

朗文 精读美国名篇故事 ALL AMERICAN STORIES



C.G. Draper

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朗文精读美国名篇故事

ALL AMERICAN STORIES 1

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总序



凡是学过或正在学习英语的人,书架上总会有几套教材,捷进国际英语学校丛书就推出了《捷进聪明宝贝英语教程》、《朗文必胜小学英语教程》、《朗文初中新探索英语教程》、《朗文放眼世界英语教程》、《朗文畅通英语教程》等编写理念先进,教学策略实用的国际化、权威化优秀教材。然而,只凭一套或几套教材是学不好英语的,英语学习必须依靠广泛、系统、长期、大量的阅读。基于此,我们推出了这套“捷进名家英语阅读大讲堂”系列,第一辑包括《朗文文化交际英语》、《朗文精读美国名篇故事》、《朗文讲透美国经典名著》、《朗文神奇世界英语》、《朗文精彩人生英语》、《捷进万象英语》、《朗文中学英语智趣故事集》。该系列丛书从语言知识、语言技能、文化意识和学习策略等方面保证了阅读材料的系统性和组织性;从篇幅、内容、对象的控制和选择上保证了阅读材料的连续性和广泛性;从而丰富了课堂英语教学的内容和形式,特别是为社会各类英语培训机构的阅读课堂提供了广阔的天地,此外读者也可以通过个体阅读来激发兴趣、开阔视野、提升英语水平。

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我们希望读者能用英语去探求新知,去拓展视野,实现学以致用;我们希望读者能用英语汲取信息、品味文化,去享受丰盈人生;我们希望读者能用英语纵览云飞,感受万象,去开启世界之门。

吉林出版集团外语教育中心

前言

学习语言不读文学就如隔靴搔痒,因为文学中的语言是最丰富、最灵活、最具表现力的,同时文学中的情节、故事引人入胜,可以充分调动读者的阅读兴趣,培养读者文学修养,语言的学习才会水到渠成。

《朗文精读美国名篇故事》(1-3)荟萃美国著名作家马克·吐温、欧·亨利、艾德加·艾伦·坡、欧内斯特·海明威、杰克·伦敦、凯特·肖邦的经典作品,教你在领略文学之美的同时学习英语,在学习英语中欣赏文学。

一、本套书的**创新**之处在于将英语说、读、写、译的能力结合起来,每章附有作者简介,选文配有阅读理解题、讨论题、扩展活动及相关的写作练习,以利于培养读者英文阅读思维和文学鉴赏能力。

二、本套书的**科学性**在于难度循序渐进,词汇、语法及内部结构的难度从首篇至末篇逐渐增加,对结构、词汇和句子长度的控制贯穿始终。语法结构按着英语教学梯度进阶安排,超出中心词表的词汇均出现在使其意义明显的语境之中,方便读者的阅读。

三、本套书的**目的**在于提高广大读者的英语阅读理解和写作技能,同时小说本身向读者展现了美国的历史、文化和人民生活的历史画卷。其丰富的人物性格、清晰的情节和矛盾冲突以及出人意料的结局引人入胜。

四、本套书的**形式**采用英汉对照,既保留了教科书的功用,又照顾到读者自学的方便,对提高读者文学欣赏水平和英语运用能力大有裨益。

本套书既可以作为各类英语学校或培训机构开设英语名著阅读课的教材,也可以作为英语学习的通俗读物,我们希望通过这套书,将那些曾感动过世界,并将深刻影响着我们的生命历程的精彩文学名著奉献给读者,引导读者走向进步和成功!

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What is a short story?

A short story can be short or long. But short stories have these things in common: **characters**, **plot**, **setting**, and **theme**. These are called the elements of a short story.

Characters are the people or the animals in the story. When you read a good story, you care about the characters. You wonder what will happen to them.

What happens to the characters is the story's **plot**. Things that happen are called events. The plot can have one event or many.

The **setting** is where and when the story happens. Some stories happen in a certain place at a certain time. For example, the setting for a story about the American Civil War would probably be America in the 1860s.

The **theme** is an idea about life that the writer communicates through the story. Not all stories have a theme.

The model story for this book is "The Gift of the Magi" by a writer named O. Henry. This is how you might describe the characters, plot, setting, and theme of the story:

Characters

Della and Jim, a young married couple

Plot

Two people without money solve the problem of buying gifts for each other.

Setting

Time: Christmas Eve, long ago

Place: an apartment in a city

Theme

People who love each other want to make unselfish choices to please each other.

Character

The most important character in a story is the main character. Stories can have more than one main character. Authors, or writers, have several ways of letting readers get to know story characters. They can describe what a character looks like. They can tell you what the character thinks and feels. They can tell you what the character does and says. You believe in characters when an author shows them to you in realistic ways.

In some stories, the main character develops, or changes, because of what happens in the story. The change the character goes through is usually important to the meaning of the story.

The model story, "The Gift of the Magi" has two main characters: Della and Jim. They are a young married couple. They do not change as a result of what happens in the story. But they learn something important about each other.



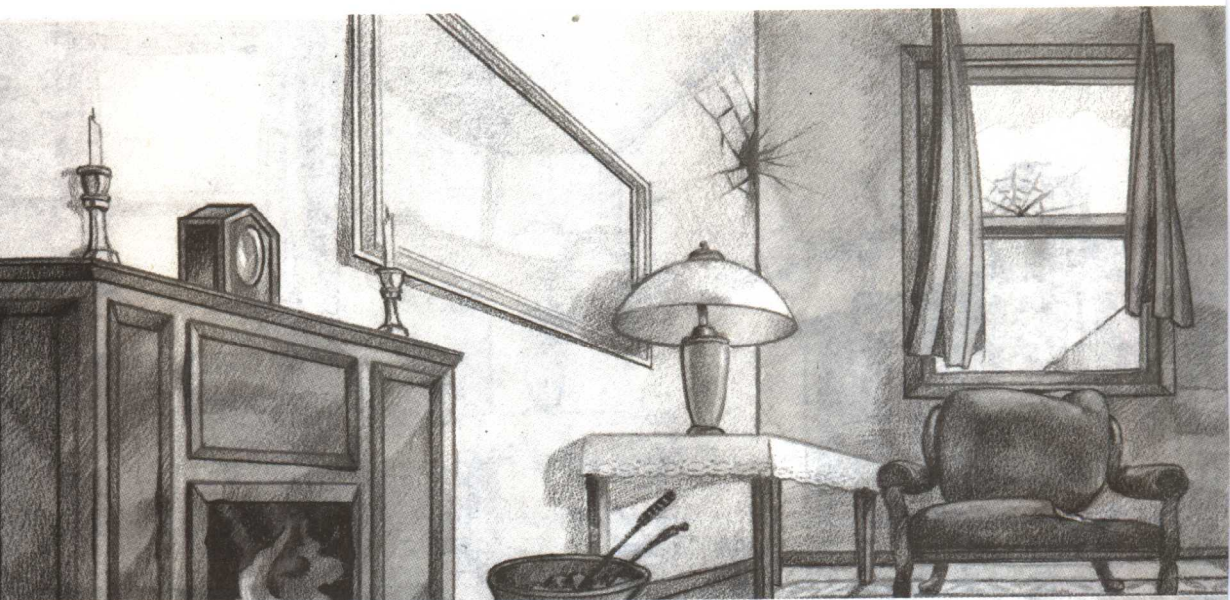
Plot

The plot is the action of the story. It is a series of events that lead from one to the other. The plot usually includes a problem that a character must solve. The problem is usually solved near the end of the story.

The character's problem is at the center of the plot. You read to find out how the character will solve the problem. The author keeps you interested by creating **suspense**. Suspense is a feeling of excitement and curiosity about what will happen next.

Another way authors keep you interested is by surprising you. Sometimes the plot of a story takes a sudden turn at the end. This is called a **surprise ending**.

O. Henry, the author of the model story, was known for his surprise endings. See if you can predict, or guess, the surprise ending as you read the story.



Setting

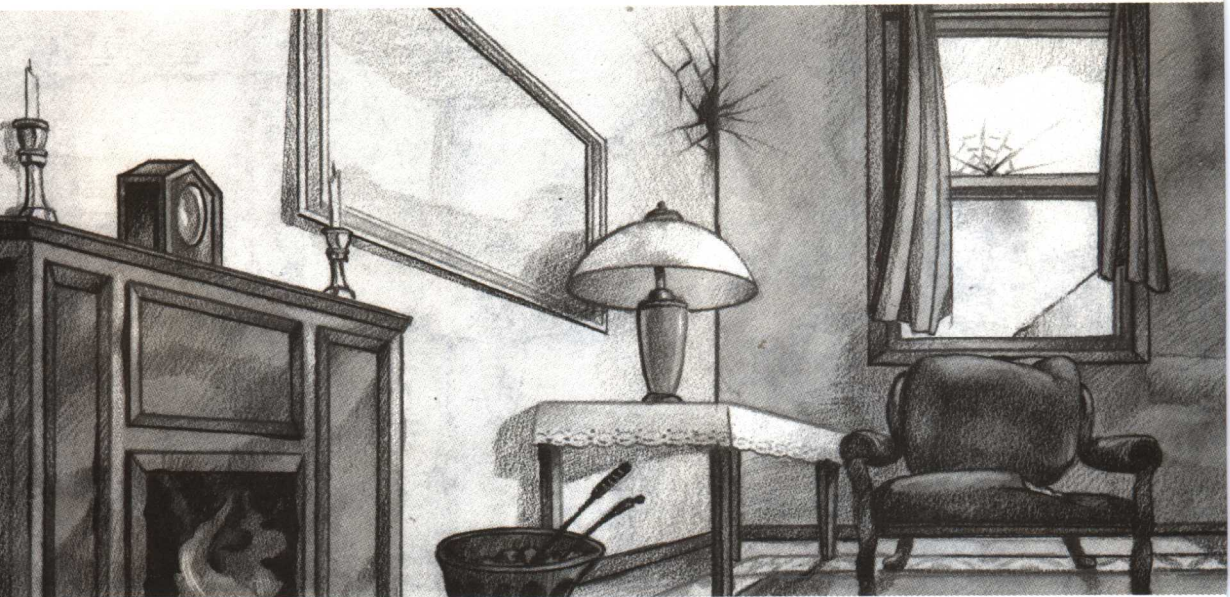
The setting is the place and the time of the story. Place can mean a country or a room. Time can mean the year or the hour.

Sometimes an author tells you the setting. Often, you have to figure it out. You can do this by looking for details the author gives you.

In some stories the setting is important. For example, a story about storms in the Caribbean must have the Caribbean as its setting. .

Sometimes the setting helps to create **mood**, or a feeling. For example, describing bright sunshine and singing birds can create a happy mood. Describing a cold, rainy night can create a sad mood.

The setting of "The Gift of the Magi" is an apartment in a city. The time of the story is long ago.



Theme

The theme is the central idea or message that the author communicates through the story. This idea or message usually makes you think about life in general.

Sometimes an author tells you exactly what the theme of a story is. But usually authors let you decide the theme after you have read the story. You might need to think about a story for a while before you can put the theme into words.

Why should you look for the theme of a story? If you try to put a story's theme into words, you will understand the story better. And understanding a story lets you enjoy it more fully.

The theme of the model story, "The Gift of the Magi" can be stated in this sentence: People who love each other want to make unselfish choices to please each other.



The Gift of the Magi

Adapted from the story O. Henry

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 couch and cried and cried.

Let's leave Della alone for a while and look at her home. The chairs and tables in the apartment 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.

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 front of the mirror and thought. Suddenly she had an idea.

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 apartment house and down the street. She stopped in front of a door which said, MME. SOPHRONIE. HAIR OF ALL KINDS. Madame Sophronie was fat and seemed too white. The store was dark.

"Will you buy my hair?" Della asked.

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

Setting: The author gives details that tell you about the setting. The furniture in the apartment is "old" and "poor." The door has no doorbell. These details suggest that Della and Jim are poor. Their apartment is probably small.

Plot: Della has an idea about how to solve her problem. She gets the idea while combing her hair. What do you predict, or guess, she will do?

Plot: Della solves her problem by selling her only treasure—her hair.

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

"Give me the money now!" said Della.

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.

At seven o'clock Della made coffee and started to cook dinner. 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!" Della smiled, but her eyes were wet. "But what could I do with only one dollar and eighty-seven cents?"

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. He didn't speak. His eyes were strange. Della suddenly felt afraid. She did not understand him. She began to talk very fast. "Oh, Jim, dear, why do you look so strange? Don't look at me like that. I cut my hair and sold it. I wanted to buy you a Christmas gift. It will grow again—don't be angry. My hair grows very fast. Say 'Merry Christmas,' dear, and let's be happy. You don't know what I've got for you—it's beautiful."

"You cut your hair?" Jim spoke slowly.

"I cut it and sold it," Della answered. "Don't you like me now? I'm still me, aren't I?"

"You say that your hair is gone?" Jim asked again.

"Don't look for it, it's gone," Della said. "Be good to me,

Setting: Della

looks in many stores for a gift. This suggests that the story takes place in a city, where there are many stores next door to one another. The good watch chain costs twenty-one dollars. This tells you that the story takes place long ago. In Della's day, twenty-one dollars was a lot of money—much more than it is today.

Plot: Jim looks strange, and Della thinks it's because she has cut her hair. It is, but not because Jim doesn't like the way Della looks. You have to keep reading to find out why Jim is so shocked to see Della's short hair.

Character: Jim cannot believe that Della has cut her hair. He sees that her hair is gone, yet he asks her twice if she cut it. This helps you understand how shocked Jim is.

Theme: The author mentions the Magi here and in the story's title. This gives you an idea about the theme. The theme is about giving gifts to show love.

Plot: Jim gives Della combs. Now you know why he was so shocked to see Della's short hair.

Plot: It turns out that Jim sold his watch to buy Della the combs. This is a **surprise ending**. It is also an example of **irony**. Irony is present when what happens is the opposite of what you expect. Each person gives up a treasure to buy a gift. And the gift in both cases turns out to be useless.

Theme: The author tells you that Jim and Della are the Magi. The Magi gave gifts to show their love for Jesus. Jim and Della give gifts to show their love for each other. The gifts are not useful, but they show that Jim and Della's love is strong. This makes Jim and Della wiser than people who do not show their love.

because it's Christmas. Shall we have dinner now, Jim?"

Jim seemed to wake up. He smiled. He took Della in his arms.

Let's leave them together for a while. They are happy, rich or poor. Do you know about the Magi? The Magi were wise men who brought Christmas gifts to the baby Jesus. But they could not give gifts like Jim's and Della's. Perhaps you don't understand me now. But you will understand soon.

Jim took a small box out of his pocket. "I love your short hair, Della," he said. "I'm sorry I seemed strange. But if you open the box, you will understand." Della opened the box. First she smiled, then suddenly she began to cry. In the box were two beautiful combs. Combs like those were made to hold up long hair. Della could see that the combs came from an expensive store. She never thought she would ever have anything as beautiful! "Oh, Jim, they are lovely! And my hair grows fast, you know. But wait! You must see your gift." Della gave Jim the chain. The chain was bright, like her eyes. "Isn't it a good one, Jim? I looked for it everywhere. You'll have to look at the time one hundred times daily, now. Give me your watch. I want to see them together."

Jim lay back on the couch. He put his hands under his head, and smiled. "Della," he said, "let's put the gifts away. They are too good for us right now. I sold the watch to buy your combs. Come on, let's have dinner."

The Magi, as we said, were wise men—very wise men. They brought gifts to the baby Jesus. The Magi were wise, so their gifts were wise gifts. Perhaps Jim and Della do not seem wise. They lost the two great treasures of their house. But I want to tell you that they were wise. People like Jim and Della are always wiser than others. Everywhere they are wiser. They are the Magi.

Chinese Version

麦琪的礼物

黛拉把钱数了三遍，只有一元八角七，一分不多。明天就是圣诞节了，就这么一点钱能买什么礼物呢？她倒在那张破旧的长沙发上，不停地哭。

暂且不说黛拉，咱们来看看她的家吧：屋里的桌椅都很破旧；屋外有个信箱，可惜里面没有邮件；还有一扇门，但是没有门铃。门上写着：詹姆斯·迪灵汉·扬。这是指黛拉亲爱的丈夫——吉姆。

黛拉知道吉姆很快就要回来了。赶紧擦干眼泪，站起身来，照照镜子，开始梳头，准备迎接吉姆。她心里很难过，因为想为吉姆买一件像样的圣诞礼物。可是，一元八角七又能买什么呢？她在镜子前一边梳头，一边琢磨。突然，灵机一动，想出个主意来。

眼下，吉姆和黛拉只有两件值钱的东西，一是吉姆的金表，另一件是黛拉的头发。黛拉的头发是棕色的，长长的，一直垂到后背。她又在镜子前发了一会儿呆。她眼神虽然哀伤，但这会儿，她却笑了。她穿上那件棕色的旧外衣，戴上帽子，从家里跑出去，来到大街上。她在一家小店门口停了下来，小店的门上写着：索芙尼太太，专收各种毛发。索芙尼太太很胖，皮肤显得过白。店里很阴暗。

“你想买我的头发吗？”黛拉问。

“这儿是收头发，”索芙尼太太说。“把帽子摘掉，我们看看货。”

黛拉摘掉帽子，那长发像瀑布一样垂落下来。索芙尼太太用一只有力的大手颠了颠黛拉的头发后说：“20美元。”

“我要现钱！”黛拉说。

哈！接下来的两个小时过得真像夏天里的风一样飞快。为了给吉姆买到合适的礼物，黛拉跑了很多商店。后来，她终于找到了——是一条与他的金表相匹配的表链。这条表链质地很好，做工结实，但价格非常昂贵。黛拉知道吉姆一见到它准会高兴。吉姆现在用的表链很便宜，但这条可就好多了，配他的金表正合适。这条表链的售价是21美元。黛拉交完钱，带着剩下的87美分跑回家了。

晚上七点，黛拉煮好咖啡，开始做晚饭。吉姆很快就要回来了，他从不晚归。黛拉听到了门外吉姆的声音，又照了照镜子。“哦！但愿吉姆别掐死我！”黛拉笑了，但眼睛却湿润了：“可是，仅有一元八角七，不这么办又能怎么样呢？”

门开了，吉姆走了进来，随手又把门关上。脸很瘦削，但很安详。身上的外衣已经很旧了，头上没有戴帽子。他才22岁。吉姆站住了，静静地看着黛拉，一句话也不说，眼神很奇怪。黛拉有些紧张，她不明白吉姆为什么会这样。她开始急促地说：“哦，吉姆，亲爱的，你看上去怎么这么怪？别这样看我。我把头发剪下来卖掉了。我