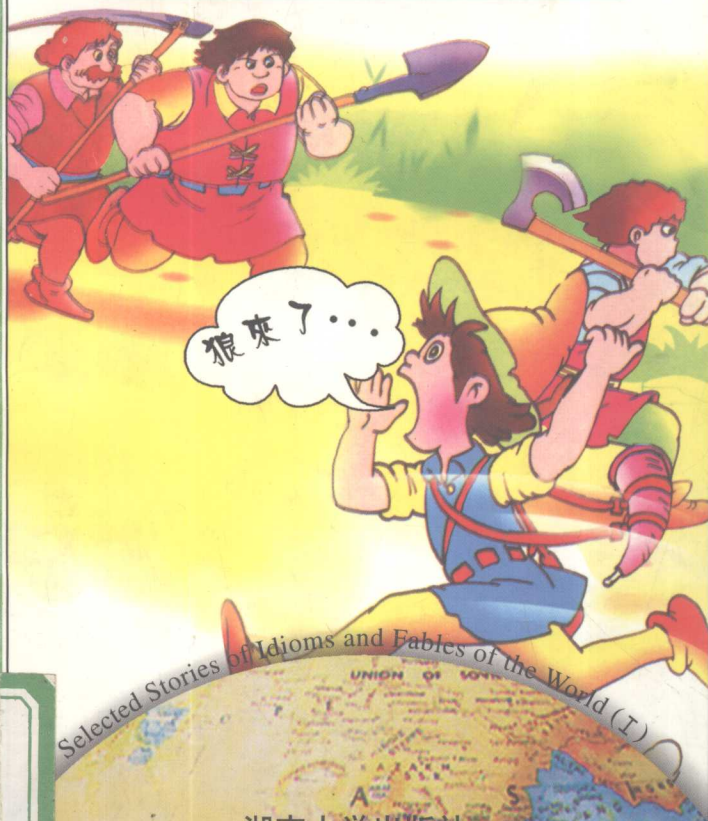


世界经典故事系列

主编 肖云南 章晋新

世界成语与寓言故事精选

英 语 有 1 声 读 物



Selected Stories of Idioms and Fables of the World (I)

湖南大学出版社

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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5 000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头表达能力。

《世界成语与寓言故事精选》(一)由肖云南、章晋新担任主编,李正华、谭琼琳为副主编。参加第一分册编写工作的还有(以姓氏笔画为序)叶青、杨艳、罗雪梅、周恬、夏孝才、唐飞燕、徐玲、狼建中。由秦婉婉绘制插图。特聘美籍教师 Christy Borthick 和 George Nytes 进行审阅并灌制录音带。特在此表示感谢。

因编者水平有限,疏漏之处,敬请指正。

编 者

1999 年 8 月于湖南大学

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1 The Frog and the Ox

An ox who was feeding in a swampy (1. a. 湿润的) meadow once trod (2. v. 踩) on a family of frogs. Many of them were crushed, but one escaped and hopped back to tell his mother what had happened.

“Mother,” he cried, “there was such an enormous animal in the field. I have never seen anything like it.”

The mother frog *puffed* (3. v. 吹气) her wrinkled skin out.

“Was it as big as this?” she asked.

“Oh, much bigger, mother,” said the young frog.

The mother frog puffed herself out even more.

“Was it as big as this, then?” she asked in a *strangled-sounding* (4. a. 闷声闷气的) voice.

“A hundred times bigger, mother. Even if you burst yourself with breath, you would never reach half its size.”

The mother frog was angry at the thought of someone being bigger than she was. Bending her thin froggy legs to the ground, she took an enormous breath puffing herself out and out until her wrinkled skin was as smooth as a drum and her eyes bulged (5. v. 凸出, 膨

胀) with the effort. “Bang!” with a great *gulp* (6. n. — 大口) of air she burst and fell flat on the grass.

Don't try to look bigger and better than you really are.

Exercises

I . Comprehension Questions :

1. What happened in a swampy meadow one day?
2. What did the frog who escaped tell his mother?
3. What was the mother frog's response to the news?
4. What's the end of the story?

II . Translation from English into Chinese :

1. An ox who was feeding in a swampy meadow once trod on a family of frogs. Many of them were crushed, but one escaped and hopped back to tell his mother what had happened.
2. Bending her thin froggy legs to the ground, she took an enormous breath puffing herself out and out until her wrinkled skin was as smooth as a drum and her eyes bulged with the effort.

III . Discussion Topics :

1. Can you imagine why the mother frog can't endure someone bigger than she?

2. Suppose you meet someone who is better than you, what would you do?

Key to the Exercises

I. Comprehension Questions:

1. An ox trod on a family of frogs. Many died, but one escaped.
2. He told his mother he met an enormous animal.
3. She was angry at the thought of someone being ~~bigger~~ bigger than she was; therefore, she tried to appear bigger than the ox.
4. The mother frog burst and fell flat on the ground.

II. Translation from English into Chinese:

1. 有一次,公牛在湿润松软的牧场上吃草时,踩着一窝青蛙。大多数青蛙被踩扁了,只有一只青蛙逃了出去告诉其母亲所发生的一切。
2. 她把自己瘦小的蛙腿弯起来撑到地上,深深地吸了一大口气,把肚子鼓得很大很大,她原来皱巴巴的皮绷得像鼓面那么光滑,由于用劲过大,眼睛都凸出来了。

III. Discussion Topics:

略

2 The Olive Tree and the Fig Tree

An *olive* (1. n. 橄榄) tree and a *fig* (2. n. 无花果树) tree were talking one winter day.

"I feel sorry for you," said the olive tree. "Every year you lose all your leaves and have to shiver through the winter with bare branches. But I stay green and beautiful all the year round. Still, I suppose we can't all be good-looking."

The fig tree said nothing. Later that day the weather became very cold. It began to snow heavily. Everything was heavily covered with snow. The snow settled on the olive tree, drifting in little piles on the leaves, weighing down the branches so that they snapped (3. v. 突然折断) and fell to the white ground below. The fig tree was more fortunate. She had no leaves to trap the snow and it drifted harmlessly through the bare twigs (4. n. 树枝).

When spring arrived, she was still standing, ready to put out her new leaves, but the olive tree lay broken, a twisted *jumble* (5. n. 混乱的一堆) of sticks and brown leaves.

Pride comes before a fall.

Exercises

I. Comprehension Questions:

1. Why did the olive tree think the fig tree would have to shiver through the winter?
2. What did the olive tree think of her own appearance?
3. What advantage did the fig tree have with bare branches in the snowy winter?
4. What happened to the olive tree after the heavy snow?

I. Translation from English into Chinese:

1. The snow settled on the olive tree, drifting in little piles on the leaves, weighing down the branches so that they snapped and fell to the white ground below.
2. She had no leaves to trap the snow, and it drifted harmlessly through the bare twigs.

II. Discussion Topics:

1. How do you look at others' shortcomings and your own strong points?
2. What will you do when someone points out your shortcomings?

Key to the Exercises

I. Comprehension Questions:

1. Because the fig tree would lose all its leaves when winter came.
2. She thought she was more beautiful than the fig tree.
3. The heavy snow could drift harmlessly through the bare twigs onto the ground.
4. The olive tree lay broken, a twisted jumble of sticks and brown leaves.

II. Translation from English into Chinese:

1. 雪落在橄榄树上,叶子上积着一小堆一小堆的白雪,把树枝压弯而折断,落在下面白皑皑的地上。
2. 无花果树没有叶子兜雪,雪从光秃秃的树枝间飘下去,对树没有损害。

III. Discussion Topics:

略

3 Giving the Seedlings a Hand

Long, long ago, in the state of Song in ancient China, there lived a farmer. He was worried about his *seedlings* (1. n. 秧苗) growing too slowly. One day, he went to his farmland and pulled up the seedlings one by one. When he returned home, he was very much exhausted.

“I am tired out today,” he said to his family, “I helped the seedlings to grow.”

His son was surprised. He hurried to the fields to see what had happened. It turned out that all the seedlings had *shriveled* (2. v. 使枯萎) up.

Exercises

I . Comprehension Questions :

1. What was the farmer worried about?
2. What did he do then?
3. How did his son respond to his words and deeds?
4. What was the result?

II . Translation from English into Chinese :

1. One day , he went to his farmland and pulled up the seedlings one by one. When he returned home , he was very much exhausted.
2. It turned out that all the seedlings had shriveled up.

III . Discussion Topics :

1. Do you think this kind of person really exists?
2. What is the story trying to tell us?