

哈佛

蓝星双语名著导读

Today's Most Popular Study Guides

隐形人 Invisible Man

〔美〕 Ralph Ellison 原著
Selena Ward 导读
Brian Phillips 翻译
高晶

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致读者

亲爱的读者，在这个多元文化的世界里，渴望知识，钟情文学，热爱英语的你是否想过站在巨人的肩膀上摘星呢？

你手上这本蓝色小册子正是风行全美的哈佛蓝星笔记，是哈佛学生们将名著阅读与文学学习融会贯通，编写而成的名著导读本。它们以经典性和流行性并存的名著为素材，以明晰的风格和地道的语言而著称。每一本都包括著作的创作背景，人物分析，主题解析，篇章讲解，重要引文释义，作品档案，并且附有相关的思考题，推荐的论文题，阅读后的小测验，要点注释，以及推荐阅读篇目。

这样的编排使你不仅仅停留在对名著内容上的了解，更可迅速、全面、深入地掌握著作的全部资料，同时也满足了对文化做进一步了解和研究的需求。蓝星精辟、明晰的编写风格将“半天阅读一本名著”的想法变为现实，帮你在有限的闲暇内阅读更多的书，在地道的语言环境中迅速提高英语水平，丰富文学内涵，增加谈资。

天津科技翻译出版公司精挑细选了50本蓝星笔记，由我国外语界资深专家张滨江教授、刘品义教授主持翻译和审校工作，天津外国语学院教授、副教授以及部分优秀青年教师进行翻译，陈法春教授，阎玉敏、常子霞副教授和李晓霞讲师协助部分审校，共同合作、精心制作成为“哈佛蓝星双语名著导读”，既保留了原书特点，并对文中的知识要点做了注释，更加适合你的需要。

蓝星闪耀，照你前行！

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CONTEXT

The grandson of slaves, Ralph Ellison was born in 1914 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and was raised largely in Tulsa, Oklahoma. His father was a construction worker, and his mother was a domestic servant who also volunteered for the local Socialist Party. As a young man, Ellison developed an abiding interest in jazz music; he befriended a group of musicians who played in a regional band called Walter Page's * Blue Devils, many of whom later played with Count Basie's* legendary big band in the late 1930s. Ellison himself studied the cornet and trumpet, and planned a career as a jazz musician. In 1933, he left Oklahoma to begin a study of music at the Tuskegee Institute in Tuskegee, Alabama. The Institute, which is now called Tuskegee University, was founded in 1881 by Booker T. Washington, one of the foremost black educators in American history, and became one of the nation's most important black colleges. It later served as the model for the black college attended by the narrator in *Invisible Man*.

Ellison left the Tuskegee Institute in 1936 and moved to New York City, where he settled in Harlem. As an employee of the Federal Writers' Project, Ellison befriended many of the most important African-American writers of the era, including Langston Hughes and Richard Wright. Ellison also befriended the eminent jazz writer and sociologist Albert Murray, with whom he carried on a lengthy and important literary correspondence, later collected in the book *Trading Twelves*. After a year editing the *Negro Quarterly*, Ellison left for the Merchant

来龙·去脉

拉尔夫·艾里森 1914 年出生于俄克拉何马州的俄克拉何马市，在该州的塔尔萨市长大。他的祖先是奴隶，父亲是一位建筑工人，母亲是佣人，母亲曾志愿为当地的社会党工作过。年轻的时候，艾里森对爵士乐的兴趣相当持久。他与当地的沃特·佩吉蓝精灵乐队是好朋友，后来这支乐队的很多成员成了 20 世纪 30 年代后期巴斯伯爵神奇大乐队的成员。艾里森学习过军号和喇叭，他为自己设计的职业是爵士乐乐手。1933 年，他离开了俄克拉何马，开始在阿拉巴马州的塔斯克基学院学习音乐。现在这所学院叫做塔斯克基大学，是美国历史上一位杰出的黑人教育家布克布·塔·华盛顿于 1881 年创立的。它已成为美国最重要的黑人大学之一，也是《隐形人》中主人公所在的黑人大学的原型。

1936 年，艾里森离开了塔斯克基学院，搬家到了纽约市，在哈莱姆安顿下来。作为联邦作家项目的员工，艾里森结识了当时最杰出的一些美国黑人作家，包括兰斯顿·休斯和理查·怀特。艾里森还和一位著名的爵士乐作家，社会党成员阿尔伯特·默里成为朋友，两人曾长期通信讨论重要的文学问题，这些信件后来收录在《贸易十二条》一书中。在《黑人季刊》做了一年编辑以后，艾里森加入了国家商船协会，二战期

Marines, in which he served during World War II. After the war, Ellison won a Rosenwald Fellowship, which he used to write *Invisible Man*. The first chapter appeared in America in the 1948 volume of *Magazine of the Year*, and the novel was published in its entirety in 1952.

Employing a shifting, improvisational style directly based on Ellison's experience of jazz performance, *Invisible Man* ranges in tone from realism to extreme surrealism, from tragedy to vicious satire to near-slapstick comedy. Rich in symbolism and metaphor, virtuosic in its use of multiple styles and tones, and steeped in the black experience in America and the human struggle for individuality, the novel spent sixteen weeks on the best-seller list and won the National Book * Award in 1953. Achieving one of the most sensational debuts of any novel in American history, *Invisible Man* was hailed by writers such as Saul Bellow and critics such as Irving Howe as a landmark publication; some critics claimed that it was the most important American novel to appear after World War II.


Invisible Man was heavily influenced by the work of a number of twentieth-century French writers known as the existentialists. Existentialism, whose foremost proponents included Albert Camus and Jean-Paul Sartre, explored the question of individuality and the nature of meaning in a seemingly meaningless universe. Ellison adapted the existentialists' universal themes to the black experience of oppression and prejudice in America. He also engaged powerfully with the tradition of African-American social debate. In the character of Dr. Bledsoe, the novel offers a vehement rejection of the philosophy of Booker T. Washington, which advocated that blacks should work toward economic success as a means of achieving racial

间,他在那里服役。战争结束以后,他获得了罗丝沃得奖学金,他用这笔奖学金写了《隐形人》。小说的第1章出现在美国1948年卷的《年度杂志》上,整部小说于1952年完整地出版。


《隐形人》圆润、即兴的风格要直接归因于艾里森爵士乐演出的经历。小说的基调变化多端,从现实主义到极端超现实主义,从悲剧到恶意的讽刺,到近乎滑稽的喜剧,不一而足。最大的象征主义和比喻,多种多样的风格和基调,深厚的美国黑人生活和人类探索自我的奋斗的经历,都使《隐形人》连续16个星期跻身畅销书排行榜,并在1953年获得国家书籍奖。在美国历史上,初次登场就取得如此的轰动并不多见,难怪作家索·贝娄、评论家欧文·郝都异口同声地称之为出版界的里程碑,另外一些评论家也声称《隐形人》是二战以来最重要的小说。

《隐形人》深受20世纪法国存在主义作家的影响。存在主义探索个性的问题,探究近乎毫无意义的宇宙的本质,最早期的支持者包括阿尔伯特·卡莫斯和贞德·保罗·萨塔尔。艾里森把存在主义的普遍主题应用到美国黑人所受的压迫和歧视中。他还积极参与非洲裔美国社会辩论活动。小说通过布莱索博士这个人物,强烈地驳斥了布克·塔·华盛顿的哲学。(布克·塔·华盛顿曾提倡黑人应该通过经济方面的成功来达到种族平等。)通过规劝者拉斯这个人

equality. It also critiques, through the character of Ras the Exhorter, Marcus Garvey's philosophy of black nationalism.

Despite—or possibly because of—the overwhelming success of *Invisible Man*, Ellison never published another novel in his lifetime. Though he published two books of essays—*Shadow Act* in the 1960s and *Going to the Territory* in the 1980s—Ellison spent his later decades laboring on a vast novel, which he never finished. Upon his death in 1994, Ellison left behind more than 2,000 pages of unedited, incomplete manuscript. In heavily abridged and edited form, this manuscript was published five years after his death with the title *Juneteenth*, to generally unfavorable reviews. 

物，小说还批判了马可斯·格威的黑人民族主义哲学。

尽管（或者说应该“因为”）《隐形人》取得了势不可挡的成功，艾里森却再也没有发表过其他的小说。然而他发表了两部杂文集，1960年的《阴影行动》和1980年的《去边疆》。艾里森的最后几十年一直努力创作他的一部大型小说，但未能完成。1994年，艾里森去世了，留下了2000多页未经编辑的，不完整的手稿。经过严格的删节和编辑以后，这部题目为《第十六月》的手稿于艾里森去世5年后发表，供苛刻的评论界欣赏。

PLOT OVERVIEW

The narrator begins telling his story with the claim that he is an “invisible man.” His invisibility, he says, is not a physical condition—he is not *literally* invisible—but is rather the result of the refusal of others to see him. He says that because of his invisibility, he has been hiding from the world, living underground and stealing electricity from the Monopolated Light & Power Company. He burns 1,369 light bulbs simultaneously and listens to Louis Armstrong’s * “(What Did I Do to Be So) *Black and Blue*” on a phonograph. He says that he has gone underground in order to write the story of his life and invisibility.

As a young man, in the late 1920s or early 1930s, the narrator lived in the South. Because he is a gifted public speaker, he is invited to give a speech to a group of important white men in his town. The men reward him with a briefcase containing a scholarship to a prestigious black college, but only after humiliating him by forcing him to fight in a “battle royal” in which he is pitted against other young black men, all blindfolded, in a boxing ring. After the battle royal, the white men force the youths to scramble over an electrified rug in order to snatch at fake gold coins. The narrator has a dream that night in which he imagines that his scholarship is actually a piece of paper reading “To Whom It May Concern . . . Keep This Nigger-Boy Running.”

Three years later, the narrator is a student at the college. He is asked to drive a wealthy white trustee of the college, Mr. Norton, around the campus. Norton talks incessantly about his

情节·览

叙述人在故事一开始就声称自己是个隐形人。他说他的“隐身”并不是生理状态——他并不是真的“隐身”，而是其他人拒绝看到他的结果。他说，由于他的“隐身”状态，他一直藏在世界后面。他住在地下，从“独营电力公司”偷电。他同时点 1369 个电灯泡，用留声机听路易斯·阿姆斯特朗的《黑与蓝》。他说他住在地下是因为他想把自己的故事和自己的隐身状态写成小说。

叙述人是一位生活在 20 世纪 20 年代后期或 30 年代初期的年轻人，生活在南方。因为他有演说的天赋，他被邀请为镇上一个著名的白人组织做演讲。作为奖励，他得到了一个公事包，里面是一项著名的黑人大学的奖学金。但在这之前，他们羞辱他，强迫他去参加“混战”。在拳击台上，他与一群带着眼罩的黑人青年竞争。“混战”过后，白人强迫这些年轻人在电热毯上爬，去抓假的金币。那天晚上，叙述人做了一个梦，他梦见奖学金实际上只不过是一张纸，上面写着：“致有关人士，……务使这个小黑鬼继续奔波。”

3 年后，叙述人成了一名大学生。他被要求开车带领大学的一位有钱的白人校董诺顿先生参观校园。诺顿先生不停地谈起自己的女儿，并对吉姆·特

daughter, then shows an undue interest in the narrative of Jim Trueblood, a poor, uneducated black man who impregnated his own daughter. After hearing this story, Norton needs a drink, and the narrator takes him to the Golden Day, a saloon and brothel that normally serves black men. A fight breaks out among a group of mentally imbalanced black veterans at the bar, and Norton passes out during the chaos. He is tended by one of the veterans, who claims to be a doctor and who taunts both Norton and the narrator for their blindness regarding race relations.

Back at the college, the narrator listens to a long, impassioned sermon by the Reverend Homer A. Barbee on the subject of the college's Founder, whom the blind Barbee glorifies with poetic language. After the sermon, the narrator is chastised by the college president, Dr. Bledsoe, who has learned of the narrator's misadventures with Norton at the old slave quarters and the Golden Day. Bledsoe rebukes the narrator, saying that he should have shown the white man an idealized version of black life. He expels the narrator, giving him seven letters of recommendation, addressed to the college's white trustees in New York City, and sends him there in search of a job.

The narrator travels to the bright lights and bustle of 1930s Harlem, where he looks unsuccessfully for work. The letters of recommendation are of no help. At last, the narrator goes to the office of one of his letters' addressees, a trustee named Mr. Emerson. There he meets Emerson's son, who opens the letter and tells the narrator that he has been betrayed: the letters from Bledsoe actually portray the narrator as dishonorable and unreliable. The young Emerson helps the narrator to get a low-paying job at the Liberty Paints plant, whose trademark color is

鲁布拉德所讲述的故事表示出过度的兴趣。吉姆·特鲁布拉德是一个穷困潦倒、没受过教育的黑人，他占有了自己的女儿，并使她怀孕。听完这个故事以后，诺顿先生想要喝一杯，叙述人把他带到了一所通常只为黑人服务的沙龙妓院——“黄金时代”。在酒吧间，一群精神不正常的黑人退伍兵忽然搏斗起来。在一片混乱中，诺顿先生昏倒了。其中一位自称是医生的退伍兵照顾了他，并嘲笑诺顿先生和叙述人，因为他们对于糟糕的种族关系视而不见。

回到学校，叙述人听着荷马·阿·芭比牧师冗长却慷慨激昂的布道。这位盲人牧师芭比的话题是大学的奠基人，他用诗情画意的语言美化了奠基人。布道结束后，校长布莱索博士严厉地惩罚了叙述人，因为校长已经得知了他与诺顿先生在黑人区和“黄金时代”的不幸经历。布莱索博士斥责了叙述人，并说他本应该向白人展示黑人生活中更美好的一面。校长把叙述人开除了，给了他7封推荐信。信是写给该大学在纽约市的几位白人校董的，校长让他到纽约去找工作。

叙述人来到了灯火通明、熙熙攘攘的哈莱姆。那是20世纪30年代，他到处寻找工作却不成功。推荐信丝毫没有用处，最后，他按照信上的地址，来到一位名叫爱默生的校董办公室。在那里，他见到了爱默生先生的儿子。这位先生打开信，告诉叙述人说他被出卖了：布莱索先生在信中把他描述成一个可耻的、不可靠的人。年轻的爱默生帮助叙述人在“自由油漆加工厂”找到了一份低工资的工作。“自由油漆加工厂”

“Optic White.” The narrator briefly serves as an assistant to Lucius Brockway, the black man who makes this white paint, but Brockway suspects him of joining in union activities and turns on him. The two men fight, neglecting the paint-making; consequently, one of the unattended tanks explodes, and the narrator is knocked unconscious.

The narrator wakes in the paint factory’s hospital, having temporarily lost his memory and ability to speak. The white doctors seize upon the arrival of their unidentified black patient as an opportunity to conduct electric shock experiments. After the narrator recovers his memory and leaves the hospital, he collapses on the street. Some black community members take him to the home of Mary, a kind woman who lets him live with her for free in Harlem and nurtures his sense of black heritage. One day, the narrator witnesses the eviction of an elderly black couple from their Harlem apartment. Standing before the crowd of people gathered before the apartment, he gives an impassioned speech against the eviction. Brother Jack overhears his speech and offers him a position as a spokesman for the Brotherhood, a political organization that allegedly works to help the socially oppressed. After initially rejecting the offer, the narrator takes the job in order to pay Mary back for her hospitality. But the Brotherhood demands that the narrator take a new name, break with his past, and move to a new apartment. The narrator is inducted into the Brotherhood at a party at the Chthonian Hotel and is placed in charge of advancing the group’s goals in Harlem.

After being trained in rhetoric by a white member of the group named Brother Hambro, the narrator goes to his assigned branch in Harlem, where he meets the handsome, intelligent