



What A Life!

精彩人生—传奇人物故事 1

Milada Broukal





京权图字: 01-2002-4792

图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

精彩人生 第1册:传奇人物故事/(美)布鲁卡 (Broukal, M.)著.

北京:中国电力出版社,2002.9

(朗文快捷英语丛书・阅读)

ISBN 7-80125-810-X

I. 精… Ⅱ. 布… Ⅲ. 英语-语言读物, 故事 Ⅳ. H319.4: I

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字(2002)第072474号

Authorized translation from the English language edition, What a life! : Stories of Amazing People, Beginning, by Milada Broukal, published by Addison Wesley Longman, Inc. 2000

ENGLISH/SIMPLIFIED CHINESE language edition jointly published by PEARSON EDUCATION NORTH ASIA LTD. and CHINA ELECTRIC POWER PRESS

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精彩人生——传奇人物故事1

著: (美) Milada Broukal

责任编辑:王惠娟

出版发行:中国电力出版社

社 址:北京市西城区三里河路6号(100044)

聞 址: http://www.cepp.com.cn

印 刷:北京地矿印刷厂

开 本: 850毫米×1168毫米 1/16

印 张: 6.75

版 次: 2002年9月第1版 2002年9月第1次印

印 数:00001-15000册

书 号: ISBN 7-80125-810-X

定 价: 17.80元

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出版者的话

新的中学英语课程标准(实验稿)不仅对中学生的语言知识和语言技能提出了更高的要求,而且把包括情感态度、学习策略和文化意识等素养在内的全面提高作为英语学习的根本目标。越来越多的教师和学生都意识到,在英语的教与学中,除了始终强调实践的重要性之外,还需要以多种形式培养兴趣和信心,锻炼意志和个性。在我们引进《朗文快捷英语教程》口语系列图书后,广大读者反映,当前与之配套、有益于拓展跨文化交际能力的英语阅读材料在市场上较难找到。为此,我们精选并引进了这套原文包含3册的传记类系列读物《精彩人生——传奇人物故事》。这套书有三个特点。

第一,文化视野宽阔。全书共收录近70位传奇人物的事迹,他们的人生经历、个性风貌 迥异,但都对世界的进步作出了重要贡献。这些原汁原味、经过长短取舍的英文传略,不仅 可以让读者从语言学习的角度品味文章精华,还可以从历史、世界的角度汲取文化营养。

第二,梯级递进合理。根据文选的长度和难度,这套书按3分册编排,其三个级别为Beginning, High Beginning和Intermediate,可以满足不同程度的读者的需求。例如,第1册的24 篇文选每篇为300多个单词,根据我们对该册所选注的约350个词语的分析,其中属于高中需要掌握的词语和超出新课程标准的词语为200个左右,即对初中学生来讲,生词率保持在3%以下。该册可供与初中学生程度相当的读者使用。第2、第3册在文章的长度和词语的难度上都是递进的,可供高中生、上公共英语课的大学低年级学生及与之水平相当的读者使用。

第三,兼顾了课堂学练与自学提高的要求。这套书收录的数十篇文选为读者提供了丰富的英语泛读材料,各单元以文选为中心所配备的单词释义、文章理解、问题讨论、写作训练等系统练习,则满足了学习者课内外的精读需求。使用这套书的读者还会发现,虽然各篇文选独立成章,但作者刻意让较生僻的词语在前后连接的单元中重复出现,这样学习者就可以在科学的指导下轻松地体会到学用合一的成就感。

《英语世界》杂志执行主编高峰先生等对这套书的出版给予了巨大的支持,在百忙之中为全书各篇文选中的关键词语作了注释,并给出了每篇文选的参考译文,在此特致谢忱。在征求了多方面的意见后,我们把3册书的生词短语注释、参考译文和练习答案独立汇编成一册《<精彩人生>注译参考》,以满足教师和不同读者群的需要。

我们盼望得到广大读者的使用意见和建议,让《朗文快捷英语丛书》在推动英语学习与 普及中发挥更大的作用。

> 中国电力出版社世纪东方外语部 2002年9月

作者前言

《精彩人生——传奇人物故事》属于初、中级英语读物,这套包含3册的人物传记系列读物是为英语为第二语言或外语的学生编写的。第1分册选入24位人物(12位女性,12位男性)的传略,第2分册选入24位人物(12位女性,12位男性)。他们的背景、经历和才能都很不一样,但无论是19世纪俄罗斯的作曲家,非洲裔的美国拳王,还是年轻的中国美术家,都对世界作出了卓越的贡献。

每一单元围绕一位人物的传略编写,各册书中的传记按人物诞生时间的先后顺序排列。不过, 在讲授中可以视情况而采用任何顺序。

每一单元包括:

- •阅读前导
- •阅读文选 (3册的各篇分别长约300-350、650-700和1100-1200单词)
- •词语精练
- •理解练习(包括组对练习)
- •问题讨论
- •写作练习

阅读前导 每一单元以所述传奇人物的图片为开篇,其后附有若干读前问答题,目的在于激发学生的阅读兴趣,鼓励学生对阅读内容作猜测,在可能的情况下还让学生与自己的亲身经历相联系。如有必要,此时可给出文中的有关词语。

阅读文选 学生首先应通过个人略读来了解内容梗概,此时教师可对文中的黑体词语作讲解。然后学生应进行更细致的第二次阅读。更深入的阅读可配合以大声的朗读。

词语精练 两套词语练习的重点都针对文选中的黑体词语:词义练习,这是一组定义题,目的是鼓励学生根据上下文来理解词语的意思;应用练习,是为了进一步巩固文中的黑体词语,其方式是让学生在意义明确而可能出现的不同的上下文中使用它们。这一部分可以在阅读文选阶段或其后进行操练,也可以贯串于这两个阶段。

理解练习 每单元包含的练习有理解内容、记忆细节或推断,其后接练习还有掌握顺序或完成句子。以上练习都是为了从整体或细节方面巩固对课文内容的把握,这些培养阅读技能的练习可以由学生独立完成,也可以通过组对、分小组或由全班来完成。由于这些练习并不是专门用来测试记忆能力的,所以最好是结合课文来完成它们。如果练习是掌握顺序,则其后续练习是讲述故事;如果练习是完成句子,则其后续练习是听写。两种后续练习都需要学生组对口头练习,这时学生可以相互纠正出现的错误。

问题讨论 鼓励学生对与每篇阅读相关联的话题表达自己的观点和联想,还可以对不同文化之间的异同表达看法。

写作练习 鼓励学生写出描述自己生活的简单语句,教师在决定是否改正学生的写作练习时应该注意到每个人的具体情况。《精彩人生》是对历史上最有传奇色彩的一部分人物的精彩介绍。教师还可以借助其他相关书籍、杂志、报纸和音像资料作为课堂讨论的辅助材料。此外,还有许多很好的网站可供选用,下面列出了其中的三个。各网站拥有非常丰富的资料,漫游和浏览也十分简便,无论对学生还是对教师、它们都是权佳的资源。

www.encarta.com——属于一般的网上在线百科全书。

www.biography.com——属于专门介绍人物传记的网站。

www.pathfinder.com/time/time100.com——专门介绍《时代》杂志选出的"20世纪百位最重要人物"的传记。本书中的部分人物,如科学家爱因斯坦、艺术家毕加索、索尼公司的创始人盛田昭夫、《安妮日记》的作者安妮·法兰克、拳王阿里、球王贝利、戴安娜王妃等,都在"20世纪百位最重要人物"之列。

INTRODUCTION

What A Life! Stories of Amazing People is a beginning reader. It is the first in a three-book series of biographies for students of English as a second or foreign language. Twenty-five people have been selected for this book: 12 women and 12 men. Their backgrounds and talents are very different, ranging from a nineteenth-century Russian composer, to an African American boxing champion, to a young Chinese artist. All of them have made significant contributions to the world.

Each unit focuses on one person's biography. The biographies have been arranged in chronological order; however, they can be taught in any order.

Each unit contains:

- A prereading activity
- A reading passage (300-350 words)
- Topic-related vocabulary work
- · Comprehension exercises, including pair work
- · Discussion questions
- A writing activity

BEFORE YOU READ opens with a picture of the person featured in that unit. Prereading questions follow. Their purpose is to motivate students to read, encourage predictions about the content of the reading, and involve the students' own experiences when possible. Vocabulary can be presented as the need arises.

The **READING** passage should be first done individually, by skimming for the general content. The teacher may wish to explain the bolded vocabulary words at this point. The students should then do a second, closer reading. Further reading(s) can be done aloud.

The two **VOCABULARY** exercises focus on the bolded words in the reading. *Meaning*, a definition exercise, encourages students to work out the meanings from the context. The second exercise, *Use*, reinforces the vocabulary further by making students use the words in a meaningful, yet possibly different, context. This section can be done during or after the reading phase, or both.

There are several **COMPREHENSION** exercises. Each

unit contains Understanding the Reading and Remembering Details. These are followed by either Understanding the Sequence or Sentence Completion. All confirm the content of the text either in general or in detail. These exercises for developing reading skills can be done individually. in pairs, in small groups, or as a class. It is preferable to do these exercises in conjunction with the text, since they are not meant to test memory. Understanding the Sequence is followed by Tell the Story, and Sentence Completion is followed by Dictation. Both exercises involve spoken pair work. In each case, students can correct each other's mistakes.

DISCUSSION questions encourage students to bring their own ideas and imagination to the related topics in each reading. They can also provide insights into cultural similarities and differences.

WRITING provides the stimulus for students to write simple sentences about their own lives. Teachers should use their own discretion when deciding whether or not to correct the writing exercises.

What A Life! is an exciting introduction to some of history's most amazing people. Teachers may want to support their discussions with other books, magazine and newspaper articles, or videos. There are also many good websites, three of which are listed below. These sites are very informative, yet easy to navigate. They will be excellent resources for students and teachers alike.

www.encarta.com is a general, online encyclopedia.

<u>www.biography.com</u> is a website that specializes in biographies.

www.pathfinder.com/time/time100.com features profiles of *Time* magazine's choices for the "100 Most Important People of the 20th Century." Several of the people in this book—Albert Einstein, Pablo Picasso, Akio Morita, Anne Frank, Muhammad Ali, Pelé, and Princess Diana—were among those that were chosen.

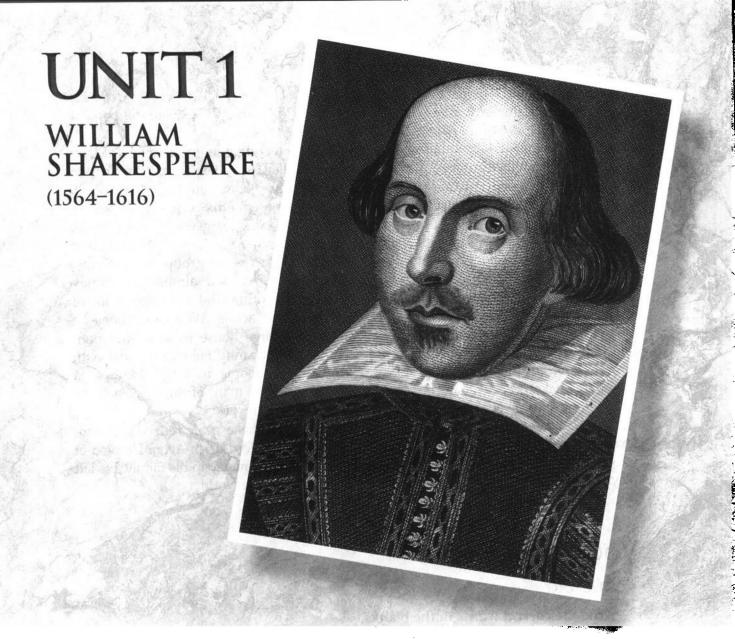
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BEFORE YOU READ

William Shakespeare was a very famous writer. What do you know about him? Are these sentences true? Check (1) Yes or No.

THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF

| 1. | Shakespeare was American. | O Yes | O No |
|----|------------------------------------|-------|------|
| | Shakespeare wrote poems and plays. | O Yes | O No |
| | He was an actor. | O Yes | O No |
| | His plays are still popular today. | O Yes | O No |

Now read about William Shakespeare and check your answers.

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

At the age of one, William Shakespeare was **lucky** to be alive. After he was born, a deadly **disease** came to England. It was called the plague. It killed thousands of people. But William Shakespeare lived.

Shakespeare grew up in Stratford-upon-Avon, England. He went to school nine hours a day, six days a week. In 1582, at age 18, he married Anne Hathaway, a farmer's daughter. She was eight years older than he was. Their first child was a daughter. Later they had **twins.** In 1585, Shakespeare left Stratford-upon-Avon. His wife and children stayed behind. No one knows why he left or what he did between 1585 and 1592.

In 1592, Shakespeare lived in London. He rented rooms or lived with friends. He visited his wife and family once a year. Shakespeare became an actor, and he also wrote **plays**. He usually acted in his own plays. Some of his most famous plays were

Romeo and Juliet, Hamlet, and Macbeth. He wrote 37 plays in all. They are still popular today.

Then the plague came again. Many people died. The theaters closed for two years. Shakespeare could not write plays, so he wrote **poems**. When the theaters opened, Shakespeare wrote plays again. Shakespeare had a theater group. It was the most successful group of that time. Shakespeare earned almost no money from his writing. But he made a lot of money from acting. With this money he bought a large house in Stratford-upon-Avon for his family. He was friendly with the richest people in town. He was a gentleman—a man of high class who didn't have to work.

At age 49, Shakespeare **retired** and went to live in Stratford-upon-Avon. He died at 52. He left his money to his family. He left his **genius** to the world.

VOCABULARY

◆ MEANING

Write the correct words in the blanks.

| dise | ease | twins | plays | lucky | |
|------|------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|
| reti | red | genius | poems | | |
| 1. ' | William Shal Iucky | kespeare had goo | od fortune. Other bal | bies died, but he did not. He v | vas |
| 2. | The plague | _ was a terrible _ | It was | s a sickness that passed fron | 1 |
| | one person | to another. | | | |
| 3. 9 | Shakespeare | e wrote | , and he and | his friends acted in them at | the |
| | theater. | | | | |
| 4. | Shakespeare | wrote very wel | l. He had a special a | ability. He was a | <u></u> . |
| 5. | Shakespeare | e got older. He s | stopped working a | nd | |

| 6. | Shakespeare's wife had two children born at the same time. She had |
|------|---|
| 7. | Shakespeare wrote about ideas and emotions. The writing had short and few words. He wrote |
| US | SE . |
| W | ork with a partner to answer these questions. Use complete sentences. |
| 1. | What is your lucky number? |
| 2. ' | The plague is a disease. What are two other diseases? |
| 3. | Hamlet is a play. What is the name of another famous play? |
| 4. | Who do you think is a <i>genius?</i> |
| 5. | What do twins have that is the same? |
| 6. | What does a person do when he or she retires? |
| | MPREHENSION |
| UI | NDERSTANDING THE READING |
| Ci | rcle the letter of the correct answer. |
| | Shakespeare worked |
| | a. in Stratford-upon-Avon b. in London c. near his family |
| | When the theaters closed, Shakespeare a. wrote plays b. started a theater group c. wrote poems |
| 3. | Shakespeare made his money from his |
| | a. acting b. poems c. plays |
| R | EMEMBERING DETAILS |
| R | eread the passage and answer the questions. |
| 1. | At what age did Shakespeare marry? |
| 2 | Where did Shakespeare's family live? |

- 3. How many plays did Shakespeare write?
- 4. What are two plays that Shakespeare wrote?
- 5. Where did Shakespeare go when he retired?
- 6. Who did he leave his money to?

lines

| • | UNDERSTANDING THE SEQUENCE |
|----------|---|
| | Which happened first? Write 1 on the line. Which happened second? Write 2 on the line. |
| | 1 There was a plague in England William Shakespeare was born. |
| | 2 Shakespeare had twins Shakespeare had a daughter. |
| | 3 Shakespeare went to London Shakespeare married. |
| | 4 Shakespeare bought a large house in Stratford-upon-Avon Shakespeare retired. |
| • | TELL THE STORY |
| | Work with a partner. Tell the story of William Shakespeare to your partner. Use your own words. Your partner can ask you questions about the story. Then, your partner tells you the story and you ask questions. |
| Γ | Discussion |
| | Discuss the answers to these questions with your classmates. |
| | 1. Do you know any of Shakespeare's plays? Which one(s)? |
| | 2. Why do you think Shakespeare's plays have been popular for over 400 years |
| | 3. Do you want to be an actor or actress? Why or why not? |
| V | Vriting |
| | Write about a movie you saw. |
| | Example: I saw a movie. The name of the movie was Titanic. It was about a famous ship. |
| | Example. I saw a movie. The hante of the movie was Ittaliae. It was about a famous simp. |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

UNIT 2 **LOUIS XIV** (1638-1715)

BEFORE YOU READ

Louis XIV was a famous French king. What do you know about kings and queens? Answer the questions with a partner.

- 1. How does a person become a king or queen?
- 2. Do any countries have kings or queens today?
- 3. What do you think of when you think of a king or queen?

THE ORDER OF THE PERSON OF THE PERSON

4. Look at the picture of Louis XIV. What can you say about him?

Now read about Louis XIV.

LOUIS XIV

Louis became King of France at the age of five when his father died. In the beginning, he was too young to **rule**, so his mother helped him. Then at age 17, Louis ruled the country alone. He was king for 72 years. France became a **powerful** country with Louis as king. But Louis lived a life of **luxury**, which made people angry.

Louis built a huge **palace** at Versailles, near Paris. It took 40 years to finish it. At one time, 36,000 people worked on building the palace. The palace cost so much money that Louis did not let people talk about it. The gardens of the palace had 1,400 **fountains**. The fountains used a lot of water so they worked for only three hours at a time.

The fountains used water, but Louis did not! He hated to wash. He took only three baths in his life. He washed only one part of his body—the **tip** of the nose. Everyone in the palace had to do what the king did, so people washed only their noses!

Louis XIV had other unusual rules. He liked to keep the windows open at the palace. He wanted dozens of people around him when he got dressed. Also, only the king and queen could sit on chairs with arms. Everybody else had to sit on chairs with no arms.

Louis had problems sleeping. People say that he had 413 beds. He went from one bed to another until he fell asleep. But he had a good **appetite.** A normal dinner for Louis was four bowls of soup, two whole chickens, ham, lamb, a salad, cakes, fruit, and hard-boiled eggs. He also drank a lot of champagne because his doctor told him to. He lived to be 77 years old. When he died, doctors said his stomach was two times the size of a normal stomach.

Louis XIV was not always popular, but he was an important king in the history of France. He was so important that he was called "the Sun King."

Vocabulary

◆ MEANING

Write the correct words in the blanks.

| rule | powerful | luxury | parace | |
|---------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|------|
| fountains | appetite | tip | | |
| 1. Louis XIV | V built a very large | house called Versa | ailles. It was a beautiful | |
| | · | _ | | |
| 2. A king's | job is to | his country. | | |
| 3. When Lo | uis XIV was king, h | is country was ve | ry important. It was a | |
| | country. | | | |
| 4. Louis like | ed to have very exp | ensive things. The | ese things were not necess | ary. |
| He liked | • | | | |

- 5. Louis always ate big dinners. He had a good ______ 6. In a park, water often comes out of _____. 7. The end of your nose is the _____ of it. USE Work with a partner to answer these questions. Use complete sentences. 1. Who rules England today? 2. What comes out of a fountain? 3. Who are some people who live a life of *luxury*? 4. Who is a powerful person? 5. What is the name of a famous *palace*? Comprehension UNDERSTANDING THE READING Circle the letter of the correct answer. 1. Louis XIV was a famous king because _____ b. he washed only c. he built the palace a. he ate a lot of Versailles his nose 2. Louis XIV loved _____. b. a life of luxury c. baths a. beautiful beds 3. Louis XIV ruled _____ b. in England c. 36,000 people a. for a long time REMEMBERING DETAILS Reread the passage and answer the questions. 1. How long was Louis XIV king? 2. How old was Louis XIV when he ruled the country alone? 3. What was the name of Louis's palace?
 - 4. How many fountains were there in the gardens of the palace?
 - 5. What part of his body did Louis wash?
 - 6. In the palace, who sat on chairs with arms?

◆ SENTENCE COMPLETION

Match the words in Column A and Column B to make sentences.

| A | В |
|---|---|
| 1. Louis liked 2. Louis hated 3. Louis had 4. Louis didn't 5. Louis became king 6. Louis ruled the country alone | a. sleep well.b. a good appetite.c. to keep the windows open.d. when he was 17 years old.e. when he was five years old.f. to wash. |

◆ DICTATION

Work with a partner. Read four sentences from the exercise above. Your partner listens and writes the sentences. Then, your partner reads four sentences, and you write them.

Discussion

Discuss the answers to these questions with your classmates.

- 1. Long ago, people didn't take many baths or showers. How often should you wash? Once or twice a day? Once a week? Give reasons.
- 2. Louis had a lot of unusual rules about the way he lived. Do you know someone that has unusual rules? Describe them.
- 3. Would you like to live a life like Louis XIV? Why or why not?

Writing

| Write about what you eat on a normal day. | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|
| Example: In the morning I have toast and coffee for breakfast. | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | , | |



BEFORE YOU READ

Florence Nightingale was a famous nurse. What are three important qualities for a nurse? Discuss your answers with a partner.

A nurse should be:

clean

kind

educated

strong

rich

pretty

intelligent

polite

Now read about Florence Nightingale.