

高等学校文科英语泛读教材



华盛顿·欧文短篇作品选
爱国者
自由之声

外语教学与研究出版社

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SELECTIONS FROM
WASHINGTON IRVING
华盛顿·欧文短篇作品选

THE PATRIOTS
爱 国 者

THE VOICE OF FREEDOM
PATRICK HENRY
自由之声
(帕特里克·亨利传略)

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SELECTIONS FROM WASHINGTON IRVING

华盛顿·欧文短篇作品选

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注释

内 容 简 介

华盛顿·欧文 (Washington Irving, 1783—1859) 是美国历史上第一位享有国际声誉的作家。他出身于富商家庭, 曾任美国驻伦敦使馆秘书和美国驻西班牙公使。主要作品有《纽约外史》(A History of New York, 1809), 《见闻杂记》(The Sketch Book, 1820), 《攻克格拉纳达》(The Conquest of Granada, 1892), 《爱尔汗布拉》(The Alhambra, 1832), 《草原漫游记》(A Tour on the Prairies, 1835), 《华盛顿传》(A Life of Washington, 5 vols, 1855—1859) 等。

本文收入欧文的五个故事和一篇游记。这些作品以幽默风趣的笔调和富于幻想的浪漫色彩, 描写和叙述了古老的风俗习惯、神化传说以及善良纯朴的旧式人物。作品构思巧妙, 文笔流畅, 幽默诙谐, 情景交融, 别具一格。

原书是美国福赛特出版公司出版的简写本, 现加上汉语注释出版, 作为高等学校文科英语泛读教材之一, 也可作为其它学过两千左右单词的英语学习者的读物。

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1. *Rip Van Winkle*^①

Washington Irving's Note to the Reader: The following story was found among the papers of Diedrich Knickerbocker, an old gentleman of New York. During his lifetime, this gentleman was very curious about the Dutch history of that region.^② Although unable to find^③ much information on this subject in books, he learned a great deal by listening to the old men of the town—and more especially their wives. Whenever, therefore, he found by chance^④ some real Dutch family, living comfortably in some farmhouse with a low roof, under a fine big tree, he considered it as full of information as a history book,^⑤ and he studied it eagerly.

The result of all this study was a history of the region during the time of the Dutch governors, which he published some years ago. There have been various opinions as to the artistic quality of his

① Rip Van Winkle ['rip 'væn 'wɪŋkl]: 瑞普·凡·温克尔(人名)。

② During... region: 这位先生一生中中对那个地方有关荷兰人的历史十分感兴趣。

③ Although unable to find... = Although he was unable to find...

④ he found by chance: 他偶然地发现。

⑤ he considered... book: 他认为这跟一本历史书一样含有丰富的资料。句中 it 为宾语, as full of information as a history book 是宾语补足语。

work, and, to tell the truth,^① it is not a bit better than it should be.^② Its chief virtue is that it truthfully reports the facts.^③ It is therefore highly respected by students of history, and has been admitted into all historical collections.

The old gentleman died soon after his work was published. Now that he is dead and gone,^④ it cannot do much harm to his memory to say that perhaps he should have spent his time on more important matters. He, however, preferred to follow his interests in his own way; and though he sometimes troubled and angered some of his neighbors and friends, his deeds are now remembered "more in sorrow than in anger." Most people now think that he never intended to do any harm.

Anyone who has made a voyage up the Hudson River surely remembers the Kaatskill mountains. They are part of the great family of mountains in the Eastern section of our country, called the Appalachians, though the Kaatskills are separated from the other members of the Appalachian group. The Kaatskill mountains rise on the west of the Hudson River, high above the surrounding country.^⑤ Every change of season, every change of weather, indeed, every hour of the day, produces some change in the colors and shapes of these mountains. By looking at the Kaatskills from time to time, the

① to tell the truth: 说实话, 老实说。

② it is not a bit better than it should be: 它的艺术性一点也不比它应有的程度高。(此处 better 照应上文的 artistic quality)

③ Its... face: 这本书的主要优点在于它忠实地记录了事实。

④ Now that he is dead and gone: Now that 为连词, 作“既然”解。

⑤ The Kaatskill mountains... country: 卡兹吉尔丛山耸立在哈得孙河西岸, 高高地凌于周围地区之上。high above... = and is high above...

people of the region can guess what the weather is going to be.^① When the weather is fair and fine, the mountains are a deep blue, and the tops of the mountains can be clearly seen against the evening sky.^② But sometimes, when there are no clouds anywhere else, the mountains seem to wear a loose gray cap, which glows like a crown of glory in the light of the setting sun.^③

Just below these strange mountains, the voyager may have observed the thin smoke curling up from a village among the trees.^④ It is a little village many years old;^⑤ the Dutch settled there in the early years of the colony. Until recently, some of the houses of the original settlers were still there, built in the Dutch fashion, and with materials brought from Holland.

In that same village, and in one of those houses, Rip Van Winkle lived. He lived there many years ago, while our country still belonged to England. Rip Van Winkle was a simple, good-natured fellow, whose ancestors had fought bravely in the days of the Dutch governor, Peter Stuyvesant. Rip, however, had little of his ancestors' military character. I have said that he was a simple, good-natured man. He was, in addition,^⑥ a kind neighbor, and a husband who humbly obeyed his wife. Being firmly controlled by his wife at

① the people... be: 那地方的人能猜测天气的未来变化。

② the tops... sky: 在傍晚的天空衬托下,人们能清楚地看到这些山的顶端。

③ which... sun: 它在落日的余辉中闪耀,犹如一顶灿烂的王冠。

④ the thin smoke... trees: 轻烟从林木环抱着的村庄里袅袅升起。

⑤ It is a little village many years old. = It is a little village of many years old.

⑥ in addition: 加之; 另外。

home, he seemed to have formed the habit of being agreeable to all.^① As a result he was thought highly of by everyone except his wife.^②

Certainly he was a great favorite among all the good wives of the village. Whenever they discussed the Van Winkle family's quarrels, they always decided that Rip was right, and that Dame Van Winkle was wrong. The children of the village, too, always shouted with joy when Rip Van Winkle approached. He watched them at their sports, made playthings for them, taught them how to play various games, and told them long stories of the most exciting kind. Wherever he went, he was usually surrounded by a crowd of^③ children; and no dog in the village ever barked at him.

Rip Van Winkle had one great fault: he disliked—indeed, he hated—any kind of profitable labor. It is hard to understand just why he did not like to work, for he had plenty of patience and the ability to continue one form of activity for a long time. Often, for example, he sat on a wet rock, with a heavy fishing pole, and fished all day without a murmur, even though he might not succeed in catching a single fish. He was willing to carry a hunting gun on his shoulder, hour after hour, up and down hills, just to shoot a few rabbits and birds. He never refused to help a neighbor, even with the roughest sort of work, such as helping people build stone walls. The women of the village, too, often used him to carry messages for them, or to do small jobs that their husbands were not willing to do.

① Being... all: 由于在家里被妻子管得服服贴贴的,他好像养成了对谁都
很随和的习惯。

② think highly of (sb.): 对(某人)评价很高。

③ a crowd of: 一群。

In other words, Rip was ready to take care of^① anybody's business except his own. As for^② his family duties, and for keeping his farm in order,^③ he found such work impossible.

In fact, he declared it was of no use to work on his farm: it was the worst little piece of ground in the whole country; everything about it was wrong. His fences were continually falling to pieces; his cow was always getting lost or else eating up^④ the vegetables in the garden. Nothing ever grew well in his fields; and the rain always started just as soon as he had begun to do some work outside. As a result, although he had lost much of his family's land during years of bad management until very little remained, yet his small farm was in worse condition than any neighboring farm.

His children, too, went about looking as poor as his farm. His son Rip, who was very much like him, ran around wearing a pair of his father's old trousers, which he had to hold up with one hand in order to prevent them from falling.^⑤

Rip Van Winkle, however, was one of those fortunate people, with foolish, well-oiled natures, who take the world easy and cheerfully, eat fine food or poor, whichever can be got with least thought or trouble. If permitted, he would have sat whistling his life away^⑥ in perfect contentment,^⑦ but his wife kept continually reminding

① take care of: 照顾; 照料。

② As for: 至于。

③ keep... in order: 使……有条不紊。

④ eat up: 吃完; 吃尽。

⑤ in order to prevent them from falling: 以免裤子掉下来。prevent sb./sth. from...: 防止某人/某物……。

⑥ whistling his life away: 吹着口哨过日子。(意指懒懒散散地度日。)

⑦ in perfect contentment: 完全满意地, 心满意足地。

him about his idleness, his carelessness, and the ruin he was bringing on his family.^① Morning, noon, and night, her tongue was ceaselessly going. Everything he said or did was sure to produce more angry talk.

Rip had just one way of replying to his wife's talk, by frequent use it had become a habit. He merely put his head back on his shoulders, looked up toward heaven, and said nothing. This, however, always produced a fresh burst of anger from his wife. There was nothing for Rip to do then except to leave the house.

Rip's only friend in the Van Winkle home was his dog, whose name was Wolf. Wolf was often the object of Dame Van Winkle's displeasure, for she considered the two of them companions in idleness;^② indeed, she sometimes even blamed the dog for Rip's wandering ways. True, in the woods Wolf was as brave as an honorable dog should be; but what dog is ever brave enough to stand firm against the terrors of a woman's tongue? As soon as Wolf entered the house, his head bent low, his tail lay on the ground or curled between his legs. He went around the house with a guilty look, watching Dame Van Winkle out of the corner of his eye, ready to run from the room at the slightest sign of her displeasure.

Rip Van Winkle's troubles increased as the years of his marriage passed. A hard woman never becomes softer with age,^③ and a sharp tongue is the only edged tool that cuts better with constant use. For a long while he used to comfort himself by sitting with oth-

① but... family: 但是对于他的游手好闲、他的漫不经心以及他给家庭带来的不幸,他的妻子不断地提醒他注意。

② for... idleness: 因为她认为他们俩是游手好闲的一对伙伴。

③ with age: 随着年龄的增长。

er idle men, when Dame Van Winkle's talk had forced him out of the house. He and these other idle persons used to sit in front of the village inn, ^① a small hotel whose name was suggested by a picture of His Majesty George the Third. ^② Here they often sat in the shade through a long summer day, telling endless sleepy stories about nothing. Sometimes, by chance, one of the men found an old newspaper which had been left behind by some passing traveler. ^③ Then how seriously they would listen to the contents, as the newspaper was read aloud by Derrick Van Bummel, the schoolteacher, a man of great learning, ^④ who was not afraid of the longest word in the dictionary. And how wisely they would discuss the public events which had occurred several months before.

The opinions of this group were completely controlled by Nicholas Vedder, the oldest man in the village, who owned the inn. He sat at the door of the inn from morning till night, moving just enough to avoid the sun and keep in the shade of a large tree. It is true that he almost never spoke, but smoked his pipe continually. His admirers, however, understood him perfectly, and knew how to get his opinions on any subject. When anything that was read or told displeased him, he smoked his pipe angrily; but when he was pleased, he smoked slowly and calmly. Sometimes, taking the pipe from his mouth, he let the smoke curl about his nose and moved his

① He... inn: 他和其他这些游手好闲的人常常坐在村里小饭店门前。

② His Majesty George the Third: 乔治三世陛下 (1738—1820)。大不列颠国王 (1760—1820) 和汉诺威 (今西德境内) 国王 (1815—1820)。他在位期间, 英国失去了美洲的殖民地。1811 年他患精神病以后至 1820 年, 由他的儿子摄政。

③ some passing traveler: 某个过路的旅行者。

④ a man of great learning: 一个学识渊博的人。

head up and down as a sign of agreement with what was being said. ①

But even the comforting companionship of this group was finally taken from the unlucky Rip. His wife suddenly broke in upon ② the pleasant discussion club and gave its members her opinion of their worthlessness. Not even the great Nicholas Vedder himself was safe from the tongue of this daring woman ③ who blamed him directly for much of her husband's idleness.

Poor Rip was thus driven almost to despair. His only remaining means of escape was to take his gun and walk away into the woods. Here he would sometimes seat himself at the foot of a tree with his faithful dog and fellow-sufferer, Wolf: "Poor Wolf," he would say. "Your life is hard and sad indeed, but never fear. While I live there will always be one friend to stand beside you!" Wolf would wag his tail and look sadly into his master's face. If dogs can feel pity, I truly believe he pitied Rip with all his heart.

After a long, wandering walk of this kind on a certain autumn day, Rip found that he had climbed to one of the highest parts of the Kaatskill mountains. He was engaged in ④ his favorite sport of hunting, and the lonely stillness of the woods had often been broken by the sound of his gun. Tired and breathless, he threw himself, late in the afternoon, on a little green hill at the highest point of land. From an opening between the trees he could see all the lower country

① as... said: 作为赞同别人所说的话的一种表示。

② break in upon: 打断; 打扰。

③ Not even... woman: 就连德高望重的尼古拉斯·维德也逃不过厉害女人的那张嘴。

④ be engaged in: 从事于。

for many miles of rich woodland. He saw at a distance the lordly Hudson River, far, far below. ①

On the other side he looked down into a deep valley, wild, lonely, and covered with trees. The bottom was filled with ② pieces of broken rock from the stony mountain side. For some time Rip lay observing this scene. Evening had almost come; the mountains began to throw their long blue shadows over the valleys; he saw that it would be dark long before he could reach the village, ③ and he sighed deeply when he thought of Dame Van Winkle's angry face.

Just as he was about to go ④ down the mountain, he heard a voice from the distance calling, "Rip Van Winkle! Rip Van Winkle!" He looked around, but could see nothing except a large bird winging its lonely flight across the mountain. He decided he had merely imagined the voice, and had turned again to climb down, when he heard the same cry ring through the quiet evening air: "Rip Van Winkle! Rip Van Winkle!" At the same time, the hairs on his dog's back stood up straight, and the dog moved to his master's side, looking fearfully into the valley. Rip now felt the same fear within him, and he looked anxiously in the same direction. There he saw a strange figure slowly climbing up the rocks, bending under the weight of something he carried on his back. Rip was surprised to see any human being in this lonely place. But supposing it was some neighbor in need of help, he hurried

① He... below: 远远望去,他看见了在下面很远很远的地方的壮丽的哈得孙河。

② be filled with: 充满。

③ it... village: 在他能回到村子之前天一定早就黑了。

④ be about to (do sth.): 正要(做某事)。

down to give it. ①

As he approached more closely, he was still more surprised at the oddness of the stranger's appearance. He was a short old fellow, built quite square^② with thick bushy hair and a grayish beard! His clothes were in the old Dutch fashion—a short cloth jacket with a belt, and several pairs of trousers. The outer trousers were wide and loose, with rows of buttons down the sides. On his shoulder he carried a wooden keg which seemed full of liquor; and he motioned to Rip to approach and help him with his load.

Though not entirely trusting this odd-looking stranger, Rip advanced to aid him. They carried the keg together up a narrow cut in the mountain side which might once have been made there by a mountain stream. As they climbed, Rip began to notice some unusual sounds. They were somewhat like the sounds of distant thunder, and they seemed to rise out of a deep and narrow valley^③ among the towering rocks toward which their rough path led.

He paused for an instant to listen, but decided there must be a passing thunderstorm not far away. Satisfied with this explanation of the noises, he proceeded. ④ Passing through the cut in the mountain, they came to a small hollow, like one of the theaters cut into the earth in ancient Greece. During this whole time, Rip and his companion had labored on in silence, ⑤ for though Rip wondered

① But... it: 但他猜想是哪一位邻居需要帮助,就急忙下去帮忙。

② built quite square: 身体宽阔而结实。

③ out of a deep and narrow valley = from a deep and narrow valley.

④ Satisfied... proceeded: 当他对自己为这些响声所作的解释感到满意时,就继续向前走。

⑤ Rip... silence: 瑞普和他的同伴始终一言不发,费劲地朝前走着。