

吴小英 宋贤序 编写
刘 静

新编初中英语 阅读 精选

21 世纪中学生英语 **文库**

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前 言

随着我国改革开放形势的发展,广大的青少年及家长们都知道英语非常有用,迫切希望尽快掌握好这一门工具,为今后的学习和工作创造良好的条件。

英语是一门实践性很强的学科。英语学习有它自身的规律。要想学好英语,不仅要学词和语法,更重要的是让学习者接触大量的语言材料,经过充分的语言操练,才能使他们具备较好的语言能力,也就是英语的理解和表达能力。任何“捷径”、“突击”和“速成”都只可能是一种不现实的愿望。英语学习必须是循序渐进的和全方位的,既要学习英语的语音、词汇和语法知识,又要接受听、说、读、写各方面的训练。《21世纪中学生英语文库》正是基于这一前提而为中学生编写的涉及英语学习各个环节的参考丛书,它们包括英语阅读、语法、常用词用法、说话和写作等各个方面。这些参考书既为读者提供了有益的学习材料,同时又指导学习者遵循英语学习的规律,用正确的方法去学习,以期达到事半功倍的效果。这些参考书是对现用教材的补充,也是对校内英语学习的一种辅助和促进。希望这一套丛书能帮助中学生在英语学习方面打好扎实的基础,以利于将来的深造和熟练掌握英语。

陈锡麟

2000年3月

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Passage 1

Try to solve the following puzzles with a *partner*¹.

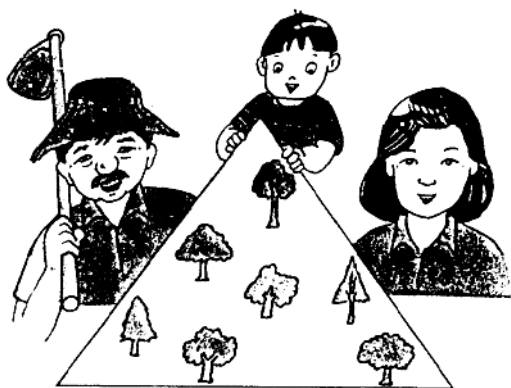
Row², Row, Row Your Boat

This is the well-known puzzle about a boat and two boys, Jim and John. A group of soldiers were near the river bank and they had no way of crossing the river. They saw the two boys rowing a boat which could only carry the two boys or one soldier. The soldiers managed to cross the river with this boat. How did they do it?



Divide the Land

Seven families want to live on the same piece of land. Each family wants to *occupy*³ land with a tree on it. Divide the land into seven parts with one tree in each part by drawing only three lines.

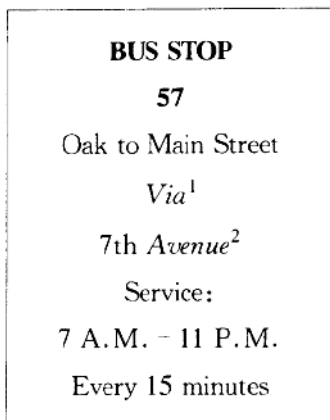


Notes:

1. partner /'pɑ:tnə/ *n.* 伙伴
2. row /rəu/ *v.* 划船
3. occupy /'ɒkjʊpaɪ/ *vt.* 占有

Passage 2

You can find this sign at a bus stop. Read it carefully and answer the questions below.



Notes:

1. via /¹vai/ *prep.* 经由
2. avenue /¹ævinju:/ *n.* 大街

Exercise :

Answer the questions:

1. What is the number of the bus?
2. Where does it begin?
3. Where does it end?
4. Does the bus go along 7th Avenue?
5. How often does the bus come?
6. Can John get this bus at 1:00 in the morning?

Passage 3

In an English village not far from London, Oliver and twenty other poor children lived in an *orphan's*¹ home. They had their meals in a large stone hall. The boys were always hungry, because the master gave them only one small plate of soup. The master and his two assistants stood with *solemn*² faces near the table and watched the frightened children. Sometimes Oliver felt so sad and frightened that he wanted to run away. However, the master never gave him a chance of escape. Later, Oliver did leave the home which he had hated.

Notes:

1. orphan /'ɔ:fən/ *n.* 孤儿
2. solemn /'sələm/ *adj.* 严肃的

Exercise:

True or False:

- ___ 1. Oliver was a boy without parents.
- ___ 2. Oliver had his meals in a house made of wood.
- ___ 3. The master of the orphan's home was very kind to the children.

- ___ 4. Oliver ran away from the home because he was afraid of the bad master and his assistants.
- ___ 5. Oliver and other children lived a hard life in the orphan's home.

Passage 4

Insurance

Gilbert works for a large computer company and he has medical *insurance*¹. When he has a medical problem, he goes to a doctor. He gets a *checkup*² every three years. With his medical insurance, the company pays the bills. Gilbert's friend, Doug, works at a small gas station. He doesn't have medical insurance. When he feels sick, he waits. He doesn't go to a doctor. He goes to a health clinic only when it is necessary. He doesn't get any checkups.

Notes:

1. insurance /in'ʃʊərəns/ *n.* 保险
2. checkup /'tʃekʌp/ *n.* 检查

Exercise:

Answer the questions:

1. Where do Gilbert and Doug work?
2. Who has medical insurance?
3. Who pays Gilbert's medical bills?

4. What does Gilbert do when he has a medical problem?
5. What does Doug do when he has a medical problem?
6. When does Doug go to a health clinic?
7. Why does Doug have no medical insurance?