

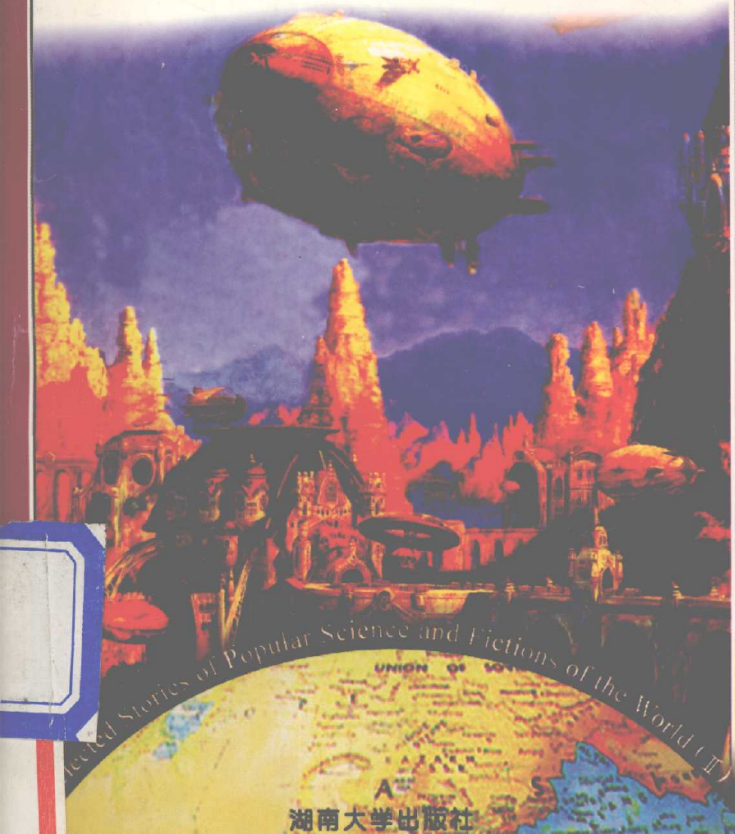
世界经典故事系列

主编 肖云南 章晋新

世界科普与科幻故事精选

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英 语 有 声 读 物



世界经典故事系列

—英语有声读物—

世界科普与科幻故事精选(二)

Selected Stories of Popular Science and Fictions of the World(Ⅱ)

主 编 肖云南 章晋新
副主编 李正华 谭琼琳
主 审 Susan Holland

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肖云南 章晋新 主编

☐ 选题策划 韩 虹 肖云南

☐ 责任编辑 王桂贞 卢付林

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前 言

近年来,随着我国对外交往日益增多,越来越多的英语爱好者已不满足于仅仅学会英语语音、语法、词汇和一些基本句型。不少人经过与英美人的交往,逐步认识到语言既是文化的载体,又是文化的一部分,两者水乳交融,密不可分。要真正学好一门语言,不仅要学会掌握和运用该语言;而且还要大量地接触、认识并了解该语言的文化,才能不断增强对该语言文化差异的敏感性,逐步提高对不同文化的比较能力,最终达到提高自身文化素质,得体地进行语言交际的目的。

我国的英语爱好者,要达到语言交际的目的,光靠小学、中学和大学所学的课本知识是远远不够的,一定要大量地感受英语、学习英语、实践英语,逐步提高英语水平。为此,我们特为大中专学生编写了这套世界经典故事系列。我们坚信广大英语爱好者通过对这些故事的学习,能扩大知识面,开阔视野,并能欣赏到世界文化宝库中的真、善、美,陶冶情操,提高自身文化素养。

本系列中的故事,题材多样,均选自中外原版图书。一般是世界上流传甚广,深受人民群众喜爱的民间、幽默、寓言、成语、侦探、科普和科幻故事。用常用英语 5000 词汇进行改写、翻译,并编辑成文字流畅,通俗易懂,集思想性、知识性和趣味性于一体的有声读物。

为便于读者阅读理解、消化吸收、增进听说能力、培养翻译技能,我们在每个故事后编写了三种练习。练习一:理解题,旨在训练阅读与听力,帮助读者理解故事大意和细节;练习二:翻译,从故事原文中选出几个较难的句子,要求读者译成中文;练习三:讨论题,旨在训练读者理解故事中较深层的意义,如作者的态度、观点,并训练读者的英语口语表达能力。

《世界科普与科幻故事精选》(二)由肖云南、章晋新担任主编,李正华、谭琼琳为副主编。参加第二分册编写工作的还有(以姓氏笔画为序)叶青、宋喜群、孙圣勇、周幸、胡凌、黄懿、狼建中。由秦婉婉绘制插图;特聘美籍专家 Susan Holland 审阅;Christy Borthick 和 George Nytes 灌制录音带。特在此表示感谢。

因编者水平有限,疏漏之处,敬请指正。

编 者

2000年2月于湖南大学

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I Human Cloning

Take a cell, practically any cell, from your body, the theory goes, and through appropriate biological *tinkering* (1. n. 简单的修补), you can cause it to grow into a copy of yourself — identical from eyelashes to toenails. No need for sex anymore; with this system, you can neatly reproduce yourself without a partner. Human cloning, it's called.

The cloning story touches some highly sensitive nerves. People begin to realize that we are on the *threshold* (2. n. 起点) of a new era in the biosciences. Although it may look easy on paper, it isn't in practice. What will happen if human cloning became a reality? One favorite belief is the creation of a new breed of Hitlers — or Einsteins. Scientists quickly disclaim the possibility. It is more than genetic makeup that makes an individual. We are all products of a particular historical era and of a special environment, with so many minute things affecting the way we develop each and every day, that a *duplicate* (3. a. 相同的) background — and therefore a duplicate individual — could never be created.

It is clear that cloning is a tool for achieving a new understanding of biology at the most fundamental level. The objective is not to clone a human being, but to cure human disease. Already biologists studying cloning have made discoveries that may ultimately lead to breakthroughs in the fight against cancer, control of the aging process, and the conquest of more than 100 presently incurable human genetic diseases.

Exercises

I. Comprehension Questions:

1. What does "human cloning" mean?
2. Is human cloning easy in practice?
3. What makes an individual?
4. What's the purpose of cloning?

II. Translation from English into Chinese:

1. It is more than genetic makeup that makes an individual.
2. Already biologists studying cloning have made discoveries that may ultimately lead to breakthroughs in the fight against cancer, control of the aging process, and the conquest of more than 100 presently incurable human genetic diseases.

III. Discussion Topics:

1. Is human cloning a science fact or science fiction?
2. What's your attitude about human cloning?

Key to the Exercises

I. Comprehension Questions:

1. It means reproducing a human being without sex.
2. No, it isn't.
3. Genetic makeup, a particular historical era and a special environment all combine to form each distinct individual.
4. The objective is to cure human disease.

II. Translation from English into Chinese:

1. 造就一个人绝非单靠遗传。
2. 研究克隆的生物学家们已经有了多种发现,这对防癌、控制老化过程,以及征服一百多种目前尚无法医治的遗传病症方面可能最终有所突破。

III. Discussion Topics:

略

2 Laser Beams

Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation is its official title. "Laser" is the term more commonly used. Developed in the 1960's as a secret weapon of war, the "laser" has become a device of great benefit to mankind.

Laser beams can measure the distance between the earth and the moon to within six inches. They can be used to burn holes in metal in a few seconds or cut a man's suit from a piece of cloth. In medicine, laser beams are used in delicate eye surgery. They can also be used to remove *tonsils* (n. 扁桃腺).

How does the laser work? Basically, it creates an intense beam of energy from light. The energy from light rays is concentrated and the rays are able to penetrate objects. Being concentrated, the rays can be sent over long distances and will not spread very much.

The idea leading to the laser came from Prof. Charles Townes of Columbia University in New York in 1954. He experimented with light rays and published his theory in 1958. The first working laser was made in 1960.

Today, a beam that could have become an invisible death ray in war has, instead, many peaceful uses.

Exercises

I. Comprehension Questions:

1. What was the laser used for at first?
2. From whom did the idea leading to the laser come from?
3. When was the first working laser made?
4. Is the laser able to penetrate objects?

II. Translation from English into Chinese:

1. The "laser" has become a device of great benefit to mankind.
2. Laser beams can measure the distance between the earth and the moon to within six inches.

III. Discussion Topics:

1. How does the laser work?
2. Which fields is the laser used in?

Key to the Exercises

I. Comprehension Questions:

1. It was used as a secret weapon of war.
2. The idea came from Prof. Charles Townes of Columbia University.
3. It was made in 1960.
4. Yes, the laser is able to penetrate objects.

II. Translation from English into Chinese:

1. 激光已经成为对人类极为有用的一项发明。
2. 用激光测量地球至月球的距离误差不超过六英寸。

III. Discussion Topics:

略

3 Why Do Animals Hibernate in Winter

Winter is a time when it is hard for many animals to find food and make a living. Some animals solve that problem by just sleeping through the winter. They get ready by eating a lot of food late in the summer and fall. They make a lot of body fat, which is like storing up energy. Then they find a *cozy* (1. a. 暖和舒适的) place and curl up to sleep through much of the winter. Animals that do this are sometimes called hibernators.

In studying hibernating animals, it was found that a few warm-blooded animals have a neat extra trick. They can lower their body temperature, their heart rate, their breathing rate, and their whole rate of living. Bats and some ground *squirrels* (2. n. 松鼠) and *woodchucks* (3. n. 土拨鼠) can do that. They have come to be called the true hibernators. Most bears spend most of the winter sleeping. However, bears can't lower their body temperature, so they are not called true hibernators.

Exercises

I . Comprehension Questions :

1. What do the animals do before hibernation?
2. Where do they sleep?
3. How many kinds of hibernating animals are mentioned in the passage?
4. Why do the animals eat a lot late in the summer and fall?

I . Translation from English into Chinese :

1. Winter is a time when it is hard for many animals to find food and make a living.
2. In studying hibernating animals, it was found that a few warm-blooded animals have a neat extra trick.

II . Discussion Topics :

1. What does "hibernate" mean?
2. What happens to the true hibernators during the hibernation?