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英语民间故事

Selected English Folklores and Legends

The Coco-Nut Tree

椰子树

任荣珍 编注

(适合初三、高中学生和英语爱好者)



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前言



《英语民间故事》是一本很适合学生课外阅读之用的英语注释读物。每篇英语原文前设有“阅读提示”，文后有难词、难句、难字的注释或译文。通过这种引导性的难易、长短适中的英语原文的阅读，可有效地提高中学生的英语语感和阅读理解能力。

这本书中的民间故事与传说分别选自大洋洲地区和其它（英语）国家。其中大洋洲地区的材料都是第一次被选编。其它国家的材料除少数“知名度”较高的故事，如《小红帽》、《点金术》、《大拇指》外，大多也都是首次选作英汉注释读物。这些故事多选自英语原文，篇幅较长的则尽可能在保留“原汁原味”的前提下删去一些繁杂的细节，极个别地方才作句子简化处理。这样可以使中学生接触到地道的英语。该书文字简易生动，内容精彩，可读性强，是中学生特别是初三以上学生课外英语阅读的好读本。

编者

1996年10月



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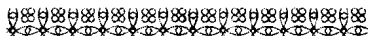
大洋洲地区民间故事

The Dugong

(澳大利亚)

阅读提示

这是一个令人悲伤的传说。漂亮的莫若在结婚那天给丈夫找吃的东西，她在丛林里找到一只坚硬的椰子便把它用力敲开，椰壳片崩进了她的眼睛，她疼痛难忍，滚到了海边，最后被海潮卷进大海变成了一条美人鱼。至今人们还常可以在海边听到她的呼喊。



In the Dreamtime when animals and trees were people, the Dugong used to be a beautiful girl. Her name was Murroo and everyone in the country knew her.

On the day when she was married, Murroo went into the bush to find some food for her husband. In the bush she found a big coconut. She wanted to break it and turn the shell into a dish from which her husband could eat.¹ But the coconut was tough and when she hit it hard the splinters from the shell went into her eyes. Murroo screamed with pain and rolled on the ground. She rolled like this for a long way until she came to the edge of the sea. By now her eyes

were covered with blood from the wound. When she touched the water she thought it would cure her eyes. She would wash the blood from her eyes with the water and she would be able to see again.

"I'll wash my eyes until I can see again," she said to herself.

But it was the time when the tide was going out. Murroo could not see it. Whenever she wanted to reach the water the sea had moved down a step or two away from her². She followed it and like this she went far away.

Later, when the tide came, Murroo could not find her way back. Now the sea began to rise, the waves rushed on her and Murroo screamed. She tried to fight her way back but instead of making her way towards the beach she went down to the sea.³ There she changed herself into a Dugong.

Murroo is a Dugong now but once she used to be a beautiful girl. She still keeps some of her human form and she has breasts and feeds her baby from her breasts as every woman does. Sometimes one can hear her crying far out over the sea. This is the cry of Murroo lost in the water.

Words and Expressions:

dugong *n.* 海生哺乳动物

Dreamtime 开天辟地时代(又称黄金时代,是澳洲土著对祖先起源时代的称呼)。

coconut *n.* 椰子

shell *n.* 壳,外壳

tough *adj.* 坚硬

splinter *n.* 碎片

wound *n.* 伤

cure *vt.* 治愈

tide *n.* 潮水

wave *n.* 海浪

beach *n.* 海滩

Notes:

1. She wanted to break it and turn the shell into a dish from which her husband could eat.

她想把它弄开,用椰子壳做成碟子好给丈夫盛东西吃。

2. Whenever she wanted to reach the water the sea had move down a step or two away from her.

每次她想触及海水,都要跟着海水走一两步。

注:后半句的字面意思为“海水已退离她一两步了。”

3. She tried to fight her way back, but instead of making her way towards the beach she went down to the sea.

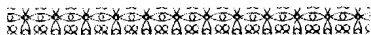
她尽力挣扎着退回海滩,可是却走进了大海。

The Woman in the Moon

(新西兰)

阅读提示

关于月亮,世界各国有许多美丽的传说。中国的“嫦娥奔月”故事中,月亮上的阴影是嫦娥,白兔和桂花树。新西兰也有一个十分相似的故事,相传……



A long time ago there lived a woman named Rona. She was very handsome, and she was greatly beloved by her husband,¹ but she often vexed him by her hasty words and quick temper.² One day he said to her, “To-night is one of the favourable nights of the moon. I and my sons will go to the other side of the island to the good fishing-grounds, and we shall not return until tomorrow evening. Be sure³ that the oven is ready and food cooked for us when we return.” Rona promised that her husband’s request should be complied with, and the party of men set out. She found the next day very long, although she busied herself as much as possible in getting ready an oven and piles of food against the time of her husband’s return, but

by some strange omission⁴ she forgot to bring her supplies of water from the spring before the sun had set and darkness had fallen. She heard far off the distant song from the returning canoe; the stones were heated and glowing ready for cooking the food, when she suddenly remembered that there was not sufficient water to wet the old baskets or throw over the stones to cause steam enough to cook the food.

Taking up her calabashes she unwillingly began to descend the hill towards the stream, and as the full moon was shining brightly she easily found the path and nearly reached the bottom. Suddenly the moon went behind a cloud and intense darkness (or it seemed) came on. Rona stumbled over a stone, and struck her foot violently against a piece of rock. Losing her temper she uttered a terrible curse on the moon for having withdrawn its light and caused her to stumble in such a painful manner⁵. The god of the moon, who was irritated at⁶ hearing the imprecation, seized hold of⁷ the woman and tried to carry her off. Rona grasped a small tree and held on to it with⁸ all her strength. Her struggles were in vain,⁹ for the moon-deity tore her away, the tree coming up by the roots, so Rona was taken up to the moon, and may there still be seen with her water-calabash and the tree to which she clung.

Words and Expressions:

handsome *adj.* 漂亮的

vex *vt.* 使苦恼; 使烦恼

- hasty* *adj.* 急速的, 仓促的
favourable *adj.* 有利的, 讨人喜欢的
oven *n.* 炉子
promise *vt.* 答应, 许诺
request *n.* 要求
comply with 照做, 遵守
busy *vt.* 使忙碌
pile *n.* 堆
omission *n.* 忽略; 失职
supply *n.* 供应
canoe *n.* 独木舟
glow *vi.* 发光, 发热
sufficient *adj.* 足够的
calabash *n.* 葫芦
unwillingly *adv.* 不愿地, 勉强地
descend *vt.* 下, 降
intense *adj.* 强烈的, 紧张的
stumble over 绊倒
utter *vt.* 发出, 说
curse *n.* 咒骂
imprecation *n.* 诅咒
withdraw *v.* 收回, 撤退
moon-deity *n.* 月神
cling to 依附, 粘

Notes: