

中学生英语读物



Fairy Tales and Folk Tales

童话和民间故事
选集

中学生浅易英语注释读物

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晓 春 刁清君 注释

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几点说明

一、本书共收入十四篇故事。其中The Fisherman and His Wife和Snow White 两篇是格林童话;The Ugly Duckling, The Little Match Girl, The Nightingale, Thumbelina, The Emperor's New Clothes 等五篇是安徒生童话;The Selfish Giant 系英国作家 Oscar Wilde 所写的童话;Stamping the Thorns选自 Beyond the Words一书;Cap of Rushes系英格兰民间故事;The Fairy Flag 系苏格兰民间故事;Where King Arthur Sleeps 系威尔士民间故事,其余两篇原作者不详。

二、为减少初学者阅读时的困难,各篇故事在情节上和文字上都做了不同程度的改写,改写时参照了国外已有的简写或录音。每篇故事都附有汉语注释和生词表。另外,各篇都附有问答题,以便进行口语练习。

三、在改写过程中北京外国语学院陈梅洁 (Margaret Turner) 同志给予了积极的支持和帮助,特此表示感谢。

四、本书曾在北京市海淀区部分中学中使用过,受到师生欢迎,这次出版又作了一些修改,但编者水平有限,错误在所难免,欢迎读者批评指正。

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1. The Fisherman and His Wife

A long long time ago, an old fisherman lived with his wife by the sea. They lived in a broken boat.

One day the fisherman caught a beautiful fish. He was surprised to hear the fish speaking to him when he came to put it into his basket.

"Please let me go, Old Fisherman," said the fish. "If you let me go, I'll give you anything that you want."

The old fisherman took the fish back into the water, for he was a kind-hearted man. Before the fish swam away, the old man said to it, "I'd love to have a new house that my wife and I can live in."

"Go back then. Your wife is already in the new house," said the fish. Then it disappeared into the great sea.

When the fisherman got home, he saw his wife standing outside a beautiful new house with a small garden beside it. They were happy there for a few weeks, until one day the wife said to the husband, "This

house isn't big enough for us now. Go down to the little fish and ask him for a bigger one." ¹

"That's not right," said the fisherman. "He has already given us this new house. I can't ask him for more."

"Right or not, you must go and ask him," shouted his wife. "Or there'll be no dinner for you tonight."

So off the fisherman went, ² unhappily. When he came down to the sea he called the fish and told him what his wife had said and what she wanted.

"Go home then," said the fish. "She is already in it."

When the fisherman got home, he found his new house had become a grand building, with trees surrounding it. ³ In the front there was a large garden covered with green grass. ⁴ His greedy wife was having tea in a fine big hall. Several servants were attending to her.

"Isn't it a nice building?" the fisherman said to his wife. "We'll be happy with this all our lives."

But the next morning, when the old fisherman was still in bed, his wife came up to him and said, "Get up, you lazy thing. Go and tell the fish that I want to be Queen of this land."

"But I've asked him for enough already," said the fisherman. "I can't ask him for any more." By now the

old man was a little unhappy about his greedy wife.

But his wife wouldn't hear any of it. She made him go down to the sea and call the fish again.

"What does she want now?" asked the fish.

"She wants to be Queen," replied the fisherman.

"And she will give me no peace until she gets her way." ⁵

"Go back then," said the fish. "She is Queen already."

When the fisherman got back, *he found himself in front of a grand palace.* ⁶ The glass windows of the palace were shining in the bright sunlight. He entered it and saw his wife sitting in a golden chair. There were groups of servants around her. She was Queen already.

But the fisherman did not have peace for long.

The very next morning ⁷ the wife came up to the fisherman and asked him to go to the fish again.

"I want to be an empress," the greedy old woman told her husband, who really was very very unhappy now.

"No," he replied. "The fish has given us so much already. He'll never give us anything more."

"You must," cried the wife in a sharp voice. *There was also a hard look on her face.* ⁸ "I'm Queen of the land. I order you to go. If you don't, I'll have

your head cut off. " 9

So once again the fisherman came down to the sea, and once again he called the little fish. *He had to.*¹⁰

"What does she want now?" asked the fish.

"The greedy woman wants to be an empress," the old man told the fish in an unhappy tone.

"Then go back to your broken boat," said the fish. "And tell your greedy wife that she has asked for too much." With these words, the fish disappeared under the big waves and never came up again.

And in that broken boat the fisherman still lives with his greedy wife *to this very day.*¹¹

Questions for Oral Practice

1. What is this story about?
2. Where did the old fisherman and his wife live?
3. What did the fisherman catch one day? Why was he surprised when he came to put the fish into his basket?
4. What did the little fish say to the fisherman?
5. Did the fisherman ask the fish for anything?
6. Was his wife happy to live in the new house?
7. What did his wife ask him to do a few weeks later?

8. What did the woman want to be after the fish gave them a grand building to live in?
9. What did she tell her husband the very next morning after she became Queen of the land?
10. Was the fisherman happy when he heard that?
11. What did he say to the woman?
12. Did the greedy woman become an empress in the end?
13. What happened to them in the end?

Word List

attend to	[ə'tend tə] v.i.	照顾, 侍候
broken	['brəukən] adj.	破旧的
dinner	['dinə] n.	正餐, 宴会
empress	['empris] n.	女皇
fisherman	['fiʃəmən] n.	渔夫
golden	['gəuldən] adj.	金制的, 金色的
grand	[grænd] adj.	盛大的, 雄伟的
greedy	['gri:di] adj.	贪婪的, 贪得无厌的
husband	['hʌzbənd] n.	丈夫
land	[lənd] n.	土地, 国家
peace	[pi:s] n.	安宁, 和平
give me no peace 不让我安宁		
queen	[kwi:n] n.	王后
sharp	[ʃa:p] adj.	厉害的, 严厉的
a sharp look 厉害的神色		

tone	[təʊn] n.	声调, 语气
wave	[weɪv] n.	波浪, 波涛

Notes

1. ask him for a bigger one: 向他要一间大些的房子。
ask... for 向(某人)要(某物)。one 是代词, 用以代替上文出现的house以避免重复。
2. off the fisherman went: 渔夫动身去了。off 是状语, 被提前了, 为了叙述生动, 衔接紧凑, 这种倒装的句子结构在故事中是很常见的。
3. with trees surrounding it: 房子周围有许多树。
4. covered with green grass: 绿草如茵。covered with是“为……所覆盖”的意思。
5. she will give me no peace until she gets her way: 她的要求得不到满足, 就不会让我安宁。
6. he found himself in front of a grand palace: 他发觉自己站在一座富丽堂皇的宫殿前面。
7. The very next morning: 就在第二天早晨。very常与the, this连用, 加强语气, 相当于“就是”, “正是”, “恰是”。
8. There was also a hard look on her face. 她脸色也很严厉。
9. I'll have your head cut off. 我要让你人头落地。have s.g. done, 叫别人完成某件事。
10. He had to. 他不得不这么做。全句应是He had to do so.
11. to this very day: 直到如今。very与注7中的very用法相同。

2. The Ugly Duckling

Once upon a time there was a young mother duck who lived by a small river. She had her home there and was now sitting on some eggs. She had been sitting on them for some time. At last the eggs cracked open *one after another*.¹ Out came the little ducklings. "Pip, pip," they all cried and looked about them at the great world. But one egg which was bigger than the others was still lying there.

"Dear me! How long will this last? I'm very tired," said the mother duck.

An old duck came over to see the young mother duck. "How are you getting on?" asked the old duck.

"Oh, I'm so tired," said the mother duck. "But a big egg still lies there. I don't know how long it will last."

"Let me see it," said the old duck. She then took a look at the big egg and said: "I see. It must be a turkey's egg. Leave it and teach your ducklings to swim."

"I think I'll sit a little longer. I have sat on it for a long time. I'd better wait till it is hatched."

"Very well," said the old duck. "Do as you like."

At last the big egg broke and out jumped the little one. It was big and strong, and *not at all like any of his brothers and sisters.*² "He is ugly," the young mother duck thought to herself.

Early the next morning, the mother duck took her family to the river. One duckling after another jumped into the river and swam around. "How well my children swim!" said the mother duck happily. "Even the ugly one swims well. *He can't be a turkey after all.*"³

When other birds saw them, they came over to speak to the mother duck.

"Your children are pretty," said some ducks. "But this one looks ugly."

"He is a good duckling," said the mother duck proudly. "*He swims the best of all the others.*"⁴

But the ducks, geese and even hens didn't like him. They all flew over and pecked at the poor ugly duckling. And his brothers and sisters, too, began to tease him.

"*Leave my child alone,*" said the angry mother duck. "*He is doing no harm!*"⁵

But all the birds continued to peck at him and make fun of him *as soon as the mother duck turned her back.*⁶

As time went on things got worse and worse for

the ugly duckling. At last he could no longer stand it. One dark night he stole away from home and left his dear mother. He ran along the road as fast as he could. "I'm so ugly that no one would like me to stay. I'll go and find a place to *live by myself*,"⁷ thought the ugly duckling as he ran on faster and faster.

By and by he came to a little hut in which there lived an old woman with a cat and a hen. When the duckling came in, the hen and the cat began to laugh at him.

"Can you lay eggs?" asked the hen.

"No," replied the duckling.

"Can you catch mice at night?" asked the cat.

"No, neither can I do that," said the little duckling sadly.

"Well then," said the cat and the hen. "Sit in the corner and don't talk. *You are good for nothing*."⁸ And again they laughed at the duckling.

How could the little duckling sit silently in the corner? He was fond of sunshine and fresh air outside. He wanted very much to swim, too. "I'll go out into the world again," he made up his mind. When the old woman, the cat and the hen were all asleep, the ugly duckling quietly went out of the hut and left.

But he always felt lonely. All the animals *passed him by because he was so ugly*.⁹ "I'll fly away from here," said the ugly duckling and he did. He flew and

flew, for his wings were growing stronger.

Summer came and went. It was now late autumn. It was getting colder day by day. One afternoon *there wasn't a bit of cloud in the clear blue sky.*¹⁰ The ugly duckling was walking around alone in the afterglow of the setting sun. *He chanced to look up and saw many beautiful white birds flying to the south.*¹¹ They were flying high up in the sky. The ugly duckling did not know these birds, but he liked them very much and wanted to fly away with them. But he was afraid that his wings were not strong enough to carry him. "Moreover," he thought, "they will not want me, for I'm an ugly bird."

When winter came the ugly duckling had a hard time. He was cold and hungry, and *could not find a friend to talk to.*¹²

Then after the winter came the spring. The sun rose and began to shine. The ice on the lakes and rivers was melting. The trees and grass were turning green. There were little flowers here and there all over the country. The ugly duckling was happy and gay, for he could fly and swim again. But still he was lonely.

One day, he came upon a big lake when he was flying high in the sky. "I'll stay here," he decided and came down to swim in the water. Suddenly he saw

some white birds swimming around on the lake. "I'll go over to them, even if they kill me," thought the duckling. "*It's better to die than to live alone.*"¹³ The white birds were all swans. When they saw the ugly duckling, they swam over to meet him.

"Now kill me," said the duckling. As he said so he hung his head close to the water. And to his great surprise,¹⁴ he saw in the water that *he was all white,*¹⁵ like all the other birds around. *He was no longer an ugly grey bird.*¹⁶ He was a handsome white swan, one of the most beautiful birds on the lake.

He stayed with the other swans happily ever after. And ducks, geese and all the other birds were very careful when they spoke to him, for swans are the kings on the rivers.

Questions for Oral Practice

1. Where did the young mother duck have her home?
2. She was sitting on some eggs, wasn't she?
3. What was the duckling like when the big egg was hatched?
4. What did the mother duck do when all the eggs were hatched?
5. Did the other birds like the ugly duckling?
6. Why did the ugly duckling run away from home?

7. How did he feel when he was away from home?
8. What did he see in the sky one autumn afternoon?
9. Did he want to fly away with the white birds?
10. Why didn't he go away with them?
11. Did he live happily during the winter?
12. What did he see on a big lake one spring day?
13. Was he afraid that the white birds would kill him? Why not?
14. How did the ugly duckling find out that he was a handsome white swan, too?

Word List

after all		毕竟, 终究
afterlight	['a:ftəlaɪt] <i>n.</i>	余辉
alone	[ə'ləʊn] <i>adj.</i>	单独的, 独自的
animal	['æniməl] <i>n.</i>	动物
asleep	[əs'li:p] <i>adj.</i>	睡着
to be asleep	睡着了	
chance	[tʃa:ns] <i>v.i.</i>	碰巧, 偶然发生
chance to do s.g.	偶然做某事	
crack	[kræk] <i>v.i.</i>	裂开
duck	[dʌk] <i>n.</i>	鸭
duckling	['dʌkliŋ] <i>n.</i>	小鸭
fond	[fɒnd] <i>adj.</i>	喜爱, 爱好
to be fond of sunshine	喜爱阳光	