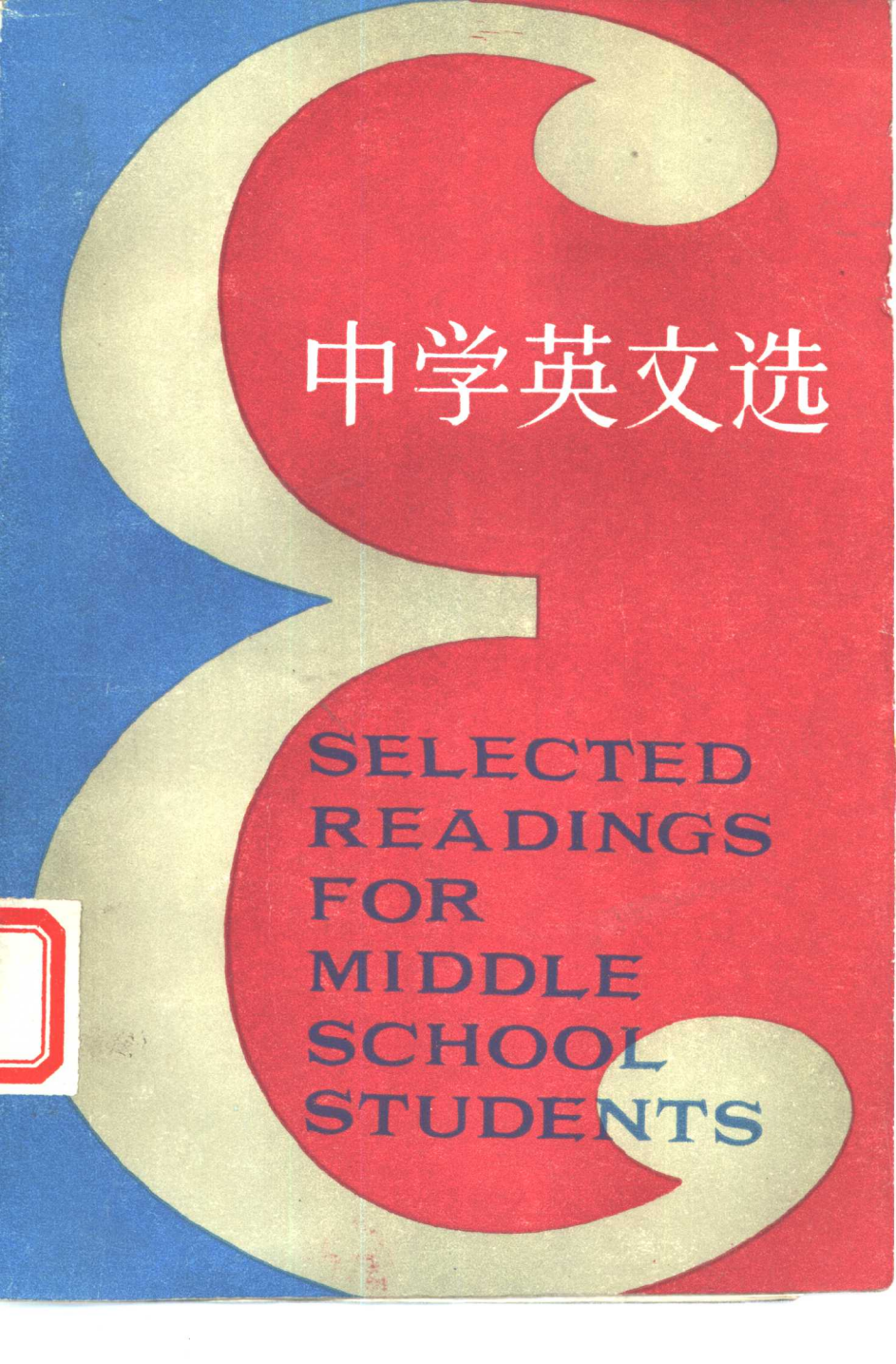




中学英文选

SELECTED
READINGS
FOR
MIDDLE
SCHOOL
STUDENTS

15580

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陈冠商 编
胡岳峰 注

一九八九年九月

上海教育出版社

Selected Readings for
Middle School Students

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序

这本《英文选》是献给广大的中学生的。

当然，具有中学英语程度的自学青年，和大学低年级学生也是可以阅读的，而且是会有所得益的。

学习英语，关键在于“阅读”。在老师的指导下，听、说、读、写四项技能的综合训练对打好基础完全是必要的。但要学好英语，在具有一定的基础以后，必须进行大量的阅读，快速的阅读。阅读的速度愈快，阅读的量就能愈大，英语程度的提高也就能愈快，四项技能的熟练程度也就愈高。但是要进行快速的阅读(当然是由浅入深的)，最好能背诵一定数量语言优美的英语文学作品。这种背诵必须在理解的基础上进行反复的朗读，一方面加深理解，一方面巩固记忆。熟读背诵了一定数量、假定为一百篇左右的材料，阅读的能力必然会显著提高。这时候进行有意识的快速阅读，愈读愈快，化几年工夫，把快速阅读英语的能力训练成如同读本国语相似，那末，英语语感也就自然而然地培养出来了。

本书的目的就在于提供阅读背诵的材料。因此，所选材料语言力求优美，体裁力求多样，内容力求有益。作为英语背诵的读本，材料的内容必须有利于提高思想情操，有利于培养社会主义精神文明，这方面是我们努力的目标。

现在人类正在走向信息社会，掌握外语的要求愈来愈普遍了。在不久的将来，英语很可能成为青年人普遍掌握的一门文化工具。这是时代的需要。《中学英文选》希望能为英语的学习起一些作用。

陈冠商

1984年3月15日

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1 PSALM OF LIFE¹

(Excerpt)²

Let us, then³, be up and doing,⁴
With a heart for any fate:⁵
Still achieving, still pursuing,⁶
Learn to⁷ labor⁸ and to wait.

—— Longfellow

题 注:

这是《生命的颂歌》中的一节，读后使人奋发向前，百折不挠。

Longfellow (1807—1882): 美国诗人，以历史题材的叙述长诗著称。

注 释:

1. Psalm of Life: 生命的颂歌。psalm [sa:m]: *n.* 赞美诗，圣歌。
2. excerpt ['eksə:pt]: *n.* 摘录，节录。
3. then: *ad.* 那么。
4. be up and doing: (让我们)起来干吧! be up: 起来。
5. with a heart for any fate: 不管命运怎样。
6. still achieving...: 还要努力, 还要追求; still: (虽然……) 还要……;

- achieve: *vt.* 完成, 达到(目的); pursue [pə'sju:]: *vt.* 寻求。
7. learn to do sth.: 学习做某事。
8. labor: *v.* 辛勤劳动。

2 ON BOOKS¹

(Excerpt)

It is to books that I owe everything that is good in me.² Even in my youth³ I realized⁴ that art is more generous than people are⁵. I am a book-lover; each one of them⁶ seems a miracle⁷ to me, and the author a magician⁸. I am unable to speak of books otherwise than with the deepest emotion and a joyous enthusiasm.⁹ That may seem ridiculous¹⁰ but it is the truth. It will probably be said that¹¹ this is the enthusiasm of a barbarian¹²; let people say what they will¹³—I am beyond cure¹⁴.

—— Maxim Gorky

题 注:

高尔基以自学而成为社会主义现实主义的伟大作家。他爱好读书, 因为书本是知识的源泉。

Maxim Gorky (1868—1936): 高尔基, 著名俄国无产阶级作家, 文学评论家。

注 释

1. on books: 谈书本; on: *prep.* 关于……。
2. It is to books ... in me: 我身上一切好的地方(主要指素养, 品质)都应归功于书本。It ... that ... 是个强调句式, 此处强调 to books (是归功于书, 而不是其他), 如不加强调, 句子可以是: I owe everything that is good in me to books; owe to: 归功于……; that is good in me 是定语从句, 修饰 everything。
3. in one's youth: 在某人的青年时代。
4. realize: *vt.* 意识到, 认识到; 后面 that 从句作 realize 的宾语。
5. art is ... people are: 艺术比人更慷慨; 这是个比较级句子: more ... than ...; generous ['dʒenərəs]: *adj.* 宽宏大量的, 慷慨的。
6. each one of them: 每一本书; them 指 books。
7. miracle ['mɪrəkl]: *n.* 奇迹。
8. and the author a magician 作者(对我来说象)是个魔术师; 完整句是: and the author seems a magician to me; magician [mə'dʒɪʃən]: *n.* 魔术师。
9. I am unable ... a joyous enthusiasm: 除了用我最深厚的感情和最欣喜的热情, 我无法用任何其他方式来谈论书本。otherwise than: 不那样的话就……; enthusiasm [in'θju:ziæzəm]: *n.* 热情, 热忱。
10. ridiculous [ri'dɪkjʊləs]: *adj.* 可笑的, 滑稽的。
11. It will probably be said that: 很可能有人会说……; 这里它是形式主语, 真正主语是 that 引导的从句。
12. barbarian [bə:'beəriən]: *n.* 野蛮人, 原始人。
13. Let people say what they will: 随便他们怎么说; what they will 作 say 的宾语从句; 他们所要说的, 从句中 will 后省略了 say。
14. I am beyond cure: 我是改不掉了(指对书本的酷爱)。beyond cure: 无可救药的。

3 I HOLD¹ THE BOOK

I hold the book with both my hands,
And read all about foreign land²;
And thus³ I visit many places more,
That I've never seen before⁴.

题 注:

读书使我们进入未知的世界, 开阔眼界, 增长见识。

注 释:

1. hold: *vt.* (紧紧)抓住。
2. And read ... land: 阅读所有关于外国的书。all 指 all kinds of books: 各种书籍, read about: 读有关……(内容)。
3. thus = in this way: 由此, 从而。
4. 关系代词 that 引导的是定语从句, 修饰 places: 那些以前我从未见过的地方。

4 OF STUDIES¹

(Excerpt)

Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed²,
and some few³ to be chewed and digested⁴; that is⁵, some

books are to be read only in parts⁶; others to be read, but not curiously⁷; and some few to be read wholly⁸, and with diligence and attention⁹. Some books also may be read by deputy¹⁰, and extracts made of them by others¹¹; but that would be only in¹² the less important arguments¹³, and the meaner sort of books;¹⁴ else distilled books¹⁵ are, like common distilled waters¹⁶, flashy¹⁷ things.

——Francis Bacon

题 注:

作者是十七世纪的古人，但他对于读书的见解仍值得我们今人学习。

Francis Bacon ['beikən] (1561—1626)，培根，英国作家及哲学家。

注 释:

1. 论学习, of: *prep.* 关于……。
2. Some books ... swallowed: 有些书是用来浅尝的, 另一些则是用来囫圇吞枣的, taste [teist]: *v.* 尝, 辨(味), swallow ['swələu]: *v.* 吞下, 咽下。
3. and some few: 还有很少一些。
4. chew [tʃu:]: *vt.* 咀嚼, digest [dai'dʒest]: *vt.* 消化, 领悟。
5. that is = that's to say: 也就是说, 即。
6. in parts = partly: 部分地。
7. others to be read, but not curiously: = ..., but not to be read curiously: 只须大体涉猎, 毋需细读, curiously [kjuəriəsli]: *ad.* 仔细耐心地, 好奇地。

8. wholly = from beginning to end: 全部地, 从头至尾地。
9. with diligence and attention: 勤奋而专心地, diligence ['dɪlɪdʒəns]: *n.* 勤勉, 勤奋。
10. be read by deputy: 请人代读; deputy ['depjuti]: *n.* 代理人。
11. extracts made of them by others: 这些书的摘录也可由他人做; extract ['ekstrakt]: *n.* 摘录, 选录; made of them 前省去了 may be; of = from; them 指请人代读的书。
12. be only in: 只适用于……。
13. argument ['ɑ:gjumənt]: *n.* 题材。
14. the meaner sort of books: 价值不高的书; mean: *adj.* 低劣的, 平庸的。
15. else distilled books: 其他精选的书; else: *adj.* 其他的, 别的, distilled 是动词 distill [dis'tɪl] (蒸馏, 提取……的精华) 的过去分词, 作定语, 解释为: “经过提炼的”。
16. distilled waters: 蒸馏水。
17. flashy [flæʃi]: *adj.* 淡而无味的, 华而不实的。

5 READING

O for¹ a book and a shady nook²,
 Either indoor or out³,
 With the green leaves whispering overhead
 Or the street cries all about,⁴
 Where I may read all at my ease⁵
 Both of the new and old⁶;
 For a jolly good book whereon to look
 Is better to me than gold.⁷

题 注:

读书是人生的乐事。

注 释:

1. O for ...: 要是能有……多好啊!
2. a shady nook: 隐蔽处。
3. Either indoor or out: 不论室内还是室外。either ... or ...: 不论……还是……。
4. With the green ... all about: 介词短语作状语, 表示“让步”。意思是: “尽管头上有绿叶的沙沙声, 四处有街道上的叫喊声。” with: *prep.* 虽有, 尽管。
5. 关系副词引导定语从句, 修饰 nook; all at my ease: 非常自在地。
6. the new and old 指 the new books and the old books。
7. For a jolly good book ... than gold: 因为有一本极其有益的书可看, 对我来讲要胜过金子。for: *conj.* 因为; jolly [*jɔ:li*]: *adv.* [口]非常地 whereon to look = to look whereon: 可在上面看的, whereon: (关系副词)在那上面, 整个不定式短语 to look whereon 作 book 的定语; to me: 对我来说。

6 KNOWLEDGE

A young man came to Socrates¹ to say, “I want knowledge.”

“How badly do you want?²”

“I must.³”

And Socrates took him to the beach⁴ and waded out up to their necks⁵ and pushed the other under the water

in a ferocious struggle⁴. When they were surfaced,⁷ Socrates asked, "What did you want the most?"

"Air. I wanted air!"

"When you want knowledge like you wanted air under water, then you will get it."⁸

题 注:

求知要如饥似渴。

注 释:

1. Socrates ['sɒkrətiːz] (公元前470—399): 苏格拉底, 古希腊哲学家。
2. How badly ... want: 你需要知识到什么地步呢? want 后省略了 knowledge.
3. I must: 我非要不可。
4. beach [bi:tʃ]: n. 海滩。
5. waded ... their necks: 涉水走开去, 直至海水淹到他们的颈部。
6. in a ferocious struggle: 极其费劲地; ferocious [fə'rouʃəs]: *adj.* 凶猛的, [口]十分强烈的。
7. when they were surfaced: 当他们露出水面时。
8. When you want ... you will get it: 当你需要知识就象你在水下需要空气一样时, 你就会得到知识。

7 THE FLIGHT OF TIME¹

Swift² the moments fly away,

First the hour and then the day;

Next the week, the month, the year
Go away and disappear.

Time is always on the wing³,
When I speak, or think, or sing;
When I work, or sleep, or play,
Time is flying fast away.

题 注:

光阴如箭,一去不复返。

注 释:

1. The Flight of Time: 光阴飞逝。
2. swift [swift]: *ad.* 迅速地。
3. be on the wing: 在飞行中。

8 THE SEASONS

Spring is gay with¹ flower and song,
Summer is hot and the days are long,
Autumn is rich with² fruit and grain,
Winter brings snow and the New Year again.

题 注:

四季景色如画。