

中学英语拾级读物

**GRADED
ENGLISH
READERS**

第二级

**The Children of
the Brown Family**

布朗家的孩子们

第**1**册

外语教学与研究出版社

中学英语拾级读物
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前 言

受国家教育委员会中学司委托,由上海外国语学院、北京外国语学院、北京师范大学、华东师范大学所属的四家大学出版社联合编辑、出版的《中学英语拾级读物》(简称《拾级读物》或《GE》)与读者见面了,这是我国中学英语教学的一项重要配套工程,旨在促进中学英语教学的改革。

取名《拾级读物》,不仅因为它有十个级别五十本书,而且还寓有“循序渐进,拾级而上”之意。中学生从初二开始阅读,逐级向上攀登,便可达到借助词典读懂浅近原著的水平。

《拾级读物》每册的词汇量、字数及对应年级大致如下:

级别	词 汇 量	每册大约字数	对 应 年 级
一	500—700	10 万	初二
二	600—900	10 万	初二、初三
三	800—1200	12 万	初三
四	1000—1500	12 万	初三、高一
五	1400—1800	12 万	高一、高二
六	1700—2000	12 万	高二、高三
七	2000—2500	14 万	重点中学高三
八	2500—3000	16 万	外国语学校高三
九	3000—3500	18 万	高材生、中学教师
十	3000—3500	18 万	高材生、中学教师

阅读是学好任何一种语言的必由之路,也是获得信息的主要渠道。只做习题,不大量阅读是学不好英语的。近年来不少

学生为了应付考试,花费大量的精力和时间去做各种各样的复习题、模拟试题,但收效甚微,对外语能力的提高并无多大益处,这是外语教学中的一种偏向。《拾级读物》的出版正是为了给中学英语教学提供一套可读性与系统性相结合的课外读物。

《拾级读物》主要供学生自己阅读,但教师可根据学生的实际水平帮助他们选择使用,并进行适当的辅导。特别在阅读方法上教师可作示范性的讲示,引导学生逐步摆脱语法和汉语的束缚,在此过程中,一是抓篇章大意和故事情节;二是注意学过语言现象的再现和在新环境下的发展。对不易理解之处,要启发学生先根据上下文去琢磨,实在影响阅读时再查阅词典。对不影响理解全文的语言难点则要舍得放过。只有这样,才能培养学生良好的阅读习惯,保持他们阅读的兴趣,提高他们阅读的速度。

《拾级读物》的级别是衡量中学生英语阅读水平的客观尺度,为了便于检查,我们还准备编写一套相应的测试材料和教学参考书。

《拾级读物》除供中学生使用外,还可作为中学英语教师培训、进修的教材。

第二级共五册,书目如下:(1)《布朗家的孩子们》;(2)《当代故事》;(3)《剧本和对话》;(4)《法网难逃》;(5)《古代希腊、罗马故事》。

本册选收描写国外儿童和青少年的生活故事8篇,共用750个英语词撰写,语法结构浅易。

鉴于编者水平有限,本读物在选材、注释等各方面肯定有不少缺点,敬请广大师生、各界读者不吝指正,供我们再版时参考。

《中学英语拾级读物》编辑委员会

一九八七年五月

《中学英语拾级读物》 第二级 第一册

布朗家的孩子们

本书选收《布朗家的孩子们》、《海蒂》、《他不识字》、《一只新眼睛》、《走私者的岛》、《野牛比尔》、《加里的第一个比赛季节》、《森林之火》等8篇描写国外青少年生活的故事。内容生动有趣，共用750个英语单词撰写，语法结构浅易。各篇基本上按由浅入深、由易到难的次序排列。篇后附有注释。全书共有插图50幅。

● 适于初中学生及初学英语者阅读。

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1. The Children of the Brown Family

1

Anne¹ lay in bed. It was quite dark.² Helen³ was asleep in the other bed. Father and Mother were downstairs. Father shouted, 'Why did you buy a new pram?'⁴

'Because we've got a bady now,' Mother shouted.

'But we haven't got much money,'⁵ Father shouted, and the bady began crying.

'Go and get more money,' Mother shouted.

Then the front door closed loudly,⁶ and the back door closed a few seconds later⁷ too.

Anne ran to the window. Mother went down the street with the bady. It was in the new pram. Anne stood at the top⁸ of the stairs.

'Is anybody there?' she said, but the house was dark and quiet.

Anne woke up at eight o'clock in the morning.

'Get up, everybody,' she said. 'I'm going to make the breakfast.' Anne was fourteen, and John⁹ was thirteen. Helen was nine, and James¹⁰ was seven. Anne made some tea and cook-

ed some eggs.

'Where's Mother?' James said.

'She's gone out,' Anne said.

'Where's she gone?' Helen said.

'She's gone to Grandmother's house,' Anne said.

Mother sometimes went to Grandmother's house for a few days.

'Where's Father?' James said.

'He went out early,' Anne said.

After breakfast they went to school.

At four o'clock James and Helen ran home. Anne and John walked more slowly.



'Where did Father go?' John said.

'He was angry,' Anne said. 'He went out of the back door, and Mother went out of the front door.'

John's face was white. 'Are they going to come back?' he said.

Helen stood at the front door. 'I've knocked at the door

three times,' she said. 'Where's Mother?'

'I put the key¹¹ under the mat,'¹² Anne said, and she opened the door. 'Mother's going to come back tomorrow.'

2

'Are we going to have our tea in the garden?' James said. It was summer, and the garden was sunny. Anne made the tea, and John opened a tin¹³ of meat.

Mrs Jones¹⁴ lived in the next house. She looked over the wall.

'We're having our tea in the garden,' Helen said.

'Where's Mrs Brown?'¹⁵ Mrs Jones said.

'Mother's tired,' Anne said quickly. 'She's upstairs.'¹⁶

Mrs Jones went away, and Anne said, 'Mother's gone to Grandmother's house, but we're not going to tell Mrs Jones or anybody else. We're going to stay here together.'

After tea James cleaned the rabbit's¹⁷ cage,¹⁸ and Helen played with her ball.

Then Anne said, 'Go to bed now.'

'It's only seven o'clock,' Helen said.



‘When’s Mother going to come home?’ James said.

‘Have your bath¹⁹ quickly. Then I’m going to read to you,’ Anne said.

Half an hour later Anne and John were in the garden.

‘What are we going to do?’ John said.



‘We haven’t got much money,’ Anne said. ‘There’s only ten pence²⁰ on the shelf.²¹ Today is Thursday, and the milkman²² wants his money every Saturday.’

John said, ‘I’m going to get some money. I’m going to work.’

In the morning John got up early and went down the street to the newspaper shop.

‘Have you got a newspaper boy?’²³ John said.

'Yes, but they want a boy at the next newspaper shop,' the man said. 'How old are you?'

'I'm thirteen,' John said.

'They don't want a very young boy,' the man said.

John went to the next newspaper shop.

'Do you want a newspaper boy?' he said.

'Yes, we do,' the man said. 'How old are you?'

'I'm fourteen,' John said.

'Begin tomorrow,' the man said. 'I'm going to give you a pound a week.'

3

In the evening John said, 'I'm going to work at the newspaper shop. The man's going to give me a pound a week.'

'Two bottles of milk and a loaf²⁴ of bread every day cost²⁵ a pound a week,' Anne said.

'I want butter²⁶ and jam²⁷ with my bread,' James said.

Anne looked in the cupboard.²⁸ 'There are only a few tins of food here,' she said.

'Are we going to go shopping tomorrow?' James said.

'We haven't got much money,' Helen said.

'Where's Father gone?' James said. 'When's he coming back?'

On Saturday morning Anne took the basket. 'I'm going to go shopping,'²⁹ she said.

'I'm going to come with you,' James said,

'No,' Anne said. 'You and Helen are going to clean the house.'



Mrs Jones was at her front door. 'You're out early,' she said.

'I'm going shopping,' Anne said.

James said, 'I'm not going to clean the house.'

'Yes, you are,' Helen said. 'Take this brush.'

'I'm not going to clean anything,' James said, and he went out of the house.

There were several cars at the side of the road. James went down the road. He looked for the dirtiest³⁰ car. Then he stood near it and waited. A man came towards³¹ the car.

'Your car's very dirty,' James said. 'I clean cars.'

'How old are you?' the man said.

'I'm seven,' James said.

'You're very young,' the man said.



'I'm going to be eight in March,' James said.

The man laughed and said, 'Eight is very young too.' Then he got into his car and drove³³ it away. James went home and swept the kitchen³³ floor.

4

Anne brought the food home. She said, 'I'm going to work in Mrs Smith's³⁴ house. She's going to give me fifteen pence an hour.'

'Now we're going to have butter and jam on our bread,' James said. 'When's Mother going to come home?'

Helen looked in the basket. There were six oranges. Helen cut the oranges in half. She stood by the front gate.

'I'm selling oranges. Half an orange is two pence,' Helen shouted.

Some children stopped, and each of them bought half an



orange. Then Mrs Jones came out of her house and looked at Helen.

Helen went into the house.

'I've got twenty-four pence,' Helen said. 'Now we're all working.'

'But the oranges cost eighteen pence in the shop,' John said.

'Yes, but I've got sixpence more than I had this morning,' Helen said.

At five o'clock Anne came home.

'Where's James?' Anne said.

'He went with you,' John said.

'No, he didn't,' Anne said.

They went to the front door and looked up the street.

'James,' they shouted.

Then Mrs Jones came home from the shops.

'Have you seen James?' Anne said.

'No,' Mrs Jones said. 'And I haven't seen your mother for several days. Is she at home?'

'No,' John said.

In the afternoon Anne took Mrs Smith's baby for a walk.



5

John closed the curtains.³⁵

'Mrs Jones often looks in,' he said. Then James came in. 'Why have you got that black rabbit?' John said.

'Peter³⁶ has gone away,' James said. 'I'm going to give his rabbit some food. He's going to give me a penny a day.'

'A penny a day isn't much,' Helen said.

James took his rabbit into the kitchen. There was a letter on the mat.

'Someone has sent Mother a letter,' John said.

'It's from Father,' Anne said.

On Sunday morning John got up early and went to the newspaper shop.

After breakfast John said, 'I'm going to take the letter to Mother. I'm going to go to Grandmother's house.'

At twelve o'clock John reached Grandmother's house and knocked at the door.

'Hullo,³⁷ John,' Grandmother said.

'I've brought a letter. Father's written to Mother,' John said.

'Your mother isn't here,' Grandmother said.

'She went out with the bady on Wednesday night,' John said, 'and she sometimes comes and stays with you.'

'She didn't come on Wednesday,' Grandmother said. John's face was white now. 'Where is she?' he said.

'Are you and the other children alone in the house?' Grandmother said.

'Yes,' John said.

Grandmother said, 'Tomorrow I'm going to come and stay with you.'

6

John knocked at the front door, and Helen ran and opened it.

'Did you see Mother?' she asked. 'When is she going to come home with the bady?'

'She's not there,' John said. 'I went to Grandmother's house, but Mother isn't there.'

'Where's she gone?' James said, and he began crying. Anne put her arms round him.