

读故事·学英语

成长励志
系列

学人生品质故事集

Quality Life Stories II

第2辑

阅读提高·知识扩充·文化解读·思维拓展

徜徉于世界文化经典的长河，学习地道英语，感悟别样人生！

王华运◎著

麦格希 中英双语阅读文库



吉林出版集团有限责任公司



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图书在版编目(CIP)数据

学人生品质故事集. 第2辑: 英汉对照 / 王华运著
-- 长春: 吉林出版集团有限责任公司, 2012.11
(麦格希中英双语阅读文库)
ISBN 978-7-5534-0992-4

I. ①学… II. ①王… III. ①英语—汉语—对照读物
IV. ①H319.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2012)第 276282 号

学人生品质故事集 第2辑

著: 王华运
插 画: 李延霞 齐 航
责任编辑: 沈丽娟
封面设计: 李立嗣
开 本: 650mm×960mm 1/16
字 数: 214 千字
印 张: 10
版 次: 2013 年 1 月第 1 版
印 次: 2015 年 4 月第 3 次印刷

出 版: 吉林出版集团有限责任公司
发 行: 吉林出版集团外语教育有限公司
地 址: 长春市泰来街 1825 号
邮编: 130011
电 话: 总编办: 0431-86012683
发行部: 0431-86012675 0431-86012826(Fax)
网 址: www.360hours.com
印 刷: 北京一鑫印务有限责任公司

ISBN 978-7-5534-0992-4 定价: 29.80 元

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I 前言

英语思想家培根说过：阅读使人深刻。阅读的真正目的是获取信息，开阔视野和陶冶情操。从语言学习的角度来说，学习语言若没有大量阅读就如隔靴搔痒，因为阅读中的语言是最丰富、最灵活、最具表现力、最符合生活情景的，同时读物中的情节、故事引人入胜，进而能充分调动读者的阅读兴趣，培养读者的文学修养，至此，语言的学习水到渠成。

“麦格希中英双语阅读文库”在世界范围内选材，涉及科普、社会文化、文学名著、传奇故事、成长励志等多个系列，充分满足英语学习者课外阅读之所需，在阅读中学习英语、提高能力。

◎难度适中

本套图书充分照顾读者的英语学习阶段和水平，从读者的阅读兴趣出发，以难易适中的英语语言为立足点，选材精心、编排合理。

◎精品荟萃

本套图书注重经典阅读与实用阅读并举。既包含国内外脍炙人口、耳熟能详的美文，又包含科普、人文、故事、励志类等多学科的精彩文章。

◎功能实用

本套图书充分体现了双语阅读的功能和优势，充分考虑到读者课外阅读的方便，超出核心词表的词汇均出现在使其意义明显的语境之中，并标注释义。

鉴于编者水平有限，凡不周之处，谬误之处，皆欢迎批评教正。

我们真心地希望本套图书承载的文化知识和英语阅读的策略对提高读者的英语著作欣赏水平和英语运用能力有所裨益。

丛书编委会

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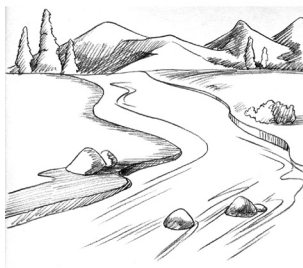
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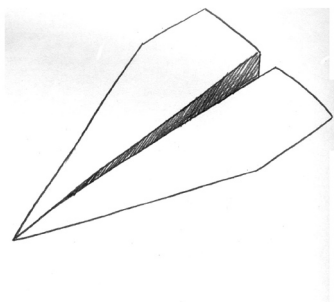
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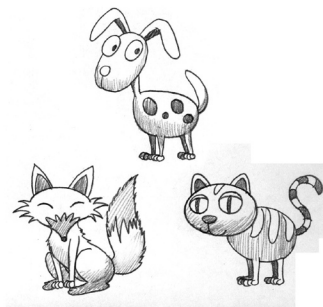
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1

The Big Match

Once, a group of boys decided to play a *proper* soccer game. Each one of them would bring something used in professional matches. So one would bring the ball, another the whistle, another the *goalposts*, others the goalkeeper gloves, the corner flags, etc....



But before the game started, while they

大比赛

从前有一伙孩子决定要踢一场正式的足球比赛。他们每一个人都会带点职业比赛中用到的物品来。有人会拿来足球，有人会拿来哨子，有人会拿来球门柱，有人会拿来守门员手套，有人会拿来角旗等等……

但是比赛开始前在他们挑人组队时，发生了一点小争论。他们决定，

proper *adj.* 真正的；名副其实的

goalpost *n.* 球门柱

were picking the teams, there was a slight argument. They decided that the boy who had brought the most important object would get to pick the teams. Well, now they couldn't decide which had been the most important object, so they thought it would be best to just start playing, using all the objects, and gradually get rid of what people had brought, to see which things were truly *indispensable*.

The first thing they got rid of was the whistle, because the referee could just shout instead. Then they *tossed* the goalkeeper gloves; they managed to save the ball just as well without them. Neither did they really notice when they stopped using the corner flags, nor when they replaced the goalposts with a couple of *bins*. And so they continued, until finally they replaced the football with an old tin, and managed to keep playing...

带来最重要物品的男孩将拥有挑人组队的权利。可是由于他们没法决定哪件物品才是最重要的，所以他们认为，最好的方法就是用上所有的物品开始踢比赛，再逐渐扔掉带过来的东西，用这个方法来决定哪些东西才是真正不可缺少的。

他们最先扔掉的是哨子，因为裁判可以直接用嘴喊来代替。接下来他们扔掉了守门员手套，没有手套他们一样能扑住球。不用角旗的时候，他们没有注意到什么；用几个垃圾桶取代球门柱的时候，他们也没有注意到什么。他们就这样继续踢着，直到最后连足球都不要了，改成踢一个破旧的罐头盒，他们还是继续踢着……

indispensable *adj.* 不可缺少的
bin *n.* 垃圾桶

toss *v.* 扔

While they were playing with the tin, a man and his son passed by. Seeing the boys playing like that, the man said to his son: “Look, son. Learn from those kids over there. Without even a ball they’re managing to play football, even though they’re never going to be able to improve playing that way.”

The boys heard him say this, and realised that because of their *excessive* pride and *egotism*, what could have been a great match had turned into a shameful display, which they were hardly enjoying at all. That moment, they decided to put their selfish opinions to one side, and they agreed to start playing the match again, from the start, and with all the proper equipment.

And it really was a great game. No one thought about who was playing better or worse. Rather, they just concentrated on having fun and improving their game.

当他们在踢罐头盒时，一个男人和他的儿子在旁边路过。看到这些男孩在这样踢球，男人对儿子说：“看，儿子。学学那些男孩子们。就算没有球，他们都设法踢足球，虽然他们那样踢永远不可能有进步。”

男孩们听到了他的话，意识到了由于他们过分的傲慢和自私，一场本应该很棒的比赛变成了一次丢人的表演，而他们也没有从中得到一点乐趣。那一刻，他们决定把自己的自私想法扔到一边，一致同意重新开始比赛——从头开始，并且用上所有真正的装备。

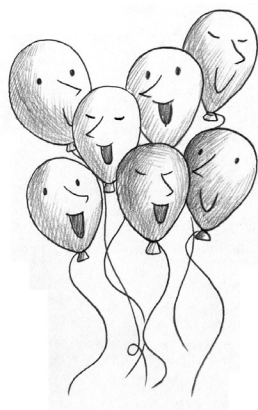
那真的是一场很棒的比赛。没有人在想谁踢得更好或者更坏。相反，他们只是专注于寻找乐趣和提升比赛质量。

excessive *adj.* 过分的；过度的

egotism *n.* 自私自利

Balloon Acrobatics

The day finally arrived. It was time for the great acrobatic balloon competition. Every insect in the garden had been training hard, and now they were preparing to begin their *routines*. The balloon competitions were always something really special, since they could only happen after the children of the house had had some big



气球杂技

这一天终于来了。壮观的气球杂技大赛就在这一天举行。花园里的所有昆虫都经过了刻苦的训练，现在他们正准备开始他们的成套动作。气球比赛一直都是非常特别的，因为比赛只能在这个房子里的孩子们开完大型派对之后才能举行。要赶在孩子们的父母来收气球之前，

routine *n.* 一套动作

party. There was only a short window of opportunity too, before the parents came round to collect up the balloons.

Each time, the flying insects were *favourites* to win, because they could grab the balloon strings and fly off in all directions, creating all sorts of patterns in the air. However, on this occasion there were some rather unusual insects taking part: a group of ants. Of course, no one expected that they'd do anything special. They were so light that no ant had ever bothered to take part, but it was quite impressive to see all the ants all perfectly organised and prepared.

So the competition began, and the different insects took their turns, performing beautiful *manoeuvres* with the balloons. As always, the butterfly and the firefly left everyone amazed with their twist and turns, and their wonderful colours. When it was time for the ants to perform, it seemed like the competition had already been decided.

抓住很短暂的时机。

每一次, 会飞的昆虫都最有希望获胜, 因为他们可以抓住气球的线飞向四面八方, 在空中摆出各种各样的图案。然而这一次, 一些不一样的昆虫参加了进来: 一群蚂蚁。当然, 没有人期望他们会做出什么特别的事情。他们太轻了, 从来没有任何一只蚂蚁过来参加比赛, 可是看着所有蚂蚁完美地组织在一起做准备, 还是相当壮观的。

大赛开始了, 不同的昆虫轮番上阵, 用气球做着漂亮娴熟的动作。和往常一样, 蝴蝶和萤火虫用他们的扭动和翻转, 还有他们漂亮的色彩, 让所有人感到惊奇。轮到蚂蚁表演的时候, 似乎比赛结果早已经出来了。

favourite *n.* 最有希望获胜的选手

manoeuvre *n.* 谨慎而熟练的动作

For the first time in living memory, the ants shared just one balloon between them, and one by one they climbed up the balloon string, forming a thin black thread of ants. When all the string was covered, the last ant climbed over his teammates to reach the balloon. Once there, he climbed onto the top of the balloon.

This strange *spectacle* attracted everyone's curiosity, and they were just about to witness the most important moment: the ant opened his jaws as wide as he could... and then he stabbed the balloon with all his might!

Pssshhhhhhhh!!!

The result was tremendous! The balloon began blowing out its air, flying madly about, here and there, doing a thousand *pirouette*, while

蚂蚁们有生以来第一次共用一个气球，他们一个接一个地爬上了气球线，组成了一条黑色的细细的蚂蚁线。当线全被蚂蚁覆盖后，最后的那只蚂蚁爬过他的队友够到了气球。一到那里，他便爬上了气球顶端。

奇怪的场面勾起了大家的好奇，他们就要目睹最重要的时刻了：蚂蚁把他的嘴张到最大……然后用尽全身力气去戳气球！

扑哧……！！！！

结果太惊人了！气球开始向外撒气，四处乱飞，一会到这，一会到那，不停地旋转，与此同时，动作完全同步的蚂蚁在气球线上摆出各种各

spectacle *n.* 出人意料的情况

pirouette *n.* （芭蕾舞中的）单脚尖旋转

the perfectly synchronised ants, made all kinds of beautiful shapes out of the string.

Of course, that acrobatic flight ended with quite a hard landing, but it didn't matter. The *originality* and teamwork of the ant performance was so impressive that the crowd didn't even have to vote for there to be a winner.

From then on, in that garden, everyone understood how much could be achieved by working together. In the years to come, the balloon competitions were full of displays carried out by teams, and they put on some wonderful routines; something those individual insects could never have achieved on their own.

样美丽的形状。

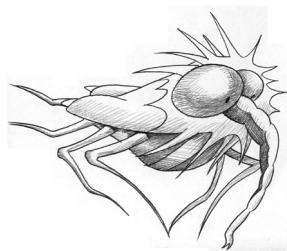
当然，这场杂技飞行最后的着陆很惨，可是又有什么关系呢？蚂蚁表演的独创性和团队协作给大家留下了无比深刻的印象，大家伙甚至不用投票就知道他们赢了。

从那以后，在那个花园里，每个人都懂得了合作的力量。在未来的几年里，气球大赛满是团体表演，他们表演了一些极好的成套动作；而这些是每个昆虫靠自己永远无法做到的。

originality *n.* 独创性；创意

Fleabags

You know, they *reckon* Ken The Wizard and Clive The Magician had one of the best flea collections in world history. Those fleas were the cleverest, liveliest, strongest fleas of their era, and most useful for all sorts of spells. Ken and Clive never went anywhere without at least a thousand fleas on them, always



跳蚤罐

你知道吗，大家认为巫师肯和术士克莱夫收集的跳蚤是有史以来最棒的一些。那些跳蚤是他们那个时代最聪明、最活跃、最强壮的跳蚤，用来施各种咒语最好不过了。肯和克莱夫走到哪里都带着最少一千只跳蚤，总是安全地把它们放在他们稀奇古怪的玻璃罐里，这样一

reckon v. 认为

kept safely in one of their *bizarre* glass bags, so that everyone could appreciate the fleas' special qualities.

One time, Ken and Clive happened upon each other in a forest. Chatting and joking, time passed by quickly and they realised that it was so late that they would have to camp out in the forest that night.

While they were sleeping, Clive The Magician sneezed with such magical violence that thousands of whitehot sparks shot out of his nose. Ken and Clive had left their precious fleas on some leaves for the night and, unfortunately, one of the sparks landed on a leaf and the whole lot set *alight*. As the fire started spreading, the two magicians continued sleeping, and their fleas began to look decidedly nervous.

They were all terribly clever and strong, so each one of the fleas thought of their own strategy to escape the fire. However, as they

来，所有人都可以看到他们有那么多特别的跳蚤。

一次，肯和克莱夫在森林里相互遇到了。他们聊着天，开着玩笑，时间过得很快，天已经很晚了，他们意识到必须要在森林里搭帐篷过夜了。

在他们睡觉的时候，术士克莱夫打鼾的威力太大了，他的鼻孔里喷出了千百个炽热的火星。那晚，肯和克莱夫把他们珍贵的跳蚤放到了叶子上，不幸的是，一颗火星落到了一片叶子上，把整块地方都点燃了。火势开始蔓延，而他们俩还在睡着，他们的跳蚤看上去显然开始恐慌不安了。

他们都非常聪明强壮，每只跳蚤都在各自想着逃生的办法。然而，他们还是在罐子里，每一个向不同方向跳着，这样，罐子还是待在原来的地

bizarre *adj.* 极其怪诞的

alight *adj.* 燃烧的