

LITERARY GEMS FOR RECITATION



英语背诵文选

合订本

上海外语教育出版社



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第三册

陈冠商 唐振邦 王 悌 编

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前 言

《英语背诵文选》共四册，可供高等院校英语专业语音朗读课和名著选读课作为教材，也可供青年教师以及具有高中毕业英语程度的读者自学进修之用。

我们认为，在有一定英语程度的基础上熟读和背诵短小精悍、文字优美的文学名作，有助于培养语感和打好扎实的文学泛读基础；对于提高英语的理解能力、写作能力以及口头表达能力亦能起积极的作用。

全书四册八十余篇文字，选自文艺复兴时期以来的英美文学名著，其体裁包括诗歌、散文、随笔、小品，亦收书信和演说。所选文章作者大都是读者所熟悉的人物，其中包括不同时期主要流派和当代英美作家中的代表人物，间或有内容与文字均属佳作的佚名作品。入选篇目力求在内容和观点上有益于培养读者的优美情操和高尚理想。

为了便于自学，本书每篇选文后均有注释及参考译文，书后附有作者简介(英汉对照)和词汇表。此外，还请外国语音专家录音，制成唱片和磁带，供读者模仿。录音审听由上海师范学院方全同志负责。

自第二册起选收了若干篇有一定难度的文学作品，旨在使读者熟悉结构比较复杂的文句，并通过模仿朗读，掌握长句的停顿、节奏与语调等朗读技巧。

《英语背诵文选》第三册的参考课文和注释工作由范钜清、

赵振、徐越庭、胡岳峰、蒋美陆、王辑和叶华年等同志担任；
词汇和作者简介工作由王辑同志担任；徐越庭同志还协助编选
事务。我们在此一并表示衷心的感谢。

限于水平，本书可能存在缺点，希望读者指正。

陈冠商

一九八三年初于上海

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A PSALM OF LIFE

Tell me not in mournful numbers①,
 Life is but an empty dream!
 For the soul is dead that slumbers②
 And things are not what they seem.

Life is real! Life is earnest!
 And the grave is not its goal;
 Dust thou art, to dust returnest,③
 Was not spoken of the soul.④

Not enjoyment, and not sorrow,
 Is our destined end or way⑤;
 But to act,⑥ that each to-morrow
 Find us farther than to-day.

Art is long, and Time is fleeting,
 And our hearts, though stout and brave.
 Still, like muffled drums, are beating
 Funeral marches to the grave.

In the world's broad field of battle,
In the bivouac of Life,
Be not like dumb, driven cattle !
Be a hero in the strife !

Trust no Future, howe'er pleasant !
Let the dead Past bury its dead !
Act, act in the living Present !
Heart within, and God o'erhead !

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time® ;

Footprints® that perhaps another,
Sailing o'er life's solemn main,
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,
Seeing, shall take heart again.

Let us, then, be up and doing,®
With a heart for any fate;®
Still achieving, still pursuing
Learn to labour and to wait.

by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

【注释】

① **numbers**: 复数指诗。

② **the soul is dead that slumbers**: 等于 the soul that slumbers is dead: 睡去的灵魂是死的(精神萎靡不振的人虽生犹死)。

③ **Dust thou art, to dust returnest**: 等于 You are dust, you return to dust. 《旧约·创世纪》(Genesis) 第十三章第十九节中说到, 人的肉体是尘土做的, 人死后仍旧要回到尘土中去。thou=you (主格), art 是用在 thou 后面的系动词。returnest 里的 est 是与 thou 连用的动词后缀。

④ **Was not spoken of the soul**: (上面这句话)不是讲的灵魂(据基督教义, 人死后肉体埋在土中, 灵魂却永存)。

⑤ **destined end or way**: 归宿。(原意: 命定的结局和人生道路。)

⑥ **But to act**: 等于 But to act is our destined end or way。

⑦ **on the sands of time**: 在时间的沙滩上。按: sand 的复数可指“沙滩”也可指“生涯”、“寿命”。原句一语双关。

⑧ **Footprints**: 此词是上面那个 footprints 的同位语。

⑨ **be up and doing**: 奋起努力。这是习惯语, 只能用 doing, 不能用 do。

⑩ **With a heart for any fate**: 原意为“以能面对一切命运的勇气”。

【参考译文】

人 生 颂

亨利·沃兹沃思·朗费罗

请别用哀伤的诗句对我讲：

人生呵，无非虚梦一场！

因为沉睡的灵魂如死一般，

事物的表里并不一样。

人生是实在的！人生是热烈的！

人生的目标决不是坟墓；

你是尘土，应归于尘土，

此话指的并不是我们的精神。

我们的归宿不是欢乐，

也不是悲伤。

实干才是我们的道路，

每天不断前进，蒸蒸日上。

光阴易逝，而艺海无涯，

我们的心哪——虽然勇敢坚强，

却象被布蒙住的铜鼓，

常把殡葬的哀乐播响。

在这人生的宿营地，
在这辽阔的世界战场，
别做无言的牲畜任人驱赶，
做一名英雄汉立马横枪！

别相信未来，哪怕未来多么欢乐！
让死去的往昔将死亡的一切埋葬！
上帝在上，我们胸怀勇气，
行动吧——乘现在活着的好时光！

伟人的生平使我们想起，
我们能使自己的一生变得高尚！
当我们辞别人间，
能把足迹留在时间的流沙上。

也许有个遭了船灾的苦难弟兄，
他曾在庄严的人生大海中飘航，
见到我们的脚印，
又会满怀信心。

让我们起来干吧，
下定决心，不管遭遇怎样，
不断胜利，不断追求，
要学会苦干和耐心等待。

(范红清译)

THE VILLAGE SCHOOL

Little Nell looked round the room as she took her seat. There were a couple of forms, notched and cut and inked all over; a small deal desk perched on four legs, at which no doubt the master sat, a few dog-eared books upon a high shelf; and beside them a motley collection of peg-tops, balls, kites, fishing-lines, marbles, half-eaten apples, and other confiscated property of idle urchins. Displayed on hooks upon the wall in all their terrors were the cane and ruler; and near them, on a small shelf of its own, the dunce's cap,^① made of old newspapers and decorated with glaring wafers of the largest size. But the greatest ornaments of the walls were certain moral sentences, fairly copied in good round text, and well-worked sums in simple addition and multiplication, evidently achieved by the same hand, which were plentifully pasted all around the room, for the double purpose, as it seemed, of bearing testimony to the excellence of the school, and kindling a worthy emulation in the bosoms of the scholars.

As the schoolmaster, after arranging the two forms in due order, took his seat behind his desk, and made other preparations for school, Nell was apprehensive that she might be in the way, and offered to withdraw to her little bedroom. But this he would not allow, and, as he seemed pleased to have her there, she remained, busying herself with her knitting.

A small white-headed boy with a sunburnt face appeared at the door while the schoolmaster was speaking, and stopping there to make a rustic bow, came in, and took his seat upon one of the forms. The white-headed boy put an open book, astonishingly dog-eared, upon his knees, and thrusting his hands into his pockets began counting the marbles with which they were filled, displaying in the expression of his face a remarkable capacity of totally abstracting his mind from the spelling on which his eyes were fixed. Soon afterwards another white-headed boy came, straggling in, and after him a red-headed lad, and after him two more with white heads, and then one with a flaxen poll, and so on until the forms were occupied by a dozen boys or thereabouts, with heads of every color but gray, and ranging in their ages from four years old to fourteen or more; for the legs of the youngest were a long way from the floor when he sat upon the form, and the eldest was a good-tempered fellow, about half a head taller than the schoolmaster.

by Charles Dickens

【注释】

① the dunce's cap: 旧时英国学校用以惩罚成绩低劣的学生的一种圆锥形的帽子，与现今小丑戴的相似。

② with heads of every color but gray, and ranging in their ages from four years old to fourteen or more 是两句短语，前者是介词短语，后者是现在分词短语，用作定语修饰它们前面的 a dozen boys or thereabouts. with heads of every color but gray 中的 but 是个介词，相当于 except，可解释成：除……之外。but gray 相当于 except the color of gray.

【参考译文】

乡村小学

查尔斯·狄更斯

小内尔坐上座位的时候，朝房间四下望了一望。有两条长凳，凳上到处都是刻痕，涂着墨水；一只松木的小书桌，架在四条长腿上，有点摇摇欲坠的样子，不容怀疑，这就是教师的座头；几本书角卷摺的书放在一块高高的搁板上，书旁是杂七杂八的一堆东西：陀螺、皮球、风筝、钓丝、石弹、吃剩了一半的苹果，以及其它一些从吊儿郎当的小淘气鬼那儿没收来的财物。在墙上钩子上威势十足地陈列着苔杖和戒尺；靠近这两

件东西，在一块专用的小搁板上的是劣等学生所戴的尖顶帽，它们用旧报纸做成，还用特大尺寸薄脆饼模样的、色彩鲜艳的圆纸加以装璜。可是墙上最出色的装饰品却是一些道德格言，用秀美的圆体字抄写得端端正正，还有精心解答的简单的加法和乘法算术题，两者明摆着是出自同一个人的手笔。它们在房间四处大量地张贴着，这好象有双重的用意，一是证明学校办得出色，二是在小学生的内心点燃高尚的竞争热情。

教师把两条长凳挨次排好后，坐在书桌后面的座位上，为上课做好其他的准备工作。内尔担心她可能会碍事，就主动提出要退回到她的小卧室去。可是教师并不同意，既然他似乎喜欢她在那儿，她就留下来了，一边忙着打毛线。

教师正在讲话的时候，一个淡黄色头发、脸被晒成棕色的小男孩在门口出现了，停在门口老老实实在地鞠了个躬，就进来坐在一条长凳上。这个淡黄头发的男孩把一本书打开放在膝盖上，书角卷得叫人惊奇，随后把两手插进口袋，开始数着袋里满装着的石弹。他脸上的神情显示出一种能够使思想从眼睛所注视着地拼写成的词上完全开小差的非凡本领。不多一会儿，另一个淡黄头发的男孩拖拖拉拉地进来了，他后面来了个红发小伙子，后面又来了两个淡黄头发的，再后面来的是一个亚麻色头发的，这样陆续不断，直到长凳上坐满了约莫十二个男孩，各色头发都有，就差了灰色的，按年龄来看，从四岁到十四岁的或许更大一些的都有；因为最小的那个孩子坐在长凳上，两条腿离地板还有一大段呢，而那个年龄最大的是个脾气挺好的小家伙，比教师高出了差不多半个头哩。

(赵 振译)