

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
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Joanna Sutcliffe

(英) Sandra Widenner 著

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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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Social Studies

History shows how the past is important. In this section, you'll read about interesting people and ideas that haven't been forgotten.

Early Olympic Games

WORDS TO KNOW

chariot race /'tʃæriət reis/ a race of carts with two wheels pulled by horses

pentathlon /pen'tæθlən/ a sports contest that tests skills in five events

discus /'diskəz/ a heavy plate of metal or wood. Throwing it is a test of strength.

javelin /'dʒævəlɪn/ a light spear

armor /'a:mə/ a suit of metal worn to protect the body against weapons

Long ago, the people of Greece held contests to honor a god. They tested skills in sports. Athletes were proud to be examples from their cities. They were happy to show their abilities in the first Olympic Games.

Every four years, athletes from around the world meet. They try to show they are best in their sport. Crowds cheer in the stands. All over the world, people watch on TV. The spirit of the Olympics excites us all.

That spirit began almost 3,000 years ago. Let's go back in time to when the Olympics began.

It was late summer in Greece, a small country in Europe. The sun was hot. Fields were ripe with grapes and olives. A parade marched down the dusty roads. The five days of the Olympic Games were about to begin.

- 1. How long ago were the first Olympic Games?**
- 2. Where did the Olympics begin?**

Men in purple robes led the parade. They were the judges. The athletes followed. They came from all the lands nearby.

There were no games on the first day of the Olympics. The athletes stood before a statue of

their most important god. They raised their hands. They swore to follow all the rules of the games. The judges, too, raised their hands. They swore they would be fair.

There was peace that day in the country. The cities of Greece had been at war. But all battles stopped during the games. The athletes were as proud of winning contests as they were of winning battles.

The second day of the Olympics started with the sound of horns. The **chariot race** was first. Drivers shouted to their horses. Bright carts bounced around the track. Some tipped over.

A red chariot won the race! The owner stepped up. He heard his name, the name of his father, and the name of his city. He got a crown of olive leaves. The driver got a band of wool.

The best part of the third day was the **pentathlon**. It had five parts. The athletes threw a **discus** and a **javelin**. They did a long jump. They ran a foot race. They wrestled.

The athlete that won the most contests was the winner of the pentathlon.

On the fourth day there were three contests. There was a foot race. This was a short run of 600 feet. A win in this race was the highest honor in the games.

Boxing was next. These violent matches had no rest times. There were no rules against hitting a man when he was down. The boxers fought until one was knocked out.

Last was a very hard race. The runners were soldiers. They wore **armor** to protect them in wars. In the early Olympics, these soldiers ran 1,200 feet dressed in their heavy metal suits.

There were no games on the fifth day. The winners stood before the statue of their god. They wore crowns of olive leaves. They believed that the circle of leaves linked them to the gods.

The athletes enjoyed a feast. The Olympic Games came to a close. The crowds started their long trip home. The Olympic peace soon ended. The cities of Greece went back to war.

The Greeks held Olympic Games for 1,200 years. Then the games ended.

Many years passed. In 1896, the first modern Olympics were held. Today, the olive crowns are gone. Athletes get medals instead. Many of the games are new. But the Olympic spirit is the same. Athletes still come together in peace. They meet for the world's greatest tests of skill.

3. Why did battles stop during the early Olympics?
4. What do you think made the pentathlon a hard event?
5. How were winning athletes honored?
6. What is the same about the early Olympics and today's Olympics? What is different?
7. In what way do you think the Olympic Games are important to our world?

Salem Witch Hunts

WORDS TO KNOW

witches /witʃiz/ people believed to have magical powers to hurt others

preacher /'pri:tʃə/ a person who gives talks about 'God, usually at a church

Tituba /'titu:ba:/ an African American woman in the story

bewitched /bi'twitʃit/ to be under a witch's power

trial /'traɪəl/ a place where a person's guilt or innocence is decided

Long ago, people asked, "Why do bad things happen?" Some blamed gods or bad spirits. In 1692, some people blamed **witches**.

In 1692, a lot of people believed in witches. They thought some people had special power to hurt others. Today, that is hard to understand. However, at that time, people were afraid.

Salem was a very small town in Massachusetts. The whole village was just some farms, a meeting house, and a tavern.

In 1692, Salem got a new **preacher** for its church. Samuel Parris came to the village. He was not happy. He wanted to lead a church in a large town. Instead, he got Salem. Salem was too small for him.

Parris came with his wife. They brought their two daughters. They also brought two African Americans, **Tituba** and John.

Parris was a hard man. In church, he put fear into people. He raised his arms and roared. He wanted people to be good. They saw the preacher's angry eyes. They were afraid to be bad.

Tituba came from the South. Her home was an island. It was a land of sun and songs. Winter in Salem was cold and dull for her.

Tituba worked in the kitchen, close to the fire. The two Parris daughters, Abigail and Betsey, spent their days with her.

To pass the time, Tituba told the girls stories. They were the tales she had learned as a child. She spoke of "Duppy," a man who could talk to the dead. She spoke about magic. Some of her stories were scary.

Soon, the kitchen was full of young women. The tales scared them. But they always came back for more.

1. What was Parris's job?
2. Why did Parris dislike Salem?
3. Where was Tituba from?

The kitchen meetings went on all winter. Then one cold night a young woman in Salem woke up with a scream. She sat up in her bed. She yelled. Her eyes rolled back in her head. She was having a fit. "A witch is after me!" she cried. It seemed that Anne Putnam had heard too many scary tales.

The doctor came. He looked at Anne. "The girl is **bewitched**. She must be under the magical power of a witch," he said.

Soon Anne was the talk of the village. Then, young Mercy Lewis had a fit, too. Not long after that, Abigail Parris screamed in the night.

"There must be a witch in Salem!" people said. "Name her," they told the young women. The witch hunt began.

They pointed to a ragged beggar. "Sarah Good is a witch!" they said. They named Sarah Osborne, too. She was a sick old woman whom few people liked. Then they named Tituba.

The young women found they had great power. They could name anyone they wanted. Those people would be put in jail.

All three women went to jail. Each had a **trial**. The judges of the court said they were witches. The women had to agree or they would die.

Sarah Good would not say she was a witch. She was hanged. Sarah Osborne died in jail. Tituba saw no choice. She said she was a witch. She was not killed.