

# 跨学科分级阅读

Reading Explorations

(美) Joanne Suter 著  
Sandra Widener

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机械工业出版社  
China Machine Press

Level B

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江苏工业学院图书馆  
藏书章



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Joanne Suter, Sandra Widener: Reading Explorations

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# 出版说明

长久以来，英语学习者都有一个误区：学习者有意或无意地陷入无穷的题型和枯燥的单词记忆中，疲惫而低效。即使单词记住了，各种题会做了，英语水平仍未提高，仍然是不会说，不会写，更谈不上用英语思维。英语语言作为一种工具，没有附着在一定的内容上，没有同掌握知识和汲取信息结合起来。学校的学生更是如此。英语作为基础技能性的课程，课本中的内容有的明显滞后于学生思维的发展，涉及的知识面较窄，教学中机械式的识记活动较多，加之大量的应试练习，使学生在英语学习中缺乏信心和兴趣。随着学生年龄的增长和知识的丰富，他们渴望获得更多的信息，满足其求知欲，获得精神上的满足。鉴此，北京华章图文信息有限公司引进并出版了《跨学科分级阅读》(Reading Explorations)。

在众多的英语阅读教材中，《跨学科分级阅读》有其显著的特点。原版引进，学生能在纯正的英语环境中增长知识，提高英语水平。本书涉猎了人文、自然、社会、数学以及与生活相关的各种技能知识。内容丰富、有趣，由浅入深，循序渐进，符合初、中级英语

学习者的知识水平、认识水平和心理发展水平。在极大地丰富学生知识的同时，深化了学生的思想观念、文化观和价值观，使学生在思想上更深地理解人与人、人与社会、人与自然之间的关系，从而认识到三者之间应亲切、和谐地生存和发展。

全书分为六册，每册有四个独立的章节：

社会知识（Social Studies）——涵盖了世界历史、文化、经济、政治、重大事件以及重要人物等各方面的知识。

科学（Science）——包括物质科学、地球科学、生命科学等领域，简明易懂，突出专业知识的通俗性、实用性。

数学（Math）——涉及到一般的数学计算、计量、数据的核算等，题材均来源于生活，没有纯数学的枯燥，使学生能轻松地掌握一般的数学技能。

生活技巧（Life Skills）——包括健康问题、休闲旅游、消费指南等一系列与生活息息相关的常识，在学习外语的同时，可获取一些实用的生活技能。

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外语编辑部

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# Social Studies

**In these readings, you will thrill to the courage of two great boxers. You will cheer for young people in China. You will learn about a great ship's sinking and the world's biggest wall.**

# **The Lusitania**

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## **WORDS TO KNOW**

**Germans** / 'dʒə:mənz/ people from Germany

**Lusitania** / ,lu:si'teinjə/ a large ship that carried many people across the ocean

**England** / 'ɪŋɡlənd/ a country in Europe

**Germany** / 'dʒə:məni/ a country in Europe

**lifeboats** / 'laɪfbəʊts/ small boats carried by large ships. People use them to get off a large ship that is sinking.

In World War I, the **Germans** had new boats. These boats went under water. They sank war ships. They also sank trade ships and cruise ships. One of the cruise ships was called the **Lusitania**.



**The *Lusitania*** puffed steam into the sky. The flag of **England** flew on the ship's decks. A band played. Crowds lined the dock. They waved to friends. It was May 1, 1915. The big ship left New York.

There were 1,924 people on board. Most were happy. They were off to England. They were on a fine ship. Few knew they were in danger.

In 1915 much of the world was at war. **Germany** was on one side. England was on the other. The United States was not yet part of World War I.

England needed food and guns. The Germans shot at ships that carried those goods. They wanted to stop the trade ships.

The Germans had something new. They had ships that went under water. They called them U-boats. U-boats could sneak up on other ships. They could fire. No one would see them.

1. Who was at war in 1915?
2. What could U-boats do?

The U-boats had to follow the laws of the sea. U-boats had to warn trade ships before firing. They had to warn travel ships. But U-boat captains did not follow the law. They fired with no warning.

The captain of the *Lusitania* knew about the U-boats. He watched for them. He knew his ship might be hit. It might sink. The **lifeboats** were ready. People would be saved.

On May 7, the *Lusitania* sailed through the fog. By noon, the sun came out. People were happy. At 2:15, things changed.

"Look out!" a man cried.

People ran to the rail. They saw two white trails in the water. Two bombs were coming their way!

The bombs hit the ship. Boom! The ship shook. It rolled from side to side.

Everyone felt the hit. They heard the bells. They heard the orders to leave the ship.

Some screamed. Some ran. Mothers called for their children.

Water flooded the ship. It was going down

fast into the sea.

It tipped. Its nose went deep into the sea. Its back end stuck up in the air. The crew sent off lifeboats. There were too few!

Some people jumped. Some hung onto the ship. They cried. They prayed.

Eighteen minutes passed after the bombs hit. Then there was a sucking sound. The big ship slid under the sea.

The captain went down with his ship. He swam in the cold sea. All around him were bodies.

Small fishing boats were the first to help. They pulled people from the water. Only 726 could be saved. 1,198 died in the sea.

Word of the sinking spread. The news made people mad. The *Lusitania* was not a warship. Those on board were not soldiers. The U-boat should not have fired.

Of the dead, 114 were Americans. People in England made much of this. They hoped the United States would join the war.

But the United States did not go to war. The President did warn Germany. He said they

must stop firing on our ships. For a time, they stopped. United States' ships seemed to be safe.

In February 1917, the U-boats struck again. They sank more ships. They killed more Americans.

People remembered the *Lusitania*. They did not feel safe. On April 6, 1917, the United States went to war.

3. What happened to the *Lusitania*?
4. How many people died?
5. Why do you think people were upset when the ship sank?
6. Why did the United States finally decide to go to war?

# Two Boxing Champs

## **WORDS TO KNOW**

**century** /'sentʃuri/ 100 years. From 1901 to 2000 is a century.

**heavyweight champ** /'heviweit tʃæmp/ the best boxer who weighs more than 175 pounds. *Champ* is short for *champion*.

**Canada** /'kænədə/ the country north of the United States

**record** /'rekɔ:d/ a list that keeps track of something. A sports record keeps track of wins and losses.

These stories come from the boxing ring.  
Two great African American fighters made  
Americans proud.

**B**oxing matches can shake up the world.

One such fight came early in the **century**. It was December 26, 1908. Jack Johnson became the first African American **heavyweight champ**. He was the best boxer. He beat Tommy Burns of **Canada**.

Some white people were mad. They didn't want a black champ. They looked for a white man to win back the boxing title.

They found Jim Jeffries. He had once been champ. He had quit boxing. Now he would fight again. He'd win "for the white race." Some people made this a battle of races.

Johnson and Jeffries met in 1910. Jeffries was the "Great White Hope." But Jeffries hadn't fought in six years. He was out of shape.

It was round 15. Johnson hit Jeffries. Jeffries fell. Johnson kept his title. He beat the "Great White Hope."

1. Which fighter did Jack Johnson beat in 1908?
2. How did Johnson keep his title in 1910?

Later came the second African American champ. He was Joe Louis. People called him the "Brown Bomber." They loved him. "He's a good sport," they said.

In 1936, Joe Louis had all wins. Not one loss hurt his **record**. Then came Max Schmeling.

Schmeling was a tall, strong German. He once held the world title. He would fight Joe Louis.

Again, the words "white hope" filled the newspapers. Hitler ruled Germany. He said that white Germans were best.

Louis planned a quick win. He took round 1. "Yes," he thought. "Max will be easy."

"You're too sure of yourself," Louis's coach told him. "Watch out."

He was right. It was round 12. Schmeling knocked Louis out.

Schmeling was proud. "I knew a white man could beat a black man," he said.

It was 1938. Louis and Schmeling would fight again. Hitler yelled about a "pure white" race. Schmeling felt he had to beat Louis.

About 70,000 fans came. "Don't forget, Joe.

Hitler sent Schmeling," one cried.

Louis was ready. He had learned. He would not be too sure.

The fight took 2 minutes and 4 seconds. It was over. Joe Louis won.

Schmeling went home. Hitler stopped all films of the fight. His people would not see an African American beat a white German.

3. Why were some people upset when Johnson became heavyweight champ in 1908?
4. Why did people love Joe Louis?
5. Why did Louis lose the first fight with Schmeling?
6. Why was the 1938 fight important to Hitler?
7. Why wasn't the 1938 fight seen in Germany?



# The Berlin Wall

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## **WORDS TO KNOW**

**Berlin** /bə:'lin/ capital of Germany

**East Berlin** /i:st bə:'lin/ the part of Berlin east of the wall

**West Berlin** /west bə:'lin/ the part of Berlin west of the wall

**Communists** /'kɒmjunists/ those who believe the government should own all things and run all things

People were not free to cross town. They could not go see their friends. For 30 years, life was like that in **Berlin**, Germany. A big wall split the city in two.