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编 者 的 话

本书是一本大学公共英语（文科）教学的辅助材料，供大专院校文科学生及广大英语爱好者自学使用。希望本书能有助于加强读者的阅读实践，并提高直接阅读英语书刊的能力。

本书所选文章，共分两部分。前一部分是短篇故事，基本上按语言的深浅难易编排；后一部分则是有关政治、法律和历史学科的文章，读者可结合所学专业选读。由于所选文章均为原著，希望读者以分析的眼光指导自己的阅读实践。

本书对原文中出现的一些较难的词句作了适当的译注和语法分析，还简要介绍了有助于理解原文的某些政治历史背景，以供读者参考。

本书特请北京大学英语系陈瑞兰先生审阅，专此致谢。

由于水平有限，书中难免存在错误和缺点，恳请读者批评指正。

CONTENTS

1.	The Old Man and the Sea.....	(1)
2.	Scarface	(5)
3.	A Kind Deed.....	(9)
4.	Ah Soon	(12)
5.	Beethoven... ..	(17)
6.	The Story of the Bath.....	(20)
7.	The Time Grandfather Tickled a Tiger.....	(24)
8.	Napoleon's Questions.....	(29)
9.	A Day in the Jungle.....	(34)
10.	The View from the Twenty-eighth Floor	(41)
11.	Growing Up with Grandma.....	(49)
12.	Mama and the Roomer.....	(56)
13.	A Brave Man Saves His Family.....	(64)
14.	How I Lost Four Ounces in Three Weeks	(70)
15.	Getaway.....	(79)
16.	The Hunter Who Wanted Air.....	(88)
17.	The Light of a Torch.....	(95)
18.	A Sad Legend.....	(102)
19.	Adventure on the Railway.....	(106)
20.	Anansi's Fishing Expedition.....	(112)
21.	Terror in the Night.....	(124)
22.	The Lost Gold Piece.....	(128)

23.	My Father Goes to Court.....	(133)
24.	Telephone Emergency.....	(142)
25.	Freedom Comes Again.....	(153)
26.	The Snake in the Sleeping Bag.....	(159)
27.	Fire	(165)

* * *

28.	The World and the Greeks and Romans	(174)
29.	Chinese in America.....	(182)
30.	Political Parties in the United States.....	(191)
31.	Crisis of Confidence.....	(202)
32.	The Constant Core of Criminal Law.....	(209)
33.	The Nature of Deterrence.....	(222)
34.	Two-Party Politics in Britain.....	(236)
35.	The Creation (Sources) of International Law	(247)
36.	The Character of the Formative Process	(276)
37.	West Africa and the Atlantic Slave-trade	(292)
38.	The Age of European Penetration.....	(307)
39.	The Coming of the Second World War	(342)
40.	The American Revolution.....	(374)
41.	The Declaration of Independence.....	(401)
	Vocabulary	(414)

1. The Old Man and the Sea

By Ernest Hemingway ①

On the coast of Cuba lived an old fisherman. ② He was thin and had many deep lines in the back of his neck. His skin was very brown, and his hands were marked by pulling heavy fish at the end of ropes. ③ But all these marks were old. Every part of him seemed old except his eyes. These were cheerful and the same colour as the sea. ④

For eighty-four days the old man did not catch any fish. People said that he was unlucky. But the old man still loved the sea. He was still strong and a good fisherman. On the eighty-fifth day the old man sailed farther out to sea than any of the other boats. ⑤ He sailed to where the water was very deep. ⑥ Then he felt his fishing-line ⑦ being pulled gently by a big fish which was swimming very deep in the water.

The fish was so powerful that ⑧ it pulled the boat after it. It took the small boat far out to sea ⑨. The old man could no longer see the land.

'Fish,' he said softly, aloud, 'I'll stay with you until I am dead.'

The old man pulled the line a little tighter, but

he did not dare to pull it suddenly. The fish might jump and escape.^⑩ Or it might dive down into the sea and pull the boat after it. But the fish was strong and brave. It pulled the boat on and on.

When the fish rose at last to the top of the water, the old man saw that it was two feet longer than his boat. The old man had seen many great fish, but this one was the greatest fish he had ever seen.^⑪ It was also the most beautiful.

On the morning of the third day, the end came. Tired and full of pain, the old man threw his harpoon into the heart of the great fish. The fish rose high out of the water, showing all its power and beauty. The next moment it was dead.

Slowly and painfully, the old man tied the fish to the side of the boat^⑫. Then he turned back and sailed towards the distant shore.^⑬ He sailed well and he looked often at the huge fish.

Then the first shark came. The old man killed it, but he lost his harpoon and all his rope. Two hours later two more sharks came. The old man fought them with his oar and his knife. Then he used a stick. Then the tiller. But he knew he was beaten.^⑭ When he sailed into the little harbour and pulled his boat on shore, no fish was left.^⑮ Only the giant white backbone.^⑯

The next morning the fishermen in the village

gathered round the small boat. They measured the big bone of the fish. It was eighteen feet long. 'What a fish it was,' someone said, 'There has never been such a fish.'

【注】

1. "The Old Man and the Sea" 是驰名全世界的美国作家海明威 (Ernest Hemingway, 1899-1961) 在1952年发表的作品, 描写一个老渔夫和鲨鱼搏斗的故事。作者在1954年获诺贝尔文学奖。
2. On the coast of Cuba lived an old fisherman.
古巴海岸有个老渔夫。
这是倒装句; 主语是an old fisherman.
3. were marked by pulling heavy fish at the end of ropes 留有拉绳梢拖大鱼的痕迹
表示数量时, fish 的复数形式和单数形式一样。
4. These were cheerful and the same colour as the sea.
眼睛的颜色和大海的一样, 而且流露出欢乐的神色。
these 是指他的眼睛。
5. On the eighty-fifth day the old man sailed farther out to sea than any of the other boats.
在第八十五天, 老人驾船出海走得比其他任何一条船都远。
6. He sailed to where the water was very deep.

他航行到海水很深的地方。

where the water was very deep 是介词to的宾语从句。

7. fishing-line 钓鱼线

8. so...that 如此...以至于

9. far out to sea 到大海的远处

10. The fish might jump and escape.

这鱼可能会蹦起来，逃脫而去。

11. the greatest fish he had ever seen 他所见过的最大的鱼

he had ever seen 是修饰 fish 的定语从句，
关系代词 that 被省略。

12. the side of the boat 舷侧

13. the distant shore 遥远的海岸

14. But he knew he was beaten.

但是他知道他打败了。

15. ..., no fish was left.

鱼肉已被吃得精光。

这句中的 fish 指鱼肉。

16. Only the giant white backbone (was left) .

只剩下白色的巨大的脊骨。

省略了 was left.

2. Scarface

By Margaret Tailfeather

Once there lived in an Indian village a young man named Scarface. He was named this because he had a big scar on his cheek and nobody liked him because of it.

One day the chief of that tribe announced that he could not find his twelve-year-old son. He said that whoever found him would marry his lovely daughter.^①

Scarface had always loved the girl, but he had never spoken to her because he thought she would treat him like all the rest of the people did; so he never tried to speak to her. But now he thought he'd try and look for the boy.^② So he started out on his quest.^③

He went to the village of their enemies that evening. When he arrived there, they were having a ceremonial dance. He went up to a hill and waited there until they had all gone to bed. Then he crept down^④ quietly and went to the chief's lodge.

He stood outside and listened. He could hear somebody moaning faintly.^⑤ It sounded like a little boy. He sneaked into^⑥ the lodge quietly and there,

tied to a pole, was the little boy. He took him down without any trouble. He put him on his back and took him out of the lodge.

Just as he was going out of the village an old woman saw him and woke some of the people in the nearby lodges with her screaming. A whole bunch of them chased after Scarface. They caught him and took him to the chief's lodge.

Scarface told the chief he had come to get the little boy. The chief told him that before he could go home with the boy he would have to do something for him. He said he would put seven skulls on the ground, and if Scarface could jump from one to the other without slipping, with the boy on his back, he would be able to go home safely with the boy. But if he couldn't do this, they would both be killed.

The chief led Scarface to the place where the skulls were. He then told him to put the boy on his back and leap from skull to skull. ⑦

Scarface bent down and pretended he was fixing the boy's shoe. While doing this he spat in two places on the ground and rubbed his feet on them. This made a thick coating of dirt on his moccasins. ⑧ He then put the boy on his back and stepped on the first skull. He leaped from it to the second, and so on, without slipping.

When he had finished this he was allowed to take the boy home to his father and mother.⑥

He took the boy home and as they were going over the hill Scarface saw somebody running to him.

As the figure came closer, he recognized it. It was the boy's sister. First she ran to her brother and kissed him, then she turned to Scarface and kissed him also.

The very next day they were happily married. They were also given a place to stay.

【注】

1. ...whoever found him would marry his lovely daughter.

谁找到他，谁就能娶他那可爱的女儿。

whoever found him是主语从句。

2. ...he'd try and look for the boy.

他愿意试试看，去找这男孩。

3. start out on his quest 开始进行寻找

4. creep down 潜行而下

5. moaning faintly 有气无力地呜咽着

6. sneak into 偷偷地走进…

7. leap from skull to skull 从一个头颅跳到另一个头颅上

8. This made a thick coating of dirt on his moccasins.

这使他的软皮鞋粘上了很厚的一层泥土。

9. ...he was allowed to take the boy home
to his father and mother.

允许他把孩子领回家，送还给他的双亲。

3. A Kind Deed

By Marguerite Lees

As Sara hurried down the railway platform there was a sudden commotion near her. A child had trapped its hand when the carriage door swung to^① and was screaming with pain and fright while the mother and the granny and a friendly porter clustered round, not knowing what to do for the best.

Sara hesitated a moment, then put down her luggage. She was shy and it took courage to go to the little group and offer help. They quickly stood aside for the tall fair girl in the pretty green shower-proof coat.^② She had a look at the trapped hand.

"The skin is dented and bruised but the fingers move freely, so I don't think any bones are broken. The best thing is just to bathe it gently and keep it covered. I'm afraid this nail will go black^③, though.^④ If it hurts a lot, please take her to the doctor. You see, he can easily relieve the pressure under the nail^⑤ and it makes the finger comfortable at once. Perhaps we could use a clean hankie as a bandage now."

The granny brought out a large one scented with verbena and Sara tied it on gently. As soon as the

hand was covered up, the child's sobs grew less. The mother said thankfully: "How lucky we were to find a nurse on the spot! "

"I'm a medical student," said Sara. Then an uncomfortable sort of honesty, which gave her a prod in the ribs whenever she felt like boasting, made her add^⑥: "This is my first day. But my father is a doctor and I've often seen him treat injuries like this."

The granny nodded and smiled. "You have good hands, my dear, and you can keep your head.^⑦ You'll make a doctor^⑧."

"If these were the only qualifications!" thought Sara, who had five long years of study ahead. But she would treasure the old lady's words as a lift for low moments.^⑨

【注】

1. swing to ...关上了
2. shower-proof coat 风雨衣
3. go black 发紫
4. ..., though. though在作副词用时, 解释为“不过, 可是”。
5. You see, he can easily relieve the pressure under the nail ...
你知道, 他能很容易地解除指甲下的压力。
6. Then an uncomfortable sort of honesty,

which gave her a prod in the ribs whenever she felt like boasting, made her add: ...

接着，每当她感到自己在夸耀时就产生的那种令人不安的诚实感，促使她补充了几句：...
give someone a prod in the ribs 用手指捅某人肋骨，促其注意

7. ...and you can keep your head. ...你能保持镇静。

8. You'll make a doctor.
你会成为一名医生的。

9. But she would treasure the old lady's words as a lift for low moment.

但是她会老夫人的这番话，作为在情绪低落时的一种鼓励而珍惜地铭记着。

4. Ah Soon^①

By Henry Lawson

I don't know whether a story about a Chinese will please my readers. I don't even care. Like most Australians I would rather not^② have too many Chinese here. Lands with mixed races always have trouble. But even here a man can have Chinese friends.

I have known many Chinese, and I can tell you their good qualities. They are always honest. They always pay any money that they owe. If you are kind to them, they never forget it. And if someone is in trouble, they will try to help him.

I want to tell you about one Chinese that I knew. He was old and ugly, and his face always wore an anxious look. He travelled around with a horse and cart, and he sold vegetables. His name was painted on the cart, AH SOON.

The horse was old and it moved slowly. Ah Soon was kind to it. He never hit it so as to make it go faster.^③ He and his horse liked to travel calmly, but they always arrived.

He came to our house every Monday and Friday. We liked him very much. I was only a boy

then, and I helped my father on the farm.

One year, when the harvest was bad, Ah Soon had a field of useless vegetables. 'You can't eat them,' he said to my father. 'But your cows can, if they are hungry. Come and take them at any time.'

We went to his place and we met his son, Ah See.^④ He was a quiet, clever boy with a happy smile. Most Chinese boys are like that.

Ah See was a year older than me. He spoke a little English but he didn't go to school. I did, so I was able to help him. We met quite often after that. I taught him about pounds and ounces, and I taught him to keep accounts^⑤.

One day they were near our house when an accident happened. A wheel went into soft ground, and the cart fell over. Part of it fell on Ah Soon. He was seriously hurt.

My father and I ran and helped Ah See to raise the cart. Together we pulled it on to firm ground. Meanwhile my mother took care of Ah Soon. She made him comfortable in the back of the cart, with blankets and pillows. Then my father drove the cart to hospital.

On the way, Ah Soon kept saying^⑥ 'Thank you' and 'I'm all right' and 'I'll see you next Friday'. But we never saw him again.

Neighbours told us later that Ah See had gone