

中学英语拾级读物

**GRADED  
ENGLISH  
READERS**

**第六级**

**Christmas Cherries**

**圣诞樱桃**

第 **2** 册

北京师范大学出版社

中学英语拾级读物  
第六级 第2册

# 圣 诞 樱 桃

何若琪 编注

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## 前 言

受国家教委中学司委托,由上海外国语学院、北京外国语学院、北京师范大学、华东师范大学所属的四家出版社编辑的《中学英语拾级读物》(简称《拾级读物》或《GE》)与读者见面了。这是中学英语教学的重要配套工程,旨在促进中学英语教学的改革。

取名《拾级读物》,不仅因为它有十个级别五十本书,而且还含“拾级而上”的寓意。中学生从初二开始阅读,一级一级地向上攀登,便可以达到甚至超过中学英语教学大纲关于阅读能力的规定——借助词典读懂浅近原著。

《拾级读物》的词汇量、每册字数及对应年级大致安排如下:

级别	词汇量	每册大约字数	对应年级
一	500—700	7 万	初二
二	600—900	7 万	初二、初三
三	800—1200	10 万	初三
四	1000—1500	10 万	初三
五	1400—1800	12 万	高一、高二
六	1700—2000	12 万	高二、高三
七	2000—2500	14 万	重点中学高三
八	2500—3000	16 万	外国语学校高三
九	3000—3500	18 万	高材生、中学教师
十	3000—3500	18 万	高材生、中学教师

阅读是学好任何语言的必由之路,也是获取信息的主要渠道。只做习题,不大量阅读是学不好英语的。近年来为了应付考试,复习题、模拟试题充斥市场,占去了师生大量宝贵的时间,而对他们外语能力的提高却收效甚微。这是外语教学中的一种偏向。《拾级读物》的出版正是为了扭转这种偏向。

《拾级读物》是学生自己阅读的书籍,但教师可帮助学生选择适合自己水平的书,也可进行适当的辅导或作阅读方法、速度的示范。阅读的目的是为了掌握信息。为提高效率,就要指导学生逐步摆脱语法和中文的束缚。第一抓文章大意和故事情节;第二注意学过语言现象的再现和在新环境下的发展。千万不要在新知识和难点上花过多精力。对于不理解的地方要教学生根据上下文去猜,猜不懂再查词典。在不影响理解全文的地方,要舍得放过难点。只有这样才能保持学生阅读的兴趣和速度,也只有这样才能培养阅读的好习惯。

《拾级读物》的级别,也是衡量学生阅读水平的客观尺度。为此,我们将出版一套相应的测试材料和教学参考书。

《拾级读物》是为中学生编的,因而也可以作为中学英语教师培训、进修的教材。教师先读了,辅导学生也就更方便了。

《圣诞樱桃》是第六级中的第2册,供高三年级使用,本书的特点详见下页的“编注说明”。

鉴于编者水平经验有限,在选材、注释等各方面肯定有不少缺点,请广大师生、各界读者随时指出,供再版时参考。

《中学英语拾级读物》编辑委员会

## 编 注 说 明

本书内容包括文学故事、寓言、名人轶事、历史故事、知识小品、趣味英语、生活风俗、科学知识及诗歌等，共 24 篇。文章都是选自美国中小学教科书，由著名作家编写。列选文章全系原文，文字优美，内容健康，难易适度。

为了适应中学生的阅读程度，在每篇文章后面均附有词汇表，并对有些难句作了中文翻译。

本书由北京师大附中何若琪选编注释，辜端英及人民大学教师王冈鸣校阅。

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## 1. The Lark and Her Young Ones

By Mary Louise Frienels

Joyfully, swiftly, the lark soared upward into the cloudless blue sky above the wheat field. The song which burst from her throat was as sweet as the morning air, and as fresh as the **ripening stalks** of wheat **beneath** her.<sup>1</sup>

The farmer stopped working in his fields below and lifted his head to listen. His wife came to the doorway and smiled to hear the song of the lark, which **rippled** and **swelled** with the joy of summertime.

The little larks were safe in their **nest**, hidden deep down in the wheat field.<sup>2</sup> During the day, the growing wheat **sheltered** them from the hungry eyes of the **hawk** above. And at night, the wandering evening **breeze rustled** a **lullaby** through the green stalks.<sup>3</sup> The lark could sing without a care—until the wheat was ripe.<sup>4</sup>

Summer day followed summer day. As she soared above the wheat field, the mother lark saw that the green of the wheat was starting to deepen into gold. When the grain was fully ripe for the harvest, she would move her young larks.

One morning as she sang, the lark saw that the field beneath her was as golden as the sun above. Soon the sharpened **sickles** would flash through the ripened wheat.<sup>5</sup>

**Swooping** down to her nest, the lark found that her ba-



bies were **twittering** and **fluttering** in great fright. That morning the farmer had come with his son to view the wheat.

"Our grain is ripe for the harvest," the farmer had told his son. "Make **haste** to tell all our good neighbors to come early on the morrow. We need their help to **reap** the wheat."

The mother lark calmed the twitterings and **chirpings** of her young ones. "Each summer day as I sang **aloft**," she said, "I have watched the wheat ripen. I have long known we must move before the time of reaping.

"But you may sleep without fear tonight in this nest. If the farmer waits for the help of his neighbors, the grain will be here still on the **morrow**."

The next day again **dawned** hot and bright, and the farmer came early to the field, looking for his neighbors. He called, but there was no answer, save the rustling of a sudden breeze through the grain.<sup>6</sup>

The farmer lifted the heavy head of a stalk of wheat in his hand. "See how it bursts with ripeness," he said to his son. "We must not lose another day. As long as we cannot depend on our neighbors to help us, we must call upon our **relatives**.

"Go quickly, my son! Call upon your **cousins** and uncles, every one, and **bid** them sharpen their sickles. For tomorrow, at the first light of dawn, they must meet here for the harvest."

The young larks were **frantic** with fear as they **awaited**

the return of their mother.

When, at last, she came gliding down from the sky, the young larks begged her to take them to a safer place at once.

The mother bird smoothed her feathers and **cocked** a wise eye at the young larks.

"Peace, my young ones," she chirped. "Calm your fears. You will find that the relatives prove no better help than the neighbors.<sup>7</sup> For the uncles and cousins will not sharpen their sickles to harvest the grain of the farmer. They have harvesting of their own to do.

"Come," she told them gently. "You may rest here safely. It is my promise that no harm shall **befall** you on the morrow.<sup>8</sup>"

When all the young larks were sheltered beneath her loving wings, she added seriously, "But tomorrow you must listen carefully to what the farmer says."

The next morning, while the lark was flying in search of food, the farmer came as before. He found the grain ready to fall from overripeness, but never a cousin or an uncle had appeared to help with the harvesting.

The farmer said to his son, "It is certain that we cannot depend on our neighbors or relatives to help us. Let us go at once and sharpen our own sickles. And at dawn tomorrow, we shall harvest our grain."

Later, the frightened young larks told their mother what they had heard.

“Then, indeed, it is time to be off!” she cried. “If the farmer has decided to do his work himself, the grain will be cut without further **delay**.”

So the mother lark moved her young ones out of the wheat field. And the next day, the farmer and his son harvested the wheat.

### New Words

joyfully[ˈdʒɔɪfʊli] *adv.* 快乐地;愉快地

swiftly[ˈswɪftli] *adv.* 迅速地;反应迅速地

lark[la:k] *n.* 百灵科鸣禽(如云雀)鸟

soar[sɔ:] *vi.* 高飞;翱翔

ripen[ˈraɪpən] *vt.* 使熟,使成熟

stalk[stɔ:k] *n.* (草本植物的)主茎

beneath[biˈni:θ] *prep.* 在……(正)下方;在……底下

ripple[ˈrɪpl] *vi.* 起细浪;起伏

swell[swel] *vi.* 壮大;增长,膨胀

nest[nest] *n.* 巢;窝;穴

shelter[ˈʃeltə] *n.* 隐蔽处;躲避处,掩蔽

hawk[hɔ:k] *n.* 鹰

breeze[bri:z] *n.* 微风

rustle[ˈrʌsl] *vt.* 沙沙作响

lullaby[ˈlʌləbaɪ] *n.* 轻柔的声音(如飒飒的风声、潺潺的流水声);  
催眠曲

sickle[ˈsɪkl] *n.* 镰刀

swoop[swu:p] *vi.* 飞扑; 猛扑(指鹰等)

twitter['twitə] *vi.* (鸟)吱吱地叫

flutter['flʌtə] *vi.* 振翼; 拍翅

haste[heist] *n.* 赶紧; 匆忙

make haste 赶忙

reap[ri:p] *vt.* 收割; 收获

chirp[tʃə:p] *vt.* (鸟等)吱吱地叫

aloft[ə'loft] *adv.* 高高地; 向上

tomorrow['mɒrəu] *n.* 次日; 翌日

dawn[dɔ:n] *vi.* 破晓

relative['relatɪv] *n.* 亲戚; 亲属

cousin['kʌzn] *n.* 堂(或表)兄弟; 堂(或表)姐妹

bid[bɪd] *vt.* 命令; 吩咐

frantic['fræntɪk] *a.* (因忿怒、痛苦、悲哀或快乐等)激动得发狂似的

await[ə'weɪt] *vt.* 等候; 期待

cock[kɒk] *vt.* (眼睛、帽边等的)翘起; 歪着

befall[bɪ'fɔ:l] *vt.* 临到……头上; 发生于

delay[di'lei] *n.* 耽搁; 延误; 推迟

## Language Points

1. The song which burst from her throat was as sweet as the morning air, and as fresh as the ripening stalks of wheat beneath her.

从她的喉咙里唱出来的歌声,就象早晨的空气一样的甜美,也象她下面的正在成熟的小麦杆一样鲜嫩。

2. The little larks were safe in their nest, hidden deep down in the wheat field.

小百灵鸟安全地呆在深藏在麦地里的巢中。

3. And at night, the wandering evening breeze rustled a lullaby through the green stalks.

夜晚,微风透过绿色的小麦秆,发出飒飒的声音。

4. The lark could sing without a care—until the wheat was ripe.

小麦成熟前,云雀可以无忧无虑地歌唱。

5. Soon the sharpened sickles would flash through the ripened wheat.

锋利的镰刀即将在成熟了的小麦地里闪闪发光。

6. He called, but there was no answer, save the rustling of a sudden breeze through the grain.

他喊着,但是除了偶然地一阵微风透过谷粒发出沙沙的声响外,并无回声。

7. Calm your fears. You will find that the relatives prove no better help than the neighbors.

镇静下来,不要慌张,你会发现亲戚不会比邻居更有帮助。

8. It is my promise that no harm shall befall you on the morrow.

我保证,明天不会有祸害降临到你们的头上。

## 2. Twelve Second of History

By Daisy M. Jones and J. Louis Cooper

Winter had come to North Carolina. Near the little town of Kitty Hawk, a cold wind blew from the ocean and across the **brush** and sand along the **shore**. The date was December 17, 1903.

At their **camp** a short **distance** from Kill Devil Hill, Wilbur and Orville Wright rose early. This was the day they had chosen to try out their flying machine and the **gasoline** engine and **propeller** they had built for it.<sup>1</sup> The wind was strong, and the weather was not good. However, before they returned home to Ohio, Wilbur and Orville Wright wanted to learn whether their machine would work. They wanted to know whether it would fly, whether it could be safely **controlled** in the air, and whether it was strong enough to stand the **shock of landing**.<sup>2</sup> *shock of landing*

The Wright brothers had spent many years preparing for this test. They had studied about air, and they had experimented with different kinds of **wings** for airplanes. They had built **gliders** and had made hundreds of flights in them. Each time, they had learned more about flying and about controlling a glider. But they had never flown an airplane **powered** by an **engine**.<sup>3</sup> No one had ever done that.

At about ten-thirty in the morning, everything was

ready. The airplane, its two thin wings **shaking** in the 25-mile-per-hour wind, was placed on a narrow **track** made of wood.<sup>4</sup> Orville, who was to make the first **flight**, lay across the lower wing, facing the front of the airplane.<sup>5</sup> His hands held **tight** to the controls. Wilbur held a thin wire that was to keep the airplane in place until the engine **raced** fast enough to carry the airplane along the wooden track.<sup>6</sup>

The engine was started. Wilbur held tight to the wire while he **steadied** the wing at the same time. Suddenly he let go the wire that held the airplane, and the airplane started along the track.

When the airplane had traveled about 40 feet, Orville moved the controls. Little by little, the airplane lifted into the air. It **skimmed** along about 10 feet above the ground as Orville struggled with the controls to keep the wings level. The airplane flew for 12 seconds and traveled 120 feet before it **settled** back to the earth.

Wilbur and Orville Wright were **overjoyed**. Their airplane actually had flown! The long years of hard work and study had brought success. The Wright brothers had become the first men to fly in an airplane powered by an engine.

Later that day Orville Wright made one more flight, and Wilbur made two flights. On the fourth flight the airplane stayed in the air for 59 seconds and covered 852 feet. After the final flight, Wilbur later wrote, "We at once

**packed** our goods and returned home, knowing that the age of the flying machine had come at last. ”

Today huge jet airplanes land and take off at **airports** all over the world. They **streak** across **continents** and oceans at speeds of over 600 miles per hour. They carry thousands of **passengers** for long and short distances every day.

**Jet** airplanes are much larger, more powerful, and safer than the little airplane the Wright brothers flew in 1903. But the same forces that **enabled** the Wright airplane to fly also keep jet planes in the air.<sup>7</sup> Some of these forces have to do with the air that is all around the earth.<sup>8</sup>

### New Words

second[ˈsekənd] *n.* 秒( $=\frac{1}{60}$ 分); 片刻; 瞬间

brush[bɾʌʃ] *n.* 灌丛; 灌丛地带

shore[ʃɔ:] *n.* 滨; 岸

camp[kæmp] *n.* 营地; 宿营地

distance[ˈdistəns] *n.* 距离; 远处; 远方

gasoline[ˈgæsəli:n] *n.* 汽油

propeller[prəˈpelə] *n.* (轮船、飞机上的)螺旋桨, 推进器

controll[kənˈtroul] *n.* 控制; 操纵器; *vt.* 控制; 支配

shock[ʃɔk] *n.* 冲击; 震动; 冲撞

landing[ˈlændɪŋ] *n.* 上岸; 登陆; 着陆; 降落

wing[wɪŋ] *n.* 翼; 飞机机翼



- glider['glaidə] *n.* 滑翔机; 滑动器(或物)
- power['pauə] *n.* 能力; 力量; 动力 *vt.* 用动力发动; 给予动力
- engine['endʒɪn] *n.* 引擎; 发动机
- shake[ʃeɪk] *vi. & vt.* 颤动; 震动
- track[træk] *n.* 轨迹; 航迹; 足迹
- flight[flaɪt] *n.* 飞翔; 飞行
- tight[tait] *a.* 紧的; 牢固的 *adv.* 紧紧地
- race[reɪs] *n.* (航空)滑流; (速度上的)竞赛 *vi.* 疾走; 全速行进; 赛跑
- steady['stedɪ] *vi. & vt.* 稳固; 稳定
- skim[skɪm] *vt.* 掠过; 擦过
- settle['setl] *vi.* 停留; 停息
- overjoy[,ouvə'dʒɔɪ] *vt.* 使狂喜; 使非常高兴
- pack[pæk] *vt.* 打行李包; 捆扎; 把……打包(或装箱等)
- airport['eəpɔ:t] *n.* 飞机场
- streak[stri:k] *vi.* 飞跑; 疾驰
- continent['kɒntɪnənt] *n.* 大陆; 陆地; 大洲
- passenger['pæsɪndʒə] *n.* 乘客; 旅客; 过路人
- jet[dʒet] *n.* 喷气式飞机; 喷射
- enable[i'neɪbl] *vt.* 使能够; 使成为可能; 使实现

## Language Points

1. This was the day they had chosen to try out their flying machine and the gasoline engine and propeller they had built for it.  
他们选定了这一天来试验他们制作的飞行机器, 汽油的引擎和螺旋桨。