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中国学生英语文库•世界经典文学简易读物

## Vanity Fair

## 名利场

原著:〔英〕威廉·萨克雷 (William Thackeray) 改写:〔英〕D.K.斯旺 (D.K.Swan) 翻译:郭美清

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## 中国学生英语文库 出版前言

"中国学生英语文库"是一套由商务印书馆专门为我国学生精心设计编辑的英语读物文库,首批推出100种英汉对照简易读物。

首批100种分四辑出版,第一辑为世界经典童话故事(20种), 第二辑为优秀科普简易读物(22种),第三辑为世界名人故事(10种), 第四辑为世界经典文学简易读物(48种)。前两辑的读者对象为小学 生,后两辑的读者对象为中学生。全四辑英汉对照,图文并茂,知识 性强,通俗易懂,引人入胜。

第一辑精选了20种美丽动人的经典童话故事,既给人以丰富的想象又陶冶人的心灵,让人在童话的世界里感受真善美。第二辑精选了22种颇具代表性的科普作品,不仅给人以科学新知,唤起人们对科学的兴趣,更让人享受到阅读的愉悦。第三辑精选了10种广为流传的世界名人故事,一个个传奇人生,一幅幅成功画卷,无一不激励人生,催人奋进。第四辑精选了48种最为脍炙人口的世界文学名著简写本,对人们开阔眼界、陶冶情操、丰富个性、提高素质大有裨益。

"中国学生英语文库"得到了我国国学大师、学界泰斗季羡林先生和我国英语教育界胡文仲先生、胡壮麟先生、陆谷孙先生、王蕃先生等众多专家、学者、教师以及国外多家出版公司的大力支持和帮助、在此表示由衷的感谢。

我们相信,这套文库将会推动我国英语教育的发展,并受到我 国广大学生的青睐。

商务印书馆编辑部

### 专家的话

对于初学者和中等程度的学习者来说,阅读简易读物几乎是学好英语的必由之路。不仅要读,而且要持续地大量地读。"中国学生英语文库"为读者提供了一批精选的题材多样的简易读本。这对于提高学生的英语水平和综合素质都将起到极好的作用。

中国英语教学研究会会长 北京外国语大学教授 胡文仲

"中国学生英语文库"为我国中小学生提供了100种英汉对照简易读物,方便学生在课外阅读英语经典名著,打好扎实的英语功底。"文库"选材广泛,使学生能在知识的乐园中尽情漫游,增长知识。"文库"特别关注素质教育,让学生在学习英语的同时汲取西方文化的精髓,孕育优美情操。

北京大学资深教授 胡壮麟

我们的中小学同学若能轻轻松松读懂这套英文简易读物,不去孤立地 死记硬背一个个单词,而是用英语笔写口述来反馈整体的故事内容,依我 看至少也该有两千左右的单词可供活用。作为初学者,那也属相当了不起 了。

复旦大学杰出教授 陆谷孙

有益的书籍不仅能丰富孩子的阅历, 触发细腻的情感, 启发敏锐的洞察力, 发展对真善美的感知力, 更能培养孩子自觉读书、深入思考、发展思维和善于表达的能力。愿这套"中国学生英语文库"能为孩子们思维和语言的发展插上翅膀。

北京师范大学教授 王 蕃

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# **VANITY FAIR**

## Introduction

William Makepeace Thackeray

Thackeray was born in 1811. As a child, he lived in India, where his father (like Jos Sedley in *Vanity Fair*) was a "collector", an officer who governed a large area for the British East India Company and collected its taxes.

Thackeray was sent to school in England in 1817. Then he went to Cambridge University. He did not complete his studies there, but he became the friend of some young writers and poets, including Edward Fitzgerald and Tennyson. He travelled in Europe, meeting the poet Goethe at Weimar. He began to study law in 1831, but he did not become a lawyer. Instead, he started to write for the newspapers. For a time, he also studied art in Paris.

He wrote for *Punch*, and his writing was directed more and more at the state of English society, especially the upper and middle classes. The *Punch* pieces that are probably best known today are "The Snobs of England" (1847), which showed the false pride and pretences of the people who wanted to seem important, the people who (like George Osborne's father in *Vanity Fair*) kept away from those they believed to be poorer or of a lower class than themselves. These pieces were gathered in a book, *The Book of Snobs*.

Thackeray attacks snobs and other people who have

#### 威廉・梅克皮斯・萨克雷

萨克雷出生于 1811 年。童年时,他住 在印度,因为他父亲(就像《名利场》中的乔 斯・塞德利)是一位"收税员",他为英国东 印度公司管辖一大块区域,并负责收税。

1817年,萨克雷被送到英国上学。然后,到剑桥大学就读。在那儿他并没有完成学业,而是和一些年轻的作家、诗人成了朋友,其中包括爱德华·菲茨杰拉德和了尼生。他在欧洲旅行时,在魏玛遇到了诗人歌德。1831年,他开始学习法律,但并没有成为一名律师,而是开始为报纸写文章。有一段时间,他还到巴黎学习了艺术。

他为杂志《笨拙》撰稿,他的文章越来越多地直指英国社会现状,特别是中上层的生活。《笨拙》杂志有几篇也许至今闻名,比如"英国的势利小人",展现那些虚荣、虚伪,总想显得高人一等的人,这些人(就像《名利场》中乔治·奥斯本的父亲那样)不愿意理睬那些他们认为比自己贫穷或者地位低下的人。这些文章收录成册,取名为《势利人脸谱》。

萨克雷抨击势利小人以及其他虚伪的

collector 收款员

snob 勢利小人 pretence 虚假 false pretences. His attacks are meant seriously, but they are not written like solemn judgements. He attacks with a laugh. He does not say that men like George Osborne are nasty. Instead we see George through Amelia's eyes as "the bravest and most beautiful man in the British army". And we learn that "it is possible that Lieutenant Osborne thought so too".

We learn about the people in Vanity Fair (1848), not so much by direct description as by Thackeray's smiling suggestions. For example, we build up our opinion of Becky Sharp, not from statements that she is a bad little creature, but from suggestions like this, when she is leaving Russell Square (pages 26—28):

She took all the kind little Amelia's presents with just the right amount of unwillingness, and promised to love her friend for ever and ever ... As soon as she had said a very fond goodbye to Amelia, and had counted the gold coins that the kind Mr Sedley had put into a bag for her, and as soon as she had stopped drying the tears from her eyes (when the carriage had turned the corner), she began to wonder what a baronet would be like.

It is in fact Becky Sharp who makes us still enjoy Vanity Fair—making her way through the world with her clever plans, free from any control by conscience. When the story first appeared in monthly parts from 1847, Becky Sharp caught the public imagination. But Thackeray also gave his readers something new in his way of using the language: he seems to be talking to the reader; the story is addressed to a listener.

Thackeray continued to write short stories and novels like *Pendennis* (1848), *Henry Esmond* (1852), *The* 

人。他的抨击是动了真格的,但没有把它们写成严肃的判词,他寓抨击于嬉笑间。他没说像乔治·奥斯本这样的人很丑恶。相反通过阿梅莉亚的眼睛,让我们觉得乔治是"英国军队里最英勇最漂亮的男人",我们还得知"可能奥斯本中尉也这么想"。

solemn 严肃的 nasty 讨厌的

我们了解《名利场》(1848)中的人物,并不是通过直接描述,更多的则是通过萨克雷含笑的暗示。比如,我们对贝姬·夏普的印象,不是来自于她是个邪恶的小东西之类的表达,而是来自这样一段暗示,她离开拉塞尔广场时(26-28):

description 描写

经过恰到好处的推辞,她收起了善良的小阿梅莉亚给她的所有礼物,许诺说她会永远永远爱她的朋友……刚和阿梅莉亚深情道别完,数过了好心肠的塞德利先生给她装到包里的金币,并且,刚一抹完眼泪(当马车转过街角),她就立刻开始想那个男爵会是什么样儿。

baronet 从男爵

实际上,贝姬·夏普为我们阅读《名利场》增添了不少乐趣——她工于心计,一路闯荡世界,毫不受良心的束缚。这个故事从1847年开始每月连载的时候,贝姬·夏普立刻激起了公众的兴趣。同时,萨克雷在语言的运用上也给了读者一些全新的东西,他好像是在和读者聊天,好像在给听众讲这个故事。

conscience 良心,道德心

萨克雷又继续写了一些短故事和小说·像《彭登尼斯》(1848)、《亨利·埃斯蒙德》(1852)、

Newcomes (1853—5) and The Virginians (1857—9). He died suddenly in 1863 from heart trouble.

#### Vanity Fair

In John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* (1678), the main character, Christian, had to pass through the town of Vanity, which had a market, "Vanity Fair", all through the year. This name *Vanity* reminded Bunyan's readers, and reminds us, of a text in the Bible, "Vanity of vanities..." which is translated in the New English Bible as:

Emptiness, emptiness, says the Speaker, emptiness, all is empty. What does man gain from all his labour ... here under the sun? (Ecclesiastes 1:2)

Vanity Fair in *Pilgrim's Progress* is a place where they sell everything that is entirely without value—empty: fine houses, important positions, honours, titles, pleasures and delights of all kinds.

So the name of Thackeray's book tells us that the setting of his story is a world in which everybody is struggling to get things that are of no real importance.

When Thackeray wrote Vanity Fair, he was writing about a time which for him was not long ago. In 1812, Napoleon Bonaparte had been forced, by the Russian winter, to turn back from Moscow. He re-formed his armies, but they had to fight the armies of Prussia, Russia, Britain and Sweden. At the battle of Leipzig in October 1813, the French were defeated by armies of twice their own numbers. Napoleon's victorious enemies marched on Paris, and the emperor was sent to the island of Elba as its ruler. In March 1815, Napoleon returned to France. The war that ended in the battle of Waterloo in July 1815 forms the background of the first part of the story of Vanity Fair.