

英文原版美国文化读本（中级）

# GREAT AMERICAN STORIES 美国故事。

[美]C.G.德雷珀 改编  
C.G.Draper



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Central Compilation & Translation Press

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## 丛书序言

随着全球交往日益频繁,英语作为一种世界通用语言,将发挥越来越大的作用。英语学习已被众多有识之士认为是通向 21 世纪的门槛。由于语言是文化的载体,学习和运用外语必须了解与之密切相关的文化。学习英语决不仅仅是掌握语法、词汇和语音等语言自身的要素,它不可避免地延伸到对文化的理解和学习。如不了解英美文化,要想真正学好英语是不可能的。对于中国读者来说,由于常年封闭的结果,理解和学习外国文化恐怕就更紧迫一些。

但目前面世的英语读物多是应试方面的指导,有的仅仅是语法和词汇上的讲解。即使谈及文化,也要么过于简单,要么过于艰涩。“美国文化读本”丛书适时推出,对于想学英语的中国读者来说,无疑是一件好事。

本丛书根据美国 Prentice Hall Regents 出版公司推出的最新版本进行汉语注释,首批出版七册。本套丛书有以下几

个特点:

1. 以介绍美国文化为主旨,从当今热门话题如城市、老龄化、种族、宗教自由等谈到美国的民间传奇故事,从美洲历史上有重大影响的领袖人物谈到美国名作家的文学作品,有助于中国读者了解美国文化的方方面面。

2. 本丛书是美国学者针对非英语国家读者编写的,由初级到高级,由浅入深。每本书的编排不尽相同,但基本上适应了不同层次读者不同的阅读心理。文章前设有一些提示性问题;文章后设有详细的指导性练习;有的书还介绍了相关阅读材料,如美国的民间歌谣等。

3. 内附插图,生动活泼。汉语注释有助于中国读者加深理解原文,并学会常用词、词组的用法,使他们在感受美国文化的同时,巩固英语语法,扩充词汇,提高阅读和写作能力,取得语言和文化上的双重学习效果。

中国人学英语的最大障碍在于远离英美文化背景,容易以中国人的思维方式去考虑问题。本丛书是地道的英语读物,可以为具有一定英语基础的中国读者提供很好的帮助。

王逢鑫

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博士生导师

1998年6月

## ***TO THE READER***

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This book starts at the beginning-intermediate level. It ends at the intermediate level. The first story in the book will be easy for you. The vocabulary list for the first four stories has 600 words. The list for the last four stories has 1,000 words. The longest sentences in the first story have 10 words. In the last stories, they have 18 words. There is new grammar in each story.

By working on this book, you will improve your  
reading  
speaking and discussion  
vocabulary  
knowledge of word forms  
writing

These stories were written many years ago by eight of America's most famous writers. You will read about the writers' lives before you read their stories. Special exercises will introduce you to the world of each story before you read it. And after each story you will find



## II     ***GREAT AMERICAN STORIES 1***

2 reading exercises

2 vocabulary and word form exercises

2 discussion and language activity exercises

1 writing exercise

Good luck and good reading!

## **TO THE TEACHER**

**GREAT AMERICAN STORIES 1** consists of eight careful adaptations of famous stories by classic American writers and exercises on each story in reading skills, vocabulary, discussion, word forms, language activity, and writing. Prereading exercises introduce the student to the world of the story; and one of the prereading exercises in each lesson is based on a biographical paragraph about the story's author that appears on the story's title page.

The book is both graded and progressive — that is, the vocabulary, grammar, and internal structure of the stories increase in difficulty from the first story (which is at the beginning-intermediate level of proficiency) to the last (which is at the intermediate level). Structural, lexical, and sentence-length controls have been used throughout the book. The head-word list for the first four stories contains 600 words, while that used for the final four contains 1,000. Maximum sentence length increases from 10 words in the first story to 18 in the final four. New grammatical structures are added gradually, story by story. And words from outside

#### IV *GREAT AMERICAN STORIES 1*

the head-word lists are introduced in a context that makes their meaning clear; used again within the next 100 words of text; and then repeated at least three more times before the end of the story.

The exercises are so designed that the student must often return to the text to check comprehension or vocabulary. In addition, skimming and scanning exercises in the prereading sections often involve rereading of the writers' biographies. In short, an objective of the book is to involve the reader deeply in the text of each story and the world of its author, and, toward that end, to present exercises that are difficult if not impossible to complete without a thorough understanding of the text.

Finally, the book is designed for use either in or out of class — as a core reading text, ancillary text, or simply for pleasure reading. Its in-class use can take a number of different forms: teacher-student, student-student (pairs or small groups), student alone, or student-tutor.

C. G. D.

# THE GIFT OF THE MAGI

## Before You Read the Story...

### *1. A Life*

Read the paragraph about O. Henry on page 3. To you, what is the most interesting thing about his life?

### *2. The Pictures*

This story is "The Gift of the Magi." (MAY-jai) The word "Magi" means "wise men." The three kings on page 8 are the Magi. Each king is carrying a gift. What do you think these gifts are?

Look at the pictures on page 6 and page 9. The same woman is in both pictures. Look at her face, her hair, and her clothes. What is the same? What is different?

On page 9, the man is holding something in his hands. What is it?

**3. *Thinking About It...***

"The Gift of the Magi" happens at Christmas (December 25). In many countries, people give gifts at this time of year. At what other times of the year do people give gifts? When do you give gifts? why do you give gifts?

**4. *Scanning***

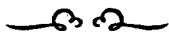
Read the questions below. The answer to each question can be found in the paragraph about O. Henry on page 3. Read the paragraph quickly, looking for the information that will answer each question. You do not need to understand everything in the paragraph. But you must read carefully enough to find the answer to each question. This kind of reading to find information is called scanning. Try to answer each question in 30 seconds or less.

- a. In what town was O. Henry born?
- b. How old was he when he left school?
- c. Why did he go to prison?
- d. What is O. Henry famous for?
- e. What is *The Four Million* ?
- f. How old was O. Henry when he died?

# THE GIFT OF THE MAGI

adapted from the story by  
**O. HENRY<sup>1</sup>**

O. Henry's real name was William Sydney Porter. He was born in Greensboro, North Carolina<sup>2</sup>, in 1862. He left school at the age of fifteen and worked in many different places. He also spent three years in prison because he took money from a bank. He started to write stories while he was in prison. O. Henry is famous for his stories with surprise endings. "The Gift of the Magi" is his most famous story. It is from the book *The Four Million*, stories about the everyday people of New York City. O. Henry died in 1910.



Della counted her money three times. She had only one dollar and eighty-seven cents. That was all. And tomorrow would be Christmas. What Christmas gift could she buy with only one dollar and eighty-seven cents? Della lay down on the old bed and cried and cried.

2 Let's leave Della alone for a while and look at her home. The chairs and tables were old and poor. Outside there was a mailbox without mail, and a door without a doorbell. The name on the door said MR. JAMES DILLINGHAM YOUNG — Della's dear husband Jim.<sup>3</sup>

3 Della knew that Jim would be home soon. She dried her eyes and stood up. She looked in the mirror. She began to comb her hair for Jim. She felt very sad. She wanted to buy Jim a Christmas gift — something good. But what could she do with one dollar and eighty-seven cents? She combed her hair in the mirror and thought. Suddenly she had an idea.

4 Now, Jim and Della had only two treasures. One was Jim's gold watch. The other was Della's hair. It was long and brown, and fell down her back. Della looked in the mirror a little longer. Her eyes were sad, but then she smiled. She put on her old brown coat and her hat. She ran out of the house and down the street. She stopped in front of a door which said, MME. SOPHRONIE. HAIR OF ALL KINDS.<sup>4</sup> Madame

Sophronie was fat and seemed too white. The store was dark.

5 "Will you buy my hair?" Della asked.

6 "I buy hair," said Madame. "Take off your hat. Let's see your hair."

7 Della took off her hat. Her hair fell down like water. Mme. Sophronie lifted Della's hair with a heavy hand<sup>5</sup>. "Twenty dollars," she said.

8 "Give me the money now!" said Della.

9 Ah! the next two hours flew past like summer wind. Della shopped in many stores for the right gift for Jim. Then she found it — a chain for his gold watch. It was a good chain, strong and expensive. Della knew the chain would make Jim happy. Jim had a cheap chain for his watch, but this chain was much better. It would look good with the gold watch. The chain cost twenty — one dollars. Della paid for the chain, and ran home with eighty-seven cents.

10 At seven o'clock Della made coffee and started to cook dinner. It was almost dinner time. Jim would be home soon. He was never late. Della heard Jim outside. She looked in the mirror again. "Oh! I hope Jim doesn't kill me!"<sup>6</sup> Della smiled, but her eyes were wet. "But what could I do with only one dollar and eighty-seven cents?"

11 The door opened, and Jim came in and shut it. His face was thin and quiet. His coat was old, and he had no hat. He was only twenty-two. Jim stood still and looked at Della.



