



朗文

ALL
AMERICAN
STORIES

英语短篇小说 1

英汉对照

吉林出版集团有限责任公司
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朗文英语短篇小说

ALL AMERICAN STORIES

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如有印刷、装订质量问题捷进可一公司负责调换。

“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》(1)荟萃了美国著名作家的经典作品:杰克·伦敦的《热爱生命》、马克·吐温的《见习领航员的成长》、艾德加·艾伦·坡的《泄密的心》、杜·博伊斯的《约翰的归来》、弗兰克·斯托克顿的《美女,还是老虎》及布赖特·哈特的《淘金记》,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?

A short story can be short or long. But short stories have these things in common: **characters**, **plot**, **setting**, and **theme**. These are called the elements of a short story.

Characters are the people or the animals in the story. When you read a good story, you care about the characters. You wonder what will happen to them.

What happens to the characters is the story's **plot**. Things that happen are called events. The plot can have one event or many.

The **setting** is where and when the story happens. Some stories happen in a certain place at a certain time. For example, the setting for a story about the American Civil War would probably be America in the 1860s.

The **theme** is an idea about life that the writer communicates through the story. Not all stories have a theme.

The model story for this book is "The Gift of the Magi" by a writer named O. Henry. This is how you might describe the characters, plot, setting, and theme of the story:

Characters

Della and Jim, a young married couple

Plot

Two people without money solve the problem of buying gifts for each other.

Setting

Time: Christmas Eve, long ago

Place: an apartment in a city

Theme

People who love each other want to make unselfish choices to please each other.

Character

The most important character in a story is the main character. Stories can have more than one main character. Authors, or writers, have several ways of letting readers get to know story characters. They can describe what a character looks like. They can tell you what the character thinks and feels. They can tell you what the character does and says. You believe in characters when an author shows them to you in realistic ways.

In some stories, the main character develops, or changes, because of what happens in the story. The change the character goes through is usually important to the meaning of the story.

The model story, "The Gift of the Magi" has two main characters: Della and Jim. They are a young married couple. They do not change as a result of what happens in the story. But they learn something important about each other.



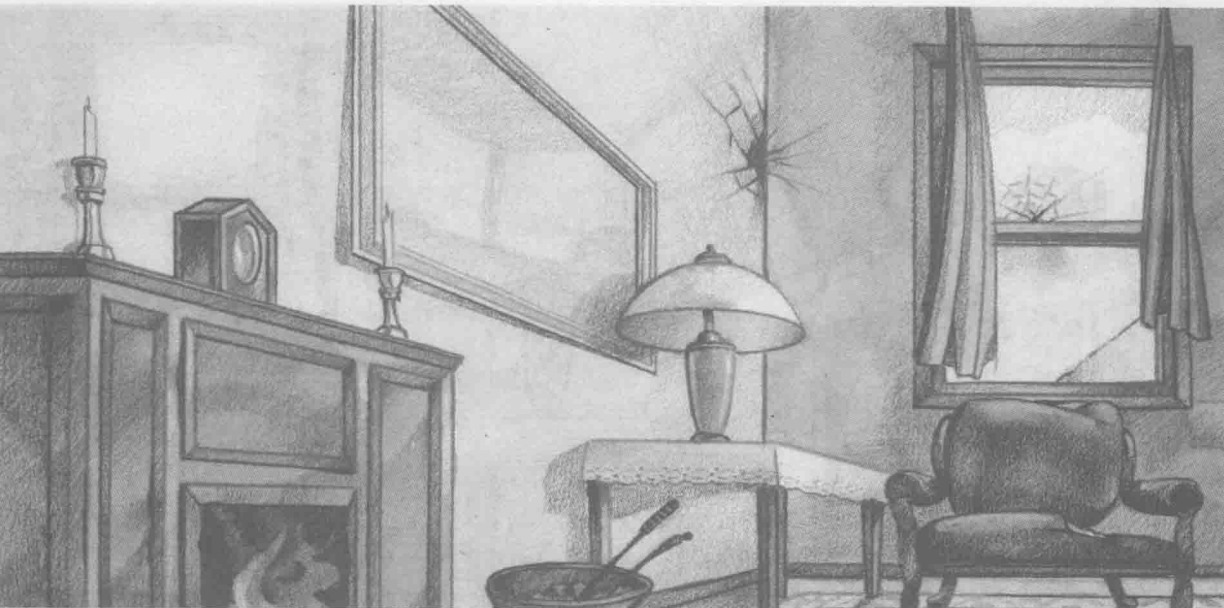
Plot

The plot is the action of the story. It is a series of events that lead from one to the other. The plot usually includes a problem that a character must solve. The problem is usually solved near the end of the story.

The character's problem is at the center of the plot. You read to find out how the character will solve the problem. The author keeps you interested by creating **suspense**. Suspense is a feeling of excitement and curiosity about what will happen next.

Another way authors keep you interested is by surprising you. Sometimes the plot of a story takes a sudden turn at the end. This is called a **surprise ending**.

O. Henry, the author of the model story, was known for his surprise endings. See if you can predict, or guess, the surprise ending as you read the story.



Setting

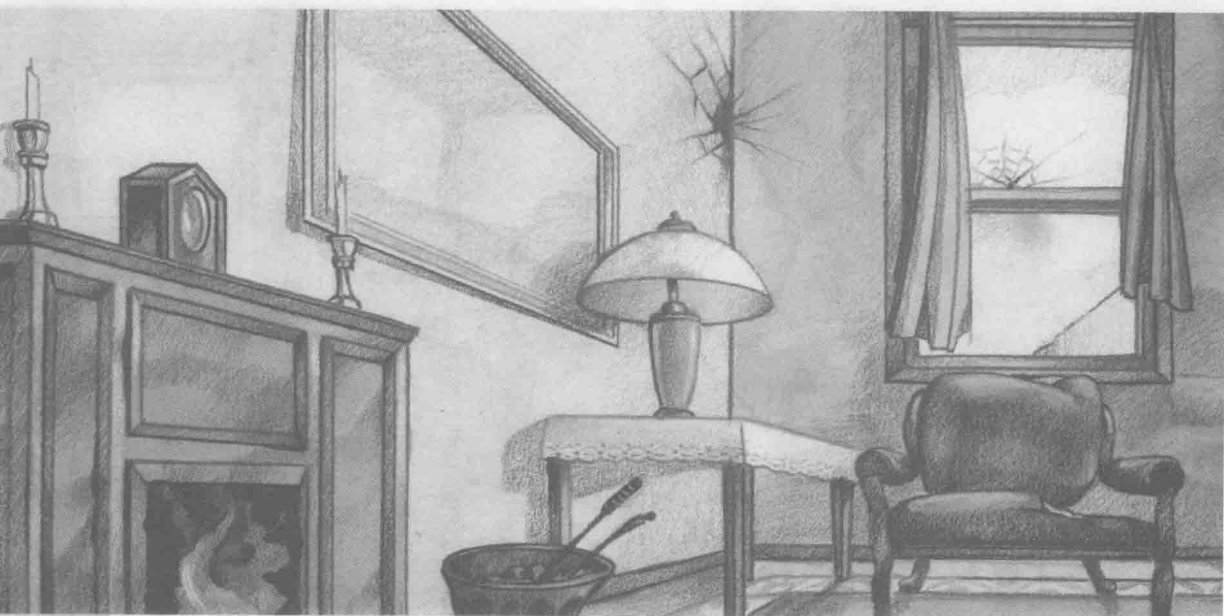
The setting is the place and the time of the story. Place can mean a country or a room. Time can mean the year or the hour.

Sometimes an author tells you the setting. Often, you have to figure it out. You can do this by looking for details the author gives you.

In some stories the setting is important. For example, a story about storms in the Caribbean must have the Caribbean as its setting.

Sometimes the setting helps to create **mood**, or a feeling. For example, describing bright sunshine and singing birds can create a happy mood. Describing a cold, rainy night can create a sad mood.

The setting of "The Gift of the Magi" is an apartment in a city. The time of the story is long ago.



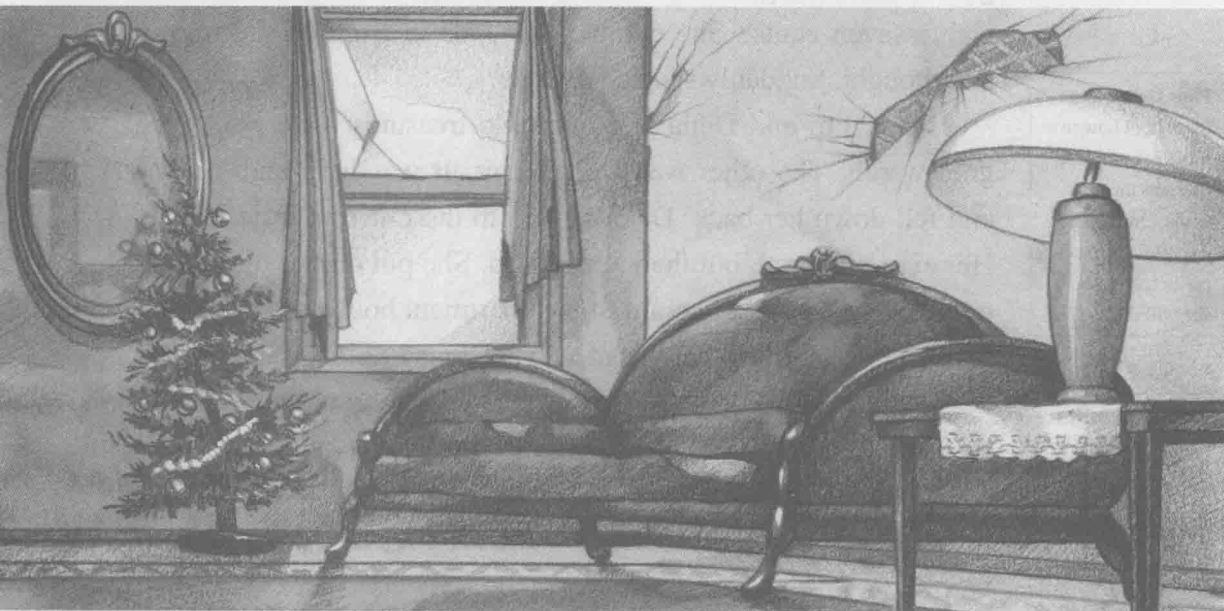
Theme

The theme is the central idea or message that the author communicates through the story. This idea or message usually makes you think about life in general.

Sometimes an author tells you exactly what the theme of a story is. But usually authors let you decide the theme after you have read the story. You might need to think about a story for a while before you can put the theme into words.

Why should you look for the theme of a story? If you try to put a story's theme into words, you will understand the story better. And understanding a story lets you enjoy it more fully.

The theme of the model story, "The Gift of the Magi" can be stated in this sentence: People who love each other want to make unselfish choices to please each other.



The Gift of the Magi

Adapted from the story O. Henry

Setting: The author gives details that tell you about the setting. The furniture in the apartment is "old" and "poor." The door has no doorbell. These details suggest that Della and Jim are poor. Their apartment is probably small.

Plot: Della has an idea about how to solve her problem. She gets the idea while combing her hair. What do you predict, or guess, she will do?

Plot: Della solves her problem by selling her only treasure—her hair.

Della counted her money three times. She had only one dollar and eighty-seven cents. That was all. And tomorrow would be Christmas. What Christmas gift could she buy with only one dollar and eighty-seven cents? Della lay down on the old couch and cried and cried.

Let's leave Della alone for a while and look at her home. The chairs and tables in the apartment were old and poor. Outside there was a mailbox without mail, and a door without a doorbell. The name on the door said MR. JAMES DILLINGHAM YOUNG—Della's dear husband, Jim.

Della knew that Jim would be home soon. She dried her eyes and stood up. She looked in the mirror. She began to comb her hair for Jim. She felt very sad. She wanted to buy Jim a Christmas gift—something good. But what could she do with one dollar and eighty-seven cents? She combed her hair in front of the mirror and thought. Suddenly she had an idea.

Now, Jim and Della had only two treasures. One was Jim's gold watch. The other was Della's hair. It was long and brown, and fell down her back. Della looked in the mirror a little longer. Her eyes were sad, but then she smiled. She put on her old brown coat and her hat. She ran out of the apartment house and down the street. She stopped in front of a door which said, MME. SOPHRONIE. HAIR OF ALL KINDS. Madame Sophronie was fat and seemed too white. The store was dark.

"Will you buy my hair?" Della asked.

"I buy hair," said Madame. "Take off your hat. Let's see your hair."

Della took off her hat. Her hair fell down like water. Mme. Sophronie lifted Della's hair with a heavy hand. "Twenty dollars," she said.

"Give me the money now!" said Della.

Ah! The next two hours flew past like summer wind. Della shopped in many stores for the right gift for Jim. Then she found it—a chain for his gold watch. It was a good chain, strong and expensive. Della knew the chain would make Jim happy. Jim had a cheap chain for his watch, but this chain was much better. It would look good with the gold watch. The chain cost twenty-one dollars. Della paid for the chain and ran home with eighty-seven cents.

At seven o'clock Della made coffee and started to cook dinner. Jim would be home soon. He was never late. Della heard Jim outside. She looked in the mirror again. "Oh! I hope Jim doesn't kill me!" Della smiled, but her eyes were wet. "But what could I do with only one dollar and eighty-seven cents?"

The door opened, and Jim came in and shut it. His face was thin and quiet. His coat was old, and he had no hat. He was only twenty-two. Jim stood still and looked at Della. He didn't speak. His eyes were strange. Della suddenly felt afraid. She did not understand him. She began to talk very fast. "Oh, Jim, dear, why do you look so strange? Don't look at me like that. I cut my hair and sold it. I wanted to buy you a Christmas gift. It will grow again—don't be angry. My hair grows very fast. Say 'Merry Christmas,' dear, and let's be happy. You don't know what I've got for you—it's beautiful."

"You cut your hair?" Jim spoke slowly.

"I cut it and sold it," Della answered. "Don't you like me now? I'm still me, aren't I?"

"You say that your hair is gone?" Jim asked again.

"Don't look for it, it's gone," Della said. "Be good to me,

Setting: Della looks in many stores for a gift. This suggests that the story takes place in a city, where there are many stores next door to one another. The good watch chain costs twenty-one dollars. This tells you that the story takes place long ago. In Della's day, twenty-one dollars was a lot of money—much more than it is today.

Plot: Jim looks strange, and Della thinks it's because she has cut her hair. It is, but not because Jim doesn't like the way Della looks. You have to keep reading to find out why Jim is so shocked to see Della's short hair.

Character: Jim cannot believe that Della has cut her hair. He sees that her hair is gone, yet he asks her twice if she cut it. This helps you understand how shocked Jim is.

Theme: The author mentions the Magi here and in the story's title. This gives you an idea about the theme. The theme is about giving gifts to show love.

Plot: Jim gives Della combs. Now you know why he was so shocked to see Della's short hair.

Plot: It turns out that Jim sold his watch to buy Della the combs. This is a **surprise ending**. It is also an example of **irony**. Irony is present when what happens is the opposite of what you expect. Each person gives up a treasure to buy a gift. And the gift in both cases turns out to be useless.

Theme: The author tells you that Jim and Della are the Magi. The Magi gave gifts to show their love for Jesus. Jim and Della give gifts to show their love for each other. The gifts are not useful, but they show that Jim and Della's love is strong. This makes Jim and Della wiser than people who do not show their love.

because it's Christmas. Shall we have dinner now, Jim?"

Jim seemed to wake up. He smiled. He took Della in his arms.

Let's leave them together for a while. They are happy, rich or poor. Do you know about the Magi? The Magi were wise men who brought Christmas gifts to the baby Jesus. But they could not give gifts like Jim's and Della's. Perhaps you don't understand me now. But you will understand soon.

Jim took a small box out of his pocket. "I love your short hair, Della," he said. "I'm sorry I seemed strange. But if you open the box, you will understand." Della opened the box. First she smiled, then suddenly she began to cry. In the box were two beautiful combs. Combs like those were made to hold up long hair. Della could see that the combs came from an expensive store. She never thought she would ever have anything as beautiful! "Oh, Jim, they are lovely! And my hair grows fast, you know. But wait! You must see your gift." Della gave Jim the chain. The chain was bright, like her eyes. "Isn't it a good one, Jim? I looked for it everywhere. You'll have to look at the time one hundred times daily, now. Give me your watch. I want to see them together."

Jim lay back on the couch. He put his hands under his head, and smiled. "Della," he said, "let's put the gifts away. They are too good for us right now. I sold the watch to buy your combs. Come on, let's have dinner."

The Magi, as we said, were wise men—very wise men. They brought gifts to the baby Jesus. The Magi were wise, so their gifts were wise gifts. Perhaps Jim and Della do not seem wise. They lost the two great treasures of their house. But I want to tell you that they were wise. People like Jim and Della are always wiser than others. Everywhere they are wiser. They are the Magi.

Chinese Version

麦琪的礼物

黛拉把钱数了三遍，只有一元八角七，一分不多。明天就是圣诞节了，就这么一点钱能买什么礼物呢？她倒在那张破旧的长沙发上，不停地哭。

暂且不说黛拉，咱们来看看她的家吧：屋里的桌椅都很破旧；屋外有个信箱，可惜里面没有邮件；还有一扇门，但是没有门铃。门上写着：詹姆斯·迪灵汉·扬。这是指黛拉亲爱的丈夫——吉姆。

黛拉知道吉姆很快就要回来了。赶紧擦干眼泪，站起身来，照照镜子，开始梳头，准备迎接吉姆。她心里很难过，因为想为吉姆买一件像样的圣诞礼物。可是，一元八角七又能买什么呢？她在镜子前一边梳头，一边琢磨。突然，灵机一动，想出个主意来。

眼下，吉姆和黛拉只有两件值钱的东西，一是吉姆的金表，另一件是黛拉的头发。黛拉的头发是棕色的，长长的，一直垂到后背。她又在镜子前发了一会儿呆。她眼神虽然哀伤，但这会儿，她却笑了。她穿上那件棕色的旧外衣，戴上帽子，从家里跑出去，来到大街上。她在一家小店门口停了下来，小店的门上写着：索芙尼太太，专收各种毛发。索芙尼太太很胖，皮肤显得过白。店里很阴暗。

“你想买我的头发吗？”黛拉问。

“这儿是收头发，”索芙尼太太说。“把帽子摘掉，我们看看货。”

黛拉摘掉帽子，那长发像瀑布一样垂落下来。索芙尼太太用一只有力的大手颠了颠黛拉的头发后说：“20美元。”

“我要现钱！”黛拉说。

哈！接下来的两个小时过得真像夏天里的风一样飞快。为了给吉姆买到合适的礼物，黛拉跑了很多商店。后来，她终于找到了——是一条与他的金表相匹配的表链。这条表链质地很好，做工结实，但价格非常昂贵。黛拉知道吉姆一见到它准会高兴。吉姆现在用的表链很便宜，但这条可就好多了，配他的金表正合适。这条表链的售价是21美元。黛拉交完钱，带着剩下的87美分跑回家了。

晚上七点，黛拉煮好咖啡，开始做晚饭。吉姆很快就要回来了，他从不晚归。黛拉听到了门外吉姆的声音，又照了照镜子。“哦！但愿吉姆别掐死我！”黛拉笑了，但眼睛却湿润了：“可是，仅有一元八角七，不这么办又能怎么样呢？”

门开了，吉姆走了进来，随手又把门关上。脸很瘦削，但很安详。身上的外衣已经很旧了，头上没有戴帽子。他才22岁。吉姆站住了，静静地看着黛拉，一句话也不说，眼神很奇怪。黛拉有些紧张，她不明白吉姆为什么会这样。她开始急促地说：“哦，吉姆，亲爱的，你看上去怎么这么怪？别这样看我。我把头发剪下来卖掉了。我

要给你买圣诞礼物。头发还会长出来的，别生气。我的头发长得很快。快说‘圣诞快乐’呀，亲爱的，咱们高兴点儿。你不知道我给你买了什么吧，可漂亮了！”

“你把头发剪了？”吉姆慢吞吞地说话了。

“我把它剪下来卖掉了，”黛拉回答说。“你不喜欢我了吗？我还是我，不是吗？”

“你是说你的头发没了？”吉姆又问了一遍。

“别找了，没了，”黛拉说。“今天是圣诞节，对我好点嘛。我们现在吃晚饭好吗，吉姆？”吉姆好像突然间醒悟过来。他笑了，一把将黛拉抱在怀里。

我们就让这对夫妻甜蜜一会儿吧。他们是幸福的，且不说贫富。你听说过《圣经》中的麦琪，也就是东方三贤士吗？他们是为初生的耶稣送去圣诞礼物的智者。但他们却拿不出吉姆和黛拉那样的礼物。也许你现在还不能理解我的话，但不久你就会明白的。

吉姆从衣袋里掏出一个小盒子。“我喜欢你的短发，黛拉，”他说。“对不起，我刚才的确有些怪。可是，你要是打开盒子的话，就什么都明白了。”黛拉打开盒子。她先是笑了，继而又哭了起来。盒子里有两把漂亮的梳子。那是用来拢住长发的梳子。黛拉看得出这种梳子是从高档商店里买来的。她从未幻想过会有这么漂亮的东西！“哦，吉姆，它们真可爱！我的头发长得快，你知道。哦，等一下！你一定要看看我给你买的礼物。”黛拉把表链拿给吉姆。表链亮晶晶的，像黛拉的眼睛。“不好吗，吉姆？我跑了那么多地方，总算买到了。以后，你每天得看上百次才行。把表给我，我要把它们配在一起。”

吉姆躺在长沙发上，两手放到脑后，笑了。“黛拉，”他说，“咱们还是先把这些礼物收起来吧。它们实在是太好了，咱们现在还不能受用。我把表卖了，给你买的梳子。来吧，咱们吃饭。”

如刚才所说，麦琪是智者，他们非常聪明。给初生的耶稣送去了礼物。因为聪明，所以送去的礼物也是智慧的礼物。吉姆和黛拉看起来或许并不聪明，他们损失了家里的两件宝物。但是我要告诉你，他们其实很聪明。像吉姆和黛拉这样的人往往比别人聪明——他不管在哪儿。因为他们就是麦琪。

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Love of Life

Adapted from the story by Jack London

About the Author

Jack London was born in San Francisco, California, in 1876. His family was poor. He left school at fourteen. He worked on boats, on farms, and in the woods.

London loved to visit new places. His first long trip was to Japan. When London was eighteen, he returned to high school for one year. Then he went to the University of California at Berkeley. But, again, he left after one year and began to write. In 1897 London went to the Klondike, in northwestern Canada, near Alaska. Many people went there to find gold. London wrote stories about his experiences there. He traveled to many other places, too, and found adventures everywhere. He put these adventures into his famous stories and novels. London continued to travel until a few years before his death in 1916.

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