



[★英汉双语版★]

美国语文

4

[美] 威廉·H·麦加菲◎主编
杨慧◎译

最纯正的美语阅读 最经典的美式教育

西方家庭学校原版教材，影响了美国五代人的经典畅销书

汇集了狄更斯、莎士比亚、爱默生、梭罗、欧文等文豪的经典名篇

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关于威廉·H·麦加菲

威廉·H·麦加菲 (William Holmes McGuffey, 1800 年 9 月 23 日—1873 年 5 月 4 日), 出生于美国宾夕法尼亚州, 美国著名教育家, 曾任迈阿密大学语言学教授、辛辛那提大学校长、俄亥俄大学校长, 被誉为美国的“民族教育家”。

在迈阿密大学执教期间, 麦加菲开始为美国孩子编写教材, 这就是著名的《美国语文》(即《麦加菲读本》)。在《美国语文》这部作品上, 麦加菲教授倾注了 20 年的心血。而这部作品也为他带来了巨大的荣誉。为纪念麦加菲在教科书领域和儿童教育方面所做出的杰出贡献, 美国全国教科书大奖被命名为“麦加菲历久弥新奖”。

1873 年, 威廉·H·麦加菲去世, 安葬于弗吉尼亚大学墓地。

关于《美国语文》

作为一套经典的英语分级读本, 《美国语文》自 1836 年出版后就成为众多美国公立、私立学校的通用课本, 即便过了将近两百年, 到了 21 世纪, 西方一些私立学校和家庭学校仍把它作为教材, 足见这套书的价值与影响力。据估计, 这套书从问世至 1960 年, 至少发行了 1.22 亿册。它对美国中小学生的成长教育和人格塑造, 乃至“美国精神”的形成, 都产生了史无前例的影响。它已经影响了美国的数代人, 如果你能找到一个五世同堂的大家庭, 就

会惊奇地发现,从高祖到重孙,他们能异口同声地背诵其中的优秀篇章。

在内容上,《美国语文》汇集了狄更斯、莎士比亚、爱默生、梭罗等文豪的经典名篇,通过一篇篇短小精悍的故事,将道德教育的内容倾注于作品之中。既可以让孩子欣赏这些优美的文字,又能让他们从中感受到道德教育的力量,潜移默化地形成影响其一生的美德观念。诚如历史学家孔玛格所言:“它们为美国儿童提供了当今明显缺乏的东西,即普遍的引喻知识、普遍的经验 and 自制意识。”

《美国语文》被美国《出版周刊》评为“人类出版史上第三大畅销书”。应该说,没有哪一套个人主编的教材能超过此发行量了!

北京理工大学出版社出版的这套英汉双语版《美国语文》,完整保持了英文原版内容,共分为1~6级,从英语启蒙开始,循序渐进,是一套呈现美国文学与历史文化、体现美国精神与价值观念的优秀读本,对国内中小学生学习英语会有很大帮助。

目 录

Contents

Lesson 1	锲而不舍 PERSEVERANCE	1
Lesson 2	再试试 TRY, TRY AGAIN	5
Lesson 3	为什么海是咸的 WHY THE SEA IS SALTY	8
Lesson 4	为什么海是咸的(结束篇) WHY THE SEA IS SALTY(CONCLUDED)	12
Lesson 5	爆米花 POPPING CORN	16
Lesson 6	微笑 SMILES	18
Lesson 7	懒惰的奈德 LAZY NED	22
Lesson 8	猴子 THE MONKEY	24
Lesson 9	爱管闲事的玛蒂 MEDDLESOME MATTY	27
Lesson 10	好儿子 THE GOOD SON	31
Lesson 11	明天 TOMORROW	33
Lesson 12	有志者事竟成 WHERE THERE IS A WILL THERE IS A WAY ...	36
Lesson 13	皮科拉 PICCOLA	38

Lesson 14	真正的男子汉气概 TRUE MANLINESS	42
Lesson 15	真正的男子汉气概(结束篇) TRUE MANLINESS(CONCLUDED)	46
Lesson 16	棕色画眉鸟 THE BROWN THRUSH	49
Lesson 17	暴风雨中的船 A SHIP IN A STORM	51
Lesson 18	海员的安慰 THE SAILOR'S CONSOLATION	55
Lesson 19	讲故事的两种方法 TWO WAYS OF TELLING A STORY	58
Lesson 20	霜的怪物 FREAKS OF THE FROST	62
Lesson 21	不浪费就不会匮乏 WASTE NOT, WANT NOT	65
Lesson 22	珍妮特和乔 JEANNETTE AND JO	70
Lesson 23	狮子 THE LION	73
Lesson 24	草莓 STRAWBERRIES	77
Lesson 25	哈里的富有 HARRY'S RICHES	81
Lesson 26	在时间的秋千上 IN TIME'S SWING	86
Lesson 27	哈里和他的狗 HARRY AND HIS DOG	90
Lesson 28	小草之音 THE VOICE OF THE GRASS	94
Lesson 29	鹰 THE EAGLE	97
Lesson 30	老鹰树 THE OLD EAGLE TREE	99

Lesson 31	阿尔卑斯之歌 ALPINE SONG	103
Lesson 32	此一时,彼一时 CIRCUMSTANCES ALTER CASES	105
Lesson 33	最高尚的复仇 THE NOBLEST REVENGE	112
Lesson 34	夜的安息曲 EVENING HYMN	116
Lesson 35	好奇的玛杰丽 HOW MARGERY WONDERED	119
Lesson 36	孩子的世界 THE CHILD'S WORLD	125
Lesson 37	苏茜的作文 SUSIE'S COMPOSITION	127
Lesson 38	夏日的雨 THE SUMMER SHOWER	133
Lesson 39	懒惰的后果 CONSEQUENCES OF IDLENESS	135
Lesson 40	勤奋的益处 ADVANTAGES OF INDUSTRY	139
Lesson 41	喷泉 THE FOUNTAIN	144
Lesson 42	咖啡 COFFEE	147
Lesson 43	冬日之王 THE WINTER KING	151
Lesson 44	荨麻 THE NETTLE	154
Lesson 45	暴风雨 THE TEMPEST	159
Lesson 46	造物主 THE CREATOR	161
Lesson 47	马 THE HORSE	165

Lesson 48	竞争 EMULATION	171
Lesson 49	矶鹬 THE SANDPIPER	174
Lesson 50	最佳方法 THE RIGHT WAY	177
Lesson 51	黄金法则 THE GOLDEN RULE	183
Lesson 52	雪人 THE SNOW MAN	188
Lesson 53	鲁滨逊·克鲁索的房屋 ROBINSON CRUSOE'S HOUSE	190
Lesson 54	鲁滨逊·克鲁索的衣着 ROBINSON CRUSOE'S DRESS	194
Lesson 55	谁的亲人 SOMEBODY'S DARLING	197
Lesson 56	知识就是力量 KNOWLEDGE IS POWER	200
Lesson 57	善意 GOOD WILL	203
Lesson 58	中国故事一则 A CHINESE STORY	207
Lesson 59	快乐的方法 THE WAY TO BE HAPPY	211
Lesson 60	长颈鹿 THE GIRAFFE, OR CAMELOPARD	216
Lesson 61	迷失的孩子 THE LOST CHILD	219
Lesson 62	哪一个 WHICH	223
Lesson 63	宠物小鹿 THE PET FAWN	228
Lesson 64	安妮的梦境 ANNIE'S DREAM	232

Lesson 65	我见到的鬼 MY GHOST	237
Lesson 66	大象 THE ELEPHANT	241
Lesson 67	敢于伸张正义 DARE TO DO RIGHT	244
Lesson 68	敢于伸张正义(结束篇) DARE TO DO RIGHT (CONCLUDED)	248
Lesson 69	赫斯珀洛斯号的残骸 THE WRECK OF THE HESPERUS	252
Lesson 70	鸟类的趣事 ANECDOTES OF BIRDS	258
Lesson 71	彩虹之旅 THE RAINBOW PILGRIMAGE	263
Lesson 72	旧橡木桶 THE OLD OAKEN BUCKET	268
Lesson 73	登山宝训 THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT	272
Lesson 74	小证人 THE YOUNG WITNESS	277
Lesson 75	所罗门王和蚂蚁 KING SOLOMON AND THE ANTS	282
Lesson 76	利物茅斯剧场 RIVERMOUTH THEATER	286
Lesson 77	阿尔弗雷德大帝 ALFRED THE GREAT	290
Lesson 78	农场生活 LIVING ON A FARM	294
Lesson 79	懒汉休和特劳先生 HUGH IDLE AND MR. TOIL	296
Lesson 80	懒汉休和特劳先生(结束篇) HUGH IDLE AND MR. TOIL (CONCLUDED)	300
Lesson 81	失火的休耕地 BURNING THE FALLOW	304

Lesson 82	垂死的士兵	THE DYING SOLDIERS	309
Lesson 83	纳梅亨之战	THE ATTACK ON NYMWEGEN	314
Lesson 84	四季	THE SEASONS	319
Lesson 85	布兰迪万河浅滩	BRANDYWINE FORD	324
Lesson 86	布兰迪万河浅滩(结束篇)	BRANDYWINE FORD (CONCLUDED)	328
Lesson 87	最佳资本	THE BEST CAPITAL	332
Lesson 88	英奇开普暗礁	THE INCHCAPE ROCK	337
Lesson 89	母亲的坟墓	MY MOTHER'S GRAVE	342
Lesson 90	母亲的礼物——《圣经》	A MOTHER'S GIFT—THE BIBLE	345

Lesson 1

锲而不舍
PERSEVERANCE

“Will you give my kite a lift?” said my little nephew to his sister, after trying in vain to make it fly by dragging it along the ground. Lucy very kindly took it up and threw it into the air, but, her brother neglecting to run off at the same moment, the kite fell down again.

“Ah! now, how awkward you are!” said the little fellow. “It was your fault entirely,” answered his sister. “Try again, children.” said I.

Lucy once more took up the kite. But now John was in too great a hurry; he ran off so suddenly that he twitched the kite out of her hand, and it fell flat as before. “Well, who is to blame now?” asked Lucy. “Try again,” said I.

They did, and with more care; but a side wind coming suddenly, as Lucy let go the kite, it was blown against some shrubs, and the tail became entangled^① in a moment, leaving the poor kite hanging with its head downward.

“There, there!” exclaimed John, “that comes of your throwing it all to one side.” “As if I could make the wind blow straight,” said Lucy. In the meantime, I went to the kite’s assistance^②; and having disengaged^③ the long tail, I rolled it up, saying, “Come, children, there are too many trees here; let us find a more open space, and then try again.”



① Entangled 使纠缠, 混乱

② Assistance 帮忙, 帮助

③ Disengaged 解开, 使自由, 脱离

We presently found a nice grassplot^①, at one side of which I took my stand; and all things being prepared, I tossed the kite up just as little John ran off. It rose with all the dignity^② of a balloon, and promised a lofty flight; but John, delighted to find it pulling so hard at the string, stopped short to look upward and admire. The string slackened, the kite wavered, and, the wind not being very favorable, down came the kite to the grass. "O John, you should not have stopped," said I. "However, try again."

"I won't try any more," replied he, rather sullenly. "It is of no use, you see. The kite won't fly, and I don't want to be plagued with it any longer." "Oh, fie, my little man! would you give up the sport, after all the pains we have taken both to make and to fly the kite? A few disappointments^③ ought not to discourage^④ us. Come, I have wound up your string, and now try again."

And he did try, and succeeded, for the kite was carried upward on the breeze as lightly as a feather; and when the string was all out, John stood in great delight, holding fast the stick and gazing on the kite, which now seemed like a little white speck in the blue sky. "Look, look, aunt, how high it flies! and it pulls like a team of horses, so that I can hardly hold it. I wish I had a mile of string; I am sure it would go to the end of it."

After enjoying the sight as long as he pleased, little John proceeded to roll up the string slowly; and when the kite fell, he took it up with great glee^⑤, saying that it was not at all hurt, and that it had behaved very well. "Shall we come out tomorrow, aunt, after lessons, and try again?"

"I have no objection, my dear, if the weather is fine. And now, as we walk home, tell me what you have learned from your morning's sport." "I have learned to fly my kite properly." "You may thank aunt for it, brother," said Lucy, "for you would have given it up long ago, if she had not persuaded you to try again."

"Yes, dear children, I wish to teach you the value of perseverance^⑥, even when nothing more depends upon it than the flying of a kite. Whenever you fail in your attempts to do any good thing, let your motto^⑦ be, — try again."

① Grassplot 草地

② Dignity 尊严, 高贵

③ Disappointments 失望

④ Discourage 使气馁

⑤ Glee 开心, 欢快

⑥ Perseverance 坚持不懈, 锲而不舍

⑦ Motto 格言, 箴言

译文 TRANSLATION

当我的小侄子约翰拖着风筝试飞了几次都不成功时，他对妹妹说：“你能帮我举着风筝吗？”露西配合地把风筝抬起来，用力向空中一掷，但是，哥哥没有利用好这个时机，忘记跑起来，风筝应声落地了。

“哎呀，看你，抛得那么糟糕。”侄子指责道。“这完全是你的错！”妹妹反驳说。“孩子们，再试试。”我说。

露西又一次举起风筝。可是这次，约翰太着急跑了，他冷不丁地一跑，把风筝从妹妹手里拽了出去，风筝又没有飞起来。“看吧，这次你又要怨谁？”露西问道。我说：“再试试看。”

他们又试了一次，这回他们小心配合，可在露西松手放飞风筝的瞬间，从风筝侧面方向突然吹来一股风，结果风筝被刮到了附近的灌木丛中，尾巴也纠缠在一起，头朝下，栽落到地上。

约翰喊叫道：“你看你看，都是因为你抛风筝时太偏向一边了！”露西不甘心地反驳说：“我又不能让风直吹。”这时，我跑过去，帮着把风筝捡起来，把缠绕的尾巴解开，一圈圈缠好，说：“孩子们，这儿的树太多了，我们找个更宽敞的地方，再试试吧。”

很快，我们找到了一处宽敞的绿草地，我站在草地边，一切准备就绪。约翰开始跑，我就势赶紧松手将风筝掷向天空。风筝像气球一样高贵地徐徐升起，看起来会稳稳上升。可是，约翰太兴奋了，以至于开始拉线时过于用力，而后又停下来，光顾望着天空欣赏风筝，线马上松垮下来，风又不给力，结果风筝摇曳着落回草地。我说：“哎，约翰你不应该停下来，但我们再试试。”

“我不想再试了。”约翰不开心地说：“你看，根本没用，风筝是放不起来了，我也不想再折腾了。”“哦，我的小男子汉，这就想放弃了吗？想想我们刚刚为了放起这个风筝所做的努力。一点小失望不应该让我们气馁，来吧，我来收线，我们再试试。”

他真的又重新尝试，他成功了。风筝随着微风像羽毛一样飘扬上天，当把线都放完，约翰站在那里，雀跃不已，紧拽着线轴，远望着风筝，在蔚蓝天空的掩映下，风筝变成了一个小点。“姑姑，快看，它飞得多高啊！力气大得像一队马匹，我都快拽不住了。真希望我的线能有一英里^①长，并且我敢肯定那么长我也能放完。”

小约翰玩赏得十分尽兴后，开始慢慢收线，当风筝落地，他欢快地拾起风筝说：“风筝一点儿也没损坏，飞得真好。姑姑，明天做完功课，我们还可以出来放风筝吗？”

“亲爱的，如果天气不错，我不反对。现在我们走路回家吧，你说说看，从今天

① 英美制长度单位，1英里合1.609 3千米。

上午放风筝这项活动中,你学到了什么呢?”“我学到了如何把风筝放起来。”露西接着说道:“哥哥,你应该感谢姑姑,如果不是姑姑一直劝你再坚持试一试,你早就放弃了。”

“是啊,亲爱的孩子们,我想让你们知道锲而不舍的可贵,即便是放风筝这样看似很小的事情,也需要坚持。所以,不管任何时候,不管你们尝试做任何事情,当失败时,你心中的格言都应该是‘再试试’。”

◎ 思考题 EXERCISES

What is the subject of this lesson?

Why was John discouraged in his attempts to fly his kite?

What did his aunt say to him?

What may we learn from this?

What should be our motto if we expect to be successful?

☞ 译文 TRANSLATION

这篇文章的主题是什么?

为什么约翰放风筝时失望极了?

他的姑姑对他说了什么?

我们可以从中学到什么?

如果我们期望成功,我们的人生格言应该是什么?

Lesson 2

再试试

TRY, TRY AGAIN

It is a lesson you should heed,
 Try, try again;
 If at first you don't succeed,
 Try, try again;
 Then your courage^① should appear,
 For, if you persevere,
 You will conquer^②, never fear;
 Try, try again.

Once or twice though you should fail,
 Try, try again;
 If you at last prevail^③,
 Try, try again;
 If we strive, it is no disgrace^④
 Though we do not win^⑤ the race;
 What should you do in the case?
 Try, try again.

If you find your task is hard,
 Try, try again;
 Time will bring you your reward^⑥,
 Try, try again.
 All that other folks can do,
 Why, with patience^⑦, should not you?

① Courage 勇气

② Conquer 征服, 获胜

③ Prevail 战胜

④ Disgrace 屈辱, 耻辱, 丢脸

⑤ Win 获胜, 成功

⑥ Reward 报酬, 报答, 酬谢

⑦ Patience 耐心, 耐性

Only keep this rule in view:

Try, try again.

译文 TRANSLATION

这个课程我们要学习，

试试，再试试；

如果开始你没成功，

那就试试，再试试；

然后你的勇气会出现，

因为你若坚持，

你会获胜，不再胆怯；

试试，再试试。

尽管一次、两次都失败了，

试试，再试试；

如果想最终获胜，

要试试，再试试；

只要我们努力了，

尽管没有在比赛中取胜，

也不会丢脸；

在这种情况下，我们应该做什么？

那就是试试，再试试。

如果你发现任务很艰巨，

试试，再试试；

时间会带来回报，

试试，再试试；

其他人都能做到，

为什么你没有耐心？

一定要时刻记住；

试试，再试试。

◎ 思考题 EXERCISES

What point is used after the word "case" in the second stanza?

Why?