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麦克白



Macbeth

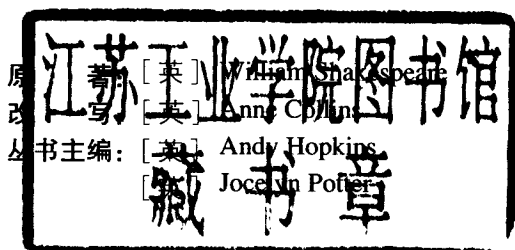
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

世界图书出版公司



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麦克白



(1200 - 1700 词)

图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

麦克白/[英]莎士比亚 (Shakespeare, W.) 著; [英]柯林斯 (Collins, A.) 改写.

北京: 世界图书出版公司北京公司, 2006.8

(企鹅英语简易读物精选·高三学生)

ISBN 7-5062-8532-0

I. 麦… II. ①莎… ②柯… III. 英语—语言读物 IV. H319.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2006) 第 103106 号

This edition of *Macbeth*, First Edition is published by arrangement with Pearson Education Limited and Penguin Books Limited.

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企鹅英语简易读物精选 (高三学生)

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责任编辑: 张颖颖 王志宇

出 版: 世界图书出版公司北京公司

发 行: 世界图书出版公司北京公司

(地址: 北京朝内大街 137 号 邮编: 100010 电话: 64077922)

销 售: 各地新华书店和外文书店

印 刷: 北京东海印刷有限公司

开 本: 889×1194 1/32

印 张: 2

版 次: 2006 年 8 月第 1 版 2006 年 8 月第 1 次印刷

版权登记: 图字 01 - 2006 - 5075

ISBN 7-5062-8532-0/H.942

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大量阅读简易读物 打好英语基础（代序）

北京外国语大学英语系历来都十分重视简易读物的阅读。我们要求学生在一、二年级至少要阅读几十本经过改写的、适合自己水平的英语读物。教学实践证明，凡是大量阅读了简易读物的学生，基础一般都打得比较扎实，英语实践能力都比较强，过渡到阅读英文原著困难也都比较小。这是我们几十年来屡试不爽的一条经验。

为什么强调在阅读英文原著之前必须阅读大量的简易读物呢？原因之一是简易读物词汇量有控制，内容比较浅易，而原著一般来说词汇量大，内容比较艰深。在打基础阶段，学生的词汇量比较小，阅读原著会遇到许多困难。在这种情况下，要保证足够的阅读量只能要求学生阅读简易读物。其次，简易读物使用的是常用词汇、短语和语法结构，大量阅读这类读物可以反复接触这些基本词语和语法，有助于他们打好基础，培养他们的英语语感。第三，简易读物大部分是文学名著改写而成，尽管情节和人物都大为简化，但依旧保留了文学名著的部分精华，仍不失为优秀读物。大量阅读这些读物对于拓宽学生视野、提高他们的人文素养大有帮助。

在这里我们还可以援引美国教学法家克拉申（Stephen Krashen）的一个著名观点。他认为，学生吸收外语有一个前提，即语言材料只能稍稍高于他们的语言理解水平，如果提供的语言材料难度大大超过学生的水平，就会劳而无功。这是克拉申关于外语学习的一个总的看法，但我们不妨把这个道理运用到阅读上。若要阅读有成效，必须严格控制阅读材料的难易度。目前学生阅读的英语材料往往过于艰深，词汇量过大，学生花了很多时间，而阅读量却仍然很小，进展缓慢，其结果是扼杀了学生的阅读兴趣，影响了他们的自信心。解决这个问题的关键是向学生提供适合他们水平的、词汇量有控制的、能够引起他们兴趣的英语读物。“企鹅英语简易读物精选”是专门为初、中级学习者编写的简易读物。这是一套充分考虑到学生的水平和需要，为他们设计的有梯度的读物，学生可以循序渐进，逐步提高阅读难度和扩大阅读量，从而提高自己的英语水平。

应该如何做才能取得最佳效果呢？首先，要选择难易度适当的读物。如果一页书上生词过多，读起来很吃力，进展十分缓慢，很可能选的材料太难了。不妨换一本容易些的。总的原则是宁易毋难。一般来说，学生选择的材料往往偏难，而不是过于浅易。其次，要尽可能读得快一些，不要一句一句地分析，更不要逐句翻译。读故事要尽快读进去，进入故事的情节，就像阅读中文小说一样。不必担心是否记住了新词语。阅读量大，阅读速度适当，就会自然而然地记住一些词语。这是自然吸收语言的过程。再次，阅读时可以做些笔记，但不必做太多的笔记；可以做些配合阅读的练习，但不要在练习上花过多时间。主要任务还是阅读。好的读物不妨再读一遍，甚至再读两遍。你会发现在读第二遍时有一种如鱼得水的感觉。

青年朋友们，赶快开始你们的阅读之旅吧！它会把你们带进一个奇妙的世界，在那里你们可以获得一种全新的感受，观察世界也会有一种新的眼光。与此同时，你们的英语水平也会随之迅速提高。

Introduction

'I have committed so many bloody crimes now that I cannot return to the person I used to be.'

Macbeth is about the fall of a fine man who has one terrible weakness – his political ambition. At the start of the play, Macbeth is a brave soldier who is loved, admired and completely trusted by Duncan, the wise and noble King of Scotland. But then he meets three witches who predict that he will be king, and he starts to think about murdering Duncan. Macbeth sinks deeper and deeper into crime; by the end of the play he has become a lonely tyrant, who is hated by everyone.

Lady Macbeth, Macbeth's wife, is a very dangerous woman. She is even more ambitious than her husband, and has a stronger character. When she hears about the witches' predictions, her only desire is for Macbeth to be king. While Macbeth is unsure about their murderous plans, his wife will not give up. She coldly plans the details of Duncan's murder, while pretending to welcome him as hostess. She calls her husband a coward and a fool as she pushes him down the road to crime.

Macbeth is a very interesting and difficult part for an actor. His character is complicated and changes during the play. Even after he commits terrible acts, we still feel sorry for him. The part of beautiful, ambitious Lady Macbeth is a dream for many actresses. She has murderous plans, but can seem so sweet and innocent to others.

Macbeth is one of Shakespeare's greatest and most powerful plays. It was first printed in 1623, and the story takes place six centuries earlier, in eleventh-century Scotland. But we are still interested today in the effects of ambition; in loyalty and betrayal; in fate, the supernatural and the battle between good and evil. It is

also a very exciting play, with sword fights, murders, a ghost and witches. There are few main characters and a strong, simple story that is easy to read, or watch, and to remember.

William Shakespeare, the most famous writer of plays in the English language, was born in Stratford-upon-Avon on 26 April 1564 and died on 23 April 1616. He wrote thirty-seven plays and many poems. Several of his historical plays, like *Macbeth*, are about political ambition and the battle for power.

Macbeth was probably first performed in 1606 for King James I, the first king of both England and Scotland. James was very interested in the subject of witches, although he was afraid of them as well. Shakespeare took the story from a book called *Holinshed's Chronicles*, and the material in the play is not historically correct. But many of the places are real: Macbeth's castle is in Inverness, in the north of Scotland, and Macduff's castle is in the area of Fife, further south.

There have been many interesting and unusual productions of *Macbeth* in different countries, on film and on stage. *Joe Macbeth* (1955) was a Hollywood gangster film, and *Throne of Blood* (1957) was a Japanese film about the battle for power among nobles in Japan in the past. In 1971 the director Roman Polanski made an excellent film of *Macbeth*, which is filmed against a real Scottish background but also uses special effects for the supernatural.

In British theatres, some actors and stage workers believe that it is unlucky to call the play by its name. When *Macbeth* is in production, they call it 'the Scottish play'!

Reading and acting the play

You can read *Macbeth* silently, like every other story in a book. You will have to imagine the places, the characters' clothes and their voices from the words on the page. You can also read it in a group with other people and bring the characters to life by the way you speak the words. You can make them sound angry, sad or afraid, and add silences and important noises, like the knocking at the gate after Duncan's murder or the ringing of the bell. You can also stop and discuss the play. Do the characters mean what they say, or are they hiding their real intentions and feelings?

But *Macbeth* was written for actors on a theatre stage. Sword fights and murders, and the behaviour of unusual supernatural characters like witches and a ghost, are fun to act. The characters can speak through their words, but also through their actions: Macbeth must show his terror of Banquo's ghost at the dinner; Lady Macbeth shows her guilty feelings by trying to wash imaginary blood from her hands; poor Lady Macduff must show her love for her son.

The play moves quickly, so scenes must change quickly too. You will need simple furniture like a table for some scenes in the castles, and pictures or models of trees for the outside forest scenes. You will also have to think about how characters dress. Macbeth wears armour at the beginning and end of the play, but when he becomes king he wears a crown. What should eleventh-century noblewomen like Lady Macbeth and Lady Macduff wear? Are the witches going to be dressed in traditional black clothes? And the ghost will need a lot of blood! You will also need stage equipment – swords, daggers and the witches' magic pot.

The story of *Macbeth* will really come alive through acting. Act it if you can, or read it, but enjoy it!

The Characters in the Play

DUNCAN, King of Scotland

MALCOLM, Duncan's son

DONALBAIN, Duncan's son

MACBETH, Thane of Glamis

LADY MACBETH, wife of Macbeth

SEYTON, Macbeth's servant

SERVANT, Lady Macbeth's servant

BANQUO, thane, friend of Macbeth

FLEANCE, Banquo's son

MACDUFF, Thane of Fife

LADY MACDUFF, wife of Macduff

SON OF MACDUFF

LENNOX

ROSS

MENTETH

ANGUS

CATHNESS

} Scottish thanes

SEYWARD, Lord of Northumberland

AN ENGLISH SOLDIER

A CAPTAIN

A DOCTOR

A GATEKEEPER

AN OLD MAN

THREE WITCHES

THREE MURDERERS

A SOLDIER, TWO CHILDREN, EIGHT KINGS (characters shown by the
witches)

LORDS, GENTLEMEN, OFFICERS, SOLDIERS, ATTENDANTS,
MESSENGERS, SERVANTS

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Act 1 The Three Witches

Scene 1 A dark forest

[It is a wild and stormy night, with thunder and lightning. The three witches enter.]

FIRST WITCH: When shall we three meet again?

In thunder, lightning or in rain?

SECOND WITCH: When the fighting has ended. When the battle's been lost and won.

THIRD WITCH: That will be before the sun goes down.

FIRST WITCH: Where shall we meet?

SECOND WITCH: On the moor.

THIRD WITCH: We'll meet Macbeth there.

ALL: Good is evil, and evil is good.

Let's fly off through the foggy wood.

[They leave.]

Scene 2 An open road in the country

[King Duncan, Malcolm, Donalbain and Lennox enter from one side with their attendants. An army captain, bleeding, enters from the other side.]

DUNCAN *[to his sons]*: Who is this man, covered in blood? From his appearance, he can give us the latest news of the battle.

MALCOLM: This officer fought very bravely to stop the enemy taking me prisoner. Hail, brave friend! Tell the King how the battle was going when you left.

CAPTAIN: It was not clear which side was winning. Then brave Macbeth cut a path through the enemy soldiers with his sword

until he came face to face with their cruel leader, Macdownald. He cut him open from his chin to his stomach, and fixed his head on the castle walls.

DUNCAN [*admiringly*]: How brave and noble Macbeth is!

CAPTAIN: But as the enemy were starting to run away, the King of Norway saw a new opportunity to attack us. He brought in fresh soldiers and the battle began again.

DUNCAN: Did that not shock our captains, Macbeth and Banquo?

CAPTAIN: No, not at all. They started to attack the enemy twice as enthusiastically. [*holding his side in pain*] But I am weak; I need help.

DUNCAN: Your words show your true character as clearly as your bleeding cuts. [*to his attendants*] Take him away and fetch doctors for him. [*The captain leaves with the attendants. The Thanes* of Ross and Angus enter.*] Who is this?

MALCOLM: The noble Thane of Ross.

LENNOX: He is certainly in a hurry. He seems to have some important news to tell us.

ROSS: God save the King!

DUNCAN: Where have you come from, noble Thane?

ROSS: From Fife, great King. The King of Norway was attacking us with great numbers of men, helped by that most disloyal traitor, the Thane of Cawdor. But Macbeth faced him without fear and fought him, and finally the victory was ours.

DUNCAN: That is wonderful news! But the Thane of Cawdor will not betray us again. Go and order his immediate execution. And give his title to Macbeth.

ROSS: I will make sure that it is done.

DUNCAN: He has lost what noble Macbeth has won.

[*They all leave.*]

* Thane: a Scottish lord

Scene 3 *A wild moor*

[The three witches enter to the sound of thunder.]

FIRST WITCH: Where have you been, sister?

SECOND WITCH: Killing pigs.

THIRD WITCH: And you, sister?

FIRST WITCH: A sailor's wife was eating sweets. 'Give me some,' I said. 'Get away from me, you old witch!' she replied. But she'll be sorry. Her husband's a ship's captain and he's sailed to Aleppo. I'll follow him and start a horrible storm.

[A drum sounds in the distance.]

THIRD WITCH: A drum, a drum! Macbeth is coming!

[They join hands and dance round in a circle. Macbeth and Banquo enter.]

MACBETH: I have never known such an eventful day.

BANQUO *[seeing the witches and stopping in surprise]*: Who are these creatures, so old and dressed so strangely? They don't look human. *[to the witches]* Are you real? You look like women, but not like normal women.

MACBETH: Speak if you can! Who are you?

FIRST WITCH: Hail, Macbeth! Hail, Thane of Glamis!

SECOND WITCH: Hail, Macbeth! Hail, Thane of Cawdor!

THIRD WITCH: Hail, Macbeth, who will be king one day!

BANQUO *[to Macbeth]*: Why, sir, do you look so surprised, and seem to be afraid of such a wonderful future? *[to the witches]* You've completely silenced my friend with your predictions of noble titles and royal hopes. But you haven't said anything to me. If you really can look into the future, then tell me. I'm not asking for your help and I'm not afraid of your hate.

FIRST WITCH: Hail!



'Banquo and Macbeth, hail!'

SECOND WITCH: Hail!

THIRD WITCH: Hail!

FIRST WITCH: You'll be less than Macbeth, but also greater.

SECOND WITCH: Not so happy, but much happier.

THIRD WITCH: Your children will be kings, although *you* won't be king. So hail, Macbeth and Banquo!

FIRST WITCH: Banquo and Macbeth, hail!

[The witches start to leave.]

MACBETH *[following]*: Wait! Tell me more! I know that I'm the Thane of Glamis. I got that title when my father died. But how can I be Thane of Cawdor? The Thane of Cawdor is alive and well. And it's unbelievable that I could be king. Where did you get this information, and why have you stopped us on this wild moor to tell us your strange predictions?

[The witches laugh and disappear.]

BANQUO: Where have they gone?

MACBETH: Into the air. They seemed real, but they have disappeared like breath in the wind. Why did they not stay?

BANQUO: Were they really here? Or did we imagine it? Have we gone mad?

MACBETH *[laughing]*: Your children will be kings.

BANQUO *[laughing too]*: *You* will be king.

MACBETH: And Thane of Cawdor too, did they not say?

BANQUO: That is what they said. *[calling]* Who is there?

[Ross and Angus enter.]

ROSS: The King was very pleased to hear the news of your victory, Macbeth. You put yourself in great personal danger among the enemy soldiers. Messenger after messenger reported how bravely you defended Scotland. So, as a reward, the King has ordered me to give you the title of Thane of Cawdor.

BANQUO [*very surprised*]: What! Are these evil creatures able to predict the truth?

MACBETH [*disbelieving*]: But the Thane of Cawdor is alive. Why are you calling me by another man's title?

ANGUS: The man with that title is still alive, but he is going to be executed. He does not deserve to live. I do not know whether he supported the King of Norway, or our enemy Macdownald, but he betrayed his own country.

MACBETH [*to himself*]: I am the Thane of Glamis, and now of Cawdor too. That was the first step. [*to Ross and Angus*] Thank you for your trouble. [*to Banquo*] Are you not hoping now that your children will be kings? That is what those same creatures promised you.

BANQUO: If that is the direction of your thoughts, then you will start to think about being king. But it is very strange how, when evil creatures want to hurt us, they often tell us the truth about unimportant things. They want to make us trust them. Then it will be easy for them to harm us later. [*to Ross and Angus*] Can I have a word with you, friends?

[*Banquo, Ross and Angus walk away from Macbeth.*]

MACBETH [*to himself*]: One of the witches' predictions has become true. This supernatural business cannot be evil, but it cannot be good either. If it is *evil*, why has it given me a taste of success by starting with a truth? I am the Thane of Cawdor. If it is *good*, why is a horrible idea forming in my brain, which makes my heart beat fast in a most unnatural way? The thought of murder is causing my whole body to shake.

BANQUO [*to Ross and Angus, and looking at Macbeth*]: Look how thoughtful our friend is.

MACBETH [*to himself*]: If it really is my fate to be king, then it may happen without any work from me.

BANQUO: He has not got used to his new title yet.

MACBETH [*to himself*]: If it happens, it happens.

BANQUO [*calling*]: Noble Macbeth, we are waiting for you.

MACBETH: Please forgive me. I was thinking about the past. Let us go to the King. [*to Banquo*] Think about what has happened today, and let us discuss it when we have more time.

BANQUO: I will be very glad to do that.

MACBETH: Until then, let us not think about it any more. [*to Ross and Angus*] Come, friends.

[*They all leave.*]

Scene 4 An open space

[*King Duncan, Lennox, Malcolm and Donalbain enter with their attendants.*]

DUNCAN: Has the Thane of Cawdor been executed yet?

MALCOLM: My lord, the executioners have still not returned. But I spoke to someone who saw him die, who said that he died very well. He asked you to forgive him for his disloyalty, and died in such a noble way that his death became the best act of his life.

DUNCAN [*sadly*]: You cannot read a man's mind by looking at his face. I really trusted him.

[*Macbeth, Banquo, Ross and Angus enter.*]

DUNCAN [*to Macbeth*]: Oh, noble cousin! You have done so much for me. I do not know how I can ever reward you.

MACBETH: You do not need to reward me. It is enough for me to serve you and give my loyalty to you and your family.

DUNCAN: Noble Banquo, you also deserve my great thanks. [*to everyone*] Sons, relatives, thanes, and everyone who is dear to me, I am going to give all my land and property to my eldest son, Malcolm, when I die. From today, he will be known as the

Prince of Cumberland. [*to Macbeth*] Now, let us go to your castle at Inverness.

MACBETH: I will ride ahead and tell my wife that you are coming. She will be very pleased.

DUNCAN: My noble Cawdor!

MACBETH [*to himself, angrily*]: The Prince of Cumberland! So Malcolm is now in my way. I will have to solve this problem. Stars, hide your fires! I do not want light shining on my dark, secret desire to be king. [*He leaves.*]

DUNCAN [*to Banquo*]: I am very pleased with Macbeth. He is so brave, and he cannot do enough for me. Let us follow him. We have no better friend.

[*They all leave.*]

Scene 5 *The great hall in Macbeth's castle*

[*Lady Macbeth enters alone, reading a letter. She sits down at a table.*]

LADY MACBETH [*reading*]: They met me on the day of our victory, and they know things that no ordinary human beings can know. I wanted to ask them more, but they disappeared. While I stood there, shocked, messengers came from the King who called me Thane of Cawdor. The three witches greeted me with this title before they called me the future king. I wanted to tell you about these things, my dearest partner, so that you too can look forward to our great future. Keep this news in your heart, and goodbye. [*She puts the letter away in her pocket, then stands and walks around the room.*] You are Thane of Glamis, and Cawdor, and you will be king too. But I am not confident of your character; you are too full of gentle kindness to act on this opportunity. You want to be powerful, and you are ambitious, but you prefer to get what you want without harming anyone. You want to be king, but you fear what you must do. Come