

Nets



语 注 释 读 物

上海人民出版社

英语注释读物

NETS

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Little Dragon*

I walked along the sea dike happily.

I was on my way to my first assignment since my transfer from the army to a county's militia contingent. I was to inspect the work of a militia battalion in Fighting Dragons Brigade. *To my delight*¹, this offered me a chance to see my former company commander Chao Ta-kuei again. I remembered his small son Little Dragon too, an interesting but remarkably timid child. Once when his mother brought him to visit his father, someone took him to the drill ground during rifle practice. But the sound of firing scared him and he ran off *showing a clean pair of heels*². Even in the barracks he shut the door and windows and asked his mother to cover his ears with her hands.

"Look, comrade, do you think he'll ever make a fighter?" Old Chao's anxious voice still rang in my ears.

* 原文选自《中国文学》(Chinese Literature) 1973年第9期。

1. 使我高兴的是。介词 to 后面可接不少表情感的名词，用作插入语。例如：to my surprise (使我惊奇的是)，to their satisfaction (使他们满意的是)。

2. 脚不点地地(朝回跑)。这个分词短语修饰谓语 ran off，形容他逃得很快。

It was midsummer. The sandy road along the beach was hot. Although I took off my jacket and cap and walked in the shade of the willows, I was sweating. I thought of stopping for a rest when—plop!—something thudded down just behind me. Before I could turn to look, someone called out:

“Halt!”

There stood a young “paratrooper” of about thirteen *in shorts*³ with a bare suntanned back. He had jumped down from the branches of a willow. *From under his camouflage*⁴, a crown of willow leaves, he stared at me, *his red-tasselled spear pointing right at my nose*⁵. I *took an immediate fancy to*⁶ this young warrior, who *reminded me of*⁷ myself twenty years ago.

“Who’re you?” he asked.

“I’m merely taking a stroll,” I said nonchalantly.

3. 穿短裤的。shorts: 短裤。介词 in 表示“穿着”、“戴着”的意思。4. 从他的伪装帽下面。camouflage [ˈkæmʊflɑːʒ] n. 伪装。under his camouflage 这个介词短语是介词 from 的宾语。from under his camouflage 这一介词短语起状语作用。from under 有人理解为双重介词，作“从…的下面”解。同属这一类的还有 from above (从…的上面), from behind (从…的后面), until after (直至…之后)等。5. 他的红缨枪直指着我的鼻子。point at: 指着。right 是副词，作“正好”解。这个由分词 pointing 构成的独立结构用来表示谓语 stared at 的陪衬性动作。由于 pointing 的逻辑上的主语不是 he, 而是 spear, 所以称为独立结构。6. 立刻爱上了… take a fancy to ... = become fond of ... 7. 使我想起。remind ... of ... 作“使…(指人)想起…”解。

“A stroll? Why are you looking around then?” He glanced at the defence works near the dike.

*So it was because of my looking around that he was treating me as an enemy*⁸.

“Nice scenery you have here⁹,” I rattled away. “That big dike has been built between two seas: outside is the Yellow Sea, inside a sea of paddy fields.”

*Unable to find any fault with this*¹⁰, the boy drew back his spear but did not let me pass. He still suspected me.

To test him, I pointed to the concrete defence works and asked, “What are those things? How many are there?”

*That put the lid on it*¹¹! The suspicion in his eyes turned into certainty. He promptly put his thumb and forefinger in his mouth and gave a shrill

8. 原来正是因为我东张西望他才把我当敌人看待。so 是表示感叹语气的连词，意思是“原来”。it was ... that ... 是一个由 it 构成的强调结构，用来强调由 because of + 动名词复合结构 my looking around 构成的原因状语。如果不用强调结构，那末句子就成为：He was treating me as an enemy because of my looking around. 9. 这儿风景真好。这个句子用的是倒装语序，强调 nice scenery. you have 相当于 there is. 这个句子可改写为：There is nice scenery here. 10. 由于找不出这句话的破绽。find fault with: 找…的岔子；挑剔。this 指上一段所说的话。11. 这一问不得了啰！(因为这一问证实了他的怀疑) that 指上文的问话。it 指：He still suspected me. That put the lid on it. 是一句俗语，意思是：这一下糟啦！

whistle. Immediately about ten other boys and girls *came jumping down*¹² from the willow trees and surrounded me closely. I *had no idea*¹³ that the boy had so many “paratroopers” at his command.

He signalled to them with his hand before striding off, confident as a seasoned commander, towards the side of the dike. Four of the older youngsters immediately scurried after him. *They put their heads together*¹⁴ and conferred in whispers. After that he waved his hand again saying, “Go back to your posts.” Some took up creels and *made for*¹⁵ the beach to catch crabs. Others climbed into the willows again. Only five of them were left with me, and they *seemed to have relaxed their vigilance*¹⁶ and become rather friendly.

“Hey, why don’t you have a rest,” suggested the youngest girl who *wore her hair in a braid*¹⁷. Selecting a shady place I sat down with my bag beside me.

But where had that boy gone? Looking around I heard a rustling in the reeds below the dike and

12. 跳了下来。分词 jumping 修饰谓语动词 came。 13. 料想不到。 14. 他们聚在一起(商量)。 15. 走向。make for 意即 go to, go towards。 16. 好象已经放松了对我的戒备。vigilance [ˈvidʒɪləns] n. 警戒。to have relaxed: 已经放松。这是不定式的完成式, 表示“放松”这个动作发生得更早, 它和 seemed 一起构成复合谓语。 17. 把她的头发扎成一个小辮儿。wore [wɔ:] 是 wear [weə] 的过去时。

*saw him stooping*¹⁸ to pluck a tall reed. Then he poked a wire through the hollow stalk to *make sure*¹⁹ there was nothing blocking it before he ran towards the river.

The estuary here was about eighty metres wide. The boy swiftly took off his camouflage, put one end of the reed in his mouth, and jumped into the river. The top of the reed was all I could see above water.

After resting for a while I stood up, meaning to go on, but the girl with the braid *caught hold of*²⁰ my shirt-tail. *Big eyes sparkling*²¹, in a voice as clear as a bell, she said, "Hey, have you seen the big crabs *we catch*²² here on the coast?" I shook my head.

"They're enormous, as big as bowls." She tightened her hold on my shirt. "A nip from their iron pincers *hurts for hours*²³!"

One of the boys then gave me the low-down on lobsters, after *which*²⁴ a chubby youngster described

18. 看见他正弯着腰儿。stoop [stu:p] v. 屈身, 弯腰。him stooping 是谓语 saw 的复合宾语。 19. 查明。 20. catch hold of 抓住, 握住。caught 是 catch 的过去时。 21. 目光炯炯地。这是一个分词独立结构, 用作状语, 修饰谓语 said。 22. ... we catch 相当于 that we catch: 我们经常抓到的(螃蟹)。这是一个省略了关系代词 that 的限制性定语从句。在这个从句中, that 是宾语, 口语中多半省略。catch 用一般现在时表示经常发生的动作, 说明那里的螃蟹很多, 经常可以抓到。 23. 一连痛几个钟头。hurt v. 痛。 24. 这个关系代词代表前面的主句。

a turtle as big as a cauldron that his grandpa had caught

*Not having lived by the sea*²⁵ I found all this so interesting that I lit a cigarette and sat down again to listen.

The eyes of the little girl shone like two raindrops on a lotus leaf. After scanning me from head to foot, they fixed on the lighter in my hand. She gave Chubby a nudge and whispered:

“Look, it may be a small camera to take photos of our defence works.”

Chubby bent forward and scrutinized my lighter. “No, I don’t think so.” He shook his head.

“Where’s your vigilance? I’m sure it’s a camera,” she insisted, pursing her lips.

I realized then *how I had been taken in*²⁶. These children were keeping me there deliberately. *No wonder*²⁷ the girl had greeted me with a “Hey” instead of calling me comrade. To them I was still a suspi-

25. 因为我从来没有在海边住过。*not having lived* 是否定的分词完成形式，作原因状语。这件事比谓语动词 *found* 发生得更早。 26. 前此我是怎样一直受骗的。这是一个由连接副词 *how* 引起的宾语从句。*take in*: 欺骗。 *had been taken in* 是被动语态的过去完成时，表示从小头头离开起一直延续到 *realized* 的动作。如果主句的谓语动词是一般现在时，那末宾语从句的谓语动词就用现在完成时。例如: *Now I realize how I have been taken in.* 27. 怪不得，难怪。*no wonder* 相当 *It is no wonder that ...* 连词 *that* 所引起的是主语从句，*it* 是形式主语。

cious character. *No doubt*²⁸ they were *acting on*²⁹ the boy's instructions.

Just as I had decided to go on anyway, two people came down from the bridge. The taller one seemed familiar while the shorter was the boy who had challenged me. He *came running ahead*³⁰ and waved to the children, saying:

"You've done your work well. Our battalion *commander's come*³¹."

My guess had been correct. The children had deliberately detained me.

I went to meet the tall man who *turned out to be*³² my former company commander Chao Ta-kuei, now commander of the local militia battalion. We ran towards each other and clasped hands, then began to pummel each other.

The boy platoon leader thought that we were fighting. He whistled. The young "paratroopers" once again jumped down from the willow trees.

"*It's been five years*³³!" "Good to see you again!"

28. 毫无疑问。no doubt 相当于 There is no doubt that ... that 所引起的是同位语从句，说明 doubt 的具体内容。 29. act on: 按照...行动。

30. 抢在前面跑过来。run ahead: 跑在前头。参看第4页注12。 31. commander's come=commander has come 32. 结果是，原来是。 33. 五年啦！It's been five years! =It has been five years! 表示从过去某一时刻开始到目前为止所经过的时间。

Chao and I exclaimed almost simultaneously.

"I was nabbed *the moment I set foot on*³⁴ your Fighting Dragons territory," I joked. "*I'm glad*³⁵ you've come to 'liberate' me."

Chao turned to the children.

"I must introduce you. This is Uncle Wu Hsiao-kang. Once, with only a rolling-pin, he forced the enemy out of a tank. Now he's a PLA man transferred to our county militia."

When the children heard this they gathered round me, but in a friendlier way this time. *Only after their young leader gave the order, "Man your posts," did they disperse*³⁶.

As the girl with the braid ran off, the battalion commander called out to her, "*Has Lu Hua come back from her course yet*³⁷?"

"No, *Sis*³⁸ is still at the commune." With this the little girl ran off.

34. 我一踏上…(的地面)。the moment 相当于 as soon as, 作“一…就…”解。set foot on … 作“踏上…(的地面)”解。 35. I'm glad … = I am glad that … that 所引起的从句起原因状语的作用。在实际应用中, 连词 that 经常省掉。 36. 只是在他们的小头头喊了声“各就各位”的口令后, 他们才四散跑开。这个句子以 only after 所引起的从句开头, 强调这个从句, 所以主句用倒装语序。did 是用以表示倒装语序的助动词, 它与句首的 only 互相呼应。man v. 使人就位。post n. 岗位。Man your posts. (各就各位。) disperse [dis'pə:s] v. 散开, 分散。 37. 芦花学习回来没有? course [kɔ:s] n. 课程。 38. [sis] n. sister 的简写式, 用于口语。

But the young platoon leader still stood there and said to me seriously, "I'm sorry for the misunderstanding just now, Uncle Wu."

"I saw you plunge into the river with a reed in your mouth. Why didn't you cross by the bridge?" I asked him.

"There're plenty of bridges," the boy answered earnestly. "But if war comes, the enemy will bomb them to block the river. If I practise swimming now in ordinary times I'll be able to take messages in war-time."

*I patted his tanned back*³⁹ and said approvingly, "Good boy, *you've the right stuff in you*⁴⁰."

He smiled shyly at that, then turned to Chao. "Comrade battalion commander, *now that*⁴¹ this uncle from the county has come, my problem can be solved." And then he dashed off.

Going down to the bridge, I remembered Chao's timid little son. "How is Little Dragon getting along?" I asked.

My old comrade-in-arms chuckled. "*Slow in the*

39. pat [pæt] *v.* 轻拍。pat his back 和 pat him on the back 都可以用。tanned [tænd] *a.* 晒黑了的。40. 你真是好样的。stuff [stʌf] *n.* 本质, 要素。right [raɪt] *a.* 良好的。介词 in 表示具有某种素质或能力。例如: There is an indomitable spirit in him. (他具有一往无前的精神。) 41. 既然。

uptake⁴², aren't you? He's the one who took the lead in detaining you."

"He⁴³!" *How could I have recognized the timid child in this capable young leader⁴⁴?*

Chao slapped⁴⁵ me on the shoulder and reminded me⁴⁶, "People develop and things change, don't they?" Then he went on, "During the Cultural Revolution my father showed the youngsters the tattered padded coat he'd worn for seventeen years *in the old days*⁴⁷ and some of the shrapnel left from the Japanese bombardment of our village. He told them *what*⁴⁸ bitter class oppression he'd endured and *how*⁴⁹, under the leadership of Chairman Mao, the people took up arms and seized state power so as to become the masters of the country and lead a happy life. It was then that Little Dragon began to change. He *started*

42. 你领悟得慢。这句前面省略了 *you are*, 和后面的简短问句 "aren't you?" 一道构成反意问句。在这种问句中, 如果前一部分为肯定形式, 后一部分通常用否定形式。uptake ['ʌpteɪk] *n.* 领会, 领悟。 43. 呵, 是他! 这是一个省略句, 表达又惊又疑的情感。 44. 我怎么可能看出这位能干的小头头就是过去那个怯生生的娃娃呢? recognize ['rekəɡnaɪz] ... *in ... : in* 表示前后二者是同一人或同一物。在这个问句中, *could* 后面接不定式的完成式 "have recognized" 的意思是强调怎么可能看出。 45. slap [slæp] *v.* 拍打。用法和第9页注39中 "pat" 的用法相同。 46. 提醒我说... remind 后面常常跟 *that* 所引起的宾语从句。 47. 在旧时代, 在旧社会。days 这个复数形式可用来表示 "时代" 的意思。 48. *what* 是连接代词, 用以引起一个宾语从句, 同时又修饰 *bitter class oppression*。 49. *how* 是连接副词, 用以引起一个宾语从句, 同时又修饰 *took up* 和 *seized*。

going⁵⁰ to the drill ground. When the militiamen practised throwing imitation hand-grenades, he volunteered to bring them back and *got in a few throws*⁵¹ himself. He set up the targets for their rifle practice, and managed to fire a few shots with a spare rifle. When they drilled with bayonets, he *followed suit*⁵² with a stick. Some militiamen joked, 'Little Dragon, you're like a monkey, always copying people.' But what do you think he replied? 'The monkey just does it for fun. I'm learning how to defend my country.' This summer, when school *broke up*⁵³, he led a platoon of Little Red Guards to guard the defence works during the day."

"What did he mean by saying that his old problem could be solved?" I asked.

"It's a *question of principle*⁵⁴, not so easy to solve," Chao *sounded embarrassed*⁵⁵. "*He'll bring it up to you*⁵⁶." This rather worried me. How could I, a newcomer, solve a problem which the battalion commander

50. started 后面接动名词表示自过去某时开始经常做那个动作。 51. 乘机投几下手榴弹。get in: 乘机打, 乘机投。 52. follow suit: 学样, 跟着学。 53. break up: (学校)放假。 54. 原则问题。principle ['prinsəpl] n. 原则。 55. 说话的声音流露出为难的情绪。两者间的关系是连系动词和表语的关系。sound [saund] v. 听起来象。embarrass [im'bærəs] v. 使为难。 56. 他会向你提出这个问题。bring up: 提出。it 代表 the question, 因为是代词, 所以放在 bring 和 up 中间。he'll=he will

had been unable to solve?

It was already past noon when I ate my midday meal at Chao's home. He still maintained his old army efficiency, speed and drive. As I took up my bowl, he suggested, "While you're eating, *suppose I put you in the picture*⁵⁷." He told me much about the local militia and its combat readiness *which was good to hear*⁵⁸. Suddenly Little Dragon came into the room and saluted me. I thought the young imp was going to bring up his problem.

"Uncle Wu, we've heard that in the *Huai-Hai Campaign*⁵⁹ a Kuomintang tank driver *mistook your rolling-pin for a bangalore torpedo*⁶⁰ and was frightened into surrendering⁶¹. Were you a militiaman then?"

"No, I was only fourteen, *under age*⁶². So they called me a 'reserve militiaman'."

"A reserve militiaman!" He saw his chance. *With dancing eyes*⁶³ he turned to the battalion commander. "Pa, you always say that to lower the age

57. 假定我让你身历其境; 假定我把情况说给你听。 58. 这些情况听起来很有味。which 这个关系代词的先行词是 much, 在定语从句中它是 hear 的宾语。 59. 淮海战役。 60. 误将你的擀面杖当作爆破筒。mistake ... for ... : 误以...为..., 错误地把...看作...。bangalore torpedo ['bæŋgəlb: tɔ:'pi:dou] [军] 爆破筒。 61. 吓得乖乖投降。介词 into 表示某种动作所产生的结果。 62. 未成年, 未到适龄。这里指不够民兵年龄。 63. 目光闪闪地, 目光炯炯地。这个介词短语修饰谓语 turned, 起状语作用。

limit for a militiaman is against principles. Will you let me be a reserve militiaman?"

The battalion commander smiled at me. "Well⁶⁴, this is his problem," he said.

Now that I knew the boy's longing to join the militia, I understood why he made such strict demands on himself and his "paratroopers". As his father's old comrade-in-arms, I ought not to damp the boy's enthusiasm.

"All right," I told Little Dragon. "*On behalf of*⁶⁵ the battalion commander I approve your application."

Little Dragon jumped with joy. Going up to the picture of Chairman Mao, he raised one hand and vowed, "Chairman Mao, *please set your heart at ease*⁶⁶. I'll become a good militiaman, and guard our motherland well."

Suddenly a crowd of young "paratroopers" came swarming in⁶⁷ clapping their hands⁶⁸. They had been listening outside and heard that their platoon leader had become a reserve militiaman. They felt honoured.

64. well *int.* 喔。表示领悟的意思。 65. 代表... 66. 请您放心。 67. 蜂拥而入。参看第 4 页注 12。 68. 劈里啪啦鼓起掌来。这个分词短语修饰谓语 came, 起状语作用。

By now Little Dragon was thinking of something else. *Tilting his head*⁶⁹, he asked me, "Uncle Wu, what are the duties of a reserve militiaman?"

That *put me on the spot*⁷⁰. I knew the duties of the regular militiamen very well, but not of the reserve.

I was relieved to hear Chao say, "A reserve militiaman must be prepared to take the place of any regular one who is absent."

The boy gave a smile of satisfaction.

In the afternoon the battalion commander and I called the militia cadres together for a meeting in the brigade office where I was staying.

"Report!" I heard a clear voice outside.

"Who is it?" One of our men asked as he opened the door.

"Comrade battalion commander, reserve militiaman Little Dragon has come for an assignment."

"What assignment do you have in mind?" the commander asked.

"*To mount guard tonight*⁷¹—*in place of*⁷² Lu Hua."

69. 歪着脑袋。这个分词短语修饰谓语 asked, 起状语作用。tilt [tɪlt] *v.* 使倾斜, 使歪。 70. 使我很窘, 将了我一军。on the spot 是“处境危险”的意思。 71. 站夜班岗。这是个省略句, 回答上文的 What assignment ...? 不定式短语用作表语, 前面省略了 The assignment I have in mind is. mount [maʊnt] *v.* 使就岗位。mount guard: 站岗。 72. 代替。