

注译本

英语阅读丛书

● 王玉琨 主编

(第四册)

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东北师范大学出版社

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前 言

《英语阅读丛书》以美国引进的《English Reading Laboratory IV B》为蓝本，结合我国英语学习者的实际，精选了120篇，分为六册。每课后有阅读理解及词汇练习，配生词表和注释。每册之后配全部课文的参考译文。本书可供大学英语专业学生、函授及夜大学学生、非英语专业研究生、各类进修班及广大自学者使用。

本书所选文章深入浅出，通俗易懂。各课后所列生词的词义选择以在课文中使用的意义为主。注释主要包括难词、难句和背景知识。为了帮助读者准确理解，注释中还附加了示例。译文力求忠实于原文，以直译为主，旨在方便读者深入理解原文。

本书体裁、题材新颖多样，语言地道规范；系统性、科学性、知识性和趣味性均强。全书选文的内容广泛，名人传略轶事、科普科幻，应有尽有；政治、历史、地理、宗教、文化、风俗习惯等，无所不包。对于扩大词汇量，拓宽知识面，培养阅读技能与技巧，提高阅读速度与理解能力，都有极大裨益。

本书由东北师范大学外语系王玉琨主持编写。参加注释的有薛永库和赵俊峰。参加翻译的有何善康、张绍杰、宫立都、符延军、王玉琨、范春荷、张跃东。全部注释及译文由王玉琨整理、修改并定稿。

由于编者水平有限，加之时间仓促，疏漏及谬误之处难免，恳请广大读者不吝赐教。

编 者

1989年10月

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Abalone Spells Adventure

by Roy L. Abbott

1 To most people, snail hunting sounds neither fascinating nor dangerous, but it can be both—if the quarry is the abalone. This huge, slow moving snail is a highly prized catch for which men take great risks. Many a husky young skin diver or professional snail hunter has met with injury or death in hunting the creature.

2 The abalone (pronounced as a short *a* plus *baloney*) is a mollusk. It has a soft body protected by a shell. It is a giant among the snails of the world; a very large specimen may be eighteen inches long and half that in breadth. It glides over the surface of ocean rocks, sliding on its broad, fleshy foot, feeding as it moves. It uses its filelike tongue to scrape bits of seaweed or tiny green plants from the slippery rocks. A big abalone spends a great deal of time merely finding enough food to sustain its bulk.

3 The abalone is found in only two areas of the ocean; along the western coast of the United States, and from Japan to the Philippines. The deep, chilly waters of rocky shores apparently suit it best. There the abalone develops from an egg and goes through a sort of infancy. Like the young of all species, it has many natural enemies; it may be devoured by wide-mouthed ocean bullheads, bottom-feedingskates, or that terrible enemy of many small mollusks, the oyster drill. This tiny pest, a snail ~~in~~ itself, crawls on top of the infant abalone, and uses its filelike tongue to drill a hole through its victim's thin shell. It then sucks out the substance of the abalone's soft body.

4 The young abalone is so vulnerable that it is protected by California law. It may not be hunted legitimately until it has reached a length of seven inches. Divers usually carry a pair of calipers with which to measure abalones about whose length there is some doubt.

5 Once the abalone has reached the seven-inch length, its shell has become so hard that the oyster drill cannot harm it, nor can any other sea creature. Besides its hard shell, the soft-bodied abalone has another protective device. It can cling to a boulder indefinitely, for its muscular foot never seems to tire, and it can always get plenty of oxygen into its gills by drawing water through the row of holes that rim its heavy shell. An abalone attached in such a manner is extremely hard to remove. Even large dredges, dragging the ocean bottom for shellfish, will slip over it without breaking its grip. Men who go beneath

the surface of the ocean to hunt the abalone usually go armed with a tire iron to pry it loose.

6 Only a foolhardy diver will try to snatch up a slow-moving abalone with his bare hands. Its clamping reflex may be faster than he is. There are all sorts of stories about divers getting their fingers caught beneath a big abalone's shell and being held under water until they drowned. A well-known scientist recently wrote that many abalone hunters carry a knife with which to cut off trapped fingers should the abalone prove to be too fast. Most stories about the dangerous nature of the abalone, however, are fictitious; in itself it is generally harmless. The great hazards to those who dive for the mighty mollusk are the sea and its other inhabitants.

7 The commercial abalone hunter does his hunting between twenty and one hundred feet beneath the surface. Usually he has full diver's equipment—helmet, air hose, weights for his feet, and a telephone for communication with assistants in a boat above him. Plodding along on the ocean bottom through a jungle of seaweed and slippery rocks, he finds abalones of legal size as rapidly as he can, flips them over with his prying iron, and tosses them into a sack anchored by a rope to the boat above. When he has filled his bag, he phones the assistants in the boat, and they haul it to the surface. However, if the diver is in deep water, he himself cannot be hauled up immediately; he must come to the surface slowly in order to allow his body to adjust to the change in pressure. A too rapid rise might kill him.

8 While the diver is on the bottom, he must keep constant watch for ugly moray eels, stingrays, sharks, and octopuses. His assistants in the boat above must also keep a sharp lookout for that most dreaded of ocean's creatures, the killer whale.

9 This fearful beast sometimes measures twenty feet in length. It can swim with great speed and can cut a man in two with a single bite. Killer whales are surface cruisers, usually showing a huge dark fin cutting the water. Because of this, they can be sighted at a considerable distance, and their approach is a hurry-up signal for the diver to surface. Now and then, in spite of all precautions, a diver is killed by one of these creatures. More than one abalone hunter has given up his job after a close call in a killer-whale attack.

10 Why do men risk their lives in pursuit of a mollusk? The commercial diver does it for a living; it is a difficult job, but a profitable one. Hard as it is for inlanders to understand, the abalone is considered a delicacy by some who live on the coast, and snail steaks command a high price in California markets. Nearly a thousand tons of these mollusks are collected every year—an impressive figure when you consider that the commercial diver does a big day's work when he bags only fifty or sixty abalones.

11 For the amateur skin diver, the motives are different. For him the greatest fascination of abalone hunting probably lies in its challenge as a sport. Hunting for abalone is an excellent test of diving skill, and California laws make it more difficult still by demanding that no abalones be taken from waters less than ten feet deep. For some

skin divers, the abalone shell is the real prize. The inside of it is marvelously colored in an amazing arrangement of red, blue, orange, and green. To those who love beauty, the abalone shell is a genuine treasure, and well worth the trouble of getting it.

12 The hunt is dangerous, but to the divers who pursue the abalone, whatever their reasons, the mighty mollusk is reward enough for the risks they take and the dangers they face.

HOW WELL DID YOU READ?

What did the writer say?

1. The creature most feared by the abalone diver is the
 - A abalone
 - B killer whale
 - C stingray
2. Abalone hunting is profitable because
 - A a hunter can collect hundreds of abalones in a day
 - B abalone is a universally popular food
 - C abalone steak is expensive
3. Amateur skin divers who hunt abalones are primarily interested in
 - A profit
 - B sport
 - C science
4. Being held under water by an abalone is
 - A a likelihood all divers face
 - B the result of a foolish action
 - C an event that never really occurs
5. Legal restrictions in California make abalone collecting
 - A more difficult for skin divers
 - B safer for amateurs
 - C more profitable for commercial divers

What reasons were given?

6. A full-grown abalone is safe from the oyster drill because
 - A it can cling to the rocks
 - B it is protected by its shell
 - C sea creatures fear its size
7. The killer whale is dangerous to a diver because
 - A its approach cannot be detected
 - B it forces him to remain under water
 - C it is large and fast

Can you draw the right inferences?

8. The abalone is probably safest when it
 - A is still an infant
 - B measures not quite seven inches
 - C reaches its maximum growth
9. California laws forbid removal of small abalones in order to
 - A make abalone hunting more challenging
 - B stimulate demand for abalone as food
 - C prevent abalones from becoming extinct
10. The abalone is considered a delicacy by
 - A most people who live near the ocean
 - B those who have seldom seen one
 - C those who live where it is hunted

LEARN ABOUT WORDS

- A. Often you can tell the meaning of a word from its context—the words around it.

Directions: Find the word in the paragraph that

means.

1. a thing that is hunted(1)
2. valued; cherished(1)
3. one individual used as an example(2)
4. open to attack(4)
5. for an unspecified period of time(5)
6. not true; made up(6)
7. think about(10)
8. hunt; go after(12)

B. A word may have more than one meaning. Its meaning depends on the way it is used.

Directions: Decide which meaning fits the word as it is used in the paragraph. Write the letter that stands before the meaning you choose.

9. broad(2)
 - A wide
 - B tolerant
 - C clear; open
10. sustain(2)
 - A support from below
 - B encourage
 - C keep in existence
11. natural(3)
 - A uncultivated
 - B instinctive; by nature
 - C realistic
12. full(7)
 - A plump; round
 - B complete
 - C loose; flowing
13. constant(8)
 - A faithful
 - B uninterrupted
 - C unswerving

NEW WORDS

abalone¹[动] 决明
spell vt. 招致, 意味
quarry¹[kwəri] 猎物, 追求物

hus'ky 强健的
mol'lusk 软体动物
flesh'y 胖的, 肉的
fide'like 锉刀似的
sustain' 支撑; 供养
bulk 巨大的体积
in'fancy 幼年期
bull'head 大头鱼
skate 鳐鱼
oys'ter 牡蛎
drill 海蜗牛
pest 害虫
in'fant 未成年者
suck 吸, 吮
vul'nerable 易受……损害的
legit'imately 合法地, 按法律
cal'ipers(pl.) 卡钳, 测量器
cling 粘着
gill 呼吸器
rim vt. 作……的边
dredge 捞网
fool'hardy 莽撞的, 蛮干的
clamp 夹, 钳
reflex' 反射作用, 反射能力
plod 沉重缓慢地走
flip over 翻
mor'ay 海鳗
sting'ray 海鳐鱼
killer whale 逆戟鲸
cruiser['kru:zə] 巡洋舰
fin 鱼翅
precaution['pri:kə:ʃən] 预防
a close call 侥幸脱险
in'lander (生长在)内地的人
del'icacy 精美的食物
steak[steik] 大块肉, 大块鱼
command vt. 应行, 博得

NOTES

1. (标题) Abalone Spells Adventure spell 意为
“bring about, mean” 如:
Perseverance spells success.
(只要功夫深,铁棒磨成针。)
2. (1. 3) for which men take great risks.
take (or run) great risks for (or of): 冒大风
险 如:
He took great risks for crossing the river in such
a bad weather.
(在这样恶劣的天气,他是冒大风险横渡过
河的。)
3. (2. 3) It glides over ... as it moves.
a. sliding ... foot 和 feeding as it moves 均是现
在分词短语,作伴随情况状语。
b. on = depending on
4. (3. 6) on top of = on the top of: 在 ... 之
上; 在 ... 上面
5. (5. 7) Men who go ... to pry it loose.
a. 不定式短语 to hunt the abalone 是目的状
语
b. 过去分词短语 armed with ... loose 作伴随
情况状语,修饰 go。
c. it loose 作 pry 的复合宾语
6. (6. 5) should the abalone prove to be too fast = if
the abalone should prove to be too fast
7. (7. 9) to adjust to the change in pressure
adjust to: 适应于 如:

You must adjust to the conditions there as soon
as possible.

(你要尽早地适应那里的环境。)

8. (8. 1) keep constant watch for: 时刻提防
如:

We must keep constant watch for the surprised
attack by the enemy.

(我们要时刻提防敌人的偷袭。)

9. (8. 2) keep (or take) a sharp look-out for: 注意
戒备

10. (9. 3) because of, owing to 和 due to 详见第
2 册第 6 课注 2。

11. (9. 6) a close call: 幸免, 死里逃生

Owing to your selfish spirit, I lived a close
call.

(由于你的无畏精神,我才死里逃生。)

12. (10. 2) Hard as it is = Though it is hard

13. (11. 1) skin diver: 不穿潜水服而只带面罩、
紧身衣、橡皮脚掌等潜泳者

14. (11. 3) by demanding that no abalones be
taken

由于动名词 demanding 的要求, that 从句的
语气是虚拟的, should 在句中省略了。

15. (11. 7) and well worth the trouble

a. worth 的用法详见第 1 册第 19 课注 1。

b. well 是副词, 此处意为“相当, 很” 如:

“Is that book good?”

“Yes, it's well worth reading.”

(“那本书好吗?”

“当然啦, 很值得读。”)

SURPRISING FACTS ABOUT MEN WHO TRAMP THE OPEN ROAD

The World of the Wanderer

by Erwin Van Swol

1 You may think that the shabby wanderer who comes to the back door for a handout
has no place in society. Actually he belongs to a society of his own. It is a fellowship with
its own customs, educational system, community centers, and even its own language. It
was this basis of the wanderer's life, this hobo code of the road, that first aroused my
interest in the men who use it.

2 One morning I watched as my neighbor came down the highway and turned into my
barn road. To my surprise, he stopped near barn and studied something for a moment. As
he neared the house, he laughed loudly and shouted, "How do you like feeding every bum
in the vicinity?"

3 I conceded that we had been feeding an unusually large number of hungry tramps
and hobos lately. Times must be getting harder, I explained, for most of the men who
came to our door said that they couldn't find work anywhere.

4 "It's not hard times that brings them here," grinned my neighbor. "You've got a
sign on your barn advertising that your wife has a soft heart and falls for a hard-luck
story."

5 "What sign?" Naturally I was startled, and I demanded that he explain. Still
laughing a little, he beckoned me toward the barn and showed me the sign scrawled there.
It was just a crude chalk drawing of a fat cat and some triangles, the kind any
kindergarten child might produce, but my neighbor assured me that for all the hobos and
tramps who came by, the cryptic symbols were clear. They indicated that any passerby
could probably get a handout here. The cat meant "kind woman"; the triangles could be
translated as "A sob story will win a handout." One of our first "guests" had left this
message for those who followed him.

That incident was my introduction to the secret hobo code, and it started me doing
some fascinating research. I found that the hobo code is an extremely simple one. It uses
neither numbers nor letters; all the code symbols are rough drawings that look like a

child's first efforts with a crayon. A circle, for instance, means "Nothing doing -- no handouts here"; two lines pointing upward mean "The sky is the limit -- the people here are generous indeed." The simple symbols are quite incomprehensible to persons who have not been taught the code, but they are immediately understood by hobos everywhere. The hobo picture language is an old code and one that is worldwide. It was probably brought to the United States from Europe at least a hundred years ago. Old-timer sin the hobo jungles, or camps, teach it to the young punks -- those who are new on the road. For all the men who regularly tramp the roads, the code is an almost indispensable tool for living.

7 Most people use the terms *hobo*, *tramp*, and *bum* interchangeably to describe any wanderer who asks for a handout. Actually, although all three types of men may follow the roads, there are differences between them. St. John Tucker, former president of the Hobo College in Chicago, defines the hobo as a "migratory worker," the tramp as a "migratory nonworker." Another authority, Dr. Ben L. Reitman, makes just about the same distinction. He says, "The hobo works and wanders, the tramp dreams and wanders, and the bum drinks and wanders." Both agree that the hobo differs from the tramp and the bum principally in that he is actually a worker. He may not remain in any one place for long, but he earns most of his living legitimately.

8 There are many reasons why a man may become a hobo. Hard times or seasonal unemployment may force unskilled workers to take to the roads in search of jobs. Low mentality, physical handicaps, or old age may make steady work impossible for some men. Discrimination because of race, color, or creed may be an obstacle for others. Many men who become hobos are unable to hold a steady job because of severe personality problems, alcoholism, drug addiction, or simply the inability to get along with others. Then there are some -- and they are numerous -- who tramp the roads because of an overwhelming wanderlust, or restlessness.

9 When offered his choice of two jobs, the hobo will usually head for the one farthest from where he is. He does serve society in his travels; many industries, including lumbering, mining, and agriculture, make use of him during their busy seasons. Furthermore, whenever a catastrophe occurs -- fire, flood, or earthquake -- the hobo is on call for work. He constantly seeks variety of experience, something to brag about back in the jungles where he joins his fellows at night.

10 One of the basic appeals of the hobo camp is the fact that here the rover can brag about, and magnify, his exploits for his peers. The camp is usually located in a secluded spot near the railroad tracks at the edge of town. It is the hobo's service center, the place where he can eat the community mulligan stew, wash his clothes, sleep, and exchange travel and job information on easy towns and hard cops.

11 The camp also serves as a school for those who are learning to beg when they want to, work when they must, and pilfer when they can. At one time these knights of the road had a secret grip, a handshake that consisted of pressing the thumbnail in the back of the

other fellow's hand; if he were a hobo, he would respond by grasping the middle and index fingers in return. Another way a hobo could identify himself to a kindred roamer was to scratch his chin with his right hand and then pull his right ear. The other hobo's sign of recognition was a clenched fist placed over the heart. If a policeman or some other enemy was approaching, one hobo could signal another by pressing the back of his head with either hand and then putting the back of that hand to his mouth.

12 These rituals are no longer in general use among the hobos; they are not often taught in the hobo jungles today. In the new, streamlined "curriculum," effort is concentrated on teaching the novice (be he hobo, tramp, or bum) the secret code signs of the road.

13 In most ways, however, the private world of the wanderer remains the same. His code, his camps, his nature change but little. He goes from town to town searching for handouts, jobs, adventure, and excitement. He seeks the ever changing scenery of the road.

curriculum

What did the writer say?

HOW WELL DID YOU READ?

What was the writer's source?

1. Most of the writer's information for this article probably came from
 - A a helpful neighbor
 - B research in books
 - C talks with hobos

Do you remember the important points?

2. The fat cat drawn on the writer's barn meant
 - A "The food is good here."
 - B "A kind woman lives here."
 - C "There is work available here."
3. The hobo code signs look like
 - A Indian sign language
 - B letters
 - C kindergarten drawings
4. The written code of the hobo is becoming
 - A more important
 - B more carefully guarded from outsiders
 - C a much greater part of the hobo jungle

5. Many men might not become hobos if

- A free food were provided for them
- B more skilled jobs were available
- C personality problems were solved

6. The main thing the hobo seeks in the jungle is

- A adventure
- B companionship
- C information

7. A hobo leaves a written sign in order to

- A help other hobos
- B show where he has been
- C teach younger hobos

How well do you reason?

8. Hobos and tramps are alike in that they both

- A refuse to work
- B prefer solitude
- C are restless

9. The writer thinks that the hobo is

- A usually a burden to society
- B sometimes a useful citizen

- C often a man to be envied
10. The writer intended this article to
- A provide interesting information
- B teach readers the hobo code
- C make people aware of a social problem

- C regular; continuous
13. general (12) A common; widespread
- B lacking in detail
- C not specialized

LEARN ABOUT WORDS

- A. Often you can tell the meaning of a word from its context—the words around it.

Directions: Find the word in the paragraph that means

1. gift of food or clothing (1)
2. summoned (5)
3. secret; mysterious (5)
4. essential; necessary (6)
5. wandering; nomadic (7)
6. calamity; disaster (9)
7. isolated; remote (10)
8. steal (11)

- B. A word may have more than one meaning. Its meaning depends on the way it is used.

Directions: Decide which meaning fits the word as it is used in the paragraph. Write the letter that stands before the meaning you choose.

9. sign (5)

A gesture; motion

B mark; symbol

C omen; portent
10. first (6)

A earliest

B of best quality

C most important
11. authority (7)

A one with special knowledge

B government official

C power; influence
12. steady (8)

A firm; unshakable

B calm; controlled

NEW WORDS

wanderer 漫游者,流浪汉

tramp 流浪;游民

shab' by 衣衫破旧的

hand' out 施舍物

ho' bo 流动工人,流浪汉

bum 游民

fall for [俚]受……的骗

bec' kon v. 召唤

scrawl[skrɔ:l] 潦草地写

cryptic 秘密的,神秘的

cray' on 蜡笔;颜色铅笔

gen' erous 慷慨的

old-timer 老前辈

punk 小流氓

indispens' able 必不可少的

mi' gratory 迁移的

take to 开始

mental' ity 智力

discrimina' tion 歧视

creed 信仰

al' coholism 酒精中毒

drug addic' tion 吸毒成瘾

overwhelming 势不可挡的

wanderlust 漫游癖

lum' ber 伐木

catas' trophe 大灾难

on call 随叫随到

brag about 吹牛

ro' ver 流浪者

ex' poit 功绩,辉煌成就

peer 同等的人

seclude' 使隐蔽

mul' ligan 烩什锦

stew[stju:] 炖过的食物
 pil'fer 小偷小摸·偷窃
 knight[nait] 骑士
 kin'dred 宗族;同种的
 clench 握紧(拳头)
 ritual[ri'tjuəl] 仪式
 steam'lined 现代化了的
 nov'ice 新手

NOTES

- (标题)the wanderer: 英语中, 名词单数前加定冠词, 可表示一类人; who tramp the open road = who follow the roads wandering
- (1. 2)in society 和 he belongs to a society
 in society 中, society 意为“社会”, 不可数; he belongs to a society 中, society 意为“组织, 团体”, 可数。
- (1. 4)It was this basis ... who use it
 a. “It”是强调的 it;
 b. this basis if the wanderer's life = this hobo code of the road; this hobo code of the road 可看作是同位语, 对 this basis 作进一步解释。
- (2. 2)How do you like feeding every bum in the vicinity?
 a. like doing 和 like to do 前者表示习惯性动作, 经常的爱好; 后者表示一次动作, 一时的爱好。
 b. vicinity = neighbourhood 前者比后者更邻近。
- (4. 2)and falls for a hardluck story, fall for ...
 [口]受骗; 被……迷住了 如:
 I fell for his explanation.
 (我轻信了他的解释。)
- (5. 1)and I demanded that he explain 详见上课注 14。
- (5. 2)It was just ... were clear.
 the kind ... might produce 是插入成分, 对 drawing 加以说明。

- for all the hobos and tramps = as far as the hobos and tramps were concerned
- (6. 1) That incident ... some fascinating research.
 a. That incident 指上文中谈及的内容;
 b. started me doing ... 引起我做……
 如:
 This news started me thinking.
 (这消息引起了我的思考。)
 - (7. 2)wanderer, hobo, tramp, bum 这四个词都作“流浪者”解, 不同之点:
 wanderer: 是最一般, 最常用的词。凡是无目的的到处漫游者, 都可用这个词。
 hobo: 流动工人, 谋生。
 tramp: 游民, 梦生。
 bum: 三, 醉生。
 - (7. 8)in that he is actually a worker
 that 是连词, 引出的名词性从句, 作介词 in 的宾语。
 - (9. 1)when offered his choice of two jobs = when he is offered his choice of two jobs.
 - (9. 4)on call; [美]随时待命 如:
 I'm on call for the place the Party asks to.
 (我随时准备奔赴党需要我的地方。)
 - (9. 5)back in the jungles = when he is back in the camps
 - (10. 2)his exploits for his peers = his excellent deeds for his fellow-travellers
 - (11. 2)pilfer, steal, rob, snatch
 这四个动词都有“偷”的意思。不同之点:
 steal: 是最一般, 最常用的词。凡是不经本人同意, 非法拿别人的东西的行为, 都可用这个词。
 pilfer: 小偷小摸, 扒窃
 snatch: 突然, 迅速地偷偷摸摸
 - (12. 3)the novice = the young punk or the greenhand; be he hobo, tramp or bum = whether he may be a hobo, or tramp or bum
 - (13. 2)but little = only little

Two Loaves of Bread

by O. Henry

1 Miss Martha Meacham kept the little bakery on the corner (the one where you go up three steps, and the bell tinkles when you open the door).

2 Miss Martha was forty, her bankbook showed a credit of two thousand dollars, and she possessed two false teeth and a sympathetic heart. Many people have married whose chances to do so were much inferior to Miss Martha's.

3 Two or three times a week she received a customer in whom she began to take an interest. He was a middle-aged man wearing spectacles and a brown beard trimmed to a careful point. He spoke English with a strong German accent. His clothes were worn and darned in places, and wrinkled and baggy in others, but he looked neat and had very good manners. He always bought two loaves of stale bread—fresh bread was five cents a loaf and stale ones were two for five. Never did he call for anything but stale bread.

4 On one occasion, Miss Martha noticed a red and brown stain on his fingers and decided that he was a struggling artist. No doubt he lived in a garret, where he painted pictures and ate stale bread and thought of the good things to eat in Miss Martha's bakery. Her sympathetic heart beat faster at the picture. In order to test her theory as to his occupation, Miss Martha brought from her room one day a painting that she had purchased at a sale and set it conspicuously against the shelves behind the bread counter. It was a Venetian scene, with a perfectly splendid marble *palazzo* and a lady in a gondola trailing her hand in the water. No artist could fail to notice it.

5 Two days afterward the customer came in again, and he did notice the picture. "You haf here a fine bicture, madame."

6 "Yes?" said Miss Martha, reveling in her own cunning while wrapping the stale loaves. "I do so admire art and paintings...you think it is a good picture?"

7 "Der balance," said the customer, "is not in good drawing. Der bairspective of it is not true. Goot morning, madame."

8 He took the stale bread, bowed politely, and hurried out; Miss Martha carried the picture back to her room. How gentle and kindly his eyes shone behind his spectacles! To be able to judge perspective at a glance—and to live on stale bread! But Miss Martha realized

that,unfortunate though it is, genius often has to struggle before it is recognized.

9 Following that incident, the gentle-mannered artist (for so she thought of him now) would chat for a while. He continued to order the stale bread—never a cake, never a pie, never one of the other delicious pastries in the showcase. He was beginning to look thinner and very discouraged. Miss Martha became concerned; her sympathetic heart ached to add some delicacy to his meager purchase, but her courage failed. She did not dare affront him, for she understood the pride of artists.

10 Miss Martha took to wearing her blue-dotted silk waist behind the counter. One day the customer came in as usual, laid his nickel on the showcase, and called for his stale loaves. While Miss Martha was reaching for them there was a great tooting and clanging, and a fire engine came lumbering past.

11 The kindly customer hurried to the door to look, as anyone will. Struck with sudden inspiration, Miss Martha seized the occasion so opportunely offered. On the bottom shelf behind the counter was a pond of fresh butter left by the dairyman minutes before. With a bread knife Miss Martha quickly made a deep slash in each of the stale loaves, inserted a generous quantity of butter, and pressed the loaves tight again. When the gentleman turned back to the counter, she was tying the paper around them as usual.

12 When he had gone, after an unusually pleasant little chat, Miss Martha smiled to herself. She was pleased with her daring and generous impulse, but her heart was fluttering in anxiety. Had she been too bold? Would he take offense? Surely he would not; there was no language of edibles, and butter was no emblem of unmaidenly forwardness.

13 For a long time that day her mind dwelt on the imagined scene when he should discover her little deception. Probably he would lay down his brushes and palette and stand by his easel with the picture he was painting—the perspective, of course, would be beyond criticism. Then he would prepare for his luncheon of dry bread and water; he would slice into the loaf—ah! Miss Martha blushed at the thought. Would he think of the hand that placed it there as he ate? Would he...

14 The front door bell jangled viciously, interrupting the delightful speculations. Miss Martha sighed and hurried to the front, because somebody was making a great deal of noise. One was a young man smoking a pipe (she had never seen him before), and the other was the kindly, poverty-stricken artist for whom her sympathetic heart had interceded only this morning.

15 He did not look or act like his usual self—his face was very red, his hat was on the back of his head, his hair was wildly rumpled. He clenched his fists tightly and shook them ferociously at Miss Martha. At Miss Martha!

16 "Dummkopf!" he shouted with extreme loudness. He made a bass drum of Miss Martha's counter. "You haf shpoilt me," he cried, his blue eyes blazing angrily behind his spectacles. "I vill tell you, you vas von meddingsome old cat!"