

中学英语拾级读物

GRADED
ENGLISH
READERS

第八级

The Escape of King Charles

英王查尔斯逃遁记

第 4 册

上海外语教育出版社

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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、字数以及对应的年级大致如下:

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
三	800—1200	12万	初三
四	1000—1500	12万	初三
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,也是获取信息的

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。

本册读物是第八级第四册。全书选收了七篇小故事。内容有描写英王查尔斯在瓦赛斯特战役惨败后落魄出逃途中的片断;有描写侦探的机智、勇敢、幽默以及他们如何对待生活的故事;另外还有二个关于追捕盗贼的短剧。本书的故事惊险、曲折、扣人心弦,适合高中三年级的学生以及具有同等英语水平的读者阅读。

鉴于编者水平有限,读物在选材、注释等各方面肯定存有

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

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英王查尔斯逃遁记

在瓦赛斯特战役中，查尔斯国王的军队惨败。尔后，查尔斯国王乔装成平民，逃离英国。一路上，他躲过了圆颅党人的多次搜捕。最后，在几位大臣的帮助下，他终于逃到了法国。故事摄取了查尔斯国王落魄出逃的几个片断，情节紧张，扣人心弦。

1. The Escape of King Charles



The Battle of Worcester

King Charles stood on the tall tower of Worcester Church. From the tower, the King could see and hear the noise of battle. Buildings were burning all over Worcester town. Charles looked down. Men were running from house to house. He could hear the shouts of soldiers who were hurt. Horses were lying in the road. Then Lord Wilmot came up the stairs

and spoke to Charles.

"Don't stay here, sir," he said. "The church is already burning. Come away with us now. You still have a chance to escape. If you stay here for another ten minutes you will have no chance. We cannot win the battle now. The Roundheads have too many soldiers. Look over there, sir. More Roundhead soldiers are coming down the hill from London."

"I cannot leave my soldiers now," said Charles.

"Sir, you can do nothing more for them," said Lord Wilmot. "Your Scottish¹ soldiers are already riding back to Scotland². Your English soldiers are too tired to fight any more.³ If you stay here, more of your soldiers will be hurt. If you leave now, the battle will stop."

King Charles looked over the town once more and then said,

"I'll come with you now. But where can we go? I can see Roundhead soldiers on every road. How can we escape from them now?"

"Lord Derby and his son are downstairs," said Lord Wilmot. "Last night they stayed with a man called Penderel at his farm, *Whiteladies*. Lord Derby says we can stay there. We needn't go on the roads. We can go across the fields. If we hurry, we can arrive there tonight."

King Charles and Lord Wilmot hurried downstairs.

Then with Lord Derby and his son they set off for *Whiteladies*.

Whiteladies

It was three o'clock in the morning. The four men were still riding quickly along the road, but they were very tired.

"Ah, I can see *Whiteladies* now," said Lord Derby. "There it is at the bottom of the hill. It's the house behind the big wall. Richard and William Penderel will help us, I'm sure."

The men rode up to the house. The horses' feet made a lot of noise on the road. At once a bedroom window opened. A man put his head out of the window and shouted.

"Who's there?"

"Lord Derby with three friends. We've just come from Worcester. We fought all day yesterday, but we did not win the battle. Now Cromwell's soldiers are everywhere and we need your help."

"Wait a minute. My brother will let you in," said Richard Penderel.

William Penderel opened the door.

"Come in quickly. The woods are full of Roundheads. You rode very near them. Perhaps they

heard you. Don't leave your horses outside. The Roundheads will see them. Then they will know you are here."

So they brought the horses inside, too.

Then the two brothers saw Charles. At once they knew that he was the King.

Richard spoke quietly to Charles.

"Sir," he said. "Tomorrow your friends can hide in the forest. Then we'll take them to other houses. They'll be safe because no one knows them. But everyone in England knows you, sir. They have pictures of you; or they've seen you in London, or met you travelling."

"You're right," said the King. "But don't worry. I can change. In ten minutes no one will know me. Can you get me some really old clothes? And some shoes, please."

Charles went into the next room; he began to take off his fine clothes.

"Come in here, Wilmot," he called. "Are you any good at cutting hair?"

Soon the other men heard Charles and Lord Wilmot laughing in the next room. When the King came back everyone laughed too. Charles was wearing a black coat; it was much too small for him. His shirt was very old. His trousers had holes in the knees. His hair was very short and untidy. On his head was a

dirty old grey hat."

"That's very good, sir," said Richard. "But you've forgotten your face and hands. They are still very clean and white."

Charles walked over to the fire. He put his hands in the chimney^s and then touched his face. His hands and face were soon very dirty.

"That's much better," said Richard. "No one will know you now. But it's time to leave. It'll soon be day. I'm going to show Lord Wilmot and his friends the way to a safe house. My brother will take you to a secret place in the forest. Only my brother and I know where it is. You can stay there safely all day. Here, William, take this coat for the King. It's still very cold outside."

William took Charles to the secret place in the forest. He left him sitting under a big tree.

"How quiet it is here," [thought Charles. "It's very different from being with my army: the noise of the guns, the horses and the men; and the shouts of battle. Now I am alone. I have time to think about my future."

Soon it began to rain; and the rain dropped from the leaves. So Charles put the coat over his head. This kept him dry.

"I can fight no more battles. Cromwell's armies are too strong. And I'll never get another army. I can

do nothing more in England or in Scotland. I can go to France. I still have friends there. But first I must get to the sea. Then I'll need a boat, but that will not be easy..."

It rained and rained. The rain began to come through the coat. Charles was cold and miserable. So he was very pleased when he saw William coming back.



"We can go back to the house now, sir," said William. "The Roundheads didn't like the rain. My wife has some hot dinner ready at home."

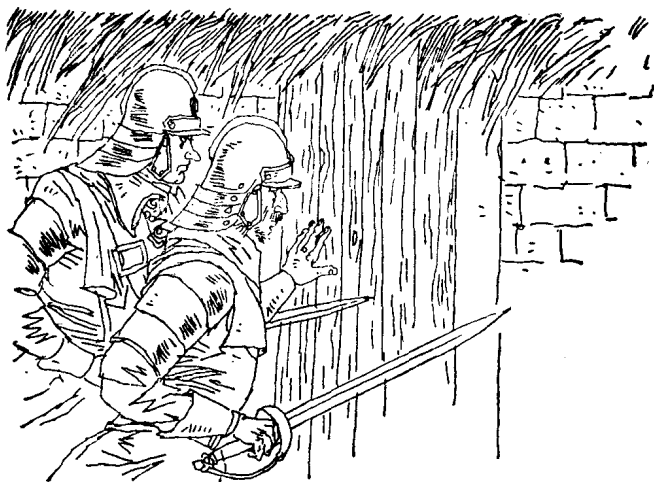
"That's the best news I've heard this week," said Charles with a smile.

"I'm not surprised," said William. "You've been

here for twelve hours."

The two men walked quickly back to *Whiteladies*. William told the King about the morning:

"The Roundheads arrived before breakfast. They looked everywhere in the house and the garden. In all the cupboards, under the beds, even up the chimney. They pulled up the floor, and looked in the roof. They found nothing. Then they were very angry. They asked lots of questions. But we didn't tell them



anything. We only said that we heard horses passing in the night. The Roundheads were angry with us, but they could do nothing more. So they went away. Tonight, you can rest quietly in our house, sir."

"Thank you, but no," said Charles. "I cannot stay

here. I want to leave tonight. I still have a good chance to escape. The Roundheads will think I'm going to the South Coast. They will be looking for me on all the roads to London.⁶ But I've decided to go to the West Coast. There are not so many soldiers there and I can get a ship more easily. I'm going to go through Wales. I've got friends there and I can stay in their houses. Only one thing will be difficult; I don't know the roads from here to Wales. Can you help me?"

"Yes," said William. "My brother Richard sometimes goes to Wales. He knows the best roads. When we get home, he can tell you about them."

The Bridge

King Charles sat by the fire with the two brothers, William and Richard Penderel. Sarah Penderel brought in some more wine and put it on the table. Richard was talking quietly to Charles.

"It will be best to go through the woods. I know the roads very well. I usually cross into Wales by a little bridge across the river. That will be the only difficult place, because in front of the bridge there is a large farmhouse. The people who live in the farmhouse are Roundheads. If they hear us they will

stop us.”

“We’ll be very careful,” said Charles. “They won’t hear us.”

Sarah Penderel looked worried. She walked to the door and opened it.

“Listen to that wind,” she said. “And it’s so dark and wet. It’s not a good night for you to go through the forest, sir. Can’t you stay here with us for just one more night?” “You have all been very good to me,” said the King. “But I can’t stay any longer. If the Roundheads find me here they will put you in prison; and they will burn your house. I know tonight is not a very nice night. But it gives me a better chance to escape. The wind makes a lot of noise in the trees. It’s raining and the night is dark. So it will be very difficult for the Roundheads to hear us or to see us in the woods.”

Charles turned to William. “What’s the time? Can we leave now?”

“It’s ten o’clock,” said William. “We can start in half an hour.”

Three hours later, it was still raining. The strong wind was blowing dark clouds across the sky. The three men were hurrying through the woods. But now the King was walking behind William and Richard. He began to walk slower and slower. Then he stopped and sat on the ground.