



New English

中国学生的英语书——新英语 (New English)

新英语=新目标+新思维+新视野+新感觉+新起点

总主编 ◎ 袁 浩
总审定 ◎ 周伟和



经典英文 365

365 ENGLISH CLASSICS FOR READING & RECITATION

编译 / 傅大明

(上)

本书特色

- ◎ 选文经典，富有哲理
- ◎ 语言地道，原汁原味
- ◎ 图文并茂，双语美文



兰州大学出版社



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本册副编译 张荣凡 马立峰 朱丽莉



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总 序

走向成功的“烛照”

——总主编絮语

以德洛尔为首的国际 21 世纪教育委员会的报告《教育——财富蕴藏其中》有一段话我特别欣赏:教师的工作并非只是传授信息,甚至也不是传授知识,而是以陈述问题的方式介绍这些知识,把它们置于某种条件中,并把各种问题置于其未来情景中,从而使学生在其答案和更广泛的问题之间建立一种联系——如果希望学生日后有能力预见变革,并通过终生继续不断的学习来适应变革的话,那么,在现代社会里越来越需要教育为培养个人的判断力和责任感作出贡献。与教师一起工作并同他对话,有助于学生发展自己的批判意识。看来,学生预见性和适应性、学习能力和判断能力、社会责任感和批判意识的养成是 21 世纪教育的责任。

正是秉承这一理念,我们以一种全新的研究思路,以一种全新的思维方式,以一种全新的审视角度,以一种全新的写作手法,摆脱呆滞刻板的教条,扬弃一成不变的套路,将先进的理念与科学的方法熔为一炉,将毕生的经验与广博的知识掰开揉碎,去粗取精,切磋琢磨,反复锻打,终成此书。可以说,以新理念追求新品质,进而实现新起点,是这套丛书的基本特质,也是“新英语”命名的基本理由。

为实现“新英语”的编撰初衷,每一位作者都恪守这样的原则:践行素质教育,兼顾应试教育;绝不能让学生成为一味追逐信息和答案的“狂蜂浪蝶”,更不能让学生变成只知死背硬记的木讷愚蠢之徒;而要使他们真正感受文化的内涵,领悟知识的真髓,体会方法的魅力,从而发掘其潜质,激发其兴趣,拓展其才能,张扬其个性,举一反三,融会贯通,获取真知。这套丛书恰似从天堂窃得的“圣火烛照”,倘若真能辉映在他们通往成功彼岸的道路上,我们会甚感欣慰的。

为确保“新英语”的品质和风貌,我们组织了一个最佳的“四合一”写作群体:既有学养深厚的大学教授,又有执教经验丰富的特、高级教师,还有统领一方既导又研的教研人员,更有熟稔教材、善于编辑的报刊学人。他们都是名人大家,写作高手,既严于治学,又勤于笔耕。他们才情跌宕,殚精竭虑。他们脱却世俗之囿,不为稻粱之谋,绝不敷衍成篇,率意成文,而是用大爱、使命和责任去流动思想,梳理知识,创新观念,活化新知,可谓“一身书卷气,出手翰墨香”。

至于此书之特色,行家自有公论。姑且以“十五点”概括,似不为过:原创性——反传统,立己言;目标性——助教学,为备考;衔接性——联教材,通考纲;时代性——三贴近(贴近社会、贴近实际、贴近生活),重真实;基础性——重双基(基础知识、基本技能),轻尖难;综合性——多整合,宜扩展;启发性——开心智,善诱导;悬疑性——促反思,多探究;工具性——教方法,明诀窍;趣味性——多变化,语鲜活;科学性——答案准,不误导;操作性——利实战,便实践;前瞻性——重新疑,多创见;深刻性——语简洁,中真的。总之,“不求 Number one, 只求 Only one”,原创性、唯一性、不可复制性是这套丛书最大的特点,也是最大的亮点。显然,她是爱心和智慧的观照,是获得高分和能力的锦囊;她是扬帆奋进的原动力,是体验成功的助推器,可谓“人无我有大不同,人有我好高一筹”。

“人生糊涂读书醒,书魂缠人是幸事”;The more good books you get, the better way you have.(多一本好书,多一条路。)我真诚地希望这套丛书中所蕴含的知识和智慧能给莘莘学子以无穷的力量,成为他们走向成功的“烛照”。

塞万提斯说过,没有一本书好到无懈可击。可以肯定地说,尽管所有作者为写作竭尽全力,但限于时间和水平,书中难免纰漏,恳请读者指正,以便再版时修正。

袁 浩

壬辰年阳春三月

于望海书屋

前言

当今的世界已经变成一个地球村。掌握英语这门国际通用语言是每个未来的国际化人才不可或缺的素质之一。

要学好英语,必须掌握其语言知识(词汇、句型、语法)、语篇知识(词语如何衔接成篇)、语言技能(听、说、读、写、译),还要了解英语国家的文化习俗。

阅读是完成上述任务的最有效的途径,对于非英语母语国家的英语学习者来说尤其如此。

阅读应坚持循序渐进、由浅入深、“精”“泛”并举、以“精”导“泛”的原则。

初学者宜从趣味性强、难易适度的短文读起,以激发阅读兴趣、巩固语言知识、提高阅读技能。为此,本书在选材上从短小精悍、难易相当、趣味性强的文章入手,作为阅读欣赏的起步训练。

关于读书,英国哲学家培根有一段著名的论述:Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested...(书有可浅尝者,有可吞食者,少数则须咀嚼消化。)对于经典精品应认真阅读,仔细咀嚼、品尝,充分汲取营养。

杜甫说过:“不薄今人爱古人,清词丽句必为邻。”

前一句指出阅读经典精品的重要性。经典精品经历大浪淘沙流传至今,凝聚了一个国家语言文化的精华,语言规范,体现了该国语言的共核和常模,更有助于提高外语学习者学习和使用语言的能力。

后一句讲如何精读,如何通过记忆、背诵、模仿、创新来巩固语言知识,提高语言技能,以精读指导泛读。多读、快读是必要的,但不能忽视精读。“好读书不求甚解”不行,“快读书不求甚解”更不行。必须坚持精、泛并举,才能真正实现阅读的目的,提高阅读能力。

知名英语专家、资深编审袁浩先生曾将英语学习的途径和目标归纳为“百、千、万”。“百”指熟读、背诵一百篇精品文章,“千”指归纳一千个常用句式,“万”指词汇量不少于一万。他认为,只有这样,才能真正具备熟练使用英语的能力。这种提法完全符合外语学习规律,并为实践证明是有效的。

本书选入许多在世界上广为流传的经典童话故事。这些故事凝聚了各国文化的精华,反映了各国人民的智慧和求真、善、美的诉求。语言正式、规范,与那些Easy come easy go的时髦语言相比,再生性更强。阅读这些童话,不仅有助于语言学习,还能了解世界各国的文

化习俗,这对于学好、用好英语这门国际性语言十分必要。

本书适合各类读者群。小学低年级学生可先阅读故事的中译文,小学高年级学生、初中生、高中生以及大学生可以根据英文故事的难易程度进行中、英文对照阅读,不仅能借此提高中、英文水平,而且可以在书中凝聚的中外文化精华的导引下在人生道路上越行越远。

本书的编译者是傅大明、张荣凡、马立峰和朱丽莉,由傅大明审阅、通稿。袁浩先生为此书的选材、组织编写队伍、确定编写指导思想和体例起了关键性作用,藉此特表示衷心感谢。

囿于编者的水平,书中必有不足之处,敬请读者、同仁不吝教正。



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raven ['reivən] n. 乌鸦

swan [swɒn] n. 天鹅

altar ['ɔ:lta] n. 圣坛, 祭坛

die of 死于(疾病、过度悲伤等)

1. The Raven and the Swan

A Raven sees a Swan and admires his beautiful feather. The Raven thinks that the Swan must wash himself in the water every day. That is the reason why he has so white feather. So the Raven leaves the **altar** where he lives. He goes into the river and washes his feather every day. But the color doesn't change black into white. And at last the Raven **dies of** the want of food.

It is to say: Change of the habit can not change the nature.

1. 乌鸦和天鹅

一只乌鸦看见一只天鹅, 非常羡慕他漂亮的羽毛。他猜想天鹅一定是天天洗澡, 羽毛才变得如此洁白无瑕。于是, 乌鸦离开了他居住的祭坛。他来到河边, 天天刷洗羽毛。但是他的羽毛却没有由黑变白。最后, 他自己反而因缺少食物饿死了。

这个故事告诉我们: 人的本性不会因习惯的改变而改变。



2. A Lion and a Little Mouse

When a lion was asleep, a little mouse began running **up and down** beside him. This soon wakened the lion. He was very angry and caught the mouse in his paws.

"Forgive me, please," cried the little mouse, "I may be able to help you someday." The lion was **tickled** at these words. He thought, "How could this little mouse help me?" However he lifted up his paws and let him go. A few days later, the lion was caught in a trap.

The hunters wanted to take him alive to the king, so they tied him to a tree, and went away to look for a **wagon**. Just then the little mouse passed by and saw the sad lion. He went up to him, and soon **gnawed away** the ropes. "Was I not right? I'm small, but I

up and down 上上下下, 前前后后

tickle ['tikl] v. (使)发痒, (使)愉快, 逗乐

wagon ['wæɡən] n. 运货马车; 小手推车

gnaw [nɔ:] v. 咬, 啃, 啮
gnaw away 咬坏; 咬断

can help you,” the little mouse said.

From the story we can get: Sometimes in our lives our friends seem **inappreciable**, but they will give us great help when we are in trouble.

inappreciable

[,ɪnəˈpriːʃiəbl] *adj.* 微不足道的

2. 狮子和小老鼠

狮子睡着了,有只小老鼠在它身边爬上爬下,很快吵醒了狮子。狮子很生气,一把抓住了老鼠。

“饶了我吧!”老鼠请求说,“也许有一天我能帮上你的忙呢。”狮子觉得很好笑,他想:“这只小老鼠怎么能帮上我的忙?”但他还是抬起爪子放老鼠走了。过了几天狮子掉进陷阱里了。

猎人们想将活狮子献给国王,就把他捆在一棵大树上,然后去找马车。这时,老鼠路过这里,看到了绝望中的狮子。他走过去,很快啃断了绳索,说:“我说的难道不对吗?我虽小,可也能帮上你的忙。”

从这个故事中我们可以知道:有些朋友也许平时看似微不足道,但却会在我们身处困境的时候给我们很大的帮助。

3. A Silly Wolf

One day a **stag** was eating grass when a wolf jumped over and said to him, “Poor stag, you’ll be delicious food in my stomach.”

The stag said to the wolf, “Please bite the **horns** on my head before eating me **in case** they stab your stomach.”

The wolf had a look at the horns on the stag’s head, and said, “OK! Lower your head so that I can bite your horns easily.”

The stag lowered his head and **concentrated** all his efforts **on** the horns. When the wolf bit his horns, the stag shook his head fiercely. The wolf cried loudly and was thrown far to the ground.

stag [stæg] *n.* 雄鹿

horn [hɔ:n] *n.* 角

in case 万一;假如

concentrate [ˈkɒnsəntreɪt]

v. 专心于……;把思想集中于…… 后接介词on。

3. 愚蠢的狼

一天,一头鹿正在吃草,一只狼突然跳过来对他说:“可怜的小鹿,你就要成为我腹中的美食了。”

小鹿对狼说:“请先把我的头上的角咬断了再吃,免得刺穿了你的肚子。”

狼看了看鹿头上的角,说:“好吧,把你的头放低点,这样我才好把你的角咬断啊!”

小鹿低下头,把全身的力气都集中在角上。狼在咬鹿角时,鹿猛地一摇头,狼大叫一声,被甩出老远老远。

ass [æs] *n.* 驴;傻瓜

I'll help you catch the Ass if you let me go. help 之后可接不带to的动词不定式作宾语补足语。

betray [bi'trei] *vt.* 背叛;泄露(机密)

4. The Ass, the Fox and the Lion

The Ass and the Fox went out into the forest to hunt together. They met a Lion suddenly. The Fox realized the danger. He said to the Lion, "I'll help you catch the Ass if you let me go." The Lion agreed. Then the Fox led the Ass to a trap. When the Lion knew that the Ass couldn't get out of his hand, he ate the Fox immediately. Then he ate the Ass.

It is to say: Those who **betray** friendship can not get a good result.

4. 驴子、狐狸与狮子

驴与狐狸合伙去打猎。他们突然遇见狮子。狐狸见大事不妙,立即跑到狮子面前,对他许诺:“只要你放了我,我就帮你逮住驴子。”狮子答应了,狐狸便把驴子领进陷阱里。狮子见驴子已经逃不掉了,就立刻把狐狸吃了,然后吃了驴。

这就表明:背信弃义的人,不可能有好下场。

antelope ['æntiləʊp] *n.*

羚羊

flash [flæʃ] *v.* 闪现;反射

flashing into his mind是现在分词短语作定语,相当于that flashed in his mind。

starve [stɑ:v] *v.* 饥饿;饿死

5. Antelopes and Lions

In the jungles of Africa, when the antelope wakes up every morning, the first thing that comes to his mind is: "I must be able to run faster than the fastest lion, or I will be killed by a lion." And at just the same time, the lion wakes up, and the first thing **flashing into his mind** is: "I must be able to catch up with the slowest antelope, or I will **starve** to death."

So, almost at the same moment both the antelope and the lion jump to their feet, and start running toward the rising sun.

5. 羚羊和狮子

在非洲丛林里,羚羊早晨一睁开双眼,脑海里首先想到的就是:“我必须跑得比最快的狮子还要快,不然就会被狮子吃掉。”而此时此刻,狮子也从梦中醒来,他脑海里首先想到的是:“我必须追上跑得最慢的羚羊,否则我就要饿死。”

羚羊和狮子几乎就在同时一跃而起,迎着朝阳奔去。

6. A Clever Cock

One day a hungry fox came near a cock and said, “I remember what **a wonderful singer** your father was. I wonder whether you can sing better than your father. ”

Hearing these words the cock closed his eyes and began to sing. The fox **snatched** the cock in his mouth and carried him away.

The people of the town cried, “Look! The fox is carrying our cock away! ”

Then the cock said to the fox, “Hello! Mr. Fox. The people are saying that you are carrying their cock away. Tell them that I am yours, not theirs. ” The fox opened his mouth and said, “It’s mine! ”

At that moment the cock escaped from the fox’s mouth and flew into a tree nearby.

a + *adj.* + singer / dancer / speaker 等由动词加 er(or) 构成的名词在口语中也可以用来表示某人在某方面的特征, 而未必是从事某一职业的人。

snatch [snætʃ] *v.* 抓住

6. 聪明的小公鸡

一天,一只饥饿的狐狸来到小公鸡身边,说道:“我还记得,你父亲歌唱得太棒了! 不知道你是不是比你父亲唱得更动听。”

小公鸡一听,立刻闭上眼睛开始唱起来。狐狸乘机叼着小公鸡跑了。

镇上的人都大叫起来:“看啊! 狐狸把我们的小公鸡叼跑了!”

这时候小公鸡对狐狸说:“喂,狐狸先生,人们说你抓走了他们的小公鸡。你就告诉他们:‘我是属于你的,不是他们的。’”狐狸张开嘴巴说:“这只小公鸡是我的!”

狐狸一张口,小公鸡就从他的嘴巴里乘机逃脱了,飞到了旁边的树上。

7. The Lazy Donkey

One day a man bought a donkey at the market and took it home **on approval**.

At that time the man owned several donkeys already and he knew each one’s **character** very well. One of the donkeys was very strong and brave. Another was eager to please but quickly tired. One donkey was very lazy. It hated going to work in the morning and it did as little as it could all day long. When the other animals were being loaded up, it always tried to be the last so that it would get the lightest load.

approval [ə'pru:vəl] *n.* 批准; 认可

on approval 试用

character ['kærɪktə] *n.* 性格, 特性

companion [kəm'pænjən]

n. 伙伴; 伴侣

hesitation [hezi'teɪʃn] n.

犹豫

trial ['traɪəl] n. 试验; 审判

You cannot have given it a fair trial yet. 这一句中用情态动词(cannot)+动词不定式的完成式(have given)表示对已发生过的动作的看法,即“不可能已经……”。

merchant ['mɜ:tʃənt] n.

商人

The man led the new donkey into the stable yard. For a moment it stood sniffing at his new **companions**. Then, without **hesitation**, it went to the lazy donkey and began feeding comfortably at its side.

Though it was late in the day, the man immediately led the new donkey out of the yard, straight back to the market.

“You cannot have given it a fair **trial** yet.” said the **merchant**, “It is only ten minutes since you bought him.”

“I don’t need to try it any more,” replied the man, “I know just what it is like from the friend it chose for itself. Take it away and give my money back. I can do without donkeys like it.”

7. 懒驴

有一天,一个人在集市上买了头驴,牵回家先试用一下。

这人已经有好几头驴了,也了解每头驴的习性。有头驴又强壮,又勇敢;另外一头急于讨人喜欢,可一会儿就累了;还有头驴非常懒,早上不愿意去干活,整天都想着法子尽可能地少干点活儿,别的驴身上都装得满满的,而它总是尽量等到最后,这样驮的东西最轻。

这个人牵着新买的驴进了牲口棚。驴站了一会儿,闻了闻它的伙伴,然后,毫不犹豫地跑到懒驴跟前,在旁边悠闲自得地吃起草来。

尽管天色已经很晚,这个人还是立即牵着新买的驴出了院子,径直回到集市上。

“你肯定没认真地试过,”卖驴的人说,“你买了才不过十分钟呀。”

“不用再试了,”这个人说,“只要看看它找的是什么样的朋友,就知道它是头什么样的驴了。把它牵走吧,把钱还给我。这样的驴我没有也成。”

8. The Story of Little Camel

The little camel runs home very sadly. He says to his mother, “Am I really ugly, Mum? The little red horse laughs at me.” His mother smiles, “My son, tomorrow I’ll take you to the desert. You’ll see everything there.”

On their way to the desert, there is no grass or water. The little camel asks his mother, “Mum, we walk so long. Don’t we eat and drink?” Mum tells him, “There is enough food and water in our body.”

camel ['kæməl] n. 骆驼

The little camel's big feet stand in the desert **steadily**. Mum tells him, "Our feet **are fit for** walking in the desert. If the little red horse walks here, his feet will **get stuck** in the sand and can't pull out."

They walk on. Suddenly a cloud of sand fills the whole sky. Mum lets the little camel lie on the ground, shut eyes. After a while, the wind and sand stops. There is no sand in little camel's eyes.

steadily ['stedili] *adv.* 稳固地
be fit for 适合于
get stuck (被)陷进
stuck 是 stick 的过去分词。get stuck / lost / caught / killed, etc.= become stuck / lost / caught / killed, etc., 这是被动语态的另一种表达方式。

8. 小骆驼的故事

小骆驼跑回家,心里很难过,问他妈妈:“妈妈,小红马嘲笑我,说我很难看,是真的吗?”妈妈微笑着说:“孩子,明天我带你到沙漠去,你就什么都明白了。”

去沙漠的途中,没草吃,也没水喝。小骆驼问:“妈妈,走这么远的路,难道我们不吃不喝吗?”妈妈说:“我们身体里储存着养料和水分,足够用的啦。”

小骆驼那大大的脚掌稳稳地踏在沙漠上。妈妈说:“我们的脚掌适合在沙漠里行走。如果小红马来这儿,他的脚掌就会陷到沙子里拔不出来了。”

他们继续向前走着。突然间黄沙铺天盖地而来。妈妈让小骆驼躺在沙上,闭上眼睛。一会儿,风沙过去了,小骆驼眼睛里没进一粒沙子。

9. The Cock and the Jewel

A cock, looking for food in the yard, turned up a precious stone that shone in the sun.

"Well," said the cock, I don't know what you are doing here. You are a very beautiful thing, and **no doubt** if your owner found you he would be excited, but you are **no good to me**. I would rather have one grain of delicious barley than all the precious stones under the sun.

That is to say: Judge things by their true value.

jewel ['dʒu:əl] *n.* 宝石;珠宝
turn up (突然)发现
"A cock, looking for food in the yard..." 一句中的 looking for... 是现在分词短语,其作用相当于一个非限制性定语从句 "who was looking for...".
no doubt 毫无疑问
no good to sb. 对……没用处
would rather ... than 宁愿……而不愿……
barley ['ba:li] *n.* 大麦

9. 小公鸡和宝石

小公鸡在院子里觅食,从地里翻出了一颗宝石,在阳光下闪闪发光。

“喂!”小公鸡说,“我不知道你在这儿干吗。你很漂亮。如果你的主人看到你,不用说,他

一定会很兴奋。可是,你对于我却没有一点用处。我要的是一粒可口的大麦,而不是天底下所有的宝石。”

这就是说:东西的贵重在于其真实价值。

tow [tau] *n.* 拖

in tow 紧跟在后面

spring [sprɪŋ] *v.* 跳跃(过去式sprang / sprung; 过去分词sprung)

“Although frightened” 是“Although he was frightened”的省略句。

come up with 想出,提出

disobey [ˌdɪsəˈbeɪ] *v.* 不服从,不顺从

“Seeing the tiger still in doubt...” 是现在分词短语作状语,表示时间或原因,

等于 “When he saw the tiger still in doubt...”。

in doubt 犹豫;不肯定

10. A Tiger in Tow

A tiger was hunting for food in a large forest when a fox ran by. The tiger **sprang** and caught it.

Although frightened, the fox quickly **came up with** an idea. “You’d better not eat me.” it said.

“Why?” the tiger asked.

“I was sent by the God to rule all the animals. If you eat me, you’ll be **disobeying** the God’s order. Then you won’t be a good animal.”

The tiger was silent, thinking whether it was true that the God had sent the fox. Seeing the tiger still in doubt, the fox said seriously, “If you don’t think what I said is true, I can take you to see all the animals. I’ll walk in front and you follow me. Let’s see if all of them are afraid of me.”

So the tiger followed the fox into the forest. It was true that all the animals, such as deer, sheep and rabbits, ran away as soon as they saw the pair.

Thus the fox used the tiger. But the tiger didn’t know that all the animals ran away only because they were afraid of it, not because they feared the fox.

10. 狐假虎威

在茂密的大森林里,有一只老虎正在寻找食物。突然,一只狐狸从它身边窜过,老虎猛扑过去,把它抓住了。

狐狸心里十分害怕,但突然想出了个主意,就对老虎说:“你最好不要吃我。”

“为什么?”老虎问。

“我是上帝派来管理百兽的。吃了我,就是违抗上帝的命令,你的名声就不好了。”

老虎听了不禁愣住了,心想:狐狸奉上帝之命,来管理百兽,是真的吗?正当老虎半信半疑的时候,狐狸煞有介事地说:“如果你不相信我的话,我可以带你到百兽面前走一趟。我在前面走,你跟在后面,看他们是不是怕我。”

于是,狐狸和老虎一前一后朝森林中走去。果然,森林里大大小小的各种动物,像小鹿

啦、绵羊啦、兔子啦，一看见狐狸和老虎，都吓得四处逃窜。

就这样，狐狸借助老虎在百兽面前威风了一次。可是老虎还不知道：百兽吓得四处逃窜并不是怕狐狸，而是怕它自己！

11. A Farmer and His Sons

An old farmer and his two sons live in a small village. Every morning the father goes to the grape field and works hard. But his sons don't do anything.

One day the farmer is ill because of the **overwork**. He knows he will die soon. So he says to his sons, "My sons, I **buried** some **treasures** in our grape field. Dig them out in spring."

A few days later, the farmer is dead. His sons bury him sadly. Spring comes, they think of their farmer's last words. They come to the field, dig and dig. But they find nothing.

The soil is very loose after their digging. So they get many grapes. Looking at the grapes, the two sons understand their farmer's meaning.

overwork [ˌəʊvə'wɜ:k] *n.*

工作过度；过度劳累

bury ['beri] *v.* 埋；埋葬

treasure ['treʒə] *n.* 金银财宝，宝藏

"Looking at the grapes..."
参见 Story 10 中的
"Seeing..." 词条

11. 农夫与儿子

一位年迈的老农夫和两个儿子住在小村子里。老农夫每天早上都会到葡萄园里辛勤劳作，而两个儿子却什么活儿都不干。

终于有一天，老农夫因为劳累过度病倒了。他知道自己将不久于人世，就对儿子们说：“孩子们，我在葡萄园里埋了一些财宝，到了春天，你们就挖出来吧。”

几天后，农夫去世了。两个儿子伤心地安葬了老父亲。春天到了，他们想起了父亲的遗言，便来到葡萄园里，不停地挖了起来。但是什么宝贝也没有找到。

由于地被翻得松软了，使得这一年葡萄大丰收。看着葡萄，两个儿子终于明白了父亲的良苦用心。

12. The Hare and the Tortoise

A Hare one day **ridiculed** the short feet and slow pace of the Tortoise. The latter, laughing, said, "Though you be swift as the wind, I will beat you in a race." The Hare, **deeming** her assertion to be simply impossible, **assented** to the proposal; and they agreed that the Fox should choose the course, and fix the goal.

ridicule ['ridikju:l] *vt.* 嘲笑，嘲弄

deem [di:m] *v.* 认为；视为
"The Hare, deeming her assertion to be simply impossible..." 中的 deeming 是现在分词短语作状语，表示原因。

assent [ə'sent] *v.* 同意；赞成