

SFLEP-MACMILLAN CLASSICS READERS

—— 轻松读经典丛书 ——

(英语课程标准五级之九)

Tom Brown's Schooldays

汤姆·布朗的求学生涯

THOMAS HUGHES

原著 托马斯·休斯

汤姆首次离家，作为拉格比学校的一名新生，既紧张不安又急于让别人对自己满意。但是很快汤姆就安顿下来，和他的新朋友伊斯特开始了不少的冒险经历：爬树，到河边钓鱼，像凶残的土匪劣绅一样欺凌弱小。在校求学期间，汤姆还认识到了勇气、忠诚及友谊的价值，也加深了对英明和蔼的校长的拳拳教诲的无限敬意。



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Adapted by Marie Coghill

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注释 陈 荣



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出版说明

为了促进我国中学生的英语学习,培养他们的文化素养和文学修养,上海外语教育出版社经过长时间的酝酿和市场调研,决定将英国麦克米伦出版公司的一套文学名著简写本引荐给我国的中学生。

麦克米伦出版公司是从 20 世纪初开始陆续出版这套文学名著简写本的。为了满足世界各地英语为非母语国家、也包括英语国家不同程度中学生的阅读需要,他们请专家对一些大家耳熟能详的世界文学名著进行了改写,在保留原著的故事情节和原著者的创作风格的同时,适当地降低了语言的难度,至今已经推出了 200 多本。若干年过去了,这些书仍然受到世界各地读者的欢迎。

外教社从麦克米伦出版公司的这套文学名著简写本中精心挑选了 40 本,汇成一套“轻松读经典丛书”,难易程度跨越“英语课程标准”的 3 级—8 级。这套丛书选编了英、美、法等国文学大师的经典之作,包括莎士比亚、狄更斯、马克·吐温、哈代、大仲马等著名作家的作品。为了让中学生在阅读过程中更好地把握原书的精髓和作家的创作历程,外教社还特地对读物中的语言难点做了注释;并加入了一篇关于作家、作品的背景介绍。

我们衷心希望“轻松读经典丛书”能够有助于提高我国中学生的文学欣赏水平,陶冶他们的道德情操,增强他们的英语阅读能力,成为开启中学生英语文学名著阅读之门的金钥匙。

外教社编辑部

2002 年 11 月

简介

托马斯·休斯(1822—1896)生于波克夏郡的乌芬顿,靠近当地最高的白垩山侧面的著名的白马像。

他的父亲约翰·休斯是一位以写作、学习为乐的“真正具有爱心、同情心”的绅士,他与村民们打板球、踢足球,身体力行来向他们说明人类彼此间的关爱与责任。

小托马斯和他的姐妹及六个兄弟在这种宽松愉快的气氛中成长。他和他的哥哥乔治漫游乡村,观看别人击木剑、玩蒙眼叮当追逐游戏、摔跤及跳高跳远。他热爱他的出生成长之地白马像谷,所以《汤姆·布朗的求学生涯》被誉为托马斯·休斯的自传也就不足为奇了。

在他的《汤姆·布朗在牛津》一书中,他声明说:“我必须抓住这个惟一的机会澄清事实,书中的主人公无论是在孩童时期或是成人年代都并非是我自己本人。当我最初决定写这本书的时候,我就意识到中上层阶级的最典型的英国男孩,就我的经验而言是……我理所当然地将他置身于我最了解熟悉的故乡之中……”

我们可以尊重他的声明,但从托马斯·休斯的同

代人所写的有关他的著作资料中,两者间存在大量相似之处是显而易见的。

托马斯·休斯和他的哥哥先被送到靠近温彻斯特的威福特的一所私立学校学习。那是一所较前卫的学校,在那里,阅读书籍和学习诗歌被认为和传统的学习拉丁文、希腊语同等重要。故而,就学术思想而言,这所学校对小托马斯·休斯产生了重要影响。之后,十三岁的乔治和十一岁的小托马斯去了拉格比。

当时英格兰的公立学校都因其陈腐过时的教育、破烂的设施,及其墨守成规、僵化生硬的教育而声名狼藉。但在1833年,当小托马斯和他的哥哥到拉格比时,阿诺德已经在此当了五年的校长,并已实施了他的许多改革,因此拉格比比当时的其他公立学校都先进,但仍是一个粗野残酷的地方,但到1834年,像在《汤姆·布朗的求学生涯》中所描述的事件已成为例外,而非常规。

像汤姆·布朗一样,托马斯·休斯也很喜欢拉格比。他从学校允许的野蛮游戏及异常出轨的行为中学到了自力更生、勇气与公平竞争的运动家精神。他成为高年级男生球队的队长,并与玛利立本板球队交锋。1841年在学校运动场举行的这场比赛,毫无疑问成为“汤姆·布朗的最后一场比赛”的素材。

同样,像汤姆·布朗一样,托马斯·休斯去了牛津,他于1845年从牛津毕业,当年进了林肯律师学院。之后,他转到内殿律师学院,并于1848年当上律师。他并没有成为伟大的律师,但他勤奋学习,竭力做到对他所选择领域了如指掌。他成为英国王室法律顾问,之后,又成为地方法院法官。

托马斯·休斯作为积极的策划者及捐助者与伦敦工人学会长期保持联系,当他于1865年进入国会时,他被看做是一个改革家,一个工人阶级的知己密友。



当他开始写《汤姆·布朗的求学生涯》时,他在文学方面并没有多大的抱负,他是为了孩子们,尤其是他的长子而写的这本书。该书首先由麦克米伦公司以“大男孩”的笔名出版发行,取得了巨大的成功,托马斯·休斯的真名也因此广为人知。尽管他还写了其他一些书,如《汤姆·布朗在牛津》、《白马像的冲刷》、《兄弟论文集》及许多文章,但却是这本书给托马斯·休斯带来了文学上的声望。

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CHAPTER I

TOM'S EARLY DAYS

THE Saxon White Horse¹ stands guard over the Vale in which Tom Brown was born. It was carved out of the highest of the chalk hills to remind people of the many soldiers who died there in the fight between the Danes² and the Saxons³; the battle in which Alfred, King of the Saxons, won a great victory.

The Horse has looked down over the Vale for more than a thousand years and any boy born within sight of it must surely be stirred by the story behind it. Little wonder, then, that Tom, whose ancestors had grown up in the Vale, should have the spirit of a fighter, as all the Browns before him.

Tom's father was the Squire⁴ of Kingston

1 White Horse: 指(新石器、青铜时代或铁器时代雕刻在英国伯克郡等白垩山冈上的)白马像 **2 Dane:** 丹麦人 **3 Saxon:** 撒克逊人(在6世纪曾征服英国部分地区的西日耳曼人) **4 squire:** 乡绅,大地主

Lisle¹ It was a pleasant, old-fashioned village with many fine trees and it nestled under the shadow of the White Horse Hill.

Mr. Brown was also Justice of the Peace² for the Royal County of Berkshire³ and he dealt out justice and mercy in the manner of those days. He hunted the fox and grumbled about the badness of the roads and the times, while his wife gave out clothes and comforting drinks to the old folk around.

The Browns were good people in that they did their duty with great willingness. Mrs. Brown loved young people, and enjoyed training the young girls of the village in household work. One of them, by the name of Charity Lamb, had been chosen to be Tom's nurse.

Charity was a good girl, but she was stronger in body than in mind. She was no match for the eldest child of the Browns, and Tom soon found ways of slipping away from her care.

Tom had two friends who helped him escape from Charity Lamb. These were two old men who had once been servants of the Browns but

1 Kingston Lisle: 波克夏郡的一个乡村 2 Justice of the Peace: 不支薪的治安法官,负责一个郡或城镇的治安 3 Royal County of Berkshire: 波克夏郡王室乡村。在英格兰,王室乡村或小镇是指当地有王室行宫,温莎公爵城堡就是一处王室住址,位于波克夏郡



Tom extracting his first stickleback out of the stream which ran through the village.

who were now too old to work. One of them, Noah, was a dry old man of almost ninety and Tom was a little afraid of him. He wore a wig which had been given to him by one of the Browns to whom he had been a personal servant many years before.

Compared with Noah, Tom's other friend, Benjamin, or Benjy, was quite young; he was only seventy years old! He was a cheery, kind-hearted old man with a lively sense of humour, and he kept Tom happy for hours with tales of the White Horse Vale¹.

It was Benjy who bent the pin with which Tom caught his first stickleback² in the little stream which ran through the village, and it was he who saddled Tom's first pony, and taught him to ride. In his young days, he had been famous as a back-sword man and a wrestler, and came of a family well-known for their fighting spirit and their skill at games.

The great time for back-swording came round once a year in each village—at the Feast. No-one remembered why it was called a 'feast', but it was the one day in the year when all the family came together; even the children who had grown up and left their homes for the larger

1 White Horse Vale: 白马缘谷 2 stickleback: 棘鱼



towns came back for it.

No-one enjoyed the Feast day more than Tom. With Benjy, he visited the peep-shows¹ and cheap-jacks², and listened to the drums and trumpets of the showmen.

‘Goodness, Mr. Benjamin,’ cried a stout, motherly woman in a red cloak, ‘is that you? Well I never! And how’s the Squire and Madam, and the family?’

Benjamin shook hands with the woman who had come back to the village for the Feast. ‘This is Master Brown,’ he said.

‘Bless his little heart! I must give him a kiss! You remember Susannah, Mr. Benjamin? She’ll be sixteen soon, and I aim to take her to see Madam to get her trained.’

Susannah and her friends carried Tom off and loaded him with presents from the fair. He returned to Benjy with his pockets bulging with popguns and trumpets, gilt gingerbread and Angel’s cakes³.

But the most exciting of all was the back-swording match, and Tom sat high on Benjy’s shoulders to watch it.

1 peep-show: 西洋景; 透过放大镜看的小型图片展 2 cheap-jack: 卖廉价货物的小贩 3 Angel’s cakes: 一个叫安琪儿的人卖的姜饼

The weapons were good, stout ash-sticks with large basket handles, and the object of the 'fight' was to break another's head! A very slight blow with the stick would bring blood, and the hurt man would be named the loser. Provided it was played in all good feeling, no-one was seriously hurt.

Young Tom squealed and shouted with the rest when 'blood' was drawn, and when it was all over, he was carried away by Benjamin, tired out, and for once, ready for bed.

It was sad for both Benjamin and Tom when the 'rheumatiz¹' took hold of the old man and he was unable to get about as before. They still fished together, but Tom was forced to look around for other playmates. He found them amongst the boys of the village.

In those days it was unusual for a Squire's son to play with village boys, and some of the Squire's friends said sharp things about it.

'What does it matter whether my son makes friends with a lord's son or a ploughman's son as long as they are brave and honest?' remarked Squire Brown.

As soon as Tom's governess let him off from his lessons, he would go to a corner of the stable

1 rheumatiz: 村民们说“风湿”,“风湿病”的一种说法



yard which overlooked the village school, and wait for the boys to come out. Sometimes he grew impatient and would peep in at the school door. Of course this made the pupils laugh and the school-master angry. He went to the Squire to complain.

‘The boy is lonely,’ said the Squire when he recovered from his anger with Tom. ‘He needs playmates.’

‘Then I have a suggestion to make,’ said the schoolmaster. ‘I shall release some of the best boys an hour before school is over.’

And so it was arranged, on the understanding that Tom had done his own lessons correctly.

Of the village boys, Job Rudkin and Harry Winburn were to have a lasting influence on Tom. He watched them wrestling, and gradually learned to wrestle himself. Harry Winburn was the champion and he and Tom became great friends. Harry at last taught Tom all he knew, including a special way of making his opponent fall, for which Tom was later to be very grateful.

Tom was well liked by the village boys and it was with much sadness that they saw him go off to his first private school. They gave him a great send-off and many presents of white marbles and birds’ eggs, and even poor Jacob Doodle-calf, who was unable to do any schoolwork,

brought along his pet hedgehog as a farewell gift.

Tom was only nine when he was taken away from his friends in the village and set down among fifty strange boys under the care of two men who were not even worthy of the name of gentlemen.

Poor Tom spent a miserable year at this private school where he learned some Latin and Greek, but very little else. He was, therefore, delighted when, in the middle of his second year, all the boys were sent home on account of illness in the nearby village.

But if Tom was pleased, the Squire was not. He went to his room and wrote several letters, and some days later he said to his wife, 'My dear, I have arranged for Tom to go to Rugby¹ at once, for the last six weeks of this half-year, instead of wasting them, riding and loitering about at home. It is very kind of the Doctor² to allow it. Will you see that his things are ready by Friday, when I shall take him up to Town, and send him down to Rugby next day by himself.'

1 Rugby: 拉格比。英格兰的一个城镇,那里有一所名为拉格比的著名的公立学校。尽管它被称为公立学校,但实际上它是一所私立学校,需付学费 2 Doctor: 指阿诺德博士,拉格比公学的校长