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What A World

英语看世界

朗文英汉双语阅读



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如有印刷、装订质量问题捷进可一公司负责调换。

英国思想家培根说过,"阅读使人深刻",而阅读在外语学习中的重要性更是不言而喻。只是长期以来中国英语教学中的功利主义思想使学习者无法真正利用这一工具,更谈不上体味其中的乐趣了,学生只会感到沉重的 **Pressure**。

通过阅读来提高英语水平归根结底有三个问题要解决,为什么读,怎么读和读什么。阅读的真正目的绝非是为了做豆腐块文章后面几道枯燥的练习,而是获取信息,增长知识,开拓视野和陶冶情操。从语言学习角度来说方法有精读和泛读之分:精读强调纵向挖掘,要一丝不苟地吃透文章,包括词汇用法和语法知识;而泛读则强调横向拓宽,要"不求甚解"地大量阅读,以此来培养语感,锻炼英语的应用和思维能力。至于读什么,当面对市场上汗牛充栋的英语图书时,许多学习者都踌躇难断。

神奇的世界,古老的历史,悠远的文化,幻变的人生,里面蕴含了多少弥足珍贵的遗产等待我们去挖掘,去品味。而语言,这一人类文明进化的产物此时便恰如其分地起到负载并传承这份遗产的作用。作为语言学习者,阅读历史,感受文化,品味人生,不仅意味着语言能力本身的提高,更是对情感世界的极大丰富。正是在这一思路的引导下,我们与世界著名的教育图书出版机构培生教育集团合作,推出这套《英语看世界》(1—3)及其姊妹篇《英语看人生》(1—3),二者相映成趣。

《英语看世界》(1—3)包含的内容似乎很难用常规的领域范围来加以界定,从自然环境到社会现象,从风俗传统到神话传说,从历史事件到名人轶事,可谓包罗万象。它可以告诉我们亚瑟王的传说为什么会如此风靡西方,南极洲的生活是什么样的一番景象, J.K. 罗琳,这位哈利波特之母一些不为人知的故事,以及新兴的安全卫士——网络天使究竟是怎么回事。其知识性和趣味性远非常见的阅读材料可比,堪称一部精华浓缩版的世界文明史。

除了阅读故事的精彩之外,文章后面的练习题也是本书的亮点所在。非传统形式的题目趣味性强,做起来毫不枯燥。多采用启发式、拓展性的问题,鼓励学生积极思考,真正起到检验阅读效果和巩固知识的作用。

VOCABULARY:除了鼓励学生利用上下文猜测词义的习题之外,还配有以应用为目的的口语练习,使学生抓住短暂记忆,循环利用,加深印象。

COMPREHENSION:从理解大意和把握细节两方面入手,锻炼学生的阅读技能,并巧妙地促使学生回视课文,进一步增进理解。还有复述故事和听写等项目,鼓励学生组对进行口头练习。

DISCUSSION:让学生对与阅读内容相关联的话题展开联想,表达自己独立的见解,并探讨不同文化之间的差异。

WRITING:"读书必须过笔"是古今中外学人的共同体会。只有经过笔头练习,才能真正将阅读到的知识内化为自身的技能。

本书的姊妹篇《英语看人生》(1—3)同样精彩,值得一读。

To some people reading maybe is a pressure, but we will make it a real Pleasure!

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UNIT 1

What Is the Legend of King Arthur?



BEFORE YOU READ

Answer these questions.

1. What is a legend?
2. What famous legends do you know?
3. What are some movies which are based on legends? Why are they popular?

What Is the Legend of King Arthur?

1 The legend of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table makes us think of an age of heroism and romance. For a thousand years, stories about them have been **passed down from** generation to generation, across Europe and the rest of the world. We even **encounter** them today in books, on television, and in the movies. In all these stories, King Arthur and his knights fight bravely for justice and truth. Of course, they always win.

5 The stories about Arthur may have some truths in them, but they also have a lot of exaggerations. It seems difficult to separate fact from fiction. Some people question how a man could win so many battles and sword fights without getting wounded or killed. And some of the things that Arthur's adviser Merlin says and does are too fantastic to be real. For example, he **made predictions** of strange and amazing things that would happen in the future, and many stories claim that he could change himself into different objects and animals. He could change into a boy or a deer, for example, and he could change the appearance of others and even make them invisible. However, there are other parts of the stories we accept more easily, such as the magnificent castle of Camelot with its many towers.

6 There have been various **theories** about where Camelot was located and whether it even existed. In the late 1960s, historians dug at a **site** in southeastern England (Cadbury Castle) where Camelot could have been located, but they found nothing. Some historians say that big stone castles didn't exist in the time of Arthur. Castles during his time were made of dirt

century. In his work, Malory creates a story of extraordinary bravery and emphasizes the triumph of good over evil. This work inspired kings all over Europe. King Henry VIII of England saw himself as the new Arthur reuniting the country after civil war, and even naming his eldest son Arthur.

10 King Arthur's popularity is ongoing. In 1986, it was estimated that 13,500 books, articles, and reviews had been written about him. The success of recent movies and books shows that the popularity of the legend of King Arthur is



Circle the letter of the answer that is closest in meaning to the underlined word.

- What Is the Legend of King Arthur? 5

- a. agreement b. understanding
- c. struggle d. change
- 9. His presidency started a new "golden age" of prosperity.
 - a. peace b. happiness
 - c. pleasure d. wealth
- 10. The themes in the stories are universal.
 - a. different in every country
 - b. common to a few areas
 - c. the same everywhere
 - d. unlike anything else



WORDS THAT GO TOGETHER

A. Find words in the reading that go together with the words below to make phrases.

- 1. _____ predictions
- 2. combination _____
- 3. known _____
- 4. _____ history
- 5. _____ deeds
- 6. passed _____ from
- 7. _____ trouble

B. Complete the sentences with the phrases from Part A.

- 1. If you knew someone who _____, she could tell you what is going to happen in the future.
- 2. Important items and stories that are given by elders to the children in a family are _____ one generation to another.
- 3. If you take two or more things and put them together, you have a _____ those things.
- 4. If something is _____ having a certain quality or being a certain way, it means that many people are aware of that fact or characteristic.
- 5. When something is a certain way over many, many years, it is that way _____.

6. If you are having a serious problem or difficulty, you are _____.

7. To do _____ means to do things that help others.

C. Now use the phrases in your own sentences.

Example: *She was known as a very good doctor.*



USE

Work with a partner to answer the questions. Use complete sentences.

1. What are two things that are *precious* to you?
2. What are some common *good deeds* that people can do for others?
3. When was the last time you were *in trouble*? Describe what happened.
4. What is a famous historical *site* in your country?
5. What is something that has been *passed down from* one generation to another in your family?
6. What are some signs of *prosperity*?
7. Where is it common to see *mist*?
8. What *exotic* place would you like to visit?

COMPREHENSION



UNDERSTANDING MAIN IDEAS

Some of the following statements are main ideas, and some are supporting statements. Some of them are stated directly in the reading. Find the statements. Write *M* for each main idea. Write *S* for each supporting statement.

- _____ 1. The knights saved people in trouble and searched for the Holy Grail.
- _____ 2. The stories about King Arthur contain both truth and fiction.
- _____ 3. People have different opinions about whether Camelot existed and where it might have been located.

- _____ 4. Many historians believe that Arthur led an army against the Saxons who invaded Britain.
- _____ 5. In the English language, the word *Camelot* has come to mean an ideal place.
- _____ 6. People from many different times and places have been fascinated by the legends of King Arthur.



REMEMBERING DETAILS

Reread the passage and answer the questions. Write complete sentences

1. What is the most famous version of King Arthur's legend?

2. What are three things that were expected of a chivalrous knight?

3. What did many legends claim about Merlin?

4. Why did the knights sit at a round table?

5. What do historians believe that castles were made from during the time of King Arthur?

6. What is probably one of the reasons why King Arthur has always been such a popular figure?

7. Where did Arthur get his second magic sword?

8. During what time do most historians believe that Arthur lived?



MAKING INFERENCES

The answers to these questions can be inferred, or guessed, from the reading. Circle the letter of the best answer.

1. The reading implies that _____.
 - a. Merlin most likely did exist
 - b. Merlin's actions are based in fact
 - c. Merlin is not a believable character
 - d. Merlin did not live in Camelot
2. It can be inferred from the reading that people many centuries ago _____.
 - a. liked stories about love and adventure
 - b. didn't believe their heroes should have any faults
 - c. were tired of stories about knights and kings
 - d. didn't have much imagination
3. From the reading, it can be concluded that Arthur was probably _____.
 - a. a person who never really existed in history
 - b. a military leader whose real life became exaggerated
 - c. several different people who became one character
 - d. one of the most famous knights in all of British history
4. The reading implies that the legends of King Arthur _____.
 - a. could only be understood by the royalty of their day
 - b. caused a civil war during the time of King Henry VIII
 - c. showed only the good side of the king and his knights
 - d. touched everyone, from kings to ordinary people

DISCUSSION

Discuss the answers to these questions with your classmates.

1. What legends are associated with certain countries?
2. Why do you think people like stories about great heroes? Why are the most popular heroes those who have human faults?

3. Many people say that "chivalry is dead" today. Do you agree? Why or why not?
4. What is your idea of a perfect place like *Camelot*?

WRITING

On separate paper, write a paragraph or an essay about one of the following topics:

1. Write the story of a legend you know.
2. Describe a perfect place to live.
3. Tell about a romantic or adventure movie you have seen.