

纯英文名著分级阅读丛书

[比] 莫里斯·梅特林克 / 著
乔治·莱勃伦克 / 改编



800-1000 单词

BLUE
BIRD

青鸟

中国书籍出版社

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图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

青鸟 = Blue Bird / (比) 梅特林克著; (比) 莱勃伦克改编. —北京: 中国书籍出版社, 2007. 1
(纯英文名著分级阅读丛书)
ISBN 978 - 7 - 5068 - 1490 - 4

I. 青... II. ①梅... ②莱... III. ①英语—语言读物
②童话—比利时—现代 IV. H319. 4; I

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2006) 第 159550 号

责任编辑 / 游翔

责任印制 / 熊力 武雅彬

封面设计 / 周周设计

出版发行 / 中国书籍出版社

地 址: 北京市丰台区三路居路 97 号 (邮编: 100073)

电 话: (010)51259192(总编室) (010)51259186(发行部)

电子邮箱: chinabp@vip.sina.com

经 销 / 全国新华书店

印 刷 / 北京京海印刷厂

开 本 / 880 毫米 × 1230 毫米 1/32

印 张 / 5.625

字 数 / 181 千字

版 次 / 2007 年 1 月第 1 版 2007 年 1 月第 1 次印刷

印 数 / 0001 ~ 8000 册

定 价 / 10.00 元

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编辑的话

“纯英文名著分级阅读丛书”是一套精选的适合中学生阅读的世界经典名著，语言地道流畅，简约优美。为了准确划分出单词量，我们邀请了38位北京的在校中学生，请他们阅读本丛书。每册图书分别由3~4位同学阅读，最后综合这些同学划出的生词，加以注释，从而极大地方便了读者阅读本丛书。这样完全从实践中来，根据英文单词量的分级，给相应英语水平的读者提供流利阅读纯英文的范本，具有非常强的实用性、针对性。

在此，我们对下列同学为本丛书提供的帮助表示感谢。他们是：

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1. The Woodcutter's Cottage

Once upon a time^①, a woodcutter and his wife lived in their cottage **on the edge of**^② a large and ancient forest. They had two dear little children who met with a most wonderful adventure.

But, before telling you all about it, I must describe the children to you and let you know something of their **character**^③; for, if they had not been so sweet and brave and plucky, the curious story which you are about to hear would never have happened at all.

Tyltyl that was our hero's name was ten years old; and Mytyl, his little sister, was only six. Tyltyl was a fine, tall little fellow, stout and well-set-up, with curly black hair which was often in a tangle, for he was fond of a romp. He was a great favorite because of his smiling and good-tempered face and the bright look in his

① once upon a time *adv.* 从前

② on the edge of *adv.* 濒于, 几乎, 在边缘

③ character *n.* 性格, 品性, 人格

eyes; but, best of all, he had the ways of a bold and **fearless**^① little man, which showed the noble qualities of his heart. When, early in the morning, he **trotted**^② along the forest-road by the side of his daddy, Tyl the woodcutter, for all his shabby clothes he looked so proud and **gallant**^③ that every beautiful thing on the earth and in the sky seemed to lie in wait for him to smile upon him as he passed.

His little sister was very different, but looked ever so sweet and pretty in her long frock, which Mummy Tyl kept neatly patched for her. She was as fair as her brother was dark; and her large timid eyes were blue as the forget-me-nots in the fields. Anything was enough to frighten her and she would cry at the least thing; but her little child soul already held the highest womanly qualities: she was loving and gentle and so fondly devoted to her brother that, rather than abandon him, she did not **hesitate**^④ to undertake a long and dangerous journey in his **company**^⑤.

What happened and how our little hero and heroine went off into the world one night in search of happiness; that is the subject

① *fearless adj.* 不怕的, 大胆的, 勇敢的

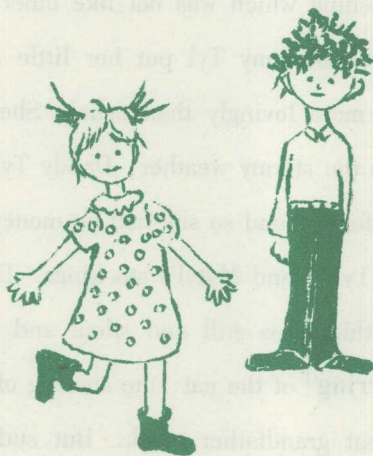
② *trot v.* (使)小跑, (使)快步走

③ *gallant adj.* 英勇的, 豪侠的

④ *hesitate v.* 犹豫, 踌躇, 不愿

⑤ *company n.* 同伴, 陪伴

of my story.



Daddy Tyl's cottage was the poorest of the countryside; and it **seemed**^① even more wretched because it stood opposite a **splendid**^② hall in which rich children lived. From the windows of the cottage you could see what went on inside the hall when the dining-room and drawing-rooms were lit up in the evening. And, in the daytime, you saw the little children playing on the **terraces**^③, in the gardens and in the hot-houses which people came all the way from town to visit because they were always filled with the **rarest**^④

① seem *vi.* 好像是, 似乎

② splendid *adj.* 壮丽的, 辉煌的, 极好的

③ terrace *n.* 露台, 阳台

④ rarest *adj.* 最稀罕的, 最珍贵的 (rare 的比较级)

flowers.

Now, one evening which was not like other evenings, for it was Christmas Eve, Mummy Tyl put her little ones to bed and kissed them even more lovingly than usual. She felt a little sad because, owing to the stormy weather, Daddy Tyl was not able to go to work in the forest; and so she had no money to buy presents with which to fill Tytyl and Mytyl's stockings. The Children soon fell asleep, everything was still and silent and not a sound was heard but the **purring**^① of the cat, the snoring of the dog and the ticking of the great grandfather clock. But suddenly a light as bright as day crept through the shutters, the lamp upon the table lit again of itself and the two Children awoke, yawned, rubbed their eyes, stretched out their arms in bed and Tytyl, in a **cautious**^② voice, called:

“Mytyl?”

“Yes, Tytyl?” was the answer.

“Are you asleep?”

“Are you?”

“No.” said Tytyl, “How can I be asleep, when I'm talking to you?”

① *purr vi.* (猫)得意地呜呜叫

② *cautious adj.* 谨慎的, 小心的

“I say, is this Christmas Day?” asked his sister.

“Not yet; not till tomorrow. But Father Christmas won't bring us anything this year.”

“Why not?”

“I heard Mummy say that she couldn't go to town to tell him. But he will come next year.”

“Is next year far off?”

“A good long while.” said the boy, “But he will come to the rich children tonight .”

“Really?”

“Hullo!” cried Tyltyl of a sudden, “Mummy's forgotten to put out the lamp!... I've an idea!”

“What?”

“Let's get up.”

“But we mustn't.” said Mytyl, who always remembered.

“Why, there's no one about!... Do you see the shutters?”

“Oh, how bright they are!”

“It's the lights of the party.” said Tyltyl.

“What party?”

“The rich children opposite. It's the Christmas-tree. Let's open the shutters...”

“Can we?” asked Mytyl, timidly.

“Of course we can; there's no one to stop us... Do you hear

the music?... Let us get up.”

The two children jumped out of bed, ran to the window, climbed on the stool in front of it and threw back the shutters. A bright light filled the room; and the children looked out eagerly.

“We can see everything!” said Tytyl.

“I can’t.” said poor little Mytyl, who could hardly find room on the stool.

“It’s snowing!” said Tytyl. “There are two **carriages**^①, with six horses each!”

“There are twelve little boys getting out!” said Mytyl, who was doing her best to peep out of the window.

“Don’t be silly!... They’re little girls...”

“They’ve got knickerbockers on...”

“Do be quiet!... And look!...”

“What are those gold things there, hanging from the branches?”

“Why, toys, to be sure!” said Tytyl, “**Swords**^②, guns, **soldiers**^③, cannons...”

“And what’s that, all round the table?”

“Cakes and fruit and cream-tarts.”

① carriage *n.* 马车, 客车

② sword *n.* 剑

③ soldier *n.* 士兵, 军人

“Oh, how pretty the children are!” cried Mytyl, clapping her hands.

“And how they’re laughing and laughing!” answered Tytyl.

“And the little ones dancing!...”

“Yes, yes; let’s dance too!” shouted Tytyl.

And the two children began to **stamp**^① their feet for joy on the stool.

“Oh, what fun!” said Mytyl.

“They’re getting the cakes!” cried Tytyl, “They can touch them!... They’re eating, they’re eating, they’re eating!... Oh, how lovely, how lovely!...”

Mytyl began to count imaginary cakes.

“I have twelve!...”

“And I four times twelve!” said Tytyl, “But I’ll give you some...”

And our little friends, dancing, laughing and **shrieking**^② with **delight**^③, **rejoiced**^④ so prettily in the other children’s happiness that they forgot their own poverty and want. They were soon to have their reward. Suddenly, there came a loud knocking at the door.

① stamp *v.* 踩(脚), 顿(足)

② shriek *v.* 尖声叫喊

③ delight *n.* 快乐, 高兴 *v.* (使)高兴

④ rejoice *v.* (使)欣喜, (使)高兴, 喜悦

The startled children ceased thier romp and dared not move a limb. Then the big **wooden**^① latch lifted of itself, with a loud creak; the door opened slowly; and in crept a little old woman, dressed all in green, with a red hood over her head. She was **humpbacked**^② and lame and had only one eye; her nose and chin almost **touched**^③; and she walked leaning on a stick. She was surely a **fairy**^④.

She hobbled up to the Children and asked, in a snuffling voice:

“Have you seen the grass here that sings or the bird that is blue?”

“We have some grass,” replied Tytyl, trembling all over his body, “but it can’t sing...”

“Tytyl has a bird.” said Mytyl.

“But I can’t give it away, because it’s mine.” the little fellow added, quickly.

Now wasn’t that a capital reason?

The Fairy put on her big, round glasses and looked at the bird.

① wooden *adj.* 木制的

② humpback *n.* 驼背

③ touch *v.* 接触, 触摸, 达到

④ fairy *n.* 仙女, 精灵

“He’s not blue enough.” she **exclaimed**^①, “I must absolutely have the Blue Bird. It’s for my little girl, who is very ill. . . Do you know what the Blue Bird stands for? No? I thought you didn’t; and, as you are good children, I will tell you.”

The Fairy the raised her crooked finger to her long, pointed nose, and whispered, in a mysterious tone:

“The Blue Bird stands for happiness; and I want you to understand that my little girl must be happy in order to get well. That is why I now command you to go out into the world and find the Blue Bird for her. You will have to start at once. . . Do you know who I am?”

The Children **exchanged**^② **puzzled**^③ glances. The fact was that they had never seen a fairy before; and they felt a little **scared**^④ in her presence. However, Tytyl soon said politely:

“You are rather like our neighbour, Madame Berlingot. . .”

Tytyl thought that, in saying this, he was paying the Fairy a compliment; for Madame Berlingot’s shop, which was next door to their cottage, was a very pleasant place. It was stocked with

① *exclaim v.* 呼喊, 惊叫, 大声叫

② *exchange vt.* 交换, 互换, 交流

③ *puzzled adj.* 迷惑不解的

④ *scared adj.* 恐惧的

sweets, **marbles**^①, chocolate, cigars and sugar dolls and hens; and, at fair-time, there were big gingerbread dolls covered all over with gilt paper. Goody Berlingot had a nose that was quite as ugly as the Fairy's; she was old also; and, like the Fairy, she walked doubled up in two; but she was very kind and she had a dear little girl who used to play on Sundays with the woodcutter's Children. **Unfortunately**^②, the poor little pretty, fair-haired thing was always suffering from some unknown complaints, which often kept her in bed. When this happened, she used to beg and pray for Tytyl's dove to play with; but Tytyl was so fond of the bird that he would not give it to her. All this, thought the little boy, was very like what the Fairy told him; and that was why he called her Berlingot.

Much to his surprise, the Fairy turned **crimson**^③ with rage. It was a hobby of hers to be like nobody, because she was a fairy and able to change her **appearance**^④, from one moment to the next, as she pleased. That evening, she happened to be ugly and old and hump-backed; she had lost one of her eyes; and two lean wisps of grey hair hung over her shoulders.

① marble *n.* 大理石, (游戏用的玻璃或石头等做的) 弹子

② unfortunately *adv.* 不幸地

③ crimson *n.* 深红色, 绯红, 紫红

④ appearance *n.* 外貌, 外观

“What do I look like?” she asked Tytyl, “Am I pretty or ugly? Old or young?”

Her reason for asking these questions was to try the kindness of the little boy. He turned away his head and dared not say what he thought of her looks. Then she cried:

“I am the Fairy Berylune!”

“Oh, that's all right!” answered Tytyl, who, by this time, was shaking in every limb.

This **satisfied**^① the Fairy; and, as the children were still in their night-shirts she told them to get dressed. She herself helped Mytyl and, while she did so, asked: “Where are your Father and Mother?”

“In there.” said Tytyl, pointing to the door on the right, “They're asleep.”

“And your Grandad and Granny?”

“They're dead. . .”

“And your little brothers and sisters. . . Have you any?”

“Oh, yes, three little brothers!” said Tytyl.

“And four little sisters.” added Mytyl.

“Where are they?” asked the Fairy.

“They are dead, too.” answered Tytyl.

① satisfy *vt.* 使……满意