks)

⁴ Buzu (小蚊子的名字)

⁵ in a worried voice 用一种忧虑的口气问道 worried ['wʌrɪd] *adj.* 忧虑的

⁶ the right shape 正是这种合适的体形 shape *n.* 形态, 形体

but this morning she *was in trouble*.¹ Zambra was counting again.

“I’m sorry, mother,” Buzu continued.² “Twelve haven’t come back. I think they are dead.”

“Dead!” Zambra was really worried now. “It’s your fault,³ Buzu. You’re the leader.⁴ You didn’t *look after them* properly. Leaders must *take care of*⁵ the young ones. Now come inside and sit down, children. I want *to talk to you*.”

They sat round her *in a circle*.⁶ Some listened. Some soon *went to sleep* because they were tired. Buzu washed her back legs while she was listening

“Why can’t you find food?” Zambra continued. “I’ve told you before and I’ll tell you again. You must work for it⁷. You must work hard. It’s different for your brothers. They don’t drink blood. They can get their plant-juices⁸ without trouble.”

¹ ... she was in trouble. 她遇到了麻烦 be in trouble 遇到麻烦, 陷入困境
When your friends are in trouble, you should help them.

² continue [kən'tɪnju:] vt. 继续说

³ fault [fɔ:lt] n. 过错

⁴ You're the leader. 你是领头的, 带队的。

⁵ take care of sb/ sth. 照顾好…… (1) When my mother is away, I take care of my younger brother. (2) If you can take good care of my books, I can lend you more.

⁶ They sat round her in a circle 她们围着她坐成一圈。round [raʊnd] (round = around prep. 围着, 在……周围 The earth goes around/round the sun.

⁷ You must work for it. 为了食物你们必须为之奋斗。

⁸ plant-juices 植物汁液 juice [dʒu:s] n. 水果, 蔬菜, 肉等的汁液

“Why can’t we drink plant-juices too?” a very young mosquito asked. “Why must we drink blood?”

“It’s for your eggs, my dear. Your eggs need blood. You want to have your own children, don’t you? Now, listen carefully and remember my words,¹ please. Find a person when he *is asleep*. *Look for* a soft part of his body and sit on it carefully. Don’t sit on his face². If you do, he’ll *wake up* and kill you. I’ve told you this often, but you—”

“Mother,” Buzu cried, “We know all this. We can’t reach their bodies *at night*. It’s not our fault. Have you never seen a mosquito-net?”³

“Yes, Buzu. I have. They’re dangerous things, but only *a few* people use them. They’re not cheap, you know.”⁴

“All the people use them now, mother. I saw some cheap ones in a shop ten days ago.”

“You surprise me,” Zambra said. Then she *had an idea*.⁵ “*Get into* the net when the person *gets in*. That’s quite easy.”

“It’s easy but it’s dangerous, mother. If you can’t *get*

¹ remember my words. 记住我的话

² Don’t sit on his face. 千万别落在他的脸上。

³ ... mosquito-net 蚊帐

⁴ They’re not cheap, you know. 你们知道, 那些东西可不便宜。

⁵ have/has an idea 有了主意了

out again, they'll catch you and kill you. They will!¹”

“Don't shout, dear. The snake *is asleep* and we mustn't wake him.” She *was not afraid of* the snake² but she did not want *to give him trouble*. “If it's dangerous in the nets,” she continued, “you *will have to* feed³ early in the evening. Bite⁴ the people when they're not in their nets. Bite them while they sit in their chairs⁵ in the house.”



“That's a different trouble,” said Buzu. “We can't feed in their house. Some strange men have come to

¹ They will! 他们准会逮住你们并弄死你们的。

² She was not afraid of the snake. 她不害怕蛇。句型是: be afraid of sb/sth. 害怕某人/某物

³ ... feed vi. 吃东西, 用餐 (fed, fed)

⁴ Bite the people ... (bite, bit, bitten vt. 咬, 叮)

⁵ sit in their chairs 坐在(扶手)椅子里

Bamboko. They are visiting all the houses and spraying¹ the rooms. If you touch² the spray, you will die. If you breathe it, you will die. It killed my twelve sisters last night. No. We can't go into the house. It isn't safe."

Zambra was *feeling tired*³ now. She was old and she could not understand these new tricks of the Bamboko people. What is "spray"? How do people "spray" a room? Poor Zambra did not know. It was a new word for her. She shut her eyes and tried to think. In a few moments⁴ she *was asleep*.

Chapter 2

Zambra was dreaming.⁵ In her dream she was leading her children to⁶ the farms round Bamboko. It was the middle of the day⁷ and it was hot.

The people *were all asleep* under the trees on their

¹ spray [sprei] *n.* 喷雾, 喷雾器 *vt.* 喷, 向……喷洒

² touch [tʌtʃ] *vt.* 触摸, 接触, 碰到

³ ... feeling tired ... 感到劳累, 疲倦 *feel + adj.* 感觉到/觉得…… (1) After a week's study, all of us feel tired. (2) The boy didn't feel well this morning.

⁴ In a few minutes 几分钟后, 不一会儿

⁵ ... was dreaming. *dream v. n.* 做梦, 过去式 dreamed/dreamt

⁶ She was leading her children to the farms. Zambra 把她的孩子们带到农场去。 *lead (led, led) ... to ...* 把……领到/带到…… The waiter (*n.* 男服务员) of the hotel led us to a room upstairs.

⁷ the middle of the day 中午

farms. Zambra's family sat down on them, but they did not wake. She watched happily while the young mosquitoes *filled their hungry little bodies with warm blood*.¹

"Mother," they called, "come and drink! Mother!"

Zambra opened her eyes. She was not dreaming now. She was in her own home and Mitsi was calling her. "Mother! *Wake up!*"

She was properly awake now.²

"What is it, Mitsi?"

"Look at these children. They arrived while you were sleeping. They are all very sick."³

Zambra *looked at* them. Their little faces were white and sad.⁴ They could not breathe properly.

"Mother," one cried, "half my sisters⁵ are dead. They will never come home again. I think that I am dying too!"⁶

"What happened?" Zambra asked, while Buzu was *looking for* some medicine.

¹ filled their hungry bodies with warm blood. 小蚊子用温暖的血喂饱了它们饥饿的肚子。句型: fill ... with 用……把……装满 (1) Fill the bottle with water. (2) The reading room is filled with so many students.

² She was properly awake now. 她这时完全醒了 (awake [ə'weɪk] adj. 醒着的)

³ They are all very sick. 他们病的很厉害.

⁴ Their faces were white and sad. 他们脸色苍白, 一脸愁容.

⁵ half my sisters 姐妹中有一半

⁶ ... I am dying. 我也要死了

“Last night we found some girls. They were putting something on their legs. It *smelled very strong*¹ so we couldn't sit down on them. Then we were tired and rested on the wall. We sat down carefully, but there was poison² on the wall. My sister fell on the ground and died. And I—” The little mosquito fell down. She *tried to get up*³ but she could not. Zambra put some medicine in her mouth, but the poison was very strong. After a few minutes she died.

Zambra was afraid now. How could she save her family? Why were the Bamboko people killing them? They only *asked for* a little blood every night.⁴ They were not dangerous like snakes. Why did people kill them? Why?

Zambra called all her daughters together. “Come here. I want to count you.” She counted twice. Forty-six were not there. She *had to* think and act quickly.⁵ What could

¹ smelled very strong. 味道呛鼻子 strong [strɒŋ] adj. 冲鼻的, 烈性的
smell + adj. (smell vi. 闻起来……) The soup smelled delicious.

² poison ['pɔɪzən] n. 毒药, 毒

³ try + to do ... 设法干/做…… I am not good at English but I will try to learn it well in the future. (in the future 在未来)

⁴ They only asked for a little food every night. 她们每晚只不过要一点血罢了 ask for ... 请求……, 要求……找(某人) ask sb. for ... 向某人要…… (1) If you are not good at English, you should ask for your teacher's help. = If you are not good at English, you should ask your teacher for help. a little + n. (n. 不可数名词) 例如: a little water /milk/money/time ...

⁵ ... think and act quickly. 她必须想办法并且行动要快