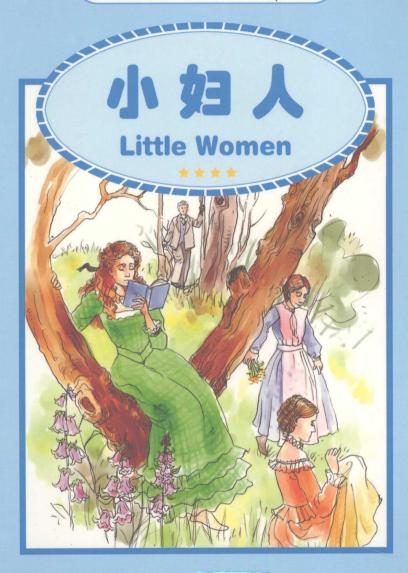
中国学生英语文奉题









中国学生英语文库•世界经典文学简易读物

Little Women

小妇人

原著:〔美〕路易莎·梅·奥尔科特(Louisa May Alcott) 改写:〔英〕D. K. 斯旺(D. K. Swan) M. 韦斯特(Michael West) 翻译:陶洁

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中国学生英语文库。世界经典文学简易读物 Little Women 小 妇 人

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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、王蔷先生等众多专家、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

1

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LITTLE WOMEN

Introduction

Louisa May Alcott

Louisa, the second of Bronson Alcott's four daughters, was born in 1832. Her father was well known as one of the leaders of the American "transcendentalist" movement. His special interest was in the improvement of education. He had very many ideas about equal treatment for everybody in schools, and about the end of slavery and the rights of women. He was ahead of his time, and therefore many of his ideas failed, and his family was always poor until the success of Louisa May Alcott as a writer. In fact, the experiences of the four March girls in *Little Women* are very much like the experiences of Louisa and her sisters.

Bronson Alcott firmly believed that we must "trust the intelligence of children" in educating them. One proof of the truth of this belief, which is still respected by American educationists, was in the education of Louisa herself. She had a great love of books. When the family moved to Concord, one of their neighbours was the famous poet and transcendentalist writer Ralph Waldo Emerson. He liked Louisa Alcott and allowed her to use his library with its many books. She spent as much time as she could there, but she had to work to help her family. She worked as a servant, as a dressmaker, and as a teacher. All the time, she wrote.

简介

关于路易莎・梅・奥尔科特

路易莎 1832 年出生,在布朗松·奥尔科特的四个女儿中排行第二。她的父亲很有名,是美国"超验主义"运动领袖之一。他对改进教育有特殊的兴趣,对于学校应该对学生一视同仁、对结束奴隶制和妇女权利等问题有很多想法。他走在时代的前面,因而他的很多设想都失败了。他家境敌,一直到路易莎·梅·奥尔科特创作成功才有所改善。事实上,《小妇人》中马奇家四姐妹的经历跟路易莎众姐妹的生活经历颇为相似。

布朗松·奥尔科特坚信,我们在教育 儿童时必须"相信他们的智力"。路易莎 中人所受的教育便是这种信念正确性的 明证,至今,美国教育家还很看重这个信念。路易莎酷爱书本。全家搬到最全家搬 以后,邻居之一是著名的诗人和超验主义 作家拉尔夫·沃多·爱默生。他很高的 许家拉尔夫·沃多·爱默生。他们间 路易莎·奥尔科特,允许她使用他的间 房,阅读其中的许多图书。她一有时就 对用人、裁缝,也做过教员。期间,她还一 直写作。 improvement 改善;改进 education 教育 treatment 对待;待遇 slavery 奴隶制;蓄奴 At last, in 1852, a magazine printed – and paid for – one of her stories. Her stories for children, and especially her fairy stories, were well liked, and she became a regular writer for the magazine Atlantic Monthly. During the American Civil War (1861 – 1865) she worked as a nurse in Washington D. C., and her letters from the hospital, with their very touching descriptions of wounded soldiers and their problems, had more and more readers. The letters were collected and printed as a book, Hospital Sketches, in 1863, and Louisa May Alcott became famous.

Little Women appeared in 1868. The literary magazines treated it as learned literature, and they disliked it. The critics in magazine after magazine attacked it. The book was too sentimental, they said, meaning that it appealed to the readers' feelings instead of exercising their minds. But the readers themselves, mainly girls and young women, were happy to have their tender feelings moved. The book was bought in very large numbers, and readers watched the bookshops and libraries for the next book by Louisa May Alcott. The story of the March girls (the "Little Women") was continued in Good Wives, Little Men, Jo's Boys and Aunt Jo's Scrap Bag. Other books poured from Louisa's pen, and she became an extremely successful writer.

All through her life, Louisa worked hard for an end to slavery in America. In her later years, as a famous writer, she gave strong support to movements in favour of women's rights and against the misuse of strong drink. Towards the end of her life, she was often ill, but she continued to write until her death in 1888.

Little Women

We have suggested that the most eager readers of Lit-

1852 年,终于有一家杂志发表了她的一篇小说,还给了稿酬。她为儿童写的故事,尤其是童话故事很受欢迎,她成为《大西洋月刊》的固定撰稿人。美国南北战争期间(1861—1865),她在华盛顿特区当护士。她从医院发出的信件十分感人地描绘了受伤的士兵和他们的种种问题,赢得了越来越多的读者。这些信件于 1863 年以《医院杂记》为题结集出版,路易莎·梅·奥尔科特一举成名。

《小妇人》发表于 1868 年。文学杂志 界把它看成是严肃文学,他们并不喜欢。 一本又一本杂志的评论人对它进行攻击。 他们说,这本书太多愁善感,意思是说它相 被者的情感,而不是启发他们思考。们 读者,主要是许多女孩和年轻妇女,对说 能触动她们的柔肠温情感到高兴。小说 批销售,读者关注着书店和图书馆,希望出现路易莎·梅·奥尔科特的新作。马奇 姑娘(即"小妇人")的故事在《好妻子》、《外 男人》、《乔的儿子们》和《乔姨妈的百宝现 其他许多作品,她成为一个极其成功的作 家。

路易莎一生都为在美国取消奴隶制而努力。晚年,她作为知名作家积极支持争取妇女权利的运动,反对滥饮烈酒。在生命的最后年月里,她常常生病,但她继续写作,直到1888年去世。

关于《小妇人》

我们曾经说到,大多数喜爱《小妇人》

touching

感人的;令人同情 的

attack 抨击;非难 sentimental 多愁善感的;伤感 的 tle Women were girls. They were not the only readers, but it is rather important to consider what **provision** there was for young people's reading.

Before 1868, when Little Women appeared, there were indeed certain books written especially for children and young people. Because of the religious (Puritan) teaching of the early American settlers and the beliefs of writers like Rousseau (his Emile had a strong effect on educational thinking), nearly all these books were written to teach, and especially to teach good thought and behaviour. There was not much to satisfy young people's thirst for stories (about action and real people) to exercise the imagination. For these, before the year 1800, young people had to go to books that had been written for the general reader: books like The Pilgrim's Progress (1678), Robinson Crusoe (1719), Gulliver's Travels (1726). After 1800, fairy stories began to appear for young children: Grimms' Fairy Tales (1823 in English), and the fairy stories of Hans Andersen (1846 in English).

Older children loved Washington Irving's Legend of Sleepy Hollow and Rip Van Winkle (1819). These were not written for children, but they offered young people the chance to see action in the imagination and to enjoy wondering what would happen next. And that is what Louisa May Alcott offered her readers: the characters seemed real; the readers could put themselves in the place of (identify with) one of them and share his or her thoughts and feelings.

The March sisters in Little Women are separate people, each with her own way of thinking. This was perhaps unusual at the time, more than a hundred years ago. In most middle-class families the girls had to be good and obey their parents, not to show independent character.