



Extensive

Reading

1

英语泛读教程

总主编 黄源深 虞苏美

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高等教育出版社

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1

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内 容 提 要

《英语泛读教程》系受教育部委托编写的教材,供高等学校英语专业一、二年级使用,亦适用于同等程度的英语自学者。

全套教材共4册。本书为第一册,共15个单元,每单元分为四部分:第一部分为阅读课文及练习。练习包括判断课文中心思想,阅读理解、课堂讨论题和词汇练习;第二部分为阅读技巧,重点介绍各种阅读技能,并配有相应的练习;第三部分为快速阅读练习,提供3篇短文,要求在规定的时间内完成;第四部分为课外阅读,提供和课文长度相当的语言材料,配有阅读理解和思考题。书后附有练习答案,供教师和学生参考。

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前 言

《英语泛读教程》系受教育部委托编写的教材，供高等学校英语专业一、二年级使用，亦适用于同等程度的英语自学者。教材旨在提高学生英语阅读理解能力，扩大词汇量，并且掌握基本的阅读技巧。

本教材编写的主要特点是：

- 一、阅读材料题材广泛，涉及英语国家社会、政治、经济、文化等方面；内容新颖，注意收入反映近年来社会进步和科学技术发展的文章；注重趣味性，文体多样。
- 二、突破传统教材课文篇幅太短的局限，阅读量明显加大。课文长度从第一册的1 200词增加到第四册的2 400词。学生通过阅读实践，扩大英语词汇量，提高阅读速度和理解能力。
- 三、注重培养学生快速、准确、有效地获取信息的能力，把握文本中心思想，重点训练学生见“树”亦见“林”的能力。

《英语泛读教程》全套共4册。每册15个单元，按阅读材料的内容和难度进行编排。每单元一般分为四部分。第一部分为阅读课文及练习。练习包括判断课文中心思想、阅读理解、课堂讨论题和词汇练习；第二部分为阅读技巧，重点介绍各种阅读技能，并配有相应的练习；第三部分为快速阅读练习，提供3篇短文，要求在规定的时间内完成；第四部分为课外阅读，提供和课文长度相当的语言材料，配有阅读理解和思考题。书后附有练习答案，供教师和学生参考。

本册教材编写过程中曾有多位教师参加，在此谨表谢意。该教材的一部分曾在华东师范大学英语系试用，有关教师和同学给予了热情的支持。Mr. Robert A. Mackie仔细阅读了教材，提出了修改意见，为保证教材质量作出了贡献。复旦大学孙骊教授、高等学校外语专业教学指导委员会委员华南理工大学秦秀白教授、大学英语专业课程指导委员会委员北京师范大学王蔷教授、湖北黄冈师范学院蓝葆春教授和河南新乡师范学院郭爱先副教授也为本书提出了宝贵意见，谨在此一并表示感谢。由于编者的水平和经验的限制，错误和缺点在所难免，欢迎读者批评指正。

编 者

2000年2月

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面向 21 世纪课程教材



普通高等教育“九五”
国家级重点教材

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Unit 1

1 Text

From

Little House in the Big Woods

by Laura Ingalls Wilder

Laura Ingalls Wilder wrote many books about her life in the wilderness. This is a true story from one of her books. On the edge of the Big Woods of Wisconsin in 1872, she lived with her family in a little log house. It was miles from any neighbors and far from any town. One day her father was away from home, leaving the family alone in the wilderness. At night there came a big bear. What were the mother and her daughters going to do? Were they safe in the end? Please read the following story.

Then one day Pa said that spring was coming.

In the Big Woods the snow was beginning to thaw. Bits of it dropped from the branches of the trees and made little holes in the softening snowbanks below. At noon all the big icicles¹ along the eaves of the little house quivered and sparkled in the sunshine, and drops of water hung trembling at their tips.

Pa said he must go to town to trade the furs of the wild animals he had been trapping all winter. So one evening he made a big bundle of them. There were so many furs that when they were packed tightly and tied together they made a bundle almost as big as Pa.

Very early one morning Pa strapped the bundle of furs on his shoulders, and started to walk to town. There were so many furs to carry that he could not take his gun.

Ma was worried, but Pa said that by starting before sun-up and walking very fast all day he could get home again before dark.

The nearest town was far away. Laura and Mary had never seen a town. They had never seen a store. They had never seen even two houses standing together. But they knew that in a town there were many houses, and a store full of

candy and calico and other wonderful things — powder, and shot², and salt, and store sugar.

They knew that Pa would trade his furs to the storekeeper for beautiful things from town, and all day they were expecting the presents he would bring them. When the sun sank low above the treetops and no more drops fell from the tips of the icicles they began to watch eagerly for Pa.

The sun sank out of sight, the woods grew dark, and he did not come. Ma started supper and set the table, but he did not come. It was time to do the chores, and still he had not come.

Ma said that Laura might come with her while she milked the cow. Laura could carry the lantern.

So Laura put on her coat and Ma buttoned it up. And Laura put her hands into her red mittens that hung by a red yarn string around her neck, while Ma lighted the candle in the lantern.

Laura was proud to be helping Ma with the milking, and she carried the lantern very carefully. Its sides were of tin, with places cut in them for the candle-light to shine through.

When Laura walked behind Ma on the path to the barn, the little bits of candle-light from the lantern leaped all around her on the snow. The night was not yet quite dark. The woods were dark, but there was a gray light on the snowy path, and in the sky there were a few faint stars. The stars did not look as warm and bright as the little lights that came from the lantern.

Laura was surprised to see the dark shape of Sukey, the brown cow, standing at the barnyard gate. Ma was surprised, too.

It was too early in the spring for Sukey to be let out in the Big Woods to eat grass. She lived in the barn. But sometimes on warm days Pa left the door of her stall³ open so she could come into the barnyard. Now Ma and Laura saw her behind the bars, waiting for them.

Ma went up to the gate, and pushed against it to open it. But it did not open very far, because there was Sukey, standing against it. Ma said, "Sukey, get over!" She reached across the gate and slapped Sukey's shoulder.

Just then one of the dancing little



bits of light from the lantern jumped between the bars of the gate, and Laura saw long, shaggy, black fur, and two little, glittering eyes.

Sukey had thin, short, brown fur. Sukey had large, gentle eyes.

Ma said, "Laura, walk back to the house."

So Laura turned around and began to walk toward the house. Ma came behind her. When they had gone part way, Ma snatched her up, lantern and all, and ran. Ma ran with her into the house, and slammed the door.

Then Laura said, "Ma, was it a bear?"

"Yes, Laura," Ma said. "It was a bear."

Laura began to cry. She hung on to Ma and sobbed, "Oh, will he eat Sukey?"

"No," Ma said, hugging her. "Sukey is safe in the barn. Think, Laura — all those big, heavy logs in the barn walls. And the door is heavy and solid, made to keep bears out. No, the bear cannot get in and eat Sukey."

Laura felt better then. "But he could have hurt us, couldn't he?" she asked.

"He didn't hurt us," Ma said. "You were a good girl, Laura, to do exactly as I told you, and to do it quickly, without asking why."

Ma was trembling, and she began to laugh a little. "To think," she said, "I've slapped a bear!"

Then she put supper on the table for Laura and Mary. Pa had not come yet. He didn't come. Laura and Mary were undressed, and they said their prayers and snuggled into the trundle bed.

Ma sat by the lamp, mending one of Pa's shirts. The house seemed cold and still and strange, without Pa.

Laura listened to the wind in the Big Woods. All around the house the wind went crying as though it were lost in the dark and the cold. The wind sounded frightened.

Ma finished mending the shirt. Laura saw her fold it slowly and carefully. She smoothed it with her hand. Then she did a thing she had never done before. She went to the door and pulled the leather latch-string through its hole in the door, so that nobody could get in from outside unless she lifted the latch. She came and took Carrie, all limp and sleeping, out of the big bed.

She saw that Laura and Mary were still awake, and she said to them: "Go to sleep, girls. Everything is all right. Pa will be here in the morning." Then she went back to her rocking chair and sat there rocking gently and holding Baby Carrie in her arms.



She was sitting up late, waiting for Pa, and Laura and Mary meant to stay awake, too, till he came. But at last they went to sleep.

In the morning Pa was there. He had brought candy for Laura and Mary, and two pieces of pretty calico to make them each a dress. Mary's was a china-blue pattern on a white ground, and Laura's was dark red with little golden-brown dots on it. Ma had calico for a dress, too; it was brown, with a big, feathery white pattern all over it.

They were all happy because Pa had got such good prices for his furs that he could afford to get them such beautiful presents.

The tracks⁴ of the big bear were all around the barn, and there were marks of his claws on the walls. But Sukey and the horses were safe inside. All that day the sun shone, the snow melted, and little streams of water ran from the icicles, which all the time grew thinner. Before the sun set that night, the bear tracks were only shapeless marks in the wet, soft snow.

(1 236 words)

Notes



- 1. icicle: pointed piece of ice formed by the freezing of dripping water
- 2. shot: tiny balls of lead contained in the cartridge of a sporting gun (猎枪用的散弹)
- 3. stall: compartment for one animal in a stable or cattle shed (畜舍中的一栏, 厩)
- 4. tracks: footprints

Exercises

A. Determining the main idea.

Choose the best answer. Do not refer to the text.

The main idea of the story is that _____.

- a. a big bear wanted to attack the family but it only managed to frighten the cattle on the farm
- b. a man supported his family by hunting wild animals while his wife and children helped with farm work
- c. a mother was helped by one of her daughters with the milking of the cow and they spent a night together while the father was away in town
- d. a mother and her daughters living in the big woods encountered a big bear but got home safely

B. Comprehending the text.**Choose the best answer.**

1. One day Pa went to town to _____.
 - a. sell animals he had caught all winter and buy articles of daily use
 - b. trade the furs of the wild animals he had caught
 - c. do some urgent business in town and buy some food on the way
 - d. buy some presents for the family since holidays were coming
2. When Pa was leaving, Ma was worried because _____.
 - a. it might not be worth the effort going a long way to trade things
 - b. the weather was not fine and the road was dangerous
 - c. Pa might not be able to return before dark
 - d. she and the girls would be without protection
3. Laura was proud to help Ma with _____.
 - a. preparing the meal for Pa
 - b. taking care of the other members of the family
 - c. the milking of the cow at the barn
 - d. driving Sukey, their cow, into the barnyard
4. When Ma and Laura saw the bear, they _____.
 - a. ran away immediately
 - b. were so frightened that they did not know what to do
 - c. thought that Pa could get the fur of the animal
 - d. both kept their heads and walked away as if nothing had happened
5. Ma praised Laura for her _____.
 - a. courage in time of great danger
 - b. readiness to help with household chores
 - c. obedience in time of unexpected danger
 - d. great capacity for hard work
6. The town was very far away from the house and Pa did not return until _____.
 - a. very late that night
 - b. very late the next day
 - c. the next morning
 - d. the next afternoon
7. It can be learned from the text that the family had _____ children.
 - a. two
 - b. three
 - c. four
 - d. five
8. Which of the following is NOT true?
 - a. Life in the wilderness was hard and full of danger.
 - b. Courage and hard work were needed to live in the woods.
 - c. Life in the woods was too dangerous for children.
 - d. Life close to nature might also have its charms.

C. Discussing the following topics.

1. Why did Ma say that Laura was a good girl?
2. What kind of people were Laura's parents?
3. Discuss the kind of life the family lived in the big woods.

D. Understanding vocabulary.**Choose the correct definition according to the context.**

1. In the Big Woods the snow was beginning to thaw.
a. melt b. sink c. fall d. glow
2. At noon all the big icicles along the eaves of the little house quivered and sparkled in the sunshine, and drops of water hung trembling at their tips.
a. shone b. worked c. weakened d. trembled
3. It was time to do the chores, and still he had not come.
a. dishwashing b. homework
c. saying prayers d. small household duties
4. There were so many furs that when they were packed tightly and tied together they made a bundle almost as big as Pa.
a. lightly b. firmly c. together d. in a bundle
5. The woods were dark, but there was a gray light on the snowy path, and in the sky there were a few faint stars.
a. not bright b. not warm c. not big d. not near
6. She hung on to Ma and sobbed.
a. hugged Ma b. leant against Ma
c. pushed against Ma d. went to Ma
7. Ma sat by the lamp, mending one of Pa's shirts.
a. folding b. repairing c. making d. cleaning
8. Then she went back to her rocking chair and sat there rocking gently and holding Baby Carrie in her arms.
a. talking b. moving from side to side
c. sitting d. waiting
9. She was sitting up late, waiting for Pa.
a. working hard
b. sitting in an upright position
c. not going to bed after the usual bedtime
d. being very careful
10. Pa had got such good prices for his furs that he could afford to get them such beautiful presents.
a. had enough money b. had time
c. was willing d. thought

2 Reading Skills

Previewing (1)

Previewing means looking ahead and checking for information in advance. Before you read a book in detail, you can learn quite a bit about it by previewing. You can preview or examine specific parts of it first.

Here are steps you may follow when you begin to preview a textbook.

◆ **Read the title of the book.**

A title can tell you a great deal about a book. Before you read, think about what the title means.

◆ **Read the table of contents.**

The table of contents appears at the beginning of a book. It is a list of the names of the chapters and the pages on which they begin. Sometimes you also find subheadings given under some chapters. If the book is divided into parts, that information also appears in the table of contents. After you study the names of the chapters and subheadings, you will know what each section of the book is about and how the topics of the sections relate to each other and to the whole book.

◆ **Read the preface.**

The preface is a brief essay in which the author gives reasons for writing the book. It comes before the table of contents. From the preface you will learn for whom the book is written, the aims and the topics of the book and the best ways to use the book.

◆ **Read briefly the index, glossary, appendix, bibliography and other special supplements.**

These usually appear at the back of a book.

An index is an alphabetical list that tells the reader where particular topics, subjects and names of people, places or events, etc. are referred to in a book.

A glossary gives definitions to a list of difficult words or terms that appear in a book.

An appendix adds to a book extra information (charts, graphs, documents, facts, etc.) that is helpful to the understanding of the book.

A bibliography is a list of some or all the sources that the author has used to write his or her book.



Use previewing to learn about this textbook. Then answer the following questions.

1. What is the title of this book? _____
2. Who are the authors? _____
3. What is the publication date? _____
4. What is the main reason the authors produced this book? _____

5. Where did you find the answer to Question 4? _____
6. For what kind of reader is this book intended? _____

7. How many units does this book contain? _____
8. What are the specific reading and study skills to be learned in this book? _____

3 Testing

Your Reading Comprehension and Speed

Directions: Read the following passages and do the multiple-choice exercises. Record the time you have used and the number of correct answers you have got.

Fast Reading



Pioneer's lives were different from the lives of many people today. Any neighbors they had usually lived many miles away. There were no football or basketball games. There were no teams to play these sports. There were no movies or TV. There were almost no books or newspapers to read.

Sometimes they got together. Just being together was an adventure. Everything people did together, and even work was fun. It was an exciting treat to be with other families. So it was natural

that the pioneers found some time to play when they got together to work. When a family had a big job to be done, neighbors would gather from great distances to help. They called this gathering a "bee".

The pioneers had many kinds of bees. In the spring they gathered to help each other plow the land and plant the fields. In the fall, when harvest time came, they helped each other again.

Sometimes the women and girls gathered for quilting or sewing bees. While they sewed they visited. They told each other what had happened to them in the days they had been alone. When they finished, they had quilts and clothes to keep their families warm.

A house-raising was one of the best gatherings. When a family needed a house or barn, everyone from miles around came to help. The men and boys worked hard all day to lay the logs. Then they put on the roof, covered the windows and made the door. Meanwhile the women cooked big meals for the hungry workers and the small children played.

After the house was raised or the work was done, everyone was ready to have a good time. While they were eating supper, many tales and jokes were told. After supper they enjoyed contests, singing and dancing.

Time _____ (301 words)

1. Which of the following is not true with the pioneers?
 - a. They lived a long distance from each other.
 - b. They didn't have modern entertainment.
 - c. There were no books or newspapers.
 - d. There were no football or basketball games.
2. For the pioneers to be together was an adventure because _____.
 - a. they didn't like living by themselves
 - b. they found being together would strengthen their friendship
 - c. something unusual might occur when they were together
 - d. it was an unusual event to meet
3. According to the text, "bee" means _____.
 - a. covering a long distance
 - b. having a treat
 - c. offering help
 - d. gathering together
4. A quilting bee could enable women and girls to accomplish all of the following except _____.
 - a. cooking meals
 - b. making quilts
 - c. getting or giving information
 - d. maintaining friendly relationships
5. The topic of the passage is: _____.
 - a. hardships of pioneers' life