

生英语
第2辑

The Good Little Men

好心的小人



EASY ENGLISH READERS
STAGE 2

中学生英语读物

The Good Little Men 好心的小人

刘 岩 注释
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内 容 简 介

《好心的小人》一书收集了七个寓言故事。内容是有关团结、友爱、互助和如何辨明真伪、善恶等方面的。故事均选自英国出版的英语简易读物，语言浅显易懂，对话较多，有助于培养口语能力。

书中配有插图，生字和语言难点都加了汉语注释。适合初中三年级学生和同等程度的读者阅读。

Contents

1. The Old Man and His Sons	1
2. The Two Men and the Axe	6
3. The Fox and the Goat	8
4. The Dog, the Cock, and the Fox	12
5. The Mouse, the Cat, and the Cock	20
6. The Cat and the Cock	24
7. The Good Little Men	27



THE OLD MAN AND HIS SONS

Old Man: My sons, why is it that you do not get along better together?¹ Brothers should be good to each other, and yet I often see one of you doing unfair things or hear him saying unkind things to the others.² Why is this?

1st Son: Father, I can never get my broth-

1. My sons, why is it ... together? 孩子们, 你们为什么不能相处得好一些呢? get along 生活, 过活; 和睦相处。 2. ... I often see ... others. 我经常见到你们中有人对别人做了不公平的事或听到他对别人说了不友好的话。 unkind [ʌn'kaɪnd] *adj.* 不体谅的; 不和善的。

ers to help me to do anything. I have far more work to do than any of the others, and yet they will not help me.¹

Old Man: Is it true, sons, that **your** brother has so much work to do, and that you are unwilling² to help him?

2nd Son: It is quite true that we will not help him. He never helps us. Why should we help him? As for³ the work, if he **has** any more to do than I, he hasn't much time to play.

Old Man: I don't know what to think.⁴ If one of you says one thing, and one says another, whom am I to believe?

3rd Son: Truly, Father, not one of us knows much about what the others are doing.⁵ Each of us thinks he is doing most of the work. We never play or work or do anything

1. I have far ... help me. 我干的活比他们任何人干的多得多, 然而他们谁都不帮我一下。far more 多得多。 2. unwilling [ʌn'wɪlɪŋ] *adj.* 不愿意。 3. as for 至于; 就……方面说。

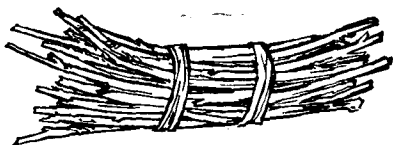
4. I don't know what to think. 我不知道怎么判断才好。

5. Truly, Father, ...doing. 的确, 父亲, 我们彼此都不大清楚谁在干什么。

together.

Old Man: You are quite right, my son. It is about this very matter that I want to talk with you today.¹ If each of you keeps going his own way in this world, you will never be able to take care of the business and land that I must soon turn over to you.²

1st Son: I am sorry, Father, that we have not pleased you. But why should not each of us do his best and forget the others? I am sure I could not do any more work than I do now.



Old Man: I will show you what I mean.³

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1. It is about ... today. 今天我要跟你们谈的就是这件事。very 用作形容词, 与 the, this 或 my, your 等连用, 以加强语气, 意思是“正是这个”。 2. If each of you ... turn over to you. 如果你们每个人在这个世界上都继续各行其事, 那你们就永远也不可能照管好我不久就得移交给你们的土地和事务。going one's own way 独自行动。business ['bizinis] n. 事务, 生意。turn over 移交; 交付。 3. I will show ... mean. 我将向你们表明我的意图。

My son, bring me that bundle of sticks¹ over there. See if you can break these sticks as they are.²

1st Son: Of course I cannot, when they are all together in this bundle.

Old Man: Now take one stick at a time³. Can you break the stick now? Try.

1st Son: Quite easily⁴.



1. that bundle of sticks 那捆木棍。bundle *n.* 捆; 束。

2. See if you can break these sticks as they are. 看你们是否能把这些捆在一起的棍子折断。

3. at a time 一次。

4. easily *adv.* 容易地。

(*He breaks the sticks.*)

2nd Son: I see what you mean. We could not break the sticks, because they were all together; only by taking them one by one were we able to break them.¹

Old Man: My sons, you are like these sticks. So long as² you stand together, the outside world can do little to you; but if each of you goes his own way, other men will be able to break you one by one.

3rd Son: By helping one another, we shall do our work three times as well as we are doing it now.³ Is that what you mean?

Old Man: Yes, my son. A man with two brothers is more than one man; he is three men.⁴

1. only by ... were we able to break them 只有一根一根拿出来, 才能把它们折断。 2. so long as 只要。 3. By helping ... doing it now. 我们彼此互相帮助, 就会把工作干得比现在好三倍。 4. A man with two brothers ...; he is three men. 一个人有两个弟兄, 他就不是一个人, 而是三个人。

THE TWO MEN AND THE AXE

I. *Finding an Axe*

1st Man: Look, friend, look at that fine axe lying over there.¹

2nd Man: Yes, let us go and get it.

1st Man: Isn't it a good axe?

2nd Man: It is nearly new. We can sell it in the next town we come to.²

1st Man: Oh, can we? Well, it is my axe. I found it, and perhaps I do not *wish* to sell it.

2nd Man: *Your* axe, you say? I thought that it was *ours*, not *yours*. Didn't we say that everything we found or had should be ours, not just yours or mine?³

1st Man: Oh, you are only saying that because you did not find this.

1. Look, ... over there. 瞧, 朋友, 你看那边放着的那把漂亮的斧子。 2. We ... come to. 我们可以在我们要去的下一个城镇里把它卖了。 3. Didn't we ... mine? 我们不是说好了凡是我们发现的或拥有的东西都应该属于咱们俩, 而不为你所独有, 也不为我所独有吗? we found or had 是定语从句, 修饰 everything.

2nd Man: Well, you know you *did* say that, and I thought you meant what you said.¹

1st Man: Let me tell you once for all², this is *my* axe.

2nd Man: Very well, it is *your* axe.

II. *An Hour Later*

2nd Man: Look behind you. Do you see any one running after us?³

1st Man: Yes, a man; he is calling. I cannot hear what he is saying.

2nd Man: Then let us stop and wait for him to come up to us.

1st Man: All right! We can wait here.

3rd Man: Stop, I say, stop!

2nd Man: We have stopped. What do you want?

3rd Man: I want my axe.

2nd Man: Did you hear? He wants the axe.

3rd Man (coming up to them): You have taken my axe. I left it at the foot of a tree,

1. ..., and I thought you meant what you said.我想你说话是算数的。 2. once for all 只此一次。 3. Do you ... after us? 你看见有人追赶我们吗?

and you came and took it.

1st Man: Don't be so angry.

3rd Man: Well, what did you take it for?¹
It was not yours.

2nd Man: I did not take the axe. My friend took it. I am going on. You can talk to him about it.

1st Man: What do you mean? We both took it.

2nd Man: When you found the axe, it was *yours*, not *ours*. When this angry man comes and wants his axe, you want to call it, not *yours*, but *ours*². No, my friend, you found the axe, and you can talk to this man. I am going on.

THE FOX AND THE GOAT³

(A fox has fallen into a well and cannot get out. A goat passes by.)

Goat: At last, here's a well. Now I can get a drink. I need one, too, after such a long

1. Well, what did you take it for? 那么,你拿它干什么?

2. you want to call it, not yours, but ours 你又说这斧子不是你的,而是咱俩的了。

3. goat [gəut] n. 山羊

walk. Well, of all things, Mr. Fox, what are you doing down in this well?¹

Fox: Oh, just having a drink.

Goat: Is the water down there better than the water up here?

Fox: Oh yes, much better. It's clearer and colder down here. Come down and try it, Mr. Goat.

Goat: All right, I will. I'm dying for a good drink of cold water.²

Fox: Jump down then, and I will catch you.

Goat: Look up, then. Here I come. (*Mr. Goat jumps down.*)

Fox: Now take a drink, Mr. Goat. Isn't this water good?

Goat: Very good, Mr. Fox.

Fox: And now that you have had all you can drink, Mr. Goat, let me ask you how you are going to get out of this well again.³

1. Well, of all things, ... this well? 哼, 竟然如此, 狐狸先生, 你在这井里搞什么名堂? Well, of all things! 哼, 竟然如此, (表示惊奇)。 2. I'm dying for a good drink of cold water. 我想喝凉水想得耍命。 3. And now ... well again. 那么现在你喝够了, 山羊先生, 请问, 你怎么再从这井里出去呢?

Goat: I did not think of that. How are you going to get out yourself, Mr. Fox?

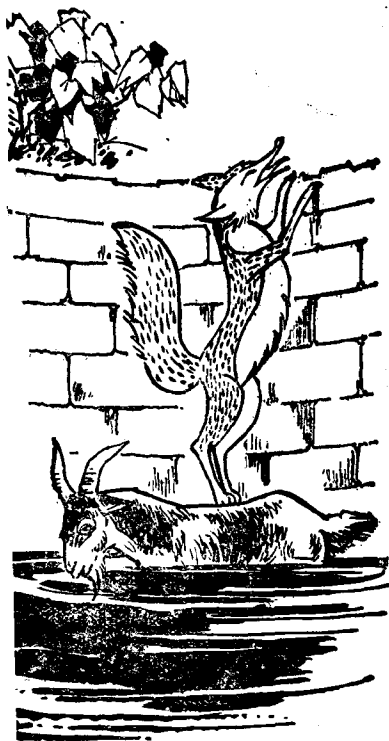
Fox: That is what I have been trying to find out for the last hour or two.¹

Goat: Well, this is too bad!

Fox: Wait a minute! I've just thought of a way.²

Goat: What is it? Tell me, please, Mr. Fox.

Fox: If you will let me get on your back, I can jump out, and then, of course, I shall be able to help you out.³



1. That is what ... the last hour or two. 这正是我前一两小时一直在考虑的问题。

2. I've just thought of a way.

我刚好想出了个办法。

3. If you ... help you out. 如果你让我蹬在你的背上, 我就可以跳出去, 然后, 当然我就可以帮你出去了。

Goat: That's the way, Mr. Fox. I could never have thought of it.¹ I am ready, Mr. Fox. Get up on my back as soon as you wish.

Fox: Thank you, Mr. Goat. One jump and I'm out!² I'm out! Good day, Mr. Goat. Thank you for helping me out.

(Mr. Fox starts to go.)

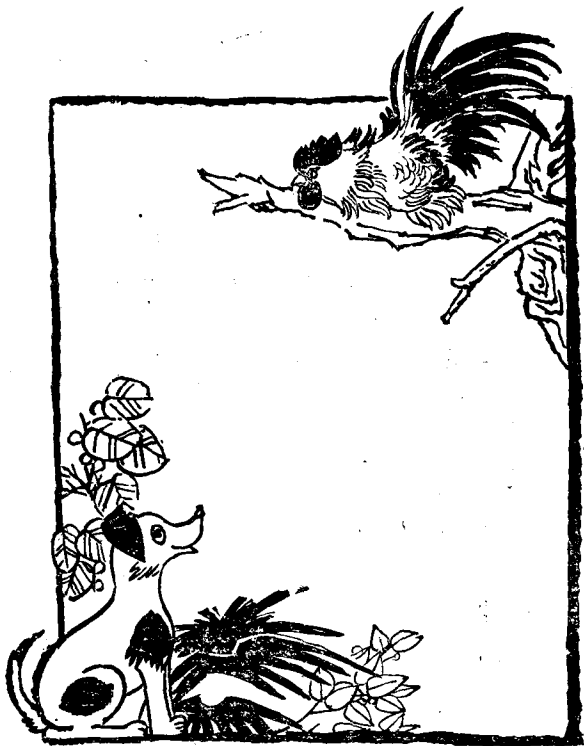
Goat: Wait, wait, Mr. Fox! You have forgotten to help me out.

Fox: Let me tell you something, Mr. Goat. You should have thought, before you jumped down, how you were going to get out.³ That's the way to get on in life.⁴ Good-bye, Mr. Goat. I have business in the other end of the town and cannot wait to help you now. Good-bye!

(And off Mr. Fox goes, leaving Mr. Goat in the well.⁵)

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1. I could never have thought of it. 我永远想不出这样的办法。 2. One jump and I am out! 只要一跳,我就出去了。 3. You should have thought ... to get out. 你跳下去之前就应该想到怎么出来。 4. That's the way to get on in life. 这就是成功之道。to get on in life 发迹,成功。 5. And off ... in the well. 狐狸先生把山羊先生留在井里,自己扬长而去。

THE DOG, THE COCK¹, AND THE FOX



I. *The Two Friends*

Dog: Good morning, Mr. Cock! And how do you feel today?

1. cock [kɒk] n. 公鸡。