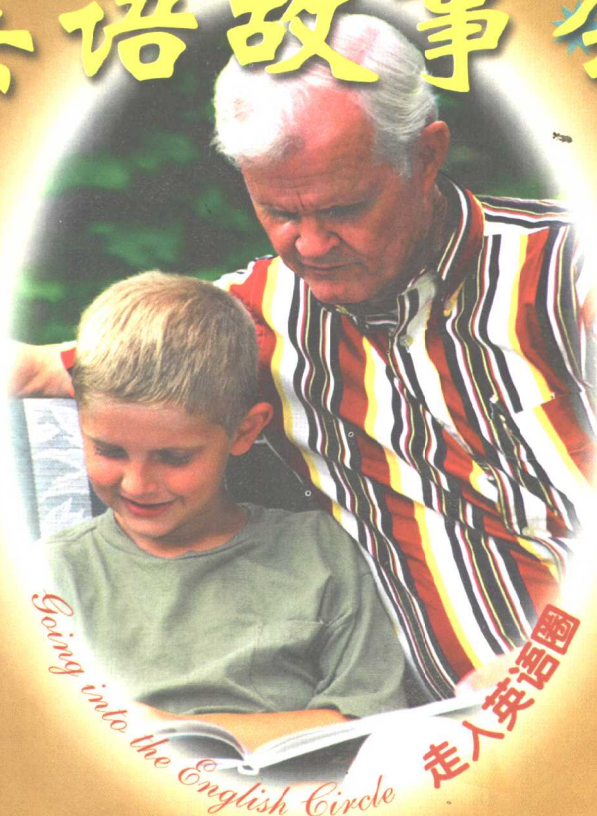


A Collection of English Readings

英语故事会



Going into the English Circle

走入英语圈

5

贾柱立 主编



天津大学出版社

TIANJIN UNIVERSITY PRESS

Going into the English Circle 系列丛书
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⑤

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内 容 提 要

《走入英语圈》系列丛书中的《英语故事会》汇编了古今中外各种趣味性读物数百篇。本书的体裁和内容包括:通俗短文、童话寓言、幽默小品、民间传说、神话故事、人文民俗、名篇简写、佳作采撷、作家生平、故事梗概、名人轶事、传记故事、小说散文、成语故事、史地名胜等。文字浅显、题材广泛。每篇读物后均有注释,适用于具有中级英语水平的读者阅读。

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编 者 的 话

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本书系《英语故事会》第五辑,该书英语单词的再现率较高。对于一些相对再现率较低的词汇和短语,我们在另篇读物中适当做了重复注释,以便初学者提高阅读效率。

由于编者水平有限,加之编写时间仓促,书中一定有一些不当之处,恳请读者批评指正。

本书的编委成员还有:王金莉、田露、鞠娜、李韶琛、高宝华。

编 者

2001年12月3日

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1. It Looks like You

A man often had the same *dream*¹. In this dream he saw a beautiful house beside a river. On the *verandah*² there was a table and two chairs. And there was always a lady with green eyes sitting in one of the chairs. She was always smoking a *cigarette*³ and looking at the river. There was an *incredible*⁴ *atmosphere*⁵ of *calm*⁶.

Every time he had this dream he *experienced*⁷ a wonderful *sense*⁸ of calm, a feeling of peace. He loved the dream and he loved the house. He loved the feeling of peace that it gave him.

One day this man was *hunting*⁹ with a friend. They were walking by a river. Suddenly the man *lost sight of*¹⁰ his friend. But soon he saw the house. Exactly the same house was just like the house in his dream, and the same verandah, with the same table and chairs and, sitting on the verandah, the lady with green eyes. She was smoking a cigarette and looking at the river. But this was not a dream. This was *reality*¹¹.

The man went up to the verandah and spoke to the lady with green eyes. "What is this house, please?" he asked. "It is my house," replied she. He experienced a strange *sensation*¹². He looked at the lady, then he looked at the other chair on the verandah. "Do you live here alone?" he asked again. "Usually", she replied, "there is also a *ghost*¹³."

The man said nothing while the lady was looking at the river and smoking her cigarette. "A ghost?" *added*¹⁴ the man, "What does it look like?" Now the lady turned her head and looked at the

man mysteriously¹⁵ for a moment and answered, "It looks like you."

Notes

1. dream [dri:m] *n.* 梦, 梦幻
2. verandah [və'rændə] *n.* 游廊, 走廊
3. cigarette [ˌsɪgə'reɪ] *n.* 香烟
4. incredible [in'kredəbl] *a.* 难以置信的, 不可思议的
5. atmosphere ['ætməsfɪə] *n.* 气氛, 氛围
6. calm [kɑ:m] *n.* 平静
7. experience [iks'piəriəns] *vt.* 经历; 体验
8. sense [sens] *n.* 感觉
9. hunt [hʌnt] *vi.* 打猎
10. lose sight of 看不见; 不知……的去向
11. reality [ri(:)'æliiti] *n.* 现实, 事实
12. sensation [sen'seɪʃən] *n.* 感觉, 兴奋的感情
13. ghost [gəʊst] *n.* 鬼, 幽灵
14. add [æd] *vt.* 又说, 补充说
15. mysteriously [mis'tɪəriəsli] *ad.* 神秘地; 不可思议地

2. Communication¹ in Our Daily Life

When you speak, write a letter, make a telephone call, your words carry a *message*². People *communicate*³ with words. But do you know people also communicate without words? A smile on your face shows you are happy or friendly. Tears in your eyes tell others that you are sad. When you raise your hand in class, the teacher knows you want to say something or ask questions. You shake your

head and people know you are saying “No”. You nod and people know you are saying “Yes”.

Other things can also carry messages. For example, a *sign*¹ at the bus stop helps you to know which bus to take. A sign on the wall of your school helps you to find the library. Signs on the doors tell you where to go in or out. Have you ever noticed that there are a lot of signs around you and that you receive messages from them all the time?

People can communicate in many other ways. An Artist can use his drawings to tell about beautiful mountains, the blue sea and many other things. Books are written to tell you about all the wonderful things in the world and also about people and their ideas. Magazines, TV, radio and films all help us to communicate with others. They all help us to know what is going on in the world and what other people are thinking about.

Notes

1. communication [kə'mju:ni'keɪʃən] *n.* 交际
2. message ['mesɪdʒ] *n.* 信息
3. communicate [kə'mju:nikeɪt] *vt., vi.* 交际, 交流
4. sign [saɪn] *n.* 招牌; 符号; 手势

3. The Will

A boy walked along *George Washington Carver Street*¹, singing a sad song. He walked with his head down, carefully placing his

dark feet in clear areas between the *cracks*² of the *sidewalk*³. Once he looked up and noticed the sign across the street, painted on the side of an old house.

On the sign a giant woman with yellow hair and a five-foot smile held out a gaint bottle. "Drink *Coca-Cola*⁴," the sign said. In the evening light the boy could not see the sign very well, but the woman in the picture seemed to be saying, "Don't you want some nice Coca-Cola?"

"Boy!"

The silence was cut by a sudden cry. He turned around quickly to see who had called.

An old woman was standing at her door. Old Mrs. *Jackson*⁵. He remembered hearing about her, about how old she was, about how she never left her house.

"You, boy! Come here this minute!"

He looked around. The street was empty. The old woman looked at him so *intensely*⁶ that he was afraid to run.

Slowly the boy stepped onto the cold flat stones leading to the old woman's house.

"Hurry up and come here," she demanded.

When he arrived at her door, she reached out her hand and wrapped her dry old fingers around his arm.

"Help me inside, boy."

He helped her pull her *bent*⁷ old body into the house.

"Help me over to my bed. What's your name?"

"*Joseph*⁸," he said.

"All right, Joseph. Help me down gently. Now, put my feet on the bed and hand me my blanket. Over there. That's fine now. Sit down in that chair there. No, move the chair so I can see you."

Joseph sat *stiffly*⁹ on the edge of the chair and looked around the room. *It was dark in there*¹⁰. The room was crowded with broken furniture, old empty bottles, and photographs which had been cut from newspapers. Beside Joseph there was a rough table. On the table he saw a few sheets of paper and the end of an old pencil.

The old woman on the bed tried to sit up, raising herself on her *elbow*¹¹. Water ran from her eyes and mouth. *The sight of her made Joseph feel sick*¹².

"I'm dying, Joseph. You can see that, can't you? I want you to write my will for me. There's paper and pencil on the table there."

Joseph pushed the chair closer to the table and picked up the pencil. He rolled it between his finger and *thumb*¹³.

"My first name is Mary," the old woman said. "Mary Jackson. Write that at the top of the paper. Write: 'The Will of Mrs. Mary Jackson.' Yes, that sounds nice. Come on, now write that down."

The boy looked down at the paper.

"I can't," he said.

"Of course you can. Now, do as I say, and write that down. I'm dying, Joseph. You've got to do this for me. You've got to write me a will. Somebody's got to care about an old woman."

"But . . ."

"I'm an old woman," she said, "just an old, tired woman."

The boy turned around and looked out the window. It was almost dark out there. But he saw the sign. He saw the giant woman with her giant bottle. Drink Coca-Cola!

"I want my *silver pin*¹⁴" to go to my daughter. It is surely pretty. She lives in *St. Simons*¹⁵. You'd better write that down."

Joseph looked down at the paper, and then looked out the window. "Write!" the old woman said. "Hurry up!"

"Write what I said," the old woman commanded. "I'm dying, and I've got to have a will."

Joseph bent his small body over the table and moved the pencil slowly across the paper.

"The silver pin," the old woman said. "I don't have much else. Oh, yes, there's my *Bible*¹⁶! That's for my daughter, too. Write down that I want a *Christian*¹⁷ *burial*¹⁸. A real one with lots of singing. That's the last wish of an old woman. Write that down, too."

The boy *labored over*¹⁹ the paper.

"Here. Bring it here so I can sign it."

Joseph brought the paper and handed it to her *timidly*²⁰. She took the pencil and made an X on the *bottom*²¹. Then she fell back heavily and said, "That's nice, Joseph. Now put it in my Bible and set it down here beside my bed."

He found the Bible and, placing the paper inside, laid it next to the bed.

"Leave me now, boy," she sighed. "I'm tired."

He ran out of the house.

Later, a cold wind blew through the open window, but the old woman on the bed felt nothing. She was dead. The paper in the Bible moved back and forth in the wind. Written on the paper were some childish letters. They formed these words: "Coca-Cola. Drink Coca-Cola."

Notes

1. George Washington Carver Street 乔治·华盛顿卡弗街
2. crack [kræk] *n.* 裂缝
3. sidewalk ['saɪdwɜ:k] *n.* (= pavement ['peɪvmənt]) 人行道
4. Coca-Cola ['kəʊkə'kəʊlə] *n.* 可口可乐(一种饮料)
5. Jackson ['dʒæksn] *n.* 杰克逊(姓氏)
6. intensely [ɪn'tensli] *ad.* 强烈地;认真地
7. bent [bent] *a.* 弯曲的
8. Joseph ['dʒəʊzɪf] *n.* 约瑟夫(男子名)
9. stiffly ['stɪfli] *ad.* 局促地,不自然地
10. It was dark in there. 房间里很暗。
11. elbow ['elbəʊ] *n.* 肘,胳膊肘
... raising herself on her elbow. ...用胳膊肘把自己撑起来。
12. The sight of her made Joseph feel sick. 她这种形象使得约瑟夫感到恶心。
13. thumb [θʌm] *n.* 拇指
14. silver pin 银钗
15. St. Simons ['sɪnt'saɪməns] *n.* 圣西蒙斯(小地名)
16. Bible ['baɪbl] *n.* 圣经
17. Christian ['krɪstjən, 'krɪstʃən] *a.* 基督教的
18. burial ['berɪəl] *n.* 葬礼
19. labor over 煞费苦心地做
20. timidly ['tɪmɪdli] *ad.* 提心吊胆地,胆小地
21. bottom ['bɒtəm] *n.* 下端,底下,最下面

4. Something about Elephants

The elephant is the only animal with a trunk in the world. It uses its trunk in many ways. It pulls leaves off trees with its *trunk*¹ and then puts them into mouth. It can even use its trunk to pull up trees when it wants to make a path through the *jungle*². It also uses its trunk to get water. The trunk can hold a lot of water, as an elephant needs to drink more than three hundred *pints*³ of water every day.

When an elephant is angry, its *tusks*⁴ can be very dangerous. The tusks of an elephant are really its front teeth. People pay a lot of money for the *ivory*⁵ of an elephant's tusks. In Africa men have *hunted*⁶ elephants for their tusks. The ivory from the tusks is made into many beautiful things.

It has been easy for men to train elephants in Asia. They use elephants to carry heavy things for long distances.

Many people say that the kings of *Siam*⁷ used to give white elephants to people whom they did not like. These white elephants were *sacred*⁸ and they could not be made to work. They could not be killed or given away.

A person who owned a white elephant had to pay a lot of money to keep it properly. After a certain time, he usually became very poor. Nowadays people in England call a useless thing "a white elephant."

Notes

1. trunk [trʌŋk] *n.* 象的长鼻
2. jungle ['dʒʌŋɡl] *n.* (热带的)丛林, 密林
3. pint [paɪnt] *n.* 品脱(液体量[英]=0.57 升弱,[美]=0.47 升强)
4. tusk [tʌsk] *n.* (象的)长牙
5. ivory ['aɪvəri] *n.* 象牙;(河马等动物的)牙齿
6. hunt [hʌnt] *vt.* 追捕; 狩猎
7. Siam ['saɪəm, saɪ'æm] *n.* 暹罗(泰国 Thailand ['taɪlənd] 的旧称)
8. sacred ['seɪkrɪd] *a.* 神圣的

5. The Sleeping Princess¹ (I)

Once there was a King and a Queen². For many years they had wanted a child, and no child had come to them.

Then the Queen had a child. It was a girl. The King was very glad.

You know what a *fairy*³ is. Many fairies lived near the King's house. When the Queen's child came, the King went to all the fairies and said, "The Queen has a child. Do come to the house and see our new little girl." All the fairies said, "We are very glad. We will come today."

One of the fairies had gone away on a *journey*⁴. She had been very far away. She had not come back when the Queen's child came. When she came back, one of the fairies said to her, "The