

英 语

第 六 册

(第二版修订本)

俞 大 纲 主 编

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本书供高等学校英国语言专业三年级下学期使用。参加本册编写工作的，除主编北京大学西方语言文学系俞大綱外，还有吴柱存、张祥保、林筠因、周珊凤、孙亦丽等。赵诏熊、张恩裕、温德等也参加了部分编写工作。本册定稿过程中，曾由北京外国语学院王佐良、北京大学李赋宁和外交学院吴景荣审阅过。

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俞大綱主编

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LESSON I

SPRING FLOOD

An Extract from *Daughter of Earth*

by Agnes Smedley

The springtime came, first to the plains and foothills and then up to the mountain snows. In Trinidad the cottonwood trees put on a fuzzy greenness and the Purgatory River rose higher and higher, swelled by the melting snows. Each day we stood on its banks and watched it eat nearer to the row of little houses in front of our tent. It rushed against the iron and cement piling of the railroad bridge and people fearfully recalled the time ten years before when spring floods had torn out the great steel structure and cut a new riverbed through the town. Each night we went to bed with the roar of the rushing water in our ears and at intervals throughout the night men arose to listen; they wandered restlessly to and fro near the river bank, talking in low tones. 5 10

It was in the gray of an early morning that my mother's terrified voice awoke us. My father insisted that there was time to dress, but when he looked out once more his voice was filled with fear. 15

"Grab yer things an' come," he commanded. Trembling with the cold, we followed him out of the tent and along a ridge between two ditches leading toward the railway tracks. The river had broken its banks and was filling ditches and all low places, rushing through weeds and willows with a sound of danger. It was a terrible 20

25 sound...mad waters rushing and rising...elemental forces
speaking in a voice of finality.

Through the semi-darkness we heard the screaming
and shouting of men and women escaping from the little
houses. We reached a ditch between us and the railway
30 tracks. It was already filled with water...we were
hemmed in!

"It's not deep, Elly," I heard my father say, "don't
git scared."

He reached down, picked up George and Dan, one
35 under each arm, and waded into the flood. I cried out...
how could he take George and leave me here...George
could not be alone over there! We saw his dim figure
struggling to reach the other bank, then scrambling up
the slag embankment. He was back again and carried
40 Annie across; once more he returned and each time the
water crept nearer his hips. I felt him feel with his feet
and fight the pushing waters with his legs as he carried
me and Beatrice. I ran to George and his little hands
clung to mine.

45 Voices came from across the ditch.

"You go first, Helen," my mother was saying, and
Helen was replying:

"No, Elly, you go and leave me; I'd jist as leave
stay! .." Just as if it were a Sunday afternoon walk she
50 was talking about! And not a rising flood that might
wash her away any minute.

My father's voice boomed. "Don't argy!"

He lifted my mother in his arms and stumbled with
her across the flood. Helen was now a dark, slender out-
55 line on a little piece of dry land across the waters. Then
in a minute she also stood by us on the railroad track,
with my father soaked to the waist.

Down the tracks on higher land stood the big house of the section-master. There lights were burning; everybody was up; everybody was listening to the voice in the flood. We hurried toward the light. Yes, the section-master said, we could stay on the front porch. His wife came out; we need not be frightened, she assured us, for although the water was rising, yet the section-house was built on high ground and would not be swept away. Even if the water surrounded it, still it would stand. She was a pious Catholic and had been praying all night and she put her faith in God against the might of the flood. She smiled continually, as one sometimes whistles when walking up a dark canyon at night. We ought to pray also, she suggested; at such a time as this one should not hesitate. My mother drew back; something in her was hostile to Catholics, as to foreigners. My father did not reply; he would have prayed, still unbelieving, for the picturesque effect of it...a warm room, burning candles, a lighted shrine, perhaps incense, the sound of sweeping waters carrying danger on their bosom. Only something hard and cold in my mother's manner prevented him from taking advantage of such a dramatic situation.

The pious woman smiled and when she walked it was softly and languidly, like an animal that has eaten until sated. Occasionally she would come out to say a few words to us, then retire to her bedroom to pray. Her whole manner showed that although God had permitted the river to surround all the other houses on this side of the tracks, He was protecting the section-house.

My mother and Helen resented the woman's manner; the night air was cold on the veranda, my father was wet to the waist, and we were all but half dressed. Yet

90 the woman did not ask us into the warm house. She asked us to pray — but my mother was not a person to pray under compulsion; she was too honest for that.

The water continued to rise with the growing dawn and from the end of the veranda my mother and Helen
95 watched the now dim outline of our tent. It was half covered with water.

“The machine is ruined, an’ the featherbeds!” they told each other in voices burdened with despair.

“John, John! It’s goin’! It’s goin’!”

100 We all ran to the edge of the veranda. Across the seething, rolling waters was the dim outline of the tent, swaying from side to side, turning half round and slowly sailing away. The wooden poles and the board floor to which it was nailed kept it upright. It caught on the
105 willow trees and hung for a moment, sailed further, caught again, careened around and then sailed out of sight. My mother watched it, with a face of desperation, until the corner of the section-house hid it from view.

“Everything we’ve got in the world is gone... my
110 featherbeds, th’ machine, th’ clock, Helen’s clothes...we’ve got nothin’ but th’ clothes on our backs!”

My father put his arm around her shoulder. “Don’t take on like that, Elly! It’ll catch in th’ willows an’ we’ll find it in th’ mornin’.” But his voice was also
115 heavy with dull hopelessness. She leaned limply against him. No tears came, for she had long since lost the ability to weep.

The morning came. Then the pious woman came from the house and smiled reassuringly at us shivering on the
120 veranda. The flood was rapidly receding, she announced. The mercy of God and the power of prayer were proved — God had saved the section-house.

NOTES AND COMMENTARY

1. *The author* — Agnes Smedley (1894—1950) was a progressive American journalist and writer. She was born on a farm in northern Missouri [mi`zuəri] of a working-class family. She first came to China as a journalist in 1928 and spent the greater part of the thirteen following years in this country, visiting Yen-an and various war fronts during the War of Resistance Against Japan. Owing to illness, she returned to the United States, but persistent persecution from the reactionary government compelled her to leave her own country for England, where she died. Her works on China include *The Red Army Marches On* (1934), *The Battle Hymn of China* (1943), *The Great Road* (1956), etc.
2. *Daughter of Earth* (1939) — This is the title of Agnes Smedley's first novel. It is an autobiographical account of her life up to the First World War.
3. **Trinidad** [ˈtrɪnɪdæd] (l. 2) — a city in southern Colorado [ˈkɒləˈrɑːdoʊ], on the Purgatory River
4. **cottonwood** (l. 3) — 一种白楊
5. **the Purgatory River** (ll. 3, 4) — a river in south and southeast Colorado
6. **piling** (l. 7) — pointed posts driven into the riverbed as a foundation to support a bridge
7. **yer** (l. 19) — (*vulgar*) your
8. **elemental forces** (l. 25) — the forces of nature. In old times earth, water, air and fire were considered to be the four elements of nature.
9. **Elly** (l. 32) — shortened form of Ellen [ˈelɪn]; mother of the narrator of the story
10. **git** (l. 33) — (*vulgar*) get
11. **George and Dan** (l. 34) — the narrator's brothers. Dan is the shortened form of Daniel [ˈdænjəl].
12. **Annie** (l. 40) — the narrator's sister. It is the diminutive of Ann.
13. **Beatrice** [ˈbiətrɪs] (l. 43) — the narrator's sister

14. **Helen** [ˈhelɪn] (l. 46) — the narrator's mother's sister, who was staying with the family
15. **I'd jist as leave stay!** (ll. 48, 49) — I would rather stay. *jist* (*vulgar*) — just; *as leave* — solecism for 'as lief'
16. **argy** (l. 52) — (*vulgar*) argue
17. **section** (l. 61) — a portion of the railroad under the care of a particular group of people; section-master 管理一段鉄路的段长
18. **their bosom** (l. 77) — the bosom of the waters
19. **Only something hard and cold in my mother's manner prevented him from taking advantage of such a dramatic situation.** (ll. 77—79) — It was only because a certain hardness and coldness in my mother's manner prevented my father from making use of the dramatic situation to pray just for the picturesque effect of praying.
20. **He** (l. 86) — The personal pronoun for God is usually written with *h* capitalized.
21. **but** (l. 89) — only
22. **machine** (l. 97) — sewing machine
23. **featherbed** (l. 97) — mattress (垫, 褥) filled with feathers
24. **to careen** (l. 106) — to lean over on one side
25. **to take on** (l. 113) — (colloquial) to grieve, to become distressed
26. **she had...lost the ability to weep** (ll. 116, 117) — she had suffered and wept so much in the past that she seemed to have used up all her tears

LEXICAL AND GRAMMAR NOTES

1. In the English language there are many pairs or groups of words which, though entirely different in origin and meaning, are pronounced alike, or spelt alike, or both. Such words are called *homonyms*. Homonyms may be classified as follows:
 - 1) Perfect Homonyms — words identical in sound and spelling but different in meaning:
arms (l. 53) 臂 *arms* 武器
 - 2) Homophones — words identical in sound but different in spelling and meaning:

piece (l. 55) 一块 *peace* 和平

3) Homographs — words identical in spelling but different in sound and meaning:

tear [tiə] (l. 116) 泪 *tear* [tsə] 撕

2. **when she walked it was softly and languidly, like an animal that has eaten until sated** (ll. 80—82)

The indefinite article is usually used with countable nouns to mean 'one'. It is sometimes used with a noun in the singular with a classifying effect, indicating that the object denoted by the noun is one of a class. If there is a descriptive attribute attached to the noun, it narrows the class to which the object belongs, e.g.

Then in *a* minute she also stood by us on the railroad track. (ll. 55, 56)

but my mother was not *a* person to pray under compulsion (ll. 91, 92)

3. **In Trinidad the cottonwood trees put on a fuzzy greenness** (ll. 2, 3)

Each day we stood on its banks (l. 5)

Many adverbs and prepositions are spelled and pronounced in the same way. An adverb is more attached to the verb before it, whereas a preposition is more attached to the noun after it.

1) The springtime *came...up* to the mountain snows. (ll. 1, 2)

We saw his dim figure...*scrambling up the slag embankment*. (ll. 37—39)

2) we were *hemmed in* (ll. 30, 31)

It'll catch *in th' willows* an' we'll find it *in th' mornin'*. (ll. 113, 114)

If there is an object to the verb and it is a noun, it can either be placed (1) between the verb and its modifier or (2) after the adverb, e.g.

1) He reached down, *picked* George and Dan *up*.

2) He reached down, *picked up* George and Dan... (l. 34)

If the object of the verb is a pronoun, this object can only be placed between the verb and its adverb modifier, e.g.

He reached down, *picked* them *up*.

EXERCISES

1. *Answer the following questions:*

- 1) Describe the thoughts and feelings of the people who lived in the tents on the banks of the Purgatory River when springtime came.
- 2) What did the wife of the section-master say to the family of refugees?
- 3) How did the parents of the writer react to the suggestion of the wife of the section-master that they should pray?
- 4) What happened to their possessions?
- 5) Comment on the piety of the wife of the section-master.

2. *In the following pairs of sentences, find homonyms, transcribe them and point out the differences in meaning:*

- 1) (1) The springtime came, first to the plains and foothills...
(l. 1)

(2) The soldiers listened to the droning of the enemy planes.

- 2) (1) Each day we stood on its banks and watched it eat nearer to the row of little houses in front of our tent.
(ll. 5—7)

(2) The children had a row over the bicycle.

- 3) (1) It was a terrible sound...mad waters rushing and rising.
(ll. 24, 25)

(2) A youth of New China ought to have a sound body and a sound mind.

- 4) (1) Then in a minute she also stood by us on the railroad track, with my father soaked to the waist. (ll. 55—57)

(2) It is a waste of time to wait for him any longer.

- 5) (1) The Purgatory River overflowed its banks.

(2) Chinese peasants are in the habit of keeping their savings in banks.

3. *Write sentences according to the following patterns:*

- 1) *Even if* the water surrounded it, *still* it would stand. (ll. 65, 66)

2) She *had long since* lost the ability to weep. (ll. 116, 117)

4. *State the meaning and function of 'with' in the following collocations:*

- 1) We went to bed *with the roar of the rushing water in our ears.* (ll. 11, 12)
- 2) His voice was *filled with fear.* (l. 18)
- 3) *Trembling with the cold,* we followed him out of the tent. (ll. 19, 20)
- 4) ... rushing through weeds and willows *with a sound of danger.* (ll. 23, 24)
- 5) It was already *filled with water* ... (l. 30)
- 6) I felt him feel *with his feet* and fight the pushing waters *with his legs.* (ll. 41, 42)
- 7) He...stumbled *with her* across the flood. (ll. 53, 54)
- 8) ...she also stood by us on the railroad track, *with my father soaked to the waist.* (ll. 56, 57)
- 9) The water continued to rise *with the growing dawn*... (l. 93)
- 10) It was half *covered with water.* (ll. 95, 96)
- 11) ...they told each other in voices *burdened with despair.* (ll. 97, 98)
- 12) My mother watched it, *with a face of desperation.* (l. 107)
- 13) But his voice was also *heavy with dull hopelessness.* (ll. 114, 115)

5. *Translate the following sentences into English, using the words and expressions given below:*

at intervals; to cling to; to assure; out of sight; under compulsion; to be burdened with; any minute

- 1) 他已經七十岁了，还保持每天早晨作体操的习惯。
- 2) 王大孀虽然家务繁重，却匀出时间来上夜校。
- 3) 他向我們保證一定按时完成工作。
- 4) 白求恩連續工作四十小时，强迫他，他也不肯休息。
- 5) 这位工人时时检查这部新机器，看它是否运转自如。
- 6) 我们应当非常警惕，因为我們知道敌人随时都会再来侵略我們的国家。
- 7) 我向我的农民朋友們揮手，直到看不見他們才停下来。
- 8) 帝国主义者仍然死抱着阻挠世界各地民族民主运动的希望。

- 9) 每隔一些时候我就写信給以前的老师，告訴他我在大学里所取得的进步。
 - 10) 即使在国民党特务威胁下，这位地下革命者仍然拒絕說出他的同志們的姓名。
 - 11) 在民主改革以前，西藏人民肩負着沉重的捐稅和債務。
 - 12) 医生囑咐病人的妻子做好准备，因为病人随时都可能死去。
 - 13) 外科医生向他担保这项手术沒有危险，不会发生什么事。
 - 14) 店員拿着一位女顧客遺失的錢袋奔到門口，可是她已經不知去向了。
6. 1) *Translate the following into Chinese:*
- (1) the melting snows (ll. 4,5)
 - (2) the rushing water (ll. 11,12) (cf. waters rushing, l. 25)
 - (3) the pushing waters (l. 42)
 - (4) a rising flood (l. 50) (cf. waters rushing and rising, l. 25)
 - (5) burning candles (. 75)
 - (6) sweeping waters (l. 76)
 - (7) the growing dawn (l. 93)
 - (8) the seething, rolling waters (ll. 100,101)
- 2) *Replace with attributive clauses the participial phrases in the lines listed below:*
- (1) ditches leading toward the railway tracks (ll. 21, 22)
 - (2) waters rushing and rising (l. 25)
 - (3) forces speaking in a voice of finality (ll. 25, 26)
 - (4) men and women escaping from the little houses (ll. 28, 29)
 - (5) waters carrying danger on their bosom (ll. 76,77)
 - (6) the tent, swaying from side to side, turning half round and slowly sailing away (ll. 101—103)
 - (7) us shivering on the veranda (ll. 119, 120)
- 3) *Replace with participial phrases the attributive clauses in the sentences given below:*
- (1) Do you know the man who sat next to Comrade Li at the meeting last night?
 - (2) We used to live in a house not far from the factory which is now being built in our village.

- (3) I shall soon write him a letter which will tell him about our plan for the next five years.
- (4) Please take the food to the comrades who are working in the fields.
- (5) Will the comrades who live in this house have to move too?
- (6) He will come to speak on the question which is now being discussed among the students.
- (7) The road which leads to the railway station was built last winter.

7. Write sentences after the models with the words given below (1) as predicate and (2) as predicative:

- 1) (1) The river...*was filling* ditches. (ll. 22, 23)
- (2) The ditch *was already filled* with water. (l. 30)
- to cover; to tear; to break; to wash; to burn; to build;
- to surround; to assure; to light; to dress
- 2) (1) It's *going*! (l. 99)
- (2) Everything we've got in the world *is gone*. (l. 109)
- to fade; to wither; to set; to grow

8. Make sentences after the models, using the conjunctions given below:

- 1) one sometimes whistles *when* (one is) *walking up* a dark canyon at night. (ll. 69, 70)
- 2) It has eaten *until* (it is) *sated*. (ll. 81, 82)
- when; while; until; if; unless; though; however; as if; whether...or...

9. Make sentences with the preposition 'at' after the following words:

- 1) verbs: aim, point, snatch, strike, glance, wonder, work, etc.
- 2) adjectives and participles: amused, delighted, surprised, angry, frightened, terrified, etc.
- 3) nouns: smile, game, astonishment, surprise, alarm, etc.

10. Translate the following passage into Chinese:

There were days when my mother did washing at home. She started with the dawn and the kitchen was filled with steam and soapsuds. In the afternoon her face was thin and drawn and she complained of pains in her back. I wrung and hung out clothes or carried water from the hydrant outside.

She and I were now friends and comrades, planning to buy a washing machine as we worked. We charged thirty cents a dozen pieces for washing and ironing, but the women always gave us their biggest pieces — sheets, tablecloths, overalls, shirts, and generally they threw in the thirteenth piece just for good measure. Thirteen is unlucky, but for washerwomen it is supposed to be lucky — at least they thought so.

Our house was one mass of steaming sheets, underwear and shirts, and to get from one room to the other we had to crawl on the floor. We stretched lines in all but one sleeping room and we could afford a fire only in the kitchen stove. Each day Beatrice and I, beating our hands to keep them warm, ran along the railway track picking up coal that had fallen from the passing engines, and after it was dark we “snitched” as much wood as we could carry from a near-by lumber yard.

We never ceased dreaming of a washing machine to save my mother’s back from so much pain. But there were always shoes to buy, and there were school books. Unable to make any headway we decided that I must also get work and she must wash alone.

I found work in a small cigar shop, owned by a short, dark-faced Jew. From school I went directly there and worked until eight in the evening. With three or four other girls, I sat in a dark backroom and carefully stripped the central vein out of big, soft, brown tobacco leaves. These leaves we piled beside us to be taken to the adjoining room where men sat in a row before a long table rolling cigars. Their room was light and clean; ours was filled with tobacco dust. The men could laugh and talk; we could not. At five o’clock a bell rang and they arose, whipped off their aprons, and left. On Saturdays they left at one. I learned they were union men and they dared do this. Our employer respected them, but not us in the backroom. Strange, I thought, those who are strong and do not need it are respected; those who need it do not get it. Christianity is like that, also; to him that hath

shall be given and from him that hath not shall be taken away. Strange it is, this religion and this society of revenge!

(from Agnes Smedley's *Daughter of Earth*)

11. *Topics for composition:*

- 1) A Spring Shower
- 2) A Flood

12. *Phonetic exercises:*

1) *Read the following, paying attention to the rhythm:*

(1) was filled with fear, had broken its banks, through woods and willows, rushing and rising, the screaming and shouting, wet to the waist, careened around, was rapidly receding, the power of prayer

(2) swelled by the melting snows, the great steel structure, the roar of the rushing water, I felt him feel with his feet, the sound of sweeping waters, swaying from side to side, slowly sailing away, heavy with dull hopelessness

2) *Analyze the stress and intonation of ll. 80—92 and read them aloud.*