

SELECTED READINGS
FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL
STUDENTS

中学英语阅读精选

陈序根 编

广西师范大学出版社

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前 言

阅读在中学英语教学中占有极为重要的地位。培养阅读能力是中学英语教学最基本的任务之一。为了帮助中学生提高英语阅读理解能力，编者按照新编教学大纲的要求，配合中学各年级英语教材，从国内外英语书刊中选文50篇，编成此书。在这50篇选文中，既有古典名著，又有现代佳作。内容广泛，题材新颖，语言规范，情趣盎然。本书由浅入深编排，适合初二至高三各年级学生及英语自学者阅读。每篇文章后配有针对性较强的练习。其形式多样。书末附有答案。本书对读者参加中考或高考都有较大参考价值。

本书蒙《中学生英语辅导》月刊副主编、广西师大外语系蒋天庭副教授审校。特此表示感谢。

限于编者水平，书中错漏难免，敬请读者批评指正。

编 者

1988. 10

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— A New House

I had a letter from my sister yesterday. She lives in Nigeria. In her letter, she said that she would come to England next year. If she comes, she will get a surprise. We are now living in a beautiful new house in the country. Work on it had begun before my sister left. The house was completed five months ago. In my letter, I told her that she could stay with us. The house has many large rooms and there is a lovely garden. It is a very modern house, so it looks strange to some people. It must be the only modern house in the district.

根据本文的内容,判断下列句子的正(T) 误(F):

- () 1. My sister lives in Nigeria.
- () 2. If she comes, she will be surprised at our new house.
- () 3. The house was completed five months ago.
- () 4. There is a lovely garden inside our house.
- () 5. The modern house looks strange to some people.

二 Mr. Fox is Dead

Mr. Rabbit sometimes did things that made other people angry, so that they wanted to catch him. But it was very hard to catch Mr. Rabbit.

One day Mr. Wolf said to Mr. Fox, "We'll catch Mr. Rabbit and eat him tonight. You go to your home and get into bed. I'll say that you are dead. Then Mr. Rabbit will come near you to look at you and you can jump up and catch him."

Mr. Fox ran home and got into bed.

Mr. Wolf went to Mr. Rabbit's house. He stood at the door and called, "Mr. Rabbit, Mr. Rabbit."

"What is it?" said Mr. Rabbit.

"Have you heard about poor Mr. Fox? It is so sad!"

"No," said Mr. Rabbit, "I haven't heard anything about Mr. Fox."

"He's dead!" said Mr. Wolf.

Mr. Rabbit got away.

Mr. Wolf went away. Mr. Rabbit went to Mr. Fox's house to see what he could see. He looked in through the window, and there he saw Mr. Fox on the bed with his eyes shut, looking like a

dead fox.

Mr. Rabbit thought, "I must see if he is dead or not. Because if he isn't dead, he'll catch me when I go near to him."

Mr. Rabbit went into Mr. Fox's house. He looked at Mr. Fox and said, "Mr. Wolf says that Mr. Fox is dead, but he doesn't look like a dead fox. You always know if a fox is dead, because dead foxes always open their mouths."

Mr. Fox heard this, and he thought, "I'll show him that I am dead." So he opened his mouth.

When Mr. Rabbit saw Mr. Fox open his mouth he knew that Mr. Fox was not dead. Mr. Rabbit jumped up and ran out of the house as quickly as he could.

根据本文，选择正确答案填空：

() 1. It was very _____ for them to catch Mr. Rabbit.

- A. easy B. difficult
C. impossible D. possible

() 2. Mr. Fox _____ in bed.

- A. was dead B. was dying
C. had died D. pretended to be dead

() 3. Mr. Rabbit looked _____ through the window and saw Mr. Fox on the bed with _____.

A. his eyes open B. his mouth closed

C. his mouth open D. his eyes dead

() 4. When Mr. Rabbit knew that Mr. Fox was not dead, he ran out of the house as quickly as_____.

A. possible B. usual

C. a rule D. much

三 The Fox and the Tiger

Once a fox met a tiger. The tiger opened his mouth, full of sharp long teeth, and said to the fox,

"Why are you walking in my forest? What are you doing here? I shall have you for my breakfast."

But the fox answered, "My dear sir, you must not think that you are the king of the animals. Of course, you are very strong and your teeth are very sharp but you are not so brave as I am. Let us walk together and see whom the people are more afraid of. I shall go in front of you and you will keep behind me. The people will see me and run away because they are afraid of me. If what I say is not true you can have me for your breakfast."

The tiger agreed and so the fox and the tiger

walked together to the nearest village. The fox went in front and the tiger kept behind.

When the people saw the tiger who was going behind the fox, they ran away because they were afraid of the tiger.

Then the fox said, "I was in front of you, and you kept behind me. The people saw me but they did not see you. They ran away because they were afraid of me. I am the king of the animals. I shall have you for my breakfast."

The tiger looked at the fox and ran away.

根据本文的内容, 判断下列各句子的正(T) 误(F):

- () 1. A tiger wanted to have a fox for his breakfast.
- (—) 2. The fox said that she was braver than the tiger.
- () 3. The tiger went in front of the fox.
- () 4. The people were not afraid of the tiger but the fox.
- () 5. At last the tiger was afraid of the fox and ran away.
- () 6. The tiger was as clever as the fox.
- () 7. What the fox said was true.

四 Rich Man, Poor Man

Every morning, a shiny car drove through Central Park in New York City. Inside the car sat a well-known wealthy man.

Each morning the rich man noticed a poorly-dressed man sitting on a park bench. The man always sat staring at the big hotel in which the rich man lived. One day, the rich man was so curious about the man that he ordered his driver to stop the car. He walked to the bench and said to the poor man, "Excuse me, but I just have to know why you sit staring at my hotel every morning." "Sir," said the poor man, "I'm a failure. I have no money, no family, no home. I sleep on this bench, and every night I dream that one day I will sleep in that hotel." The rich man said, "Tonight your dream will come true. I'll pay for the best room in that hotel for you for a whole month."

A few days later, the rich man went by the poor man's room to ask him how he was enjoying himself. To his surprise, he found that the man moved out of the hotel, back to his park bench. When the rich man asked why, the man said,

"You see, when I'm down here sleeping on my bench I dream I'm up there, in that big hotel. It's a wonderful dream. But when I was up there, I dreamed I was back on this cold bench. It was a terrible dream, and I couldn't get any sleep at all."

根据短文, 选择正确的答案填空:

() 1. Inside the shiny car sat _____ every morning.

- A. a well-known man B. a famous man
C. a poor man D. a rich man

() 2. Each morning the rich man noticed _____.

- A. a wealthy man B. a rich man
C. any poor man
D. a poor man sitting on a park bench

() 3. The poor man always sat staring at the big hotel because _____.

- A. he had no money
B. he had no family
C. he had no home
D. every night he dreamed that one day he would sleep in that hotel

() 4. The rich man _____ the poor man the best room in that hotel for a whole month.

A. gave

B. showed

C. paid for

D. handed in

() 5. A few days later, the poor man moved out of the hotel, back to his park bench because_____.

A. he had no money

B. the rich man didn't pay for the hotel

C. In that hotel he dreamed he was back on the cold bench

D. The boss of the hotel drove him out of it

五 A Small Boy and a Crocodile

A small boy walked along the riverbank one day and found a crocodile trapped in a net.

"Help me?" the crocodile cried out.

"You'll kill me!" cried the boy.

"No. Come nearer!" said the crocodile.

So the boy went up to the crocodile and instantly was seized by the teeth in that long mouth.

"Is this how you repay my goodness—with badness?" cried the boy.

"Of course," said the crocodile out of the

corner of his mouth. "That's the way of the world."

The boy refused to believe that, so the crocodile agreed not to swallow him without getting an opinion from the first three witnesses to pass by.

First was an old donkey.

When the boy asked his opinion, the donkey said, "Now that I'm old and can no longer work, my master has driven me out for the leopards to get me!"

"See?" said the crocodile. Next to pass by was an old horse, who had the same opinion.

"See?" said the crocodile. Then along came a rabbit, who said, "Well, I can't give a good opinion without seeing this matter as it happened from the beginning." Grumbling, the crocodile opened his mouth to tell him—and the boy jumped out to safety on the riverbank.

"Do you like crocodile meat?" asked the rabbit. The boy said yes. "And do your parents?" He said yes again. "Then here is a crocodile ready for the pot."

The boy ran off and returned with the men of the village, who helped him to kill the crocodile.

根据本文, 判断正(T) 误(F):

() 1. The crocodile was in trouble.

- () 2. As soon as the boy went up to the crocodile, he was seized by his teeth.
- () 3. The boy agreed with what the crocodile said.
- () 4. The old donkey didn't have the same opinion as the crocodile had.
- () 5. The rabbit said that he couldn't give a good opinion until he saw the matter that happened from the beginning.
- () 6. When the crocodile opened his mouth to tell the rabbit, the boy escaped from his mouth.
- () 7. The boy with the men of the village killed the crocodile.

六 The Fisherman and His Wife

Once a poor fisherman caught a small black fish. To his surprise it talked! "Please let me go," it begged.

"Oh!" cried the fisherman. "Don't worry. I have no wish to eat a talking fish." And he threw it back into the water.

The fisherman went home and told his wife about it. She became very angry. "How stupid