



# McGuffey<sup>®</sup> Readers

## 美国经典语文课本

〔美〕威廉·H·麦加菲 (William H. McGuffey)

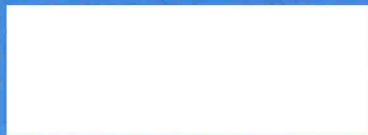
〔加〕韦恩·艾弗里特 (Wayne Everett) / 编著



英文原版 + 同步导学版

美国教育史上影响深远的英语读本

北美英语教师新编同步学习指导



天津出版传媒集团  
天津人民出版社



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6

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## 图书在版编目(CIP)数据

美国经典语文课本=McGuffey Readers: 英文原版+同步导学版. Book Six/(美) 麦加菲,  
(加) 艾弗里特编著. —天津: 天津人民出版社, 2016.6  
ISBN 978-7-201-10361-7

I. ①美… II. ①麦… ②艾… III. ①英语课—中小学—教材  
IV. ①G634.411

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字(2016)第098411号

## 美国经典语文课本

MCGUFFEY READERS

(美) 麦加菲, (加) 艾弗里特编著

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出 版 天津人民出版社  
出 版 人 黄 沛  
地 址 天津市和平区西康路35号康岳大厦  
邮政编码 300051  
邮购电话 (022) 23332469  
网 址 <http://www.tjrmcbs.com>  
电子信箱 tjrmcbs@126.com

责任编辑 伍绍东  
封面设计 子之唐文化艺术有限公司  
内文制作 刘增工作室 (13521101105)

制版印刷 北京金秋豪印刷有限公司  
经 销 新华书店  
开 本 787×1092毫米 1/16  
印 张 32.5  
插 页 7插页  
字 数 420千字  
版次印次 2016年6月第1版 2016年6月第1次印刷  
定 价 59.80元

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图书如出现印装质量问题, 请致电联系调换 (022-23332469)



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## LESSON 1

# ANECDOTE OF THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE

A laughable story was circulated during the administration of the old Duke of Newcastle, and retailed to the public in various forms. This nobleman, with many good points, was remarkable for being profuse of his promises on all occasions, and valued himself particularly on being able to anticipate the words or the wants of the various persons who attended his levees, before they uttered a word. This sometimes led him into ridiculous embarrassments; and it was this proneness to lavish promises, which gave occasion for the following anecdote:

At the election of a certain borough in Cornwall, where the opposite interests were almost equally poised, a single vote was of the highest importance. This object the Duke, by well applied argument and personal application, at length attained; and the gentleman he recommended, gained the election. In the warmth of gratitude, his grace poured forth acknowledgments and promises without ceasing, on the fortunate possessor of the casting vote; called him his best and dearest friend; protested, that he should consider himself as forever indebted to him; and that he would serve him by night or by day.

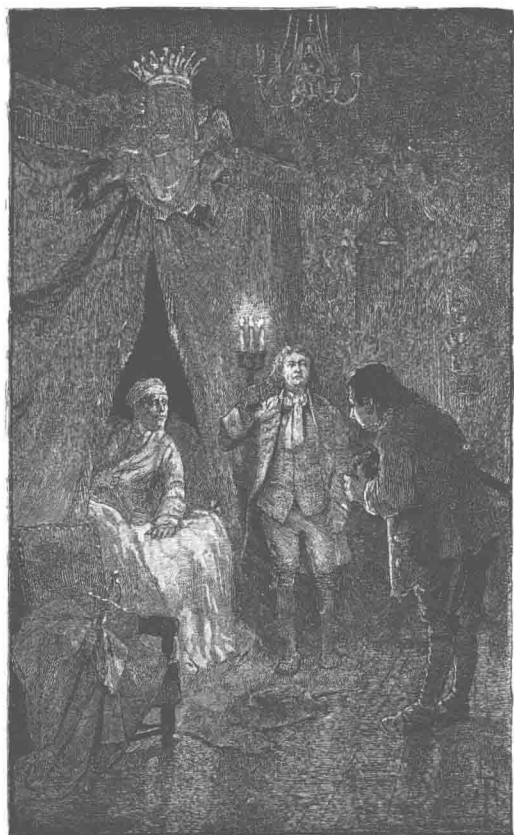
The Cornish voter, who was an honest fellow, and would not have thought himself entitled to any reward, but for such a torrent of acknowledgments, thanked the Duke for his kindness, and told him the supervisor of excise was old and infirm, and, if he would have the goodness to recommend his son-in-law to the commissioners, in case of the old man's death, he should think himself and his family bound to render his grace every assistance in their power, on any future occasion.

"My dear friend, why do you ask for such a trifling employment?" exclaimed his grace; "your relative shall have it the moment the place is vacant, if you will but call my attention to it."

"But how shall I get admitted to you, my lord? For in London, I understand, it is a very difficult business to get a sight of you great folks, though you are so kind and complaisant to us in the country."

"The instant the man dies," replied the Duke, "set out posthaste for London; drive directly to my house, and, be it by night or by day, thunder at the door; I will leave word with my porter to show you upstairs directly; and the employment shall be disposed of according to your wishes."

The parties separated; the Duke drove to a friend's house in the neighborhood, without a wish or desire to see his new acquaintance till that day seven years; but the



memory of the Cornish elector, not being burdened with such a variety of objects, was more retentive. The supervisor died a few months after, and the Duke's humble friend, relying on the word of a peer, was conveyed to London posthaste, and ascended with alacrity the steps of that nobleman's palace.

The reader should be informed, that just at this time, no less a person than the King of Spain was expected hourly to depart this life, —an event in which the minister of Great Britain was particularly concerned; and the Duke of Newcastle, on the very night that the proprietor of the decisive vote arrived at his door, had sat up anxiously expecting dispatches from Madrid. Wearied by official business and agitated spirits, he retired to rest, having previously given particular instructions to his porter not

to go to bed, as he expected every minute a messenger with advices of the greatest importance, and desired that he might be shown upstairs, the moment of his arrival.

His grace was sound asleep; and the porter, settled for the night in his armchair, had already commenced a sonorous nap, when the vigorous arm of the Cornish voter roused him from his slumbers. To his first question, "Is the Duke at home?" the porter replied, "Yes, and in bed; but has left particular orders that, come when you will, you are to go up to him directly."

"Bless him, for a worthy and honest gentleman," cried our applicant for the vacant post, smiling and nodding with approbation at the prime minister's kindness, "how punctual his grace is; I knew he would not deceive me; let me hear no more of lords and dukes not keeping their words; I verily believe they are as honest, and mean as well as any other folks." Having ascended the stairs as he was speaking, he was ushered into the Duke's bedchamber.

"Is he dead?" exclaimed his grace, rubbing his eyes, and scarcely awakened from dreaming of the King of Spain, "Is he dead?"

"Yes, my lord," replied the eager expectant, delighted to find the election promise, with all its circumstances, so fresh in the nobleman's memory.

"When did he die?"

"The day before yesterday, exactly at half past one o'clock, after being confined

three weeks to his bed, and taking a power of doctor's stuff; and I hope your grace will be as good as your word, and let my son-in-law succeed him."

The Duke, by this time perfectly awake, was staggered at the impossibility of receiving intelligence from Madrid in so short a space of time; and perplexed at the absurdity of a king's messenger applying for his son-in-law to succeed the King of Spain: "Is the man drunk, or mad? Where are your dispatches?" exclaimed his grace, hastily drawing back his curtain; where, instead of a royal courier, he recognized at the bedside, the fat, good-humored countenance of his friend from Cornwall, making low bows, with hat in hand, and "hoping my lord would not forget the gracious promise he was so good as to make, in favor of his son-in-law, at the last election."

Vexed at so untimely a disturbance, and disappointed of news from Spain, the Duke frowned for a moment; but chagrin soon gave way to mirth, at so singular and ridiculous a combination of circumstances, and, yielding to the impulse, he sunk upon the bed in a violent fit of laughter, which was communicated in a moment to the attendants.

The relater of this little narrative, concludes, with observing, "Although the Duke of Newcastle could not place the relative of his old acquaintance on the throne of His Catholic Majesty, he advanced him to a post not less honorable—he made him an exciseman."

—*Blackwood's Magazine*



## STUDY NOTE

**Thomas Pelham Holles** (1693-1768), commonly known as the Duke of Newcastle, was the brother of Henry Pelham—the Prime Minister of Great Britain. After his brother's death, the Duke of Newcastle became the Prime Minister of Great Britain. He did this job for six years. He is remembered as a poor leader who did many silly things.



## STUDY GUIDE

**A. Vocabulary Power**—Read the following definitions, then fill in the blanks with the correct vocabulary words.

1. Administration refers to the time that someone is the leader of a country.
2. If someone makes a lavish promise, it is usually very expensive and generous.
3. An election is when the people choose a leader by voting.
4. To feel gratitude toward someone is to want to thank them very much for something they did for you.

5. A person who does excise is one who collects taxes from people.
6. Something that is trifling is small and unimportant.
7. To do something posthaste is to do it very quickly.
8. A porter is a person whose job it is to allow people access to buildings and carry their luggage.
9. A dispatch is a message, usually one that has come from a long distance.
10. Something that is vacant is empty.
11. A person who is punctual is on time or not late.
12. To ascend is to travel upwards.
13. The absurdity of a situation is what makes it seem silly or ridiculous.
14. When someone feels perplexed, he or she feels confused.
15. To frown is to wrinkle one's forehead as some people do when they feel worried or angry.

- a) When we arrived at the hotel, the \_\_\_\_\_ carried our bags.
- b) I didn't know what my friend was talking about, so I felt \_\_\_\_\_.
- c) She got the most votes, so she won the \_\_\_\_\_.
- d) I received an important \_\_\_\_\_ from my sister.
- e) During the Prime Minister's \_\_\_\_\_, he did many great things.
- f) My friend collects taxes. He does \_\_\_\_\_.
- g) He has very expensive clothes. They are \_\_\_\_\_.
- h) Although I was angry, I had to laugh at the \_\_\_\_\_ of the situation.
- i) My friend helped me fix my car, so I felt \_\_\_\_\_ towards him.
- j) He \_\_\_\_\_ when he heard the bad news.
- k) I left my house \_\_\_\_\_ because I didn't want to be late.
- l) This is a \_\_\_\_\_ problem, so you shouldn't get angry.
- m) She \_\_\_\_\_ the stairs to get to the second floor.
- n) I sat in the \_\_\_\_\_ chair.
- o) Most bosses like their employees to be \_\_\_\_\_.

## B. Comprehension Questions

1. Why did the Duke of Newcastle tell the Cornish voter that he was “....forever indebted to him”?
2. What favour did the Cornish voter ask of the Duke of Newcastle?
3. Why was the Duke of Newcastle surprised when the Cornish voter came to see him a few months later?

4. What news was the Duke of Newcastle expecting when the Cornish voter visited him?

5. What caused the Duke of Newcastle to have a fit of laughter?

**C. True or False? Write T (true) or F (false) for the following sentences. Explain your answer.**

[   ] 1. The Cornish voter was the Duke of Newcastle's best friend.

---

[   ] 2. The Duke of Newcastle was a kind man.

---

[   ] 3. The Cornish voter told the Duke of Newcastle that the King of Spain died.

---

[   ] 4. The porter took the Cornish voter to the Duke of Newcastle's bedroom.

---

[   ] 5. The Cornish voter visited the Duke of Newcastle after the Supervisor of Excise died.

---

[   ] 6. The Cornish voter visited the King of Spain.

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## LESSON 2

### THE NEEDLE

The gay belles of fashion may boast of excelling  
In waltz or cotillon, at whist or quadrille;  
And seek admiration by vauntingly telling  
Of drawing, and painting, and musical skill:  
But give me the fair one, in country or city,  
Whose home and its duties are dear to her heart,  
Who cheerfully warbles some rustical ditty,  
While plying the needle with exquisite art:  
The bright little needle, the swift-flying needle,  
The needle directed by beauty and art.

If Love have a potent, a magical token,  
A talisman, ever resistless and true,  
A charm that is never evaded or broken,  
A witchery certain the heart to subdue,  
'Tis this; and his armory never has furnished  
So keen and unerring, or polished a dart;  
Let beauty direct it, so polished and burnished,  
And oh! it is certain of touching the heart:  
The bright little needle, the swift-flying needle,  
The needle directed by beauty and art.

Be wise, then, ye maidens, nor seek admiration,  
By dressing for conquest, and flirting with all;  
You never, whate'er be your fortune or station,  
Appear half so lovely at rout or at ball,  
As gayly convened at the work-covered table,  
Each cheerfully active, playing her part,  
Beguiling the task with a song or a fable,  
And plying the needle with exquisite art:  
The bright little needle, the swift-flying needle,  
The needle directed by beauty and art.

—*Samuel Woodworth*



## STUDY GUIDE

**A. Vocabulary Practice—Read the definitions carefully. Then use each word to complete the sentences. The first one is done for you.**

1. In the 19th century, when this poem was written, gay meant happy and carefree.
2. A belle is a beautiful woman.
3. Cotillion and quadrille are formal dances that were popular in the 19th century.
4. Whist is a card game played by four players.
5. If someone does something vauntingly, they do it in a way that makes them sound better than others.
6. To warble is to sing in a gentle, birdlike way.
7. A ditty is a kind of song.
8. If something is potent, it is very strong.
9. A talisman is an object that is supposed to have magical powers, protecting the holder from bad luck.
10. To burnish something is to polish it by rubbing.
11. A ball is a formal dancing party.
12. Ply means to work steadily at your job.

- a) At the wedding, many people were gay, because it was a very happy time.
- b) There were many beautiful \_\_\_\_\_ at the ball.
- c) I don't know how to dance the \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_, so I will just sit down.
- d) I often play \_\_\_\_\_ with my friends.
- e) The girl spoke \_\_\_\_\_ about her latest victory.
- f) Sometimes I \_\_\_\_\_ when I sing.
- g) The \_\_\_\_\_ he sang was very nice.
- h) The \_\_\_\_\_ drink was overwhelming.
- i) My necklace is a kind of \_\_\_\_\_.
- j) How often do you \_\_\_\_\_ your trophies?
- k) Where was the \_\_\_\_\_? It was in the dance hall.
- l) I usually \_\_\_\_\_ at my job from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

## B. Comprehension Questions

1. In this poem, the narrator refers to “plying the needle”. This means sewing or making clothes. Why do you think the narrator likes women who work better than women who play?
2. Do you agree that women should be happier doing housework than other activities? Why or why not?

- 3. The narrator lists many leisure activities that women might enjoy. What are they?
- 4. What are some kinds of housework that the narrator doesn't list?
- 5. This poem was written in the 19th century. How do you think most women in the 21st century would feel about this poem? Why?
- 6. What qualities do you think it is important for women to have? Why?

C. Find the Word—Using the clues, find the words in the poem that have the same meanings as the words in this exercise.

1. smart	intelligent	w _ _ _
2. women	ladies	m _ _ _ _ _
3. fast	quick	s _ _ _ _
4. work	activity	t _ _ _
5. strong	powerful	p _ _ _ _ _
6. pretty	attractive	f _ _ _