

MEI GUO MIN JIA DUAN PIAN XIAO SHUO

英漢對照·注釋本

美 國 名 家
短 篇 小 說
精 粹

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山西教育出版社



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劉 丹
王來慰 主編
張增武 校

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C. G. DRAPER 编

刘 舟 王来慰 注

张增武 校

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出版说明

近年来英语试卷中阅读理解的份量明显增加，学生如果没有熟练掌握阅读技巧，缺乏大量的阅读实践，则很难在限定时间内完成答卷。但是要培养快速阅读的习惯，也非一日之功。首先应该有较好的阅读材料，重视阅读技巧的训练。本书正是针对这方面的不足和需要而出版的。

本书是把英语作为外语（EFL）或第二语言（ESL）学习的系列读物。所选文章均为简写的美国家喻户晓脍炙人口的名家名作。故事优美，语言流畅，循序渐进，由浅入深，生词复现率高，重视阅读技巧的指导和训练，有明确的速度要求，确是一套有新意的阅读教材。我国学生的阅读速度普遍较慢，为此我们编译了这套材料，并对其中的语言难点作了注释，给出参考译文，译文一般以直译为主，力求简洁、达意。书后附有部分练习答案。由于我们水平所限，错误之处，请读者指正。

编译者

1988年5月

74760/06

TO THE READER

This book starts at the beginning-intermediate level. It ends at the intermediate level. The first story in the book will be easy for you. The stories become more difficult, and the last story is the most difficult. The vocabulary list for the first four stories has 600 words. The list for the last three stories has 1000 words. The longest sentences in the first stories have 10 words. In the last stories, they have 17 words. There is new grammar in each story.

By working on this book, you will improve your

- reading skills
- vocabulary
- knowledge of English grammar
- writing skills

If you work on the book in a class with other students, you'll also improve your speaking skills.

These stories were written in a more difficult form of America's most famous writers. You will read program. The materials can be used either in or out of class for pleasure reading, controlled discussion, vocabulary development, grammar reinforcement, writing practice, and of course the acquisition of reading skills.

The exercises are so designed that the student must often return to the text to check comprehension, grammar models, or vocabulary points. Further, each story is preceded by a brief biographical paragraph about the story's author, and the first reading skills exercise following the story (an exercise in skimming or scanning) often focuses the reader's attention on that paragraph. In short, a main objective of the book is to involve the reader deeply in the text of each story, and , toward that end, to present exercises that are difficult if not imprssible to complete without a thorough understanding of the text.

An answer key to the exercises is available from the publisher, Prentice — Hall, Inc. , Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632.

C. G. D.

TO THE TEACHER

Great American stories I consists of seven careful adaptations of famous stories by classic American writers, and exercises on each story in reading skills, vocabulary, grammar, and writing.

The book is both graded and progressive—that is, the vocabulary, grammar, and internal structure of the stories increase in difficulty from the first story (which is at the beginning — intermediate level of proficiency) to the last (which is at the intermediate level). Structural, lexical, and sentence — length controls have been used throughout the book. For example, the head — word list for the four stories contains 600 words, while that used for the final three contains 1000; maximum sentence length increases from 10 words in the first story to 18 in the last; and new grammatical structures are added story by story. Words from outside the head-word lists are introduced in a context that helps make

their meaning clear; they are used again within the next 100 words of text, and then repeated at least three more times before the end of the story.

The book as a whole is designed to be incorporated into a 10 — 12 week course in ESL or EFL as part of the reading about the writers' lives before you read their stories. After each story you will find

- 2 reading skills exercises
- 3 vocabulary and grammar exercises
- 1 writing exercise

Good luck, and good reading!

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THE GIFT OF THE MAGI

adapted from² the story by

O. Henry

O. Henry's real name was William Sydney Porter. He was born in Greensboro, North Carolina,³ in 1862. He left school at the age of fifteen and worked in many different places. He also spent three years in prison because he took money from a bank. He started to write stories while he was in prison. O. Henry is famous for his stories with surprise endings.⁴ "The Gift of the Magi" is perhaps his most famous story. It is from the book *The Four Million*, stories about the everyday people⁵ of New York City. O. Henry died in 1910.

Della counted her money three times. She had only one dollar and eighty-seven cents. That was all. And tomorrow would be Christmas. What Christmas gift could she buy with only one dollar and eighty-seven cents? Della lay down on the old bed and cried and cried.

Let's leave Della alone for a while and look at her home. The chairs and tables were old and poor. Outside there was a mailbox without mail,⁶ and a door without a doorbell.⁷ The name on the door said MR. JAMES DILLINGHAM YOUNG—Della's dear husband Jim.

Della knew that Jim would be home soon. She dried her eyes and stood up. She looked in the mirror. She began to comb her hair for Jim. She felt very sad. She wanted to buy Jim a Christmas gift—something good. But what could she do with one dollar and eighty-seven cents? She combed her hair in the mirror and thought. Suddenly she had an idea.

Now, Jim and Della had only two treasures.⁸ One was Jim's gold watch. The other was Della's hair. It was long and brown, and fell down her back. Della looked in the mirror a little longer. Her eyes were sad, but then she smiled. She put on her old brown coat and her hat. She ran out of the house and down the street. She stopped in front of a door which said, MME. SOPHRONIE. HAIR OF ALL KINDS. ⁹Madame Sophronie was fat and seemed too white. The store was dark.

"Will you buy my hair?" Della asked.

"I buy hair," said Madame. "Take off your hat. Let's see your hair."

Della's hair fell down like water. Mme. Sophronie lifted Della's hair with a heavy hand. ¹⁰"Twenty dollars," she said.

"Give me the money now!" said Della.

Ah! the next two hours flew past like summer wind. Della shopped in many stores for the right gift for Jim. Then she found it—a chain¹¹ for his gold watch. It was a good chain, strong and expensive. Della knew the chain would make Jim happy. Jim had a cheap chain for his watch, but this chain was much better. It would look good with the gold watch. The chain

cost twenty-one dollars. Della paid for the chain, and ran home with eighty-seven cents.

At seven o'clock Della made coffee and started to cook dinner. It was almost dinner time. Jim would be home soon. He was never late. Della heard Jim outside. She looked in the mirror again. "Oh! I hope Jim doesn't kill me!"¹² Della smiled, but her eyes were wet. "But what could I do with only one dollar and eighty-seven cents?"

The door opened, and Jim came in and shut it. His face was thin and quiet. His coat was old and he had no hat. He was only twenty-two. Jim stood still¹³ and looked at Della. He didn't speak. His eyes were strange. Della suddenly felt afraid. She did not understand him. She began to talk very fast. "Oh, Jim, dear, why do you look so strange? Don't look at me like that. I cut my hair and sold it. I wanted to buy you a Christmas gift. It will grow again—don't be angry. My hair grows very fast. Say 'Merry Christmas,' dear, and let's be happy. You don't know what I've got for you—it's beautiful."

"You cut your hair?" Jim spoke slowly.

"I cut it and sold it," Della answered. "Don't you like me now? I'm still me, aren't I?"

"You say that your hair is gone?" Jim asked again.

"Don't look for it, it's gone," Della said. "Be good to me, because it's Christmas. Shall we have dinner now, Jim?"

Jim seemed to wake up. He smiled. He took Della in his arms.

Let us leave them together for a while. They are happy, rich or poor. Do you know about the magi? The magi were wise men who brought Christmas gifts to the baby Jesus.¹⁴ But they could not give gifts like Jim's and Della's. Perhaps you don't understand me now. But you will understand soon.

Jim took a small box out of his pocket. "I love your short hair, Della," he said. "I'm sorry I seemed strange. But if you open the box you will understand." Della opened the box. First she smiled, then suddenly she began to cry. In the box were two beautiful combs. Combs like those were made to hold up

long hair. Della could see that the combs came from an expensive store. She never thought she would have anything as beautiful! "Oh, Jim, they are beautiful! And my hair grows fast, you know. But wait! You must see your gift." Della gave Jim the chain. The chain was bright, like her eyes. "Isn't it a good one, Jim? I looked for it everywhere. You'll have to look at the time one hundred times daily, now. Give me your watch. I want to see them together."

Jim lay¹⁵ back on the bed. He put his hands under his head, and smiled. "Della," he said, "let's put the gifts away. They are too good for us right now. I sold the watch to buy your combs. Come on, let's have dinner."

The magi, as we said, were wise men—very wise men. They brought gifts to the baby Jesus. The magi were wise, so their gifts were wise gifts. Perhaps Jim and Della do not seem wise. They lost the two great treasures of their house. But I want to tell you that they *were* wise. People like Jim and Della are always wiser than others. Everywhere they are wiser. They are the magi.

Notes to the text

1. Magi 麦琪, 基督教中的传说人物, 在基督诞生时向基督赠送礼物的智者。
2. be adapted from 由……改写的
3. North Carolina 美国州名, 北卡罗来纳州
4. surprise ending 出人意料的结局
5. everyday people 普普通通的人们
6. a mailbox without mail 没有信件的信箱
7. a door without doorbell 没有门铃的门
8. treasure 宝贝
9. Mme 女士, Madame 的缩写

Mme. SOPHRONIE. HAIR OF ALL KINDS 索弗朗女士商店，
经营各种头发制品

10. a heavy hand 一只笨重的手
11. chain 表链
12. "Oh, I hope Jim doesn't kill me." 我想吉姆不会把我杀了。kill 在此处的真实含义为“过份责备”。如 That joke was killing me. 那笑话真能把人笑死。再参考下两句话：
That coating kills the furniture. She was dressed to kill.
13. Jim stood still. 吉姆站着没有动。stand 此处是 link verb.
14. Jesus 耶稣
15. Lie 躺 (lay [lei]; lain [lein]; lying [laiɪŋ]) 注意与另一个动词的区别：lay 放 (laid [leid]; laid [leid]; laying [leiɪŋ]) lie 的过去式和 lay 的现在式拼写相同，易于混淆。弄清楚各自的基本形式，又知道各自的词义，就不会用错了。此外，还应弄清楚另一个不及物动词 lie, (lied [laid], lied [laid], lying [laiɪŋ]) 说谎。

EXERCISES

A. Reading Skill: Scanning

Read the questions below. The answer to each question can be found in the paragraph about O. Henry on p. 3. Read the paragraph quickly, looking for the piece of information

that will answer each question. You do not need to understand everything in the paragraph. But you must read carefully enough to find the answer to each question. This kind of reading to find information is called *scanning*.

1. In what town was O. Henry born?
2. How old was he when he left school?
3. Why did he spend time in prison?
4. What is O. Henry famous for?
5. What is *The Four Million*?
6. How old was O. Henry when he died?

B. Reading skill :

Understanding the Main Ideas

Answer the following questions with complete sentences.

1. Why did Della want to buy a gift for Jim?
2. How do you know that Della and Jim were not rich?
3. What were Jim's and Della's greatest treasures?
4. How did Della get enough money for Jim's gift?
5. How did Jim get enough money for Della's gift?
6. Who were the magi, and what did they do?
7. Why does the writer think Della and Jim were wise?

C. Word Order

The words in the sentences below are in the wrong order.
Put them in the right order.

Example ;

her money counted three times Della.

Della counted her money three times.

1. put on Della and hat her old brown.
2. Della's hair with a heavy hand lifted Mme. Sophronie.
3. and ran home Della the chain paid for.
4. smiled Della were wet her eyes but.
5. home would for dinner be Jim soon.
6. Della's combs Jim the watch to buy sold.
7. was like Della's eyes bright the chain.

D. Verd Forms :

will/would and can/could

Choose the correct form of the verb *will/would* or *can/could* in the following sentences.

Example ;

I had no money. I (can/could)could not buy a gift.

1. Della wanted to buy Jim a present because the next day (will/would) _____ be Christmas.