

簡易英語注釋讀物

The Young Warriors

青年戰士



外語教學與研究出版社

简易英语注释读物

The Young Warriors

青 年 战 士

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内 容 提 要

汤米是一个机智勇敢的马鲁少年，他住在牙买加岛山区的村子里。英国殖民主义者侵占牙买加后，经常到山区骚扰。有一天，英国兵进山准备袭击一马鲁部落，汤米等少年被酋长派去向邻近另一马鲁部落求援，一路历尽艰辛，终于找来援兵。马鲁人齐心协力，以土枪弓箭等战胜了英国殖民主义者。本书故事生动，文字浅显，可供具有初级或中级英语程度的中学学生或自学者阅读。

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Chapter 1 The Questions

"Tommy!¹ It is time to get up!" His father's voice was like thunder.

Tommy had been half asleep but he was awake now: He looked at the sun shining through the trees. He jumped out of bed and felt for his knife². Tommy never slept without his knife. He was a Maroon³, and the Maroon people always carried their knives.

"Are you getting up, boy?" his father called.

"I'm coming, father," Tommy answered quickly.

He hurried because today was going to be a great one in his life. He would begin the tests that would make him a young warrior.⁴ It was also his birthday. He was fourteen years old.

He made his bed quickly. It was in one room of the hut which his father had built. The hut had three

-
1. Tommy ['tɒmi]: 汤米 (Thomas 的昵称)。
 2. felt for his knife: 他摸索着寻找自己的刀子。
 3. Maroon [mɔːruːn]: 马鲁人。(十七、十八世纪时受压迫而逃亡到西印度群岛、圭亚那等地的黑奴或其居民。)
 4. He would begin... warrior. 他将参加一场考试，通过这场考试他就能成为一名青年战士。

rooms.

Tommy ran from the hut to the pool which was behind the great rock. He took off his clothes and jumped into the pool. The water was so cold that it made little lumps on his arms and legs.¹ He jumped out and rubbed himself till he was dry and warm. He put on the wide trousers that all Maroon boys wore. Then, over his chest², he hung a belt and a pouch made from goatskin. Fixing his knife properly in its pouch, he ran into the village.

The name of the village was Mountain Top. It had one street with a line of huts on each side. The Council-house³, at one end of the street, was so large that it could hold all the Maroons who lived in Mountain Top.

Tommy looked round at his friends some of whom were also running towards the centre of the village. They had slept late, too. Perhaps, the night before, they had all been thinking about the next day, when they would become young warriors.

The parade-ground, which was in the centre of the village, was a wide place. The maroons had their shoot-

-
1. The water ... legs. 水太冷，他的胳膊和腿都冻得起鸡皮疙瘩。
 2. over his chest: 斜挎在胸前。
 3. Council-house: 部落议事会会议厅。

ing-matches and dances there.

The boys ran to the parade-ground. There were four others, all about the same age as Tommy. Charlie¹ was six months older. Then there were David² and Uriah³ and Tommy's best friend, Johnny.⁴ Their faces were very serious now, because this was an important day.

On the parade-ground, the boys formed a line.⁵ Charlie stood at one end and Tommy at the other. Johnny stood next to Tommy.

The sun was climbing above the trees. The people of the village were crowding round the edge of the parade-ground. But they left an open path to the closed door of the Council-house.

"Tommy," whispered Johnny, "are you afraid?"

Tommy thought for some time.⁶

"Yes," he replied. "Are you?"

"I do not shoot well with the bow and arrow. My father will be angry," Johnny said.

"There are other things that you do well," Tommy said. "You're the best runner among us all."

-
1. Charle ['tʃɑ:li]: 查理。
 2. David ['deivid]: 大卫。
 3. Uriah [juə'raɪə]: 尤拉。
 4. Johnny ['dʒɒni]: 强尼 (John 的昵称)。
 5. On the parade-ground, ... line. 孩子们在校场上排成一行。
 6. Tommy ... time. 汤米想了一会儿。

"But I wish I could shoot as well as you,"¹ Johnny said.

"And I wish I could run as well as you," said Tommy.

The grown-up Maroon people had been talking and laughing. Now they became quieter. Suddenly, there was the sound of the *abeng*.

The *abeng* was made from the horn of a cow. Its sound was low at first. Then it slowly grew louder and louder. The Maroons used the *abeng* to call their people together. It could be heard for miles.

Now, when the last blow was given, the door of the Council-house opened. The Chief of the Maroons appeared.

He was tall, very black, and good-looking. He wore a shirt and close-fitting trousers². His arms were very strong. He carried a gun in his right hand, and a powder-horn³ over his shoulder. He stood in the door of the Council-house and his sharp eyes looked over the parade-ground. The older men of the village were behind him.

The Chief and his Council walked along the open

-
1. But I wish ... you. 我的箭要射得象你一样 棒就好了。(这是虚拟语气, 从句中动词用过去式表示不可实现的愿望。)
 2. close-fitting trousers: 紧身裤。
 3. powder-horn: (牛角制的) 火药筒。

path to the parade-ground. The Chief's eyes were fixed on the five boys. Tommy could feel Johnny trembling beside him.

"Be brave, Johnny," he whispered. "You'll do very well." But Tommy himself was almost trembling.

Although the Chief was growing old he still carried himself like a great warrior.¹ He had fought the English Redcoat soldiers² for many years. Stories of his deeds were still told round the camp fires when the men went out hunting.

When the Chief was about ten feet from the boys, he stopped. He looked at each one, beginning with Charlie. Then he held up his hand, and the parade-ground became silent.

"Brothers and sisters of the Maroon people, greetings!" the Chief said.

"Greetings, O Chief!" all the people answered.

"Today, once again, we are here to find out whether some of our young boys are ready to be made into young warriors," the Chief continued. "But before we test their strength, we must find out how much they

-
1. Although the chief ... warrior. 虽然头人（或酋长）上岁数了，但是他的神态举止仍旧象个雄伟的战士。
 2. the English Redcoat soldiers: 穿红制服的英国兵。(Redcoat: 穿红制服的兵，尤指英国兵。)
 3. greetings! 你们好!

know of our history.”

The Chief looked at the boys again.

“You will answer the first question,” he said, and his finger pointed to Uriah. “Uriah, who are the Maroons?”

“The Maroons are brave people who fight for their freedom.”

The people in the crowd clapped their hands. Uriah’s father was smiling.

Chief Phillip¹ looked at the line of faces again.

“Charlie,” he said.

Charlie jumped when his name was called. He looked round wildly. The morning was still cool but he was sweating. Tommy knew that Charlie was afraid.

“Charlie, where do the Maroons live?”

Charlie’s mouth opened, but no sounds came. His father looked angry.

“Don’t be afraid,” Chief Phillip said. “Speak up² and tell us.”

“In — in — in the mountains,” Charlie said.

“Yes, we know. But where in the mountains?”

“In — in — Accompong³ and — and — In Trelawny Town⁴,” Charlie replied.

-
1. Phillip [ˈfɪlɪp]: 菲利浦。
 2. speak up: 大胆地说, 清楚响亮地说。
 3. Accompong [əˈkʌmpɒŋ]: 地名。
 4. Trelawny [ˈtreɪləni] Town: 地名。

"Yes. Go on, boy," Chief Phillip demanded.

"In — in — Nanny Town¹," Charlie said, trembling again.

"And nowhere else?"² Chief Phillip asked.

Charlie said nothing. People in the crowd began to laugh.

"Where do you live? Are you not a Maroon?" the Chief shouted.

"Yes, sir, I am a Maroon, sir," Charlie answered.

"And what is the name of your village? Where do you live?"

"Mountain Top, sir."

"So, what is Mountain Top?"

Charlie was crying now. All the boys felt sorry for him. Then Tommy saw that Chief Phillip was looking at him.

"You, Tommy," the Chief said.

"Yes, sir." Tommy spoke so loudly that the people laughed again.

"Why do the Maroons live in the mountains?" the Chief asked.

"Because, in times of war³, we're like the trees of the forests," Tommy said quickly.

"What do you mean by that?"

-
1. Nanny ['næni] Town: 地名。
 2. And nowhere else? 没有别的地方啦?
 3. in times of war: 在打仗的时候。

"In times of war, our warriors dress themselves with the branches of the trees," Tommy answered. He knew that fear had left him.

"And why do they dress themselves in the trees of the forests?"¹

"So that the English Redcoat soldiers cannot see them. Our warriors become like bushes. Because we are few in number, we win our battles by being clever,"² Tommy said.

The people laughed and cheered. Tommy saw his father laughing more loudly than the others.

But now Chief Phillip held up his hand and there was silence again. He looked at Johnny and held up his arm. A gold band shone in the sun.

"What is this on my arm, Johnny?"

"It is a gold band that was given to our people by the King of Spain³," the boy said.

Tommy smiled to himself. He was happy that his best friend was not afraid.

"And why did the King of Spain give us this gold band?"

-
1. And why do they dress ... forests? 为什么他们把自己打扮成跟森林里的树木一样呢?
 2. we win .. clever: 我们用智慧取胜。
 3. Spain [speɪn]: 西班牙。

“Because we showed that we were true Jamaicans¹. We fought for our country.”

“When did we begin to fight?”

“In the year sixteen hundred and fifty-five.”

“How long ago was that?” asked the Chief.

“A warrior who was born in that year would already be more than eighty years old,”² answered Johnny.

Everybody clapped again. The Chief turned and looked at David.

“You, David,” he said. “Tell us what happened in the year sixteen hundred and fifty-five.”

David usually loved telling stories. But today he was so afraid that he could hardly stand still.³

“In — in that year, the English conquered the island from the Spanish. Then the English became the new rulers of Jamaica. But the Maroons were never defeated and they never left the island. So we are the true Jamaicans,” David said.

“Wonderful! Wonderful!” shouted the Maroons, laughing and beating the earth with their feet.

Chief Phillip held up his hand for silence and turn-

1. Jamaicans [dʒə'meɪkənz]: 牙买加人。

2. would already be ... old: 已八十多岁了。(would 表示现在的推测。)

3. But today he ... still. 可是今天他吓得连站也站不稳了。

ed to Charlie again. Somebody in the crowd laughed. Chief Phillip turned quickly. His face was severe and his fierce eyes looked at the crowd. Everybody was silent.

"Charlie," the Chief said in a soft voice, "what are the duties of a Maroon who lives in Mountain Top?"

Charlie held his hands tightly at his sides as he answered,¹ "To — to obey the Chief and his Council always, and never to go beyond our scouts."²

"Why must the Chief and his Council be obeyed?"

"Because they make the law. No people or nation can become great unless they obey the law."³

There was a low sound among the Maroons because Charlie had answered the question in a splendid way. They did not laugh at him now.

"And why should you never go beyond our scouts?"

"Because the Redcoats are always searching for us, although our village is in a secret place in the mountains. And so, night and day, our scouts are always in position.⁴ They are always ready to warn us if the Redcoats appear."

-
1. Charlie ... answered. 查理回答的时候, 两手紧贴在腿上。
 2. never to ... scouts: 决不到我们侦查的范围以外去。
 3. No people ... law. 任何人不守法, 就不能成为伟大的人, 任何部落不守法就不能成为伟大的部落。
 4. our scouts are ... position: 我们的侦察兵总坚守岗位。

Everybody cheered when Charlie ended. Everybody was happy that he was not afraid now. Even Chief Phillip was smiling.

"Brothers and sisters of the Maroon people, the questions are finished. We can all rejoice that none of the boys has failed," he shouted to the Maroons. "Let us have music while the field is prepared for the other tests."

Their parents and the other Maroons were shouting their names and laughing. But the five boys remained still and solemn.¹ A good warrior could stand still for hours. In war, or in hunting, a warrior must sometimes be as still as a tree.

Some musicians now entered the parade-ground. They had drums and other musical instruments, and soon these musicians began to play. Their music was very sweet but often sad. While they were playing, some of the Maroons put targets at one end of the parade-ground. The targets were four very large pieces of wood in which holes of different sizes had been made. The largest was so wide that a closed hand² could go through it. The smallest was so narrow that it was very difficult to shoot an arrow through it.

-
1. But the five boys . . . solemn. 可是这五个孩子一动不动严肃地站着。
 2. closed hand: 拳头。

Chapter 2 The Tests

Chief Phillip made a sign, the music stopped and the musicians left the parade-ground. One of the Council-men¹, holding a bow and a sharp-pointed arrow² in his hand, stepped forward. Everything was quiet when the Chief spoke.

"The first test will be shooting,"³ he said. "Charlie, you are the oldest, you'll shoot first."

A line was marked in the dirt and Charlie stepped up to it.⁴ His toes just touched it. The Council-man gave him the bow and arrow, and Charlie fixed the arrow into the bow. He looked at the target. He would shoot first at the largest hole, and then at each of the others.

When he was ready, Charlie lifted the bow and aimed it. The arrow flew straight to the target. It passed through the hole without touching it.

When the arrow was returned to him, Charlie sent it through the second and third targets. Now there

-
1. Council-men: 部落议事会成员。
 2. a sharp-pointed arrow: 利箭。
 3. The first ... shooting. 第一场考射箭。(shooting 是动名词。)
 4. Charlie ... it. 查理走到划线的地方。

was only the smallest target. The arrow flew through the air again. But this time, when it passed through the target, some feathers were torn off. Yet everybody cheered. Only a few young warriors had sent the arrow through all the holes. Most of them had failed to do what Charlie had done.¹

David and Uriah both shot their arrows through the first two holes but David missed the third² and Johnny missed the last. Then it was Tommy's turn.

He rubbed his hands on his trousers before he took the bow and arrow. Then, while he was fixing the arrow to the string, he looked at the target all the time.³ He lifted the bow quickly and the arrow flew straight to the target. He did this twice more⁴ and the Maroons whispered together. Tommy was shooting like a marksman.⁵ They knew that his father was a marksman, but they did not know that Tommy had learnt so well.

Now there was only the fourth hole which looked like a small black spot. It seemed impossible to send an arrow through it. But Tommy was a Maroon and he had

1. Most of them ... done. 其中大部分人箭术不如查理。(fail + 不定式通常表示“不能”,“没有”。)
2. David ... third: 第三个窟窿大卫没有射中。
3. all the time: 始终。
4. did this twice more: 又作了两次。
5. marksman ['mɑ:ksmən]: 神箭(枪)手。