

黑布林英语阅读  
HELBLING READERS  
CLASSICS



高二年级  
第1辑 ①

# Heart of Darkness

## 黑暗之心

Joseph Conrad



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# Heart of Darkness

## 黑暗之心

Joseph Conrad

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# 前 言

《黑布林英语阅读》系列由上海外语教育出版社从欧洲专门从事英语教育的 Helbling Languages 出版机构引进。这套读物全彩设计、图文并茂，将经典小说与当代作品完美结合，可全面满足国内小学、初中和高中各阶段学习者的英语阅读需要。

小学段为绘本，目前共出版 15 册，分 a-e 5 个级别，每级别 3 册。每级别故事围绕若干话题展开，如 a 级话题有字母、数字、问候语、玩具等；随着级别递进，话题不断深入，至 e 级话题涉及情感、音乐、电视等。每册读物配一张可供白板和 PC 使用的 CD-ROM/Audio CD: CD-ROM 部分包含完整的故事录音、若干多媒体互动游戏、chants 模仿秀，以及图片单词背背看等；Audio CD 部分不仅提供完整的故事录音，还提供所有听力练习的录音。

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高中段目前共 20 册，分高一、高二 2 个级别，每级别 2 辑，每辑 5 册。每辑包含 3 册经典小说与 2 册当代原创小说。

初中段和高中段每册读物均配有 MP3 完整故事录音及听力练习录音，使用者可根据封二信息从外教社有声资源网（<http://audio.sflep.com>）免费下载。

所有《黑布林英语阅读》均设置丰富的读前、读中、读后练习：读前、读后练习用以辅助读者预习、操练故事中出现的词汇和句型，并提供技能训练和发音训练；读中练习在故事叙述中随机出现，可增加读者与故事间的互动、引导读者思考或增进读者对故事内容的理解。《黑布林英语阅读》还格外重视英语词汇的学习和积累：小学段读物每册故事后均设置相关主题的单词汇总及知识点讲解；初中段和高中段读物则在正文页脚位置对重、难点单词给予词性、音标，以及汉语或汉英双语的词义注解。

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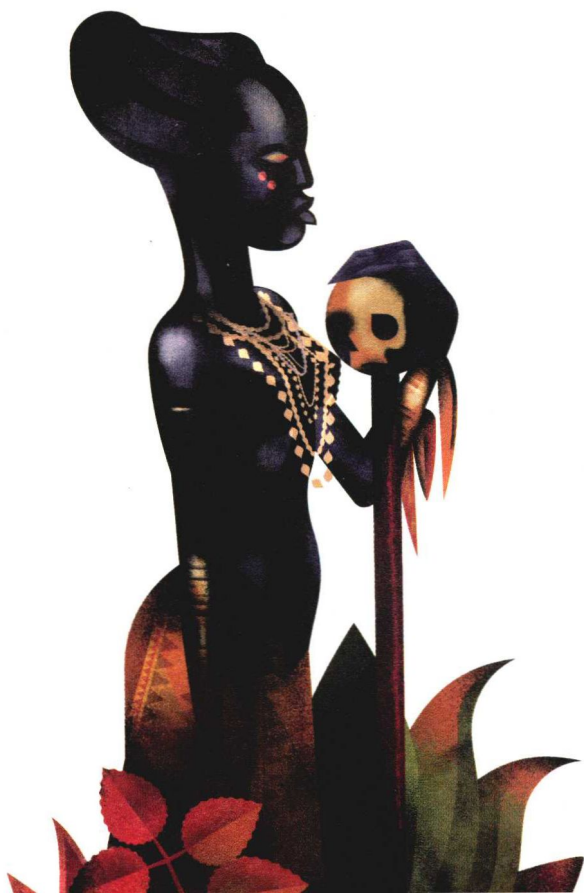
我们深信《黑布林英语阅读》所包含的每一个故事将如同黑布林水果一样清新可口、充满异趣，为你的生活带去更丰富的感受和认识。

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# Heart of Darkness

Joseph Conrad



## HELBLING LANGUAGES

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Heart of Darkness

by Joseph Conrad

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# About This Book

## (1) 致读者

 根据封二信息下载本书MP3, 聆听故事完整录音, 并完成书中听力练习。  
**fond of<sup>1</sup>** (p6) 当你看到正文中单词右上角数字时, 即可在页脚Glossary处查看该单词的相关注释。

## (2) 故事简介

"The horror! The horror!"

When Marlow, an experienced sailor, goes to Africa as the captain of a steamboat on the Congo River, the journey has a profound effect on him.

As Marlow sails further down the river and into the heart of the African continent to bring back ivory and a brilliant but mysterious agent called Mr Kurtz, he feels he is travelling further and further into the heart of darkness. What is this darkness?

What powers of darkness take Mr Kurtz?

## (3) 高二年级句型结构

Modal verb <i>would</i>	Non-defining relative clauses
<i>I'd love to ...</i>	Present perfect continuous
Future continuous	<i>Used to / Would</i>
Future perfect	<i>Used to / Used to doing</i>
Reported speech / Verbs / Questions	Second conditional
Past perfect	Expressing wishes and regrets
Defining relative clauses	

Structures from lower levels are also included.





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## About the Author

**Joseph Conrad** was born in 1857, in Berdychiv, part of the Polish Ukraine. His real name was Jozef Teodor Konrad Nalecz Korzeniowski. Conrad lived in the Ukraine and Russia as a child and after the death of both of his parents, he was looked after by his uncle in Poland. From an early age he learnt French, read Shakespeare and became very fond of<sup>1</sup> the Polish romantic poets, but he also had a passion for the sea. His

uncle allowed him to go to sea as soon as he had finished school and in 1878, he joined the British Merchant Navy, eventually becoming a captain. Conrad sailed extensively<sup>2</sup> all over the world and in 1890 he went to the Belgian Congo, which was later his inspiration for *Heart of Darkness* (1902). This journey, however, made Conrad ill and in 1894, he gave up the sea to become a full-time writer, mainly because of his health problems.

In 1886 Conrad obtained British nationality and when he left the navy he settled<sup>3</sup> in the south of England. In 1895, his first novel – *Almayer's Folly*<sup>4</sup>, an adventure set on the coast of Borneo – was published. In 1896 he married Jessie George and they had two sons. He regularly published short stories, novels and essays, but was not financially successful until 1913, when his novel *Chance* became popular. Conrad was widely recognised as a remarkable<sup>5</sup> writer by other writers, and his novels *Lord Jim* (1900), *Heart of Darkness* (1902), *Nostromo* (1904), *The Secret Agent* (1907) and *Under Western Eyes* (1911) were highly praised. His ability to handle<sup>6</sup> English with such style is even more impressive<sup>7</sup> when one thinks that it was his third language. Conrad died of a heart attack in 1924.

### Glossary

- 1 fond of:** attached to; liked 喜爱
- 2 extensively** /ɪk'stensɪvli/ *ad.* (here) a lot 广泛地, 到处
- 3 settle** /'setl/ *v.* go to live 定居
- 4 folly** /'fɒli/ *n.* foolish or stupid action 愚行; 讽刺剧
- 5 remarkable** /rɪ'mɑ:kəbəl/ *a.* extraordinary; very good 引人注目的, 非常好的
- 6 handle** /'hændl/ *v.* use 处理
- 7 impressive** /ɪm'presɪv/ *a.* that one admires 感人的, 给人深刻印象的

# About the Book

*Heart of Darkness*, like many of Joseph Conrad's novels, is based on his own experience as a sailor. This story is closely connected to the period that he spent working for a Belgian trading company<sup>1</sup> on a river steamer<sup>2</sup> on the Congo River, which he captained for a short time. He returned sick, and disillusioned with the Belgians' imperialistic<sup>3</sup> attitude to the local people.

There are two narrators in *Heart of Darkness*: an anonymous<sup>4</sup> narrator on board the *Nellie* and Marlow. The first narrator starts the novel and then introduces Marlow, who then in turn tells his story. At the end of Marlow's story, the anonymous narrator then finishes the novel in his own words. This technique is called a frame narrative.

The main story in *Heart of Darkness* is the part narrated by the sailor Marlow. He tells some other sailors of his experience as the captain of a steamboat on a large river in Africa. Marlow's job is to transport ivory<sup>5</sup>, and then to go and bring back the company's best ivory agent – Mr Kurtz – who is believed to be sick. After a long delay because the boat has to be repaired, they sail up the river. They find Kurtz, who seems to have become a leader for the local people. Eventually, Marlow gets him onto the boat, but Kurtz dies on the way back down the river.

The word 'darkness' from the title has different symbolic meanings in the text: the jungle, evil, corruption and exploitation. And it seems that, in the end, Mr Kurtz has picked up<sup>6</sup> the 'darkness' rather than taking the 'light' to the people.

The novel is an attack on colonialism and imperialism, although it has been argued that Conrad dehumanises the Africans, making them no more than a part of the dark and dangerous jungle.

*Heart of Darkness* has been translated into many languages and adapted for radio and television. The most famous adaptation is Francis Ford Coppola's film *Apocalypse Now* (1979).

1 **trading company:** company that buys and sells things 贸易公司

2 **steamer** /'sti:mə/ *n.* boat which moves by steam power 汽船, 蒸汽机

3 **imperialistic** /ɪmˌpɪəriəl'ɪstɪk/ *a.* relating to imperialism 帝国主义的

4 **anonymous** /ə'nɒnɪməs/ *a.* without a name 匿名的

5 **ivory** /'aɪvəri/ *n.* hard white substance on elephants' tusks 象牙 (制品)



6 **picked up:** (here) been influenced by 鼓起勇气

## Before Reading

- 1 This story focuses on a journey along the Congo River, also known as the Zaire, in Africa in 1902.

Look at the pictures and words and then use them to complete these sentences from the story. Look up any words you don't know in a dictionary.



desolate natives journey steamboat wilderness canoe

- We followed the coast of Africa which seemed like the edge of a \_\_\_\_\_.
- Kurtz's station was empty and \_\_\_\_\_ in the heart of the jungle.
- The \_\_\_\_\_' camps surrounded the place, and the chiefs came to see him every day.
- A lone white man paddling back in his \_\_\_\_\_ with four natives.
- But in order to understand the effect this \_\_\_\_\_ had on me, you need to know a number of things.
- I got a job with the company as the captain of a river \_\_\_\_\_.

- 2 The main character Marlow says: *'I remembered there was a foreign company that traded on the Congo River.'* Read this definition below.

**trade:** the action of buying and selling goods and services

In 1902 what goods were taken to Africa and what goods were brought back from Africa by traders? Fill in the lists below, choosing from these items.



BEADS



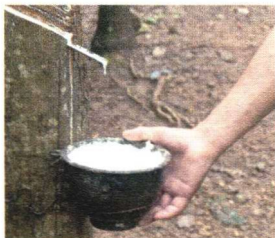
IVORY



COTTON



ALCOHOL



RUBBER



GOLD

*Taken TO Africa*

*Brought back FROM Africa*

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- 3 Do you know which tragic form of trading once existed in Africa? Do some research on the internet if necessary.
- 4 What do you know about the Congo River and the jungle surrounding it? Do some research on the internet.

## Before Reading

- 1 Marlow is the main character and the narrator of the story. Read the description of him and then tick (✓) the best ending to the sentence below.

'Marlow was the only one of us who was still working as a sailor. He was a seaman and a wanderer. He was interested in the ships, the sea, the foreign ports that he visited and the foreign faces that he saw.'



Marlow is a typical seaman because:

- a)  he is curious and likes adventure.  
b)  he likes to spend time on his own.

- 2 Listen to this text about Marlow and his new job and then tick (✓) the correct option.

- a) Marlow will be working for  
 a Belgian company     a German company  
 an English company
- b) He will be travelling along the river in a  
 canoe     cruise ship     steamboat
- c) How does he feel about this new job?  
 worried     depressed     excited
- d) On his journey along the Congo River there will be  
 three main stops     one stop     two small stops

- 3 Listen to the text again and put the names of the stops of Marlow's journey in the correct order. Write 1, 2, 3.

Inner Station     Outer Station     Central Station

- 4 Kurtz is the other main character in the novel. He is an ivory agent and a trader. Read the descriptions of him. Then match the words with their definitions.

'... a first class agent and a very remarkable person.'

'Kurtz will go very far ... He will become important in the administration before long.'

'A prodigy ... next year he will be assistant manager.'



- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| a) <input type="checkbox"/> remarkable | 1 to be successful  |
| b) <input type="checkbox"/> to go far  | 2 extraordinary     |
| c) <input type="checkbox"/> a prodigy  | 3 a talented person |

- 5 These are Marlow's thoughts about Kurtz. Complete the sentences with the words below.

imagine desolate natives colleagues canoe  
lone headquarters wilderness

'And for the first time I felt I could really a) \_\_\_\_\_ what Kurtz was like. A b) \_\_\_\_\_ white man, turning his back on the c) \_\_\_\_\_ and his d) \_\_\_\_\_, and paddling back in his e) \_\_\_\_\_ with four f) \_\_\_\_\_, to his empty and g) \_\_\_\_\_ station in the h) \_\_\_\_\_.'

- 6 How does Marlow's image of Kurtz differ from the one in Exercise 4? Complete the following sentences in no more than ten words.

- a) In Exercise 4 all comments are \_\_\_\_\_.
- b) Marlow's description is that of an isolated man who prefers \_\_\_\_\_.



