




# 朗文

ALL  
AMERICAN  
STORIES

英语短篇小说 2

英汉对照

 吉林出版集团有限责任公司  
——外语教育出版社——

# 朗文英语短篇小说

## ALL AMERICAN STORIES

2

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# 一本书一个世界

捷进可一

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## 朗文英语短篇小说

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“就英语学习而言,一部英文小说其实就是用英语建构的一个“虚拟世界”。那里有人,有人的心灵和人与人之间关系的揭示,有人与自然、与社会的冲突和调和。走进一部英文小说,你实际上就已经“生活”在一个“英语世界”里了。”

《朗文英语短篇小说》(2)荟萃了美国著名作家的经典作品:欧·亨利的《股票经纪人的忙里偷闲》、保罗·劳伦斯·邓巴的《忘恩负义》、苏格拉斯佩尔的《她的同性陪审团》、赫尔曼·麦尔维尔的《白鲸》、亨利·詹姆斯的《假珍珠》及西奥多·德莱塞的《找寻失去的菲比》,教你在领略文学之美的同时学习英语,在学习英语中欣赏文学。

一、本书将英语说、读、写、译的能力结合起来,每章附有作者简介,选文还有阅读理解题、讨论题、扩展活动及相关的写作练习,以利于培养读者英文阅读思维和文学鉴赏能力。

二、本书循序渐进,词汇、语法及内部结构的难度从首篇至末篇逐渐增加,对结构、词汇和句子长度的控制贯穿始终。新的语法结构也随着故事顺次增多,超出中心词表的词汇均出现在使其意义明显的语境之中,方便读者的阅读。

三、本书丰富的人物性格、清晰的情节和矛盾冲突以及出人意料的结局不经意间提高读者的英语阅读能力。

四、本书英汉对照,既保留了教科书的功用,又照顾到读者自学的方便,对提高读者文学欣赏水平和英语运用能力大有裨益。

本书既可以作为各类英语学校或培训机构开设英语小说阅读课的教材,也可以作为英语学习的通俗读物,其承载的世界先进文化遗产和英语学习策略将影响着读者进步和成功。

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# What is a short story?

Not all short stories are truly *short*. Some are many pages long. But all short stories have certain things in common: **characters**, **plot**, **setting**, and **theme**. These are the elements of a short story.

**Characters** are the people or the animals in a story. A good writer creates characters that you care about. You read the story to find out what happens to them.

The **plot** of the story is what happens to the characters. Things that happen are called events. Sometimes the events really happened. Often the events are the author's creation.

The **setting** is where and when the story happens. In some stories, the setting is very specific. For example, a story about the first modern Olympic Games would probably be set in Athens, Greece, in the year 1896.

The **theme** is a general idea about life that the author conveys by telling the story. Some stories do not have a theme.

The model story is "The Story of an Hour" by Kate Chopin. Here are the characters, plot, setting, and theme of the story.

## *Characters*

Louise Mallard, a married woman; Josephine, her sister; Richards, a friend; Brently Mallard, Louise's husband

## *Plot*

A woman finds out that her husband has died suddenly. Her feelings about his death change with time.

## *Setting*

*Time:* No time is given, but the story was written in 1894.

*Place:* Louise's house

## *Theme*

The need for freedom is sometimes greater than the need for love.

# Character

Authors have many ways to help you get to know their characters. They can describe what a character looks like. They can tell you the character's thoughts and feelings. They can tell you what the character does and says. It is easier to believe in characters that seem real.

The main character is the most important character in the story. Often, the main character changes as a result of what happens in the story. The change the character goes through is usually important. It can be important both to the character's life and to the meaning of the story.

In "The Story of an Hour," the main character is Louise Mallard. At the beginning of the story she is described as having "a weak heart." Later, the author writes, "how strong and well she looked—so full of joy." What you know about a character at the start of a story can change by the story's end.



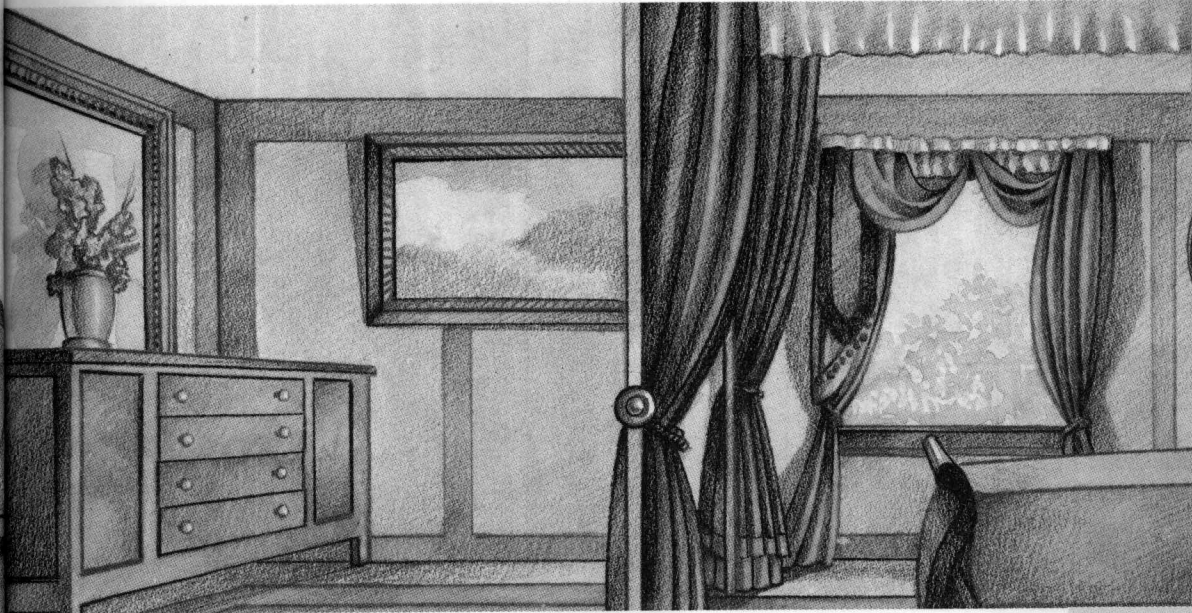


# Plot

The plot is the action—what happens. The plot is made up of events that are connected to one another. In most cases, the author tells you about these events in the order in which they happened. You keep reading the story to find out what happens next.

Often there is conflict, or a problem, in a short story. The conflict could be a disagreement between two characters. It could be a struggle between a person and a part of nature, such as the weather. The conflict could even be between two different feelings within a person.

In "The Story of an Hour," Louise Mallard's problem is that her feelings are in conflict. Louise's problem is solved at the end of the story in a most surprising way.



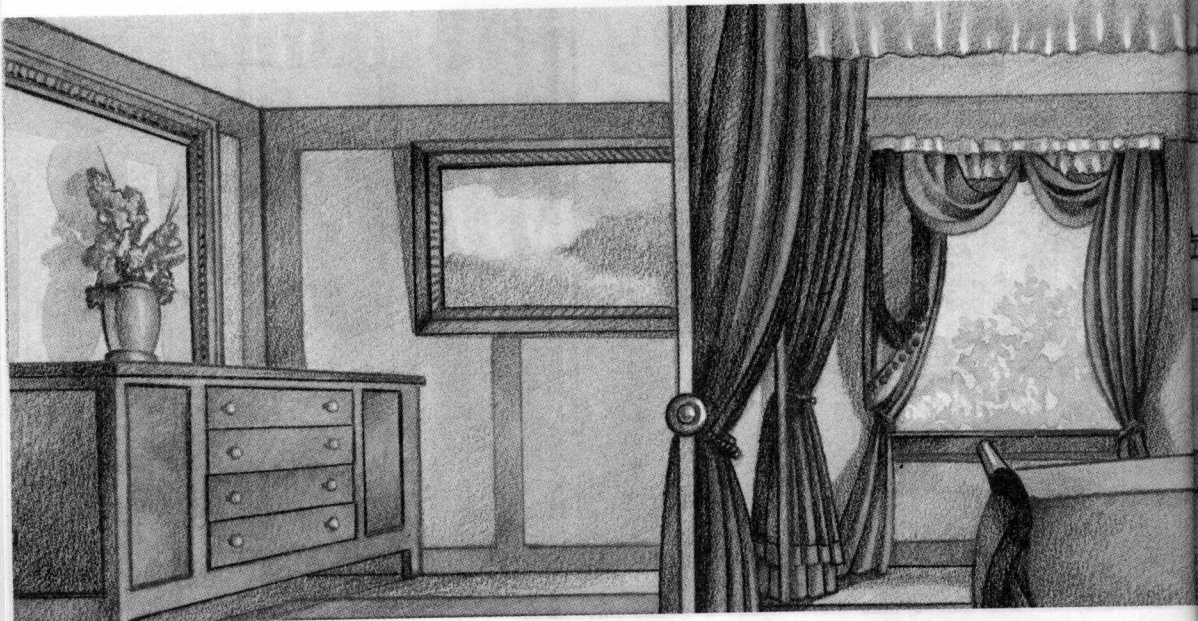


# Setting

A story's setting is its place and time. Place might be a country or a room in a building. Time might be the season or the time of day. Authors can tell you the setting directly. They can also tell you indirectly, giving you information such as how people are dressed or what is happening in the world.

Some stories can only happen in a specific setting. Other stories can take place anywhere, at any time. Many fairy tales have the same imaginary setting: "once upon a time" in a "faraway land."

"The Story of an Hour" takes place in Louise Mallard's home. These words tell you that it is spring: "The air smelled like spring rain. . . Birds sang near the house." You can assume the year is around 1894 because the story was written in that year, and the action takes place in the present time.



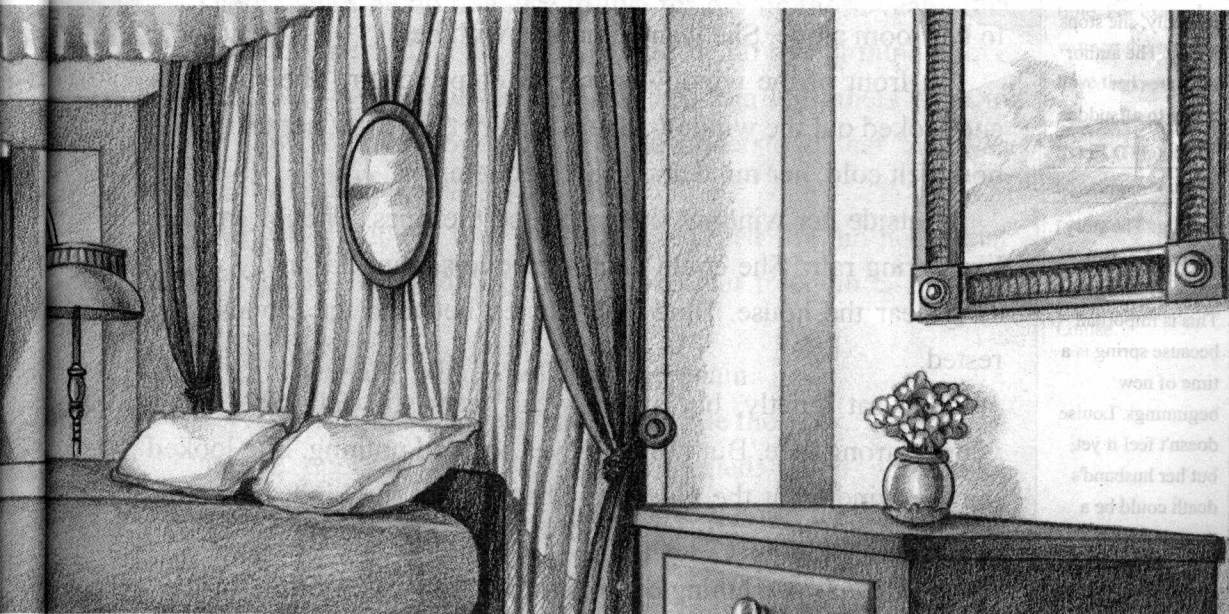
# Theme

The theme is the central idea or message an author conveys by telling the story. The idea can usually be expressed as a general statement about life.

Some authors tell you the theme directly. However, most authors would prefer that you figure out the theme after you have read the story. You might need to think about the story or reread certain parts before you can put the theme into words.

Figuring out a story's theme can help you understand the story better and enjoy it more. You need to understand a story well before you can put its theme into words. And understanding a story is a big part of enjoying it.

The theme of "The Story of an Hour" is that the need for freedom is sometimes more powerful than the need for love.



# The Story of an Hour

*Adapted from the story by Kate Chopin*

**Plot:** The first paragraph sets the plot in motion. The reader learns that the main character has a weak heart and that her husband has just died.

They knew that Louise Mallard had a weak heart. So they broke the bad news softly. Her husband, Brently, was dead.

"There was a train accident, Louise," said her sister, Josephine, quietly.

Her husband's friend, Richards, stood with Josephine. Richards brought the news, but Josephine told the story. She spoke in broken sentences.

"Richards . . . was at the newspaper office. News of the accident came. Louise . . . Louise, Brently's name was on the list. Brently . . . was killed, Louise."

Louise did not hear the story coldly, like some other women would. She could not close her mind or her heart to the news. Like a sudden storm, her tears broke out. She cried loudly in her sister's arms. Then, just as suddenly, the tears stopped. She went to her room alone. She wanted no one with her.

In front of the window stood an empty chair. She sat down and looked out the window. She was very tired after her tears. Her body felt cold, her mind and heart were empty.

Outside her window she could see the trees. The air smelled like spring rain. She could hear someone singing far away. Birds sang near the house. Blue sky showed between the clouds. She rested.

She sat quietly, but a few weak tears still fell. She had a young, strong face. But now her eyes showed nothing. She looked out the window at the blue sky. She was not thinking, or seeing. She was waiting.

There was something coming to her. She was waiting for it

**Character:** Notice how Louise reacts to the news. First, she bursts into tears. Then, just as suddenly, she stops crying. The author compares her crying to a "sudden storm."

**Setting:** The story is set in Louise's home. It is spring. This is important because spring is a time of new beginnings. Louise doesn't feel it yet, but her husband's death could be a time of new beginnings for her.



with fear. What was it? She did not know; she could not give it a name. But she felt it coming out from the sky. It reached her through the sound, the smell, the color of the air.

Slowly she became excited. Her breath came fast, her heart beat faster. She began to see this thing. It wanted to find her and take her. She tried to fight against it. But she could not. Her mind was as weak as her two small white hands. Then she stopped fighting against it. A little word broke from her lips.

"Free," she said. "Free, free, free!" The emptiness and fear left her. Her eyes showed her excitement. Her heart beat fast, and the blood warmed her body. A sudden feeling of joy excited her.

She did not stop to ask if her joy was wrong. She saw her freedom clearly. She could not stop to think of smaller things.

She knew the tears would come again when she saw her husband's body. The kind hands, now dead and still. The loving face, now still and gray. But she looked into the future. She saw many long years to come that would belong to her alone. And now she opened her arms wide to those years in welcome.

There would be no one else to live for during those years. She would live for herself alone. There would be no strong mind above hers. Men and women always believe they can tell others what to do and how to think. Suddenly Louise understood that this was wrong. She could break away and be free of it.

And yet, she loved him—sometimes. Often she did not. What did love mean now? Now she understood that freedom is stronger than love.

"Free! Body and mind free!" she said again.

Her sister, Josephine, was waiting outside the door.

"Please open the door," Josephine cried. "You will make yourself sick. What are you doing in there, Louise? Please, please, let me in!"

**Plot:** Louise's heart beats fast as she discovers that she is free. The author tells you this fact twice. You already know that Louise has a weak heart. The author is giving you a clue about how the story will end. This is called **foreshadowing**.

**Setting:** This story was written in the 1890s. Women did not have much freedom at that time. For example, women did not yet have the right to vote in the United States. Think of how important personal freedom must have been to a woman like Louise.

**Character:** Notice how much Louise's character has changed since the beginning of the story. She has changed from tired, cold, and empty to "full of joy."

**Plot:** The author surprises us with a twist in the plot. Brently Mallard is alive! What do you think will happen to Louise's freedom now?

**Plot:** Everyone thought Louise would die when she learned that her husband was dead. But what happened was the opposite—she died when she learned that her husband was alive. This is called **irony**..

"Go away. I am not sick." No, she was drinking in life through that open window.

She thought joyfully of all those days before her. Spring days, summer days. All kinds of days that would be her own. She began to hope life would be long. And just yesterday, life seemed too long!

After a while she got up and opened the door. Here eyes were bright, her cheeks were red. She didn't know how strong and well she looked—so full of joy. They went downstairs, where Richards was waiting.

A man was opening the door. It was Brently Mallard. He was dirty, and tired. He carried a suitcase and an umbrella. He was not killed in the train accident. He didn't even know there was an accident. He was surprised at Josephine's sudden cry. He didn't understand why Richards moved suddenly between them, to hide Louise from her husband.

But Richards was too late.

When the doctors came, they said it was her weak heart. They said she died of joy—of joy that kills.

# Chinese Version

## 一个小时的故事

他们知道路易丝·玛拉德心脏不好，所以在向她透露这个噩耗时谨小慎微。她的丈夫布伦特里死了。

“路易丝，听说发生了一起火车事故，”她姐姐约瑟芬平静地说。

她丈夫的朋友理查兹站在约瑟芬旁边。带来消息的是理查兹，可开口说话的是约瑟芬。她的话说得断断续续。

“理查兹……刚好在报社。传来了火车出事的消息。路易丝……路易丝，布伦特里的名字也在上面。布伦特里……死了，路易丝。”

路易丝并非像有些女人那样漠然地听着。她的心无法排斥这个消息，眼泪像突来的风暴一般奔涌而泄。她在姐姐的怀里放声大哭。哭着哭着，又突然止住了。真是说哭就哭，说停就停。她独自走进自己的房间，不想要任何人陪着。

窗前摆着一把空椅。她坐下来，朝窗外望去。刚才一场痛哭，现在觉得很累，浑身发冷，心里空落落的。

窗外的树林清晰可见。空气就像春雨过后一样清新。远处有人在唱歌。鸟儿在房子附近鸣叫。蓝蓝的天空躲在漂浮的云朵后面，时隐时现。她歇息了。

她静静地坐着，眼中仍有几滴清泪在慢慢滚落。她面容年轻而刚毅，可现在却目中无神。望着窗外的蓝天，什么也没想，什么也没看，她在等待着。

有什么东西来了；她正心怀恐惧地等着它。可它是什么呢？她不知道；那是一种无以名状的东西。她觉得那东西正在从天而降，穿过空气中的声音、气味和颜色飘然而至。

渐渐地，她开始兴奋起来。呼吸变得急促，心跳也加快了。她能看到这个东西了。它想要找到她，抓住她。她奋力抵抗，但却无济于事。她的心就跟她那双白嫩的小手一样柔弱无力。于是，她不再挣扎了。一个短短的词从唇间脱口而出。

“自由，”她说。“自由，自由，自由！”空虚与恐惧顿然消失，眼里闪着兴奋的光芒。她的心在狂跳，热血温暖了周身。这突如其来的愉悦感使她兴奋不已。

她没有停顿下来反问自己是否应该高兴，她已经清清楚楚地看到了自由，顾不上那些小事儿了。

她知道，看见丈夫的遗体时还会流泪。那双亲切的大手，如今已僵死了；那亲爱的面容，也已经变得僵硬灰暗。但是放眼未来，她看到还有很多年会完全属于自己。她正张开双臂去迎接那即将到来的美好时光。

在那些岁月里，她不必再为别人，而是为自己而活着。再也不会会有什么意见强加



于她。不论男女,人们总是认为自己有权支配别人的行为和思想。路易丝忽然明白了,这是不对的。她要冲破这种束缚,从中获得解脱。

话又说回来,她还是爱他的——在有些时候,但通常不爱。什么是爱?现在她认为自由比爱更强大。

“自由!身心都要自由!”她又说。

姐姐约瑟芬正在门外等着。

“请你开门,”约瑟芬喊道。“你那样会生病的。你在里面干什么呢,路易丝?快点,让我进去吧!”

“你走吧,我没事。”是的,她正通过那扇敞开的窗户汲取生命力。

她愉快地想着未来所有的日子:春天、夏天,所有的日子都归自己所有。她开始期望生命能够延长。而就在昨天,生活还似乎长不可奈。

过了一会儿,她站起身来,打开房门。目光明亮,面色红润,不知道自己看起来有多健壮——简直是春光满面。她们下楼了,里查兹正在楼下等着。

有人在开门。是布伦特里·玛拉德。他风尘仆仆,疲惫不堪,手里还提着一个行李箱和一把雨伞。他并没有丧身车祸。他甚至不知道有车祸发生。他对约瑟芬的惊叫感到吃惊;也不明白里查兹为什么突然快步跑到他们中间,把路易丝和自己的丈夫隔开。

可是,里查兹还是迟了。

医生来了,说是因为她心脏功能太弱。他们说是因狂喜而死——能致人于死地的狂喜。

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# The Romance of a Busy Broker

*Adapted from the story by O. Henry*

## About the Author

O. Henry was born in Greensboro, North Carolina, in 1862. His real name was William Sydney Porter. At the age of fifteen, he left school. He found work in a drugstore, a business office, a building designer's office, and finally a bank. When he was caught taking money from his own bank, O. Henry was arrested and put in prison for three years. While in prison, he published a book of adventure stories called *Cabbages and Kings*. In 1902, he moved to New York. It was there that he became famous for his short stories with surprise endings. He wrote hundreds of stories about the ordinary people of New York City. His most famous books include *The Four Million* and *The Voice of the City*. O. Henry died in 1910.

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