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英文阅读与精练

丛书

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希腊神话精选

Greek Myths and Legends

John Den 浩瀚 编

● 世界名著英文

阅读与精练丛书 ●

希腊神话精选

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《世界名著英文阅读与精练丛书》

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前 言

随着我国经济文化与世界的接轨,英语交流变得越来越重要,如何熟练掌握和运用英语,早已成为众多英语学习者迫切希望解决的问题,尤其是对于广大青少年学生,常感到学英语无从下手。其实,学习任何一种语言,最重要、最关键的一环就是阅读,英语也不例外。在每年一度的高考中,阅读理解所占的比重已高达30%以上,因此提高阅读理解能力不容忽视。但是由于各方面的原因,许多读者一时很难找到适合自己的英文读物,或是没有足够的时间去阅读大量复杂繁长的英文著作。针对这种情况,我们策划编写了这套《世界名著英文阅读与精练丛书》。希望这套丛书能使读者在最短的时间内获得最显著的学习效果,快速提高阅读理解能力,扩大知识面,增强语感。

当然,阅读作品必须精选,只有选读高质量的作品才能收到高质量的效果,而这套《世界名著英文阅读与精练丛书》收录了8种近年来在国内普遍受欢迎的国外经典英文著作简易本,其中有《简·爱》、《远大前程》、《双城记》、《名利场》、《格林童话》、《伊索寓言》、《天方夜谭》、《希腊神话精选》等。该丛书浅显易懂,语言精美,每册每章都配备一定的练习题,使读者在阅读时不感到吃力、乏味,也不像读消遣读物那样浪费时间,令读者在轻松的环境中领略经典著作的魅力,在不知不觉中提高阅读理解能力。相信读者在读过、练过之后,定会对自己突飞猛进的英语阅读理解水平大感惊异!

本《丛书》主要是为广大在校的青少年学生以及有中等水平的

英语学习者设计编写的,是广大青少年学生提高阅读能力,拓宽知识面的最佳课外读物。此外,本《丛书》也可供中学教师作为课外阅读辅导材料。对于大学生或研究生来说,也不失为一套极佳的英文读物。

编 者

2001 年 12 月

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HEROES OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

♣ CHAPTER 1

How Theseus Undertook a Perilous Journey

The tali ships **rode at anchor**^① in the harbour of Troezen, and soft wind blew from the land, ready to bear King Aegeus back to his home in Athens; but still he lingered on the shore, walking **to and fro**^② with his lovely wife Aethra, who clasped their infant son in her arms. Aethra was a princess of Troezen, and in that city Aegeus had wooed and married her. Why he could not also take her back with him to his own country, no man has been able to explain. The old story tells us that Aegeus was forced to depart alone; and before going on board he **steeled him-**

① **ride at anchor:** *float and be held by the anchor.* 停泊, 抛锚。此短语中动词还可用 *lie, be*。anchor *n.* 锚, 锚状物。

② **to and fro:** *forwards and backwards or from one side to the other.* 来回地, 往复地。通常用作副词, 在句中作状语。

self to^③ take a sorrowful leave of his wife and child.

"You must know," he said to Aethra, "that all my life I have wished that the gods would bless me with a son, and at last my wish has been granted; so I would have you **rear**^④ him carefully, as **befits**^⑤ a warrior and the son of a king."

Then, as he and Aethra paced the shore, Aegeus paused before a huge rock, **stooping**^⑥ down, he exerted his great strength to roll it aside and reveal a hollow space beneath it. Taking off his sandals and **unbuckling**^⑦ his jewelled sword, he placed them in the hollow. Afterwards he rolled back the rock to its former position.

"When my son has grown to manhood, and is strong enough to raise that rock," continued Aegeus, "you must bring him to this place, and let him discover for himself the sword and the sandals. Then, but not until then, you may tell him the name of his father, and send him out to seek me."

Aegeus hastily **embraced**^⑧ his wife and son, and without a backward glance he departed to his ship. But lovely Aethra stood in tears, watching the whi-

③ **steel** *vt.* 使冷酷。 **steel oneself to do sth.** 硬起心肠做某事, 与 **harden oneself enough to do sth.** 意义相同。

④ **rear** *vt.* *to care for until fully grown.* 抚养(人), 饲养(动物)。如: **to rear a large family** 抚养许多孩子; **rear children** 抚养孩子。

⑤ **befit** *vt.* 适合, 适宜, 为……所应做的。与 **to be proper** 或 **be suitable to** 同义。

⑥ **stoop** *vi.* 俯身, 弯腰。 **stoop down** 弯下腰。与 **bend down** 同义。

⑦ **unbuckle** *vt.* 解开……的扣子(或带扣)。与 **undo** 同义。

⑧ **embrace** *vt.* *to take and hold in the arms as a sign of love.* 拥抱, 抱。与 **hold** 意义相近。

te sails as they dipped down to the **horizon**^⑨. Her life had been passed **amid**^⑩ **gaiety**^⑪ and music; and now, alone with the surge on the shore, she knew for the first time how **desolate**^⑫ a story is told by the breaking seas.

Years passed, and the boy Theseus grew steadily in strength and beauty. When he reached the age of sixteen, his mother led him to the spot on the seashore where she and her husband had said farewell.

"Now, my son," she **commanded**^⑬ him, "raise this rock, and take out from the hollow beneath it whatever you find there."

The youth rolled aside the rock with ease, and brought from the hollow the sword and the sandals which Aegeus had hidden.

"Those sandals and that sword," continued his mother, "**belonged to**^⑭ your father, Aegeus of Athens." Then she told Theseus the story of her marriage and of his birth, and the whole secret that she had kept for so long. "And you must go forth," said she. "Your father commanded that you should leave Troezen and cross the sea to Athens,

⑨ **horizon** *n.* 地平线。

⑩ **amid** *prep.* 在其中, 在……之中。也写作 *amidst*, 与 *in the middle of*, *among* 同义, 是正式用语。

⑪ **gaiety** *n.* the state of being *cheerful*. 快乐, 高兴。与 *cheerfulness* 同义。

⑫ **desolate** *a.* 孤寂的, 凄凉的。与 *sad*, *lonely* 同义。

⑬ **command** *vt.* to tell (sb.) to do sth. 命令。与 *order* 同义。

⑭ **belong to** : to be property of. 属于。该词组只有主动式。

there to make yourself known to him.”“I will go forth to meet my father,” replied the youth. “But I will not cross the sea, for the way by sea is too safe and certain. I will take the dangerous road by land, and by the time my journey is ended I shall have proved myself worthy to be called Aegeus’s son.”

Aethra tried for a long time to **turn aside the youth from**^⑮ this **enterprise**^⑯, for the road between Troezen and Athens was **perilous**^⑰ for travellers. But Theseus was determined, and very soon he had taken leave of his mother and had set forth on his way.

Before he left home, Theseus had heard men speak of the giant Periphetes, who had his dwelling not far from Troezen. Periphetes was the son of Vulcan, the smithgod, and Vulcan had **fashioned**^⑱ for his son a gigantic iron club, covered with **sharp spikes**^⑲. Men said that from dawn to sunset Periphetes stood, club in hand, **astride**^⑳ the narrow roadway, waiting for travellers to approach.

So after the youth had gone a mile or so, he was **not in the least**^㉑ surprised

⑮ **turn aside sb. from...**

使某人在……上改变主意。**turn aside**: 使改变方向, 使偏离……

⑯ **enterprise** *n.* (新的, 艰难的) 计划, 事业。与

plan 同义。

⑰ **perilous** *a.* 危险的, 冒

险的。与 *dangerous* 或 *risky* 同义, 是比较正式

的用法。

⑱ **fashion** *vt.* (通常指用

手把……做成……形状) 制造, 制成。与 *shape* 或 *make* 同义, 是比较正式的用语。

⑲ **sharp spikes**: 锋利的尖

钉。**spike** *n.* 尖钉, 钉状物。

㉑ **astride** *prep. & ad.*

with a leg on each side (of). 两脚分开着, 跨着。

㉑ **not in the least**: 丝毫也

不, 一点也不。与 *not at all* 同义。in the least: 一点, 丝毫。

to see this giant **barring** ② the roadway at a little distance from him. Theseus merely grasped his sword in readiness and moved steadily on, watching with keen eye for a chance to strike. He did not pause till he was only a few paces from the giant. Periphetes immediately swung his huge weapon; but Theseus leapt aside, and the club thundered to the ground and awoke the echoes among the rocks. Before the giant could again raise his club, Theseus sprang quickly in and **dealt** ③ him a fatal wound.

"My adventures are well begun," thought Theseus, as he stepped up to where the giant lay, and removed the club from his dead grasp. "I have now a weapon to help me in my **encounters** ④ with other enemies." Saying this he **re-sumed** ⑤ his road and travelled for some time, finding food and shelter where he could.

It was not until he approached the Isthmus of Corinth that he found another chance of showing his strength and courage. As he journeyed he was met by an old man, who warned him that he must go no further. "For not far from this place," said the old man, "the giant Si-

② **bar** *vt.* 阻挡, 拦住。与 **block** 同义。

③ **deal** *vt.* 给予, 打击。与 **give**, **strike** 同义, 但比 **strike** 正式。例: **This battle dealt the enemy hard blows.** 这一仗狠狠地打击了敌人。 **She dealt him a blow on the side of his face.** 她打了他一耳光。

④ **encounter** *n.* a sudden meeting, usu. either unexpected or dangerous. 遭遇, 遇到。与 **meeting** 同义。例: **an unpleasant encounter with a dangerous snake** 同一条毒蛇的一次令人厌恶的遭遇。

⑤ **resume** *vt.* to begin again after a pause. 重新开始, 继续。与 **continue** 意义相近, 但用法有所不同。例: **resume one's work** 恢复工作。