注译本

英语阅读丛书

王玉琨



(第五册)

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主编 王玉琨

东北师范大学出版社

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前 言

《英语阅读丛书》以美国引进的《English Reading Laboratory IV B》为蓝本,结合我国英语学习者的实际,精选了120篇,分为六册。每课后有阅读理解及词汇练习,配生词表和注释。每册之后配全部课文的参考译文。本书可供大学英语专业学生、函授及夜大学学生、非英语专业研究生、各类进修班及广大自学者使用。

本书所选文章深入浅出,通俗易懂。各课后所列生词的词义选择以在课文中使用的意义为主。注释主要包括难词、难句和背景知识。为了帮助读者准确理解,注释中还附加了示例。译文力求忠实于原文,以直译为主,旨在方便读者深入理解原文。"

本书体裁、题材新颖多样,语言地道规范;系统性、科学性、知识性和趣味性 均强。全书选文的内容广泛,名人传略轶事、科普科幻,应有尽有;政治、历史、地 理、宗教、文化、风俗习惯等,无所不包。对于扩大词汇量,拓宽知识面,培养阅 读技能与技巧,提高阅读速度与理解能力,都有极大裨益。

本书由东北师范大学外语系王玉琨主持编写。参加注释的有薛永库和赵俊峰。参加翻译的有何善康、张绍杰、官立都、符延军、王玉琨、范春荷、张跃东。全部注释及译文由王玉琨整理、修改并定稿。

由于编者水平有限,加之时间仓促,疏漏及谬误之处难免,恳请广大读者不吝赐教。

编 者 1989年10月

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BEAR MEETS TRAPPER

The Capture of Geronimo

by Earls Fleming

My head was pressed against the back door of the long iron trap, and my eyes were glued to the peephole. Before I could distinguish anything in the semidarkness inside, three things happened simultaneously. I heard a terrific explosion, saw a flash of light, and was stunned by a jarring blow on the head.

What had happened? As I reeled backward into the brush, three explanations sprang to my mind: lightning had struck the trap, the trap had exploded, or a bear cub was in the trap and its mother, waiting outside, had charged me. With a coughing grunt and a rattle of metal from inside the trap, the truth dawned—a captive bear had banged against the interior of the steel plate that my head had been pressed against.

Drinking some icy water from the winding river in front of the bear trap and splashing a quantity over my head brought me fully to my senses. I was too grateful for my safety to pay much attention to the splitting headache I still had. More cautious now, I pushed aside the inspection door with a stick. Almost instantly a long muzzle poked out, accompanied by a series of hoglike grunts and long, inquisitive sniffing noises. Without wasting a moment I set up the weighing apparatus. Then, so that I could anesthetize the captured bear, I started chinking the air holes in the trap.

As I was plugging the second hole the rag disappeared inside the trap. Another attempt ended the same way. It was obvious that I was dealing with an animal of superior intelligence. I tried a different opening, but to no avail; the captured brownie was unplugging the holes as quickly as I filled them. Despite my frustration, I was a happy trapper indeed, because now there was no doubt about the identity of my prisoner.

Backing quietly away, I started working again at the other side of the trap. I was feeling quite clever at having outwitted Geronimo, as I had immediately nicknamed him, when a sledge-hammer wallop struck the inside of the trap right under my nose. Surprise and fright catapulted me eight feet into the brush. I was relieved that no fellow worker

with the Alaskan Wildlife Service was watching this job.

Having decided that a bit of strategy was in order. I whittled some short willow sticks to tapering points and forced them into the holes. These served my purpose; the more the bear tried to pull them inside, the tighter they stuck. Geronimo tested each stick carefully, and I enjoyed watching the piegs move around, knowing that if everything passed his inspection, I had done a good job.

Filling the sprayer with ether, and putting the nozzle to the hole left open for that purpose. I started pumping anesthetic into the trap. At this point it wouldn't have surprised me much if the bear had put a paw over the inside of the hole to keep out the fumes. If he had, I think I'd have just opened the door and released him.

After I'd pumped for forty minutes—and used three and a haif pints of ether—the bear finally gave in to unconsciousness. I had at the most five or six minutes to work in before he would start to revive. My first task was to elevate the heavy iron trap door and insert a spike under it so that I could drag Geronimo out for weighing. As I pushed the door up, the spike slipped to the ground and the bear's head rolled limply over the threshold. There was the superintelligent brownie that had been eluding me for so long. I couldn't move the massive head, however, and the door was too heavy to let down on the animal's head without injuring him. My mind worked frantically, but there was only one solution: I had to remove the door completely by sliding it up out of the grooves.

I strained until I saw black spots dancing before my eyes; my vision blurred from the perspiration trickling down my forehead. Glancing down momentarily, I saw the bear's eyelids flickering, the first sign of revival. I realized that something had to be done fast. Most of the door was now above the top of the channels; pushing the top of the door back with all the strength I could muster. I hoped to lock the bottom in the grooves. Slowly I relaxed my hold on the handle—the door didn't slip.

I quickly grabbed the ether pail. The bear had his head up now and was caimly surveying the situation. Lying on his stomach, his left foreleg outstretched and his right foreleg under his body, he offered no objection as I pushed the bucket over his head. His attitude changed, though, with the first inhalation of ether; reaching up with his free paw, he hooked his powerful claws over the lower edge of the bucket and with a frantic shove sent me and the pail tumbling into the nearby brush. Prepared now for rougher tactics. I rushed in again, planted my right foot on his free paw, upturned the bucket over his head, and held on.

The bear threw his head back vigorously, but somehow I managed to hold on, though my teeth rattled as he jackknifed and twisted, struggling for freedom. An eternity later, I felt his neck muscles relax as the anesthetic took effect once more.

Geronimo measured 74 inches; I estimated his weight at 450 pounds; "he" turned out to be female. After taking such statistics for the Alaskan Wildlife Service, I mounted the camera on its triped, set the timer, and took pictures of myself and

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Geronimo together. I wanted some proof of the adventure. Everything was going extremely well until I snapped the last photograph and had to change film. I worried because the bear was recovering, but several minutes passed before the camera was ready again. Then I hastily put it on the tripod, focused, set the timer, and turned to get into the picture. Geronimo was watching me with keen interest and clear eyes.

It was evident that any attempt to put my arm around her neck might record a picture of the bear with my head in its mouth. Then the expression in the bear's eyes changed; trouble was ahead.

As the camera clicked, the bear gave a start and raised her head. With a gargling roar, she lunged toward me. With the bear snorting at my heels I faced around the trap and plunged through the river to an island in the middle of the stream. By then, however, Geronimo had given up the chase; bellowing and shaking her head, she was trampling two thousand dollars worth of my finest camera equipment. It was a horrible sight. Having vented her anger, she walked slowly towards the stream and, after drinking copious amounts of water, lumbered away into the underbrush.

I was left with a sore bump on my forehead, another on the back of my head, and a throbbing welt across the lower part of my right biceps where the pail had gouged me. I started back to camp; it seemed like a week since breakfast.

HOW WELL DID YOU READ?

Can you follow the time order?

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- 1. The writer knew that he had a bear as soon as
 - A the prisoner banged against the steel plates
 - B. he heard a grunt inside the trap
 - C he opened the trap door
- In the usual procedure of capturing and taking statistics on a bear, the first step was to
 - A anesthetize it
 - B elevate the trap door
 - C set up the weighing apparatus
- 3. The danger to the writer was greatest
 - A at the beginning of the story
 - B when the bear awoke the first time
 - C after he snapped his last picture

- 4. The moment the bear finally won its freedom,
 - it
 - A lumbered away into the woods
 - B attacked the writer
 - C dived into the river

What did the writer think?

- 5. The bear's most outstanding trait was its
 - A intelligence
 - B strength
 - C ferocity

Did you notice the interesting details?

- 6. The writer was primarily interested in
 - A hunting bears
 - B capturing bears for shipment to zoos
 - C weighing and measuring bears for the government
- 7. The first sign that the bear was coming to was
 - A its sitting up suddenly

- B the flickering of its eyelids
- C a loud growl
- 8. The author was mistaken when he
 - A removed the trap door completely
 - B used sticks to plug the holes
 - C gave the bear a masculine name

How does the writer tell his story?

- According to paragraph 7, the writer would have released the bear because he
 - A was ready to give up on the animal
 - B was greatly impressed with its cunning
 - C could not afford to waste any more time on it
- 10. This story is told as though the writer were
 - A relating the past experiences of a friend
 - B telling about something that had once actually happened to him
 - C describing an experience that is happening now

- stands before the meaning you choose.
- 10. brush (2)
 - A bristled implement
 - B small battle; skirmish
 - C foliage; woods
- 1i. dawned (2)
 - A became clear
 - B gave promise
 - C grew light
- 12. in order (6)
 - A appropriate; required
 - B tidy
 - C following correctly
- 13. point (7)
 - A sharp end
 - B time
 - C place
- 14. start (14)
 - A beginning
 - B sudden movement
 - C advantage

LEARN ABOUT WORDS

A. Often you can tell the meaning of a word from its context—the words around it.

Directions: Find the word in the paragrph that means

- 1. curious (3)
- 2. mechanical device (3)
- 3. put to sleep (3)
- 4. stuffing (4)
- 5. hurled (5)
- 6. bottom of an entrance (8)
- 7. gather together (9)
- 8. breathing in (10)
- 3. plentiful (4)
- B. A word may have more than one meaning. Its meaning depends on the way it is used.

Directions: Decide which meaning fits the word as it is used in the paragraph. Write the letter that

NEW WORDS

stun 打晕;使惊慌

jar 振动,刺激

reel 摇晃;蹒跚

muz'zle (动物的) 口鼻

sniff (鼻)吸,嗅

chink 堵塞

avail' 效用

brownie ['brauni] 棕仙,小精灵

outwit' 智胜; 哄骗

sledge'-ham'mer 大铁锤

wallop ['woləp] 猛击;冲击力

cat apult 弹出,射

ta pering point 新细的尖端

e'ther 乙醚

nozⁱzle 喷嘴

fume 烟;气;汽

give in to 屈服于, 让步 revive! revival n. 苏醒 spike 尖铁;长而尖的东西 limp'ly 无力地 thresh old 门槛;入口 elude! 难倒; 逃避 槽,沟 groove mus'ter 集合; 振作 inhalaⁱtion 吸入 tac tics 战术, 策略 upturn! 翻转 jack'knife vi. 弯身 eter nity 永恒; 无限的时间 tri pod 三角架 snap vt. 快掛 click 卡嗒蜥响 gar gle 含嗽;发咕噜声 iunge 前冲 snort 喷鼻息 vent 发泄 丰富的,大量的 co^lpious lum'ber 笨重地移动 throb vi. 悸动;震动 welt 欝痕 bi ceps 二头肌 gouge [gaud3] vt. 凿孔, 抠

NOTES

- 1. (标题) Geronimo: 是作者给捕到的熊起的名。
- 2. (2.) (第2段第2~3行; 以下类推) sprang to my mind

spring to one's mind: (脑海中立即闪出……)

A bright idea sprang to my mind. (脑海中立刻闪出个顶好的主意。)

3. (2.) from inside: 从……里面 这是复合介词。 4. (3.) Drinking some icy water ··· to my senses.

句中两个动名词短语作主语; bring sb. to his senses = come to one's senses; 使某人醒悟过来 如:

A sharp knock at the door brought me to my senses.

(猛烈的叩门声使我清醒过来。)

- 5. (3.) More cautious now: 形容词短语,作状语,说明主语行动时心理状况。
- 6. (3.) so that I ··· the captured bear = in order that I ··· bear or in order to anesthetize the captured bear. 自然语序应将 so that 从句放在主句后面。
- (4.) to no avail = without avail or in vain: 徒劳;全然无用

用这个短语,要注意下面几点: a. 在短语前,往往含有 but; b. but 子句一般是省略句; c. 第一个子句中,多数含有谓语动词try。如:

He tried to catch the train, but to no avail. (他试图赶上火车,但没成功。)

- 8. (5.) I was feeling ··· under my nose.
 as 是 nicknamed 的宾语补足语,引出的句子作定语;when = and then,并列连词。
- 9. (6.) Having decided that a bit of strategy was in order.

下面各句里的"in order"意思各不相同。 Everything is in order.

(一切正常。)

The radio is in order.

(这台收音机没有损坏,还可以用。)

Another discussion of the problem is now in order.

(现在重新讨论这问题是适宜的。)

If it still rains, a further delay will be in order. (如果仍下雨,也许要再耽搁一下。) 课文中的句子取此意。

- 10. (7.) At this point, 这时
- (8.) gave in to unconciousness = fell into the state of unconsciousness give in to: 屈服于, 让步, 陷入

12. (10.) Lying on his stomach, …over his head.

Lying on his stomach 作行为方式状语; his left foreleg ... his body 是两个独立结构,作件随情况状语,修饰 lying; offer no objection; 没表示反对

13. (11.) took effect: 生效, 见效 如:
Our present policy has taken effect in every field.

(现行政策在各条战线已见成效。)

14. (14.) With bear ... of the stream.

the bear snorting at my heels 是由 with 引出的分词独立结构:

at (on or upon) one's heels: 緊跟某人后面

15. (14.) two thousand dollars worth of ... equipment

注意这个短语: 钱数 + worth of + 东西 (价值多少钱的东西) 如:

Last Sunday I went down town and bought 5θ yuan worth of things.

(上周日我上街买了价值 50 元钱的东西。)

Frog Hunting Family Style

by Dorothy Roby Schneider

A new sport has swamped our neighborhood — or, more accurately, our neighborhood has taken to the swamps. Our woodland swamps at this season are flooded by brooks and alive with the calls of hidden creatures, but this only partly explains our enthusiasm for wading after dark.

Another factor seems just as responsible for turning mothers, fathers, and children into silent night hunters. It is commonly known as the sporting instinct. It is the inherent competition between neighbors that has transformed us into formless beings in the darkness, our presence betrayed only by scattered spots of light moving back and forth across the swamp. Our neighborhood is spread out over a couple of square miles and consists of only a half-dozen families. However, it is imbued with the same spirit of friendly rivalry that exists among those who, in urban areas, share the same sidewalk.

Of all the honored positions of the year, the most coveted is that of the family who is able to say, "We heard the peepers last night!"

For the past few years, some of us have not been content just to listen to the peepers' chorus, whose volume increases each night. Whetted by reading, here and there, about how infrequently most people see the members of this clannish choir, we have nursed the desire to capture the singer. Each spring we have again got out our reference books, refreshed our memories of the appearance and habits of Pickering's hyla—tiniest and most elusive of the tree frogs—and noted that he has been seen by those who follow the sound of his singing.

We know that he is from three-quarters to one and one-quarter inches long; that he has little suction disks on his toes that make it possible for him to cling to tree trunks; that he has a tremendous balloonlike membrane beneath his throat, which he inflates when he sounds his stirring chirp; that his skin is smooth and changes color to match his background; that his back is marked with a cross.

Unobtrusively, some of us have hunted him each spring. We have searched the twigs and tree trunks where all the illustrations in the reference books show him perched. Going toward the sound of his voice is easy, but somehow all the noises that night

creatures make have a way of ceasing abruptly the moment one arrives where the voice ought to be. This year, however, there came an end to the casual approach of the preceding springtimes.

It happened one evening at dusk, with the ring of our telephone and the excited voice of the thirteen-year-old son of a neighbor. "I've got one! I've got one! Right here in my hand. A tree frog!" He was shrieking. "I was standing in the grass up at the top of the pond ..." The rest of his conversation was a wild, garbled tale, and before he was half through it, the elder of our own two sons had grabbed his flashlight, pulled on his boots, and headed for the swamp.

Here was definite proof that the elusive tree frog could be caught. We received two more telephone calls from our neighbor's son within the next five minutes. One was to invite us to come on down and he would generously show us just where and how to catch a tree frog; we haughtily refused—a peeper from somebody else's swamp would not be nearly as satisfactory. The second call was to say, with all the joyful tenderness of a mother at her child's first spoken word, "He's singing! Now listen." And, sure enough, we could hear it over the telephone.

Spurred on by all this evidence that Pickering's hyla existed outside reference books, our Bink shortly captured one, triumphantly carrying it into the kitchen for close inspection. Well, he had thought it was a tree frog; it was tiny enough but certainly not the correct color—— it was practically black all over, with no cross to be seen. We decided to take it down to Steve's house, to compare it with the one that he had captured.

Off we went to the neighbor's, the frog in a jar with a little water and some brownish grass from the field. There the heads of the two younger brothers competed with those of the older boys for the most advantageous position above the jars atop the kitchen table, while the parents, only slightly more reticent, craned their necks above them.

"Say," Steve exclaimed, examining Bink's jar, "I thought you said yours was different—he's just like mine." And so it was—Bink's frog was now as pale brown as the swampgrass on which it sat, with the dark brown cross showing plainly on its back. And, identification over, it obligingly puffed up its sounding sac and began to sing.

The boys' success apparently inspired at least one other family with the irresistible urge to explore our swamp for themselves. We were not able to prove this. But the next night we saw furtive lights down below the house and went out to investigate, whereupon we were confronted by only the blackness of a misty, overcast night. We did see just one fleeting flash of light, disappearing behind a rock at the top of a rise beyond the swamp.

Not wishing to embarrass the suspected poachers, we decided to make a magnanimous gesture; we called them up and invited them to a swamp hunting party.

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They accepted with alacrity. "Saturday night, soon after it's dark. ... Oh, sure, refreshments after the hunt, of course."

Our guests arrived, dressed as if they had planned to invade Okefenokee Swamp, with waterproof hats and coats, high rubber boots, nets, and buckets, in addition to lanterns.

"All you need is an empty peanut-butter jar with holes punched in the lid," we informed them.

"Oh, you never can tell what we may catch!" they replied.

How right they were! This was a hunt where nobody returned empty-handed, with the exception of one youngster who managed to fall in backward, and his mother, who had to make a round trip home with him to get dry clothes. Some interesting facts came to light during the hunt, as well as some interesting specimens of night wildlife. Women were proved not necessarily the ones who are reluctant to pick up frogs. One husband and father was observed to have a complete aversion to plunging a hand into the murky water after any moving object, because it might very well be a snake. He did not noticeably overcome this reluctance during the course of the hunt; in fact, he showed no desire to overcome it.

For those not quick-sighted or quick-handed enough to catch a peeper, there was exuberant satisfaction in bringing home huge blobs of frogs' eggs, a fresh batch of polliwogs, or some of the larger frogs. Total catch was three mammoth toads, one dark brown, medium-sized frog with brilliant green stripes, and four peepers. Time consumed, thirty minutes; it was the highest individual catch in the entire neighborhood for the season.

HOW WELL DID YOU READ?

Do you recognize the author's purpose?

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- In this selection the author seems mainly interested in
 - A explaining how to develop an interest in nature
 - B good-naturedly poking fun at her neighbors and herself
 - C informing the reader about the tree frog

What does the author think?

- 2. These families became enthusiastic about treefrog hunting mainly because of
 - A competition between neighbors
 - B their interest in science
 - C their desire to explore the swamps

Do you remember the details?

- 3. Pickering's hyla is
 - A another name for tree frog
 - B the name of the smallest species of tree frog
 - C the only kind of tree frog that sings
- 4. The setting of the story is probably a
 - A suburban area

- B metropolitan area
- C rural area
- 5. The interest in hunting tree frogs began
 - A several years before the incident in the selection
 - B when the first tree frog was caught
 - C during the writing of the selection
- 6. The fate of the captured tree frogs was
 - A to be kept prisoners for a while and then released
 - B never explained in the selection
 - C to spend their lives in a jar
- 7. The author was surprised when she suspected that a third family was looking for tree frogs because she
 - A thought no one else was that interested in tree frogs
 - had already invited them to a swamp hunting party
 - C considered the swamp her personal hunting ground
- 8. The tree frog has the ability to
 - A change color
 - B be perfectly silent when in danger
 - C change the shape of its body

Can you draw the right conclusions?

- 9. The author thinks her neighbors are
 - A strange but likable people
 - B just like neighbors everywhere
 - C exactly like her
- 10. The best subtitle for this selection is
 - A Pickering's Hyla
 - B The Pursuit of the Peeper
 - C How We Caught Our Tree Frogs

LEARN ABOUT WORDS

A. Often you can tell the meaning of a word from its context—the words around it.

Directions. Find the word in the paragraph that means

- 1. inborn; fixed within (2)
- 2. longed for (3)
- 3. tending to slip away; able to escape easily (4)
- 4. in such a way as to avoid notice (6)
- 5. favorable (10)
- 6. generous (13)
- 7. cheerful willingness (13)
- 8. strong dislike (17)
- 3. high-spirited (18)
- B. The author often uses exaggeration to get humorous effects. For example, she is exaggerating when she says (2) "transformed us into formless beings." The neighbors are not really formless, of course.

Directions: Decide whether or not the term is an exaggeration. Mark those terms which you think are exaggerations E and those you think accurate descriptions A.

- 10. honored positions (3)
- 11. tiniest and most elusive (4)
- 12. haughtily refused (8)
- 13. triumphantly carrying (9)
- 14. furtive lights (12)
- 15. reluctance (17)

NEW WORDS

swamp swomp take to 开始喜欢 ri'valry 竞争,对抗 covet ['kavit] 妄想

peeper 小蛙

chorus ['kɔ:rəs] 合唱

刺激,增强 whet

clan nish 部落的

choir [kwaia] 唱诗班; 歌唱队 雨蛙 hy'la

elu'sive 闪避的,难捉摸的 mem brane 麒 inflate! (使) 充气,膨胀 不突出地,不触目地 un'obtru'sively perch 栖息 garble 窜改,歪曲 haughtily ['ho:tili] 傲慢地 ret'icent 沉默寡言的 吹气 puff sac 蹇 furtive 偷偷摸摸的 o'vercast! 多云的 今 掠过,飞逝 poacher ['poutfo] 偷猎者 magnan'imous 气量大的 alac'rity 快活,敏捷 aver sion 反感:嫌恶 阴暗的 murky exu'berant 繁茂的,丰富的 blob 粘乎乎的一团 pol'liwog mam moth 庞大的

NOTES

(1.) our neighbourhood has taken to the swamps
take to: (有许多意思)在此处意为; "be lost in": 沉迷在 如:
She takes to dancing every evening.
(她每天晚上都跳舞。)

- (1.) and alive with the calls of hidden creatures = and are alive with ...
 be alive with: 兴旺, 洋洋 如:
 He is alive with ambitions.
 (他雄心勃勃。)
- 3. (2.) It is the inherent competition … across the swamp.

句中 It 是强调的 "it"; our presence ··· across the swamp 是分词独立结构, 作表示行为方

式的状语。

 (3.) Of all the ..., "We heard the peepers last night!"

that = the position; family 在此处强调了整体,如果强调家庭的每一个成员,应为; who are able to say; the most coveted 是表语, that of the family 是主语, Of all the … year 是表示范围的状语。

- 5. (4.) Pickering's hyla, 最小的一种树蛙的名字
- (5.) We know that ··· that his back is marked with a cross.

句中,每个分号后都有个 that 从句,共有五个 that 从句,都作 know 的宾语,在第二个 that 从句中, that make it possible … it 是先行 "it",作形式宾语,代替真正宾语—不定式 复合结构 for him to cling to tree trunks.

- 7. (6.) but somehow all the noises ··· ought to
 - a. have a way of (do) ing: 有……习惯 He has a way of getting up early. (他有早起的习惯。)
 - b. the moment 是从属连词,引出时间状语从句, the (very) moment = as soon as: -------就如:

I'll let him leave the moment he arrives.

(他一到,我就让他出发。)

- c. where the voice ought to be 是地点状语修饰 arrives。
- 8. (6.) This year, ··· the preceding spring times.这是一个倒装句,详见第 1 册第 15 课注
- 9. (8.) come on down = come on: 出来; 出 场

down 是副词, (从北) 往南

4.

- 10. (8.) with all the joyful tenderness ··· spoken word = with all the joyful tenderness coming from a mother when she heard her child's first spoken word
- (9.) Spurred on ··· books,
 这是过去分词短语,作表示原因的状语。

spur on: 驱使

- 12. (10.) Off we went to. from the field.

 Off we went to the neighbor's = We left for the neighbor's house; the frog in a jar. the field 是独立结构,作补加成分,对 the neighbor's 作进一步描绘。
- 13. (11.) And, identification over to sing.
 a. identification over 是独立结构, 作表示
 时间的状谱。

- b. puff up: 得意地膨起
- 14. (14.) dressed as if… swamp, 作方式状语。
 = who were dressed as if… swamp
- 15. (17.) where nobody returned empty-handed 这是定语从句; empty-handed 是状语。
- 16. (17.) One husband and father 是問一个人; cf. One husband and one father 是不同的两 个人