



莱特兄弟的故事

赵恒元 主编



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序

学习外语要掌握听说读写四项技能, 听和 读是接受性技能,说和写是产出性技能。从交 际教学法来说, 学外语就是为了交际, 通过掌 握实际应用的能力,能说会写。要做到这一点, 便要多听多读,因此听说读写是互补的,缺一 不可的。其次,当代语言教学理论的实践,强 调学习与习得兼顾。前者在宏观上通过老师在 教室内进行,配有固定的教材;在微观上指导 老师改进课堂教学方法,以学生为中心,多让 学生参与,可取得更好的教学效果。惟独在习 得方面,尽管在理论上谁都明白让学生在自然 真实条件下,无意识地、轻轻松松地接触英语, 但很少有人为学生创造习得的环境和物质条件, 形成自流。

从目前国内的出版市场上看,所提供的一些 听力和阅读材料,多半是供成人用的,或是直接 从国外引进的教材,不能引起国内广大青少年的 兴趣,不能满足他们的要求。其次,某些编书者 把听和读分开,听力教材和阅读教材分流,这不 利于接受性技能的综合培养。现北京出版社出版 了《蓝鹦鹉中学英语听读文库》将听和读两者通 盘考虑,可谓英明之举。如文库的一个品种《美 国之音特别节目听读》以听为主,同时提供文字 材料,而另一品种《Ladybird 英语听读》以读为 主,同时配有磁带。

《蓝鹦鹉中学英语听读文库》的第二个优点是,这些课外学习材料针对性明确,面向中学生的需要。它非常注意趣味性和可读性。如《中学英语轻松阅读》有学生们所喜欢的寓言、诗歌、故事、幻想、传说等内容,也把学生引入蜘蛛、黑猩猩、狮子、小狗、小猫等动物世界。

《文库》注意将英语学习和文化知识的传授结合起来,使学生在学习英语过程中同时增长文化知识,或者在接受文化知识的不知不觉过程中习得了英语。如《美国之音特别节目听读》介绍了

西方国家的"愚人节"、"劳动节"等文化习俗,以及美国拳王阿里在体育运动上的成就和政治上的正义感等。《Ladybird 英语听读》让学生接触到英美国家的优秀儿童文学,如《格列佛游记》、《金银岛》、《艾丽丝漫游奇境》等名著。《Cowin英语百科阅读》的内容有对英语学习的指导、英国的衰落、英国剑桥和牛津两所名大学的掌故、美国的穷富差距、体育音乐等。《中学英语轻松阅读》和《Cowin英语百科阅读》还收入计算机千年虫、克隆技术、航天、健康长寿等现代科技知识。

由于中学生涵盖从初一到高三的不同年龄段,《文库》的优势是提供难易度不同的品种,供读者酌情选用。有的是初中生的理想材料,如《美国之音特别节目听读》;有的适合高中生,如《Cowin英语百科阅读》;而《中学英语轻松阅读》共6册,分别与初中和高中相对应。

教育部英语课程标准研制组起草的《国家英语课程标准(义务教育阶段)》的讨论稿曾规定, 在阅读方面除正规教材外,应引导学生进行课外阅读,如英语标准第3级应达到10万字的阅读 量。《蓝鹦鹉中学英语听读文库》将与广大中学生读者携手,共同向这个目标迈进。

胡壮麟 2000年7月13日于 北京大学畅春园

前言

中考和高考试卷中以短文形式出现的考题有阅读理解、完形填空和短文改错。这些短文考题的篇数在逐年增多,所占总分的比例越来越大,在高考中已达60%,因此抓住了短文就是抓住了重点。然而对许多学生来说,重点并不是他们的强点,而是他们的弱点。如何变弱点为强点,固然有一些技巧,但是最根本的、最关键的、最起作用的是进行大量的语言实践,即多看、多听英语短文,尤其是多看那些原汁原味的文章,多听那些纯正原声的朗读。

本套丛书《美国之音特别节目听读》的一篇 篇短文均来自美国之音电台的广播节目文字稿。 这些文字稿是用约1 500个最简单的英语单词写成 的,文章的内容涉猎很广。我们可以从中了解到 外国的诸多风俗习惯、文化传统、节日假日、文 艺明星、歌曲大奖、体育冠军、名人趣事、总统 生平、夫人逸闻、科技进展、环境保护、动物生态、世界之谜等。文章的难度和长度与中考、高 考试卷中的短文类考题大体相当。

语言是流动的音乐,音乐是羽化的语言。美国之音电台资深广播员的纯正、圆润、舒缓、甜美的声音就像是跳动的音符,他们朗读的一篇篇短文就像是一首首音乐。在音乐氛围中学习语言,在阅读文字中享受音乐,变枯燥为乐趣,化沉闷为振奋。这是学习语言的佳境。本套丛书《美国之音特别节目听读》就是进入这种佳境的最好途径。

我们在每段短文后都配有一段间歇音乐。它可以缓解做题后的紧张,又可以使人在愉悦的心境中继续阅读思考下一段文字。

红入桃花嫩,青归柳叶新。如果本丛书中的"听"和"读"能化作"红"和"青",为花季春柳的中学生在学习和迎考中增光添彩,那将是作者最高兴的。

参加本书编写工作的还有:潘书祥、郑宏、 王泽斌、张培权、姚霞、马秀娥等。

> 赵恒元 2000年5月于北京

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目 录

1.	Father's Day ·····1
	父亲节
2.	Families without Father 5
	没有父亲的家庭
3.	Fathers Care for Children at Home 11
	父亲在家看孩子
4.	Bacteria Destroys Nuclear Waste 18
	用细菌分解核废料
5.	New Electric Cars 23
	新电动汽车
6.	Carlos Santana ······28
	卡洛斯・桑塔纳
7.	Stories of the Wright Brothers: Sled, Kite,
	Printing Machine 30
	莱特兄弟的故事:雪橇、风筝、印刷机
8.	Stories of the Wright Brothers: First En-

				調調	
41	Market And	4 数	The said	1	

	gine-Powered Airplane 36
	莱特兄弟的故事:第一架动力飞机
9.	Charles43
	查尔斯(小说)
译文	和答案
1.	父亲节 55
2.	没有父亲的家庭 57
3.	父亲在家看孩子 60
4.	用细菌分解核废料 63
5.	新电动汽车 65
6.	卡洛斯·桑塔纳 ······ 67
7.	莱特兄弟的故事:雪橇、风筝、印刷机 68
8.	莱特兄弟的故事:第一架动力飞机 72
9.	查尔斯(小说)76

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1. Father's Day 父亲节

听读下面短文。根据短文内容,从短文后面每 题所给的四个选项中选择最佳的一项。

People in many countries have a special day to honor fathers. In the United States, that day is always the third Sunday of the month of June—— this Sunday, Ray Freeman tells us about how Father's Day began.

Sonoil Lewis Smart Dodd got the idea for Father's Day in 1909. She was living in the city of Spokane in the state of Washington. She was listening to a religious(宗教的) message about Mother's Day, and decided that fathers should be recognized, too. She especially wanted to honor her own father. Her father, William Jackson Smart, had raised(抚养) his six children by himself after his wife had died. Mrs. Dodd asked religious leaders in the city of Spokane to help. She asked clergy(牧师) in Spokane to honor fathers on the

My English

first Sunday in June, her own father's birthday. But the clergy did not give speeches honoring fathers until 2 weeks later, the third Sunday in June. Sonoil Dodd's campaign was successful. The first Father's Day in the United States was celebrated in the city of Spokane, Washington on June 19, 1910.

The idea of a date to honor fathers quickly spread to other parts of the country. In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge said Americans should honor their fathers on the third Sunday in June. He said the day should be used to establish better relations between fathers and their children, and to remind fathers of their responsibilities. As the years passed, many efforts were made to make the day an official national holiday. Finally in 1972, President Rechard Nixon signed the law making Father's Day an official observance (庆祝节日) in the United States.

This Sunday American families will celebrate Father's Day. Many will celebrate by gathering for a dinner, or an outdoor picnic. Others may do special

Wey: English

things for father on this day. They may prepare the foods he likes best, play games, or see a movie with him. And most fathers will receive cards and gifts from their children.



- 1. When do Americans celebrate Father's Day today?
 - A. On June 19.
 - B. On the first Sunday in June.
 - C. On the second Sunday in June.
 - D. On the third Sunday in June.
- People in the city of Spokane first celebrate Father's Day _____.
 - A. on June 19
 - B. on the first Sunday in June
 - C. on the second Sunday in June
 - D. on the third Sunday in June
- 3. After her mother had died, Mrs. Dodd's



- A. prepared breakfast for the children
- B. brought the children up
- C. bought the children clothes
- D. asked the children to help him everyday
- 4. Father's Day became a national holiday in
 - A. 1910
 - B. 1924
 - C. 1972
 - D. 1992
- 5. On Father's Day most children in the United States will .
 - A. prepare breakfast for their father
 - B. play football with their father
 - C. go to see a movie with their father
 - D. give their father a gift

MY-Y: English

2. Families without Father 没有父亲的家庭

听读下面短文。根据短文内容,从短文后面每 题所给的四个选项中选择最佳的一项。

Father is a very formal word today. Most people use the word dad or daddy instead. On Father's Day children might take their dad out for a meal. They might send a greeting card, or call on a telephone, or they might buy him a present. Not all children, however, will see or speak with their dad on father's day. Studies say about 24% of American children live in a family without father. This is 3 times more than in 1960. Back then only 8% of children lived in a family without father.

One reason is the increasing children born to women who are not married. Often the fathers of these children do not earn enough money to support their family. They may not have enough education to get a good job. They may not know how to be a good parent. Studies show that children growing up



without father are more likely to be poor. They are more likely to leave school before completing their education. And they are more likely to become involved in crime or illegal drugs.

In some American communities almost half the families do not have a father living at home. Children in these communities may grow up to believe that father is not important. However, experts agree that fathers are important for families. They say fathers provide emotional support that seems to help children develop better. Several organizations in the United States are trying to improve this situation. Leaders of this fatherhood movement met in Minneapolis, Minnesota last October. They discussed a number of programs that are being developed to solve the problem. These programs offer young men information and support to help them become responsible fathers.

(Music Bridge)

Another reason for the large number of American families without fathers is the increasing