

# Reading Snacks-A Reading & Conversation Text for Low-Intermediate Students

Short, funny, highly  
and offering exercises.  
interactive exercises.  
**兴趣盎然阅短文**

地道美语系列



中国水利水电出版社  
www.waterpub.com.cn

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### 内 容 提 要

读短文, 提升阅读能力, 开拓新思维。本书是一本强调互动的、初级的有关阅读及交流的英语学习书。

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### 图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

兴趣盎然阅短文 / (美) 温斯坦 (Weinstein, N.) 著. —北京: 中国水利水电出版社, 2004

(地道美语系列)

ISBN 7-5084-1852-2

I. 兴… II. 温… III. 英语, 美国—语言读物 IV. H319.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2003) 第 109110 号

书 名	兴趣盎然阅短文
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出版、发行	中国水利水电出版社 (北京市三里河路 6 号 100044) 网址: <a href="http://www.waterpub.com.cn">www.waterpub.com.cn</a> E-mail: <a href="mailto:mchannel@public3.bta.net.cn">mchannel@public3.bta.net.cn</a> (万水) <a href="mailto:sale@waterpub.com.cn">sale@waterpub.com.cn</a> 电话: (010) 63202266 (总机)、68331835 (营销中心)、82562819 (万水)
经 售	全国各地新华书店和相关出版物销售网点
排 版	北京万水电子信息有限公司
印 刷	北京市蓝空印刷厂
规 格	787×1000 毫米 16 开本 7 印张 100 千字
版 次	2004 年 1 月第一版 2004 年 1 月北京第一次印刷
印 数	0001—5000 册
定 价	12.00 元

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# Introduction

## The Level

*Reading Snacks* is an interactive, low-intermediate level, reading/conversation book.

## The Audience

This text is targeted for students in adult schools, colleges, and secondary and international institutions.

## The Content

*Reading Snacks* includes a simple introduction to five popular genres of fiction: mystery ("Teresa Garcia's Dead, and Her Cat's Not Feeling Very Well, Either"); science fiction ("Be Careful of Shy Aliens"); romance ("Family Loyalty"); western ("Gunfight at High Noon"); and horror ("Sweet Dreams"). The selections are short, fun, and offer highly interactive exercises.

## The Organization of the Book

All exercises are done with a partner or in a small group. Each selection begins with two pictures based on the story and accompanying vocabulary. Students study the pictures and answer the *Pre-Reading Questions*. Then they read a short story segment and do vocabulary work in the form of *Guess the*



*Meaning* exercises plus a *Using What You've Learned* section where they must use their new vocabulary to find someone in class who fits each description. (Example: "Find someone in your class who has loud footsteps." Students must ask, "Do you have loud footsteps?" until they find someone who says, "Yes." Then they get that person's signature in the space provided.

For reading comprehension, there is a *Reading for Facts* section as well as an exercise where the students must role-play the portion of the story they have just read to show their understanding of the main events. *Thinking About What You've Read* allows the student to share his/her own ideas about the story. *What Will Happen Next?* is a written exercise (that has to be discussed with a partner or in a small group). It has the students predict what they think will happen in the next scene.

Although these exercises form the core of *Reading Snacks*, they will sometimes vary slightly to maintain student interest.

## Acknowledgments

I would like to thank Mary Jane Peluso and Maggie Barbieri for their encouragement and helpful input on this project.



# Contents

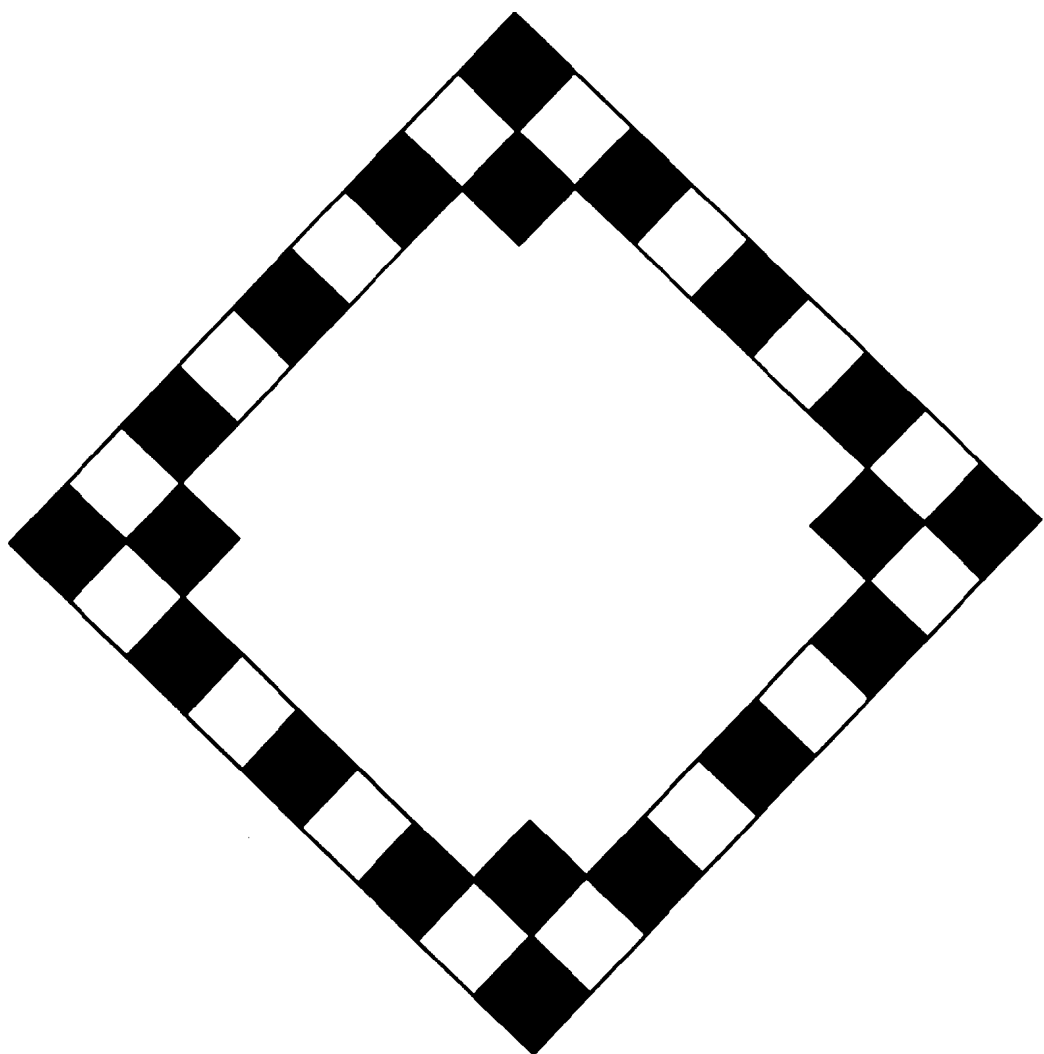
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UNIT . 1

# MYSTERY

Teresa Garcia Is Dead;  
and Her Cat's Not Feeling  
Very Well, Either





## PART 1

## Getting Ready

**Vocabulary**

engagement ring

English essay

**Pre-Reading Questions**

Study the picture. Work with a partner or in a small group.

1. How many people are in the picture?
2. What is the woman doing?
3. What's on her finger? What does this tell you about the woman?
4. There's a picture on the desk. Who do you think it is?



### Vocabulary

to strangle

to fight

### Pre-Reading Questions

Study the picture. Work with a partner or in a small group.

1. How many people are in the picture?
2. What are they doing?
3. How do you think the woman feels?
4. What do you think is going to happen to the woman?
5. What will her cat do next? Why?
6. Think of a question about either picture, and ask your partner.

*Now read Part 1 of the Story.*

## PART 1

Teresa Garcia forgot *to lock* her door. She was a twenty-three-year-old student, but she was *engaged* to a very rich *elderly* man named Malcolm Forrester. Soon, she wouldn't have *to worry* about anything.

It was night.

It was cold in the apartment.

Teresa was *nervous*, but she didn't know why.

**Begin:** She went to her desk and sat down. She opened her notebook to a *blank* page and wrote at the top, "English Essay — October 10, 1993," but then she dropped her pen.

She started to pick it up, when suddenly, she heard *footsteps*. She wanted to scream, but it was too late. She felt a strong hand covering her mouth and nose. She fought and fought.

As she *gasped* for air, a picture on the desk fell to the floor, and the cat *meowed*.

## Guess the Meaning

Work with a partner or in a small group. Choose the best answer.

1. Because Teresa's door isn't *locked*, anyone can
  - a. come in.
  - b. answer the telephone.
  - c. leave.



2. Teresa is *engaged*.
  - a. She's going to be married.
  - b. She's wearing a long dress.
  - c. She's going to enter the room.
3. Malcolm Forrester is *elderly*.
  - a. He's probably around thirty-five years old.
  - b. He's probably over sixty years old.
  - c. He's very young.
4. Teresa *worries* a lot. She feels
  - a. happy.
  - b. tired.
  - c. troubled.
5. Teresa was *nervous*.
  - a. She felt afraid.
  - b. She felt happy.
  - c. She felt relaxed.



6. She opened her notebook to a *blank* page.

- a. a torn page
- b. a black page
- c. a page with nothing written

7. *Footsteps* are the sound made by

- a. a cat.
- b. a dog.
- c. a person walking.

8. Teresa *gasped*.

- a. She couldn't breathe.
- b. She couldn't talk.
- c. She couldn't fry an egg.

9. A *meow* is

- a. the sound made by a bird.
- b. the sound made by a dog.
- c. the sound made by a cat.



## Using What You've Learned

Get up from your seat. Find a person in your class who

1. is engaged.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(name of student)

**Example:** You must ask, "Are you engaged?" until you find someone who says, "Yes." Then ask that person to sign his/her name in the space.

2. has an elderly aunt.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(name of student)

3. gasps for air when he/she is afraid.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(name of student)

4. has loud footsteps.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(name of student)

5. can meow like a cat.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(name of student)



6. worries a lot.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(name of student)

7. has many blank pages in his/her notebook.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(name of student)

8. is nervous when he/she has to talk in class.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(name of student)

9. always locks his/her door at night.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(name of student)

## Reading for Facts

Read Part 1 again. Work with a partner or in a small group.  
Answer the following questions.

1. How old is Teresa Garcia?
2. Is this old or young?
3. Who is she engaged to? Is he old or young?
4. It's cold and dark. How does Teresa feel?



5. Why does she go to the desk?
6. She begins to write. Why does she stop?
7. What does she hear?
8. Then what happens?
9. What falls to the floor?

### **Role-Play**

Role-play the story from the word **Begin**. Have the rest of the class help as needed.

### **Thinking About What You've Read**

Work with a partner or in a small group. Answer the following questions.

1. Why do you think Teresa forgot to lock her door?
2. Do you think she loves Malcolm Forrester? Why or why not?
3. Why do you think Teresa is nervous?
4. Do you think the person in the apartment with Teresa is a man or a woman? Why?
5. What is he/she doing to Teresa?





6. A picture falls to the floor. Is this a picture of Malcolm Forrester?

If so, describe him. If not, who is in the picture?

7. Why do you think the cat meows?

### **What Will Happen Next?**

What do you think will happen next in the story? Work with a partner or in a small group. Write your answer below.

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*Now role-play your answer for the class. Have them guess what you're doing.*