

*A Collection of
English Readings*

英语故事会



4

贾柱立 主编



天津大学出版社
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Going into the English Circle 系列丛书
走入英语圈

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英语故事会

④

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内 容 提 要

《走入英语圈》系列丛书中的《英语故事会》收录汇编了古今中外各种趣味性读物数百篇。本书的体裁和内容包括:速读篇段、通俗短文、童话寓言、幽默小品、民间传说、神话故事、人文民俗、名篇简写、佳作采撷、作家生平、故事梗概、名人轶事、传记故事、小说散文、成语故事、史地名胜等。文字浅显、题材广泛。每篇读物后均有注释,适于具有中级英语水平的读者阅读。

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编者的话

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本书系《英语故事会》第四辑,该书英语单词的再现率较高。对于一些相对再现率较低的词汇和短语,我们在另篇读物中适当做了重复注释,以便初学者提高阅读效率。

由于编者水平有限,加之编写时间仓促,书中一定有一些不当之处,恳请读者批评指正。参加本书部分工作的人员有:钱伟、金环、银珠、铜锁、铁奇、田缘、梁丰。

编者

2000年2月25日

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1. He Became a Stone

*Taleboy*¹ was the son of a poor family. His father died when he was a child, so he stayed with his mother, *Marina Butler*².

One day, Taleboy went out to hunt and could not find the way to his home. *Luckily*³ he met a prince in the forest, who took him to his *palace*⁴.

Marina Butler was very *unhappy*⁵ since her son did not come back. For many years she looked for him. Then one day she reached a palace and saw a large *crowd*⁶ there. She joined the crowd.

"There they are!" she heard someone's *voice*⁷.

Marina Butler saw a young man with a beautiful lady. When they came nearer, Marina Butler said to herself, "I know the *mark*⁸ on his face! I've found him, after ten years!" She ran to him, "Taleboy, my son! . . ."

"Who are you? Go away!" Taleboy said angrily and pushed her away.

"I am your mother! Don't you know me now?" the mother said, and the crowd watched the strange meeting.

Because he was *ashamed*⁹ of his mother, the son said, "No! You aren't, Go away!" He walked quickly away and tried to *avoid*¹⁰ the *embarrassment*¹¹.

"Don't you remember you got lost one day", the mother continued, "I've looked for you for ten years!"

Taleboy *pretended*¹² not to hear. Everybody was quiet. Suddenly, there was *fierce*¹³ *thunder*¹⁴ and Taleboy shouted, "Mother!

Mother! Help me!" These were his last words before he became a stone.

Notes

1. Taleboy['teɪlbɔɪ] *n.* 塔尔博伊(男子名)
2. Marina Butler[mə'ri:nə'batlə] *n.* 玛丽娜·巴特勒(姓名)
3. luckily['lʌkɪli] *ad.* 很幸运, 幸运地
4. palace['pælɪs] *n.* 宫殿
5. unhappy[ʌn'hæpi] *a.* 不幸的; 愁苦
6. crowd[kraʊd] *n.* 人群
7. voice[vɔɪs] *n.* 语声, 声音
8. mark[mɑ:k] *n.* 迹, 斑迹
9. ashamed[ə'feɪmd] *a.* 羞耻, 害臊
be ashamed of 因……感到耻辱, 因……感到害臊
10. avoid[ə'vɔɪd] *vt.* 避免, 避开
11. embarrassment[ɪm'bærəsmənt] *n.* 窘迫, 尴尬
12. pretend[prɪ'tend] *vt.* 假装, 装做
13. fierce[fɪəs] *a.* 猛烈的
14. thunder['θʌndə] *n.* 雷声

2. Would You Like a Shave¹, or a Haircut²?

Once a poor farmer who had always lived in the country and had never visited a big town won a lot of money, so he decided that he could now *afford*³ a holiday in an excellent hotel by the sea.

When lunch-time came on his first day there, he decided to go

and eat in the restaurant of the hotel. The head waiter showed him to his table, took his order and went away. When he looked at the farmer again, he got a surprise! The farmer had tied his table *napkin*⁴ round his neck.

The head waiter was *annoyed*⁵ at this and immediately told one of the other waiters in the restaurant to go to the man and *inform*⁶ him, without being in any way *insulting*⁷, that people did not do such a thing in restaurants of this *quality*⁸.

The waiter went to the farmer and said in a friendly voice, "Good morning, sir. Would you like a shave, or a haircut?"

Notes

1. shave[ʃeiv] *n.* 刮脸
2. haircut[ˈhæəkʌt] *n.* 理发
3. afford[əˈfɔ:d] *vt.* (财力、时间等)足以承担, 花费得起
4. napkin[ˈnæpkin] *n.* (餐桌上用的)餐巾
5. annoy[əˈnɔɪ] *vt.* 使烦恼
be annoyed at... 对……感到烦恼
6. inform[inˈfɔ:m] *vt.* 告诉, 通知
7. insulting[inˈsʌltɪŋ] *a.* 无礼的; 粗俗的
without being in any way insulting 不要显出任何不体面
8. quality[ˈkwɒləti] *n.* 质量; 品位
restaurants of this quality 这种档次的餐厅

3. One against Ten Thousand¹

In the early days of Rome, the great city was peaceful and quiet. Of course, there was an army. The soldiers loved their city. And they wanted to protect it. They did not want to go outside the city walls to fight battles. There were rocky mountains all round Rome. A great river ran near the city. And so the people thought nobody could attack them.

But one night the *Romans*² received bad news. A soldier on horseback rode through the streets shouting, "The enemy has crossed the mountains. Ten thousand soldiers are coming to attack us!"

All the Romans were afraid. No one knew what to do or where to go. Women and children ran in the streets shouting. Men and boys prepared themselves to fight.

The Roman rulers quickly decided that their army was too small. They could not go out and meet the enemy.

"We will stay inside our walls," they said. "We will leave a few soldiers to guard the roads. The enemy's army may reach our side of the mountains. But they will never be able to cross the river to attack our city."

But one man thought that it would be a different story. He was a Roman soldier. His name was *Horatius*³. He and his men guarded the wooden bridge that led across the river to Rome.

Rome was on one side of the bridge. Horatius stood on the other side. Then he saw something which he could not believe. An army of

ten thousand men was coming towards him.

He turned around to cry for help. He saw a few of his own men standing on the bridge. Across the water he saw his beautiful city of Rome.

"Cut down the bridge!" he commanded. "Do it as fast as you can. Rome will not fall into the hands of this enemy!"

Quickly the soldiers brought out their *axes*⁴. They began to cut down the bridge. Horatius and two other men began to fight the enemy. Soon they heard their men calling from the other side. They knew that the bridge was going to fall.

"Run across the bridge now." Horatius told the other two soldiers. "I will follow."

When the men reached the other side, the bridge fell into the river below. It was too late for brave Horatius. Now he stood alone against ten thousand soldiers.

Without saying a word, he moved backwards until he got to the river's edge. There he turned around and looked at Rome. He knew that his people were now safe. Then he jumped into the deep river below.

Horatius was wearing very heavy clothes. He was also carrying heavy things. But he was the best swimmer in Rome.

Horatius kept on swimming through the cold *stream*⁵. The people were waiting for him on the other side. They were all happy to see their great hero.

And then do you know what happened? Loud cries were heard from the other side of the river. The enemy soldiers, too, were shouting *in honour of*⁶ such a brave man.

Young boys in Rome wanted to be as strong and brave as Horatius. That is how the Roman *Empire*⁷ became so great.

Notes

1. one against ten thousand 以一抵万
2. Roman['rəʊmən] *n.* (古代)罗马人
3. Horatius['hɔːreɪtjuz] *n.* 霍雷修斯(男子名)
4. axe[æks] *n.* 斧头
5. stream[stri:m] *n.* 小溪,河流
6. in honour of... 向……表示敬意
7. empire['empaɪə] *n.* 帝国
the Roman Empire 罗马帝国

4. The Beautiful Horse

Once upon a time there was a wise old *merchant*¹. His name was *Abdul Hamid*². He had a very beautiful *Arab*³ horse, and he wanted to sell it.

This horse could run faster than any other horse in the country. But the merchant wanted to sell it for three hundred pieces of gold. No one could pay so much.

One day a young man came to the merchant. His name was *Aziz*⁴. He said:

"I am of good family, but I am very poor and I can not buy the horse. still, if you give me the horse, you won't lose anything. I am going to a far country, and everything that I get there I will give you."

Abdul Hamid thought for a long time and pulled his *beard*⁵.

Then he said:

"All right. You can take the horse."

So Aziz got on the horse and rode away to a far country. After a time he came to a great city. As he rode past the palace, the king was standing at the window. The king saw the beautiful horse. At once he wanted to have it.

So he sent servants to bring Aziz to the palace.

The king said: "How much is that horse? I want to buy it."

Aziz answered: "It is nine hundred pieces of gold."

"That's too much. But go away now, and come again tomorrow. Then we can talk about this again."

The king's daughter

When Aziz had gone, the king called his wise men together. He said:

"The horse is the finest I have ever seen, but the price is too high."

"Yes, the price is too high," they all said.

But there was one man who wanted to please the king. He said: "When the king speaks to the young man tomorrow, let all the young ladies in the palace be there. Surely he will *fall in love with*⁶ one of them, and then he will not care about the horse, so the king can buy it for much less."

Next day when Aziz rode it to the palace garden there were many ladies there. They were all very beautiful. Aziz did not look at them. But some of the ladies fell in love with him. Aziz still asked for nine hundred pieces of gold for his horse.

Then the king called his wise men again, and the man who wanted to please the king thought of another plan.

“My plan was good,” he said, “but it was not good enough. If he sees the king’s daughter , he will remember nothing. Then the king can buy the horse.”

So the next day the king sat at the gate of the palace with his daughter. At noon Aziz came again to show the beauty of the horse. As he rode past the king, he saw the king’s daughter. She looked at him. They fell in love with each other. She came nearer to look at the horse. Aziz told her quickly that if he sold the horse he must give the money to Abdul Hamid.

Out of the City

The princess looked up at him and said: “Oh my love! In my father’s palace I have a coat. It is covered with gold and *jewels*⁷. It has nine pockets, and in each pocket there are nine hundred pieces of gold. It’s very hot now. Say ‘It’s very hot. I feel ill. ’ Then I’ll go to get some water.”

So Aziz said, “I feel ill,” and asked for water. The wise men heard him. The king’s daughter went into the palace. She came out again wearing her gold coat and carrying a golden cup of water.

*Aziz quickly raised her on to the horse in front of him*⁸. Then he rode out of the city.

All the king’s men called for their horses and rode after Aziz. They tried to catch him, but they couldn’t: no horse could run as fast as his. So they came back to the palace. The king was very angry.

Aziz and the princess rode on. The country was very beautiful, and they were very happy.

One day Aziz remembered Abdul Hamid and cried: “Oh! I am an unhappy man!”

“What is the matter?”

Aziz Keeps His Word

He told her about Abdul Hamid.

Then he said: "I said I would give him everything that I won with the horse. So the pieces of gold belong to him and the coat and the golden cup and even you, my love."

"Why? You didn't win me, but I, a king's daughter, gave myself to you. So, we won't go to Abdul Hamid, but we'll stay here in the mountains, and be happy."

But Aziz said:

"No. I gave my word, and I must keep it."

They rode along quietly, and at the end of the journey they found Abdul Hamid.

Aziz said to him: "Good day, Abdul Hamid. I have come back from a far country. I gave you my word: 'I will give you everything that I get there.' Here is a golden cup, and a golden coat with many pieces of gold in it. I bring you this lady too. She is the king's daughter, whom I love."

Abdul Hamid was a wise old man; he thought for a long time and pulled his beard. Then he said: "Truly, you have done well. The coat shall be mine and the cup shall be mine, and half the gold too. But you take half the gold and the horse and the lady."

So Aziz and the princess were married and lived happily *ever after*⁹.