



Relaxing English Gas Station

轻松英语加油站 · 学生英语课外阅读系列

A Selection of Detective Stories

侦探故事乐园

何家祥 编著



广东教育出版社



Reading English: Case Station

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偵探故事集

1998 年





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图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

侦探故事乐园/何家祥编著. —广州: 广东教育出版社, 2001. 8

(轻松英语加油站. 学生英语课外阅读系列)

ISBN 7-5406-4470-2

I. 侦… II. 何… III. 英语-语言读物, 故事
IV. H319. 4: I

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2001) 第 04250 号

广东教育出版社出版发行

(广州市环市东路水荫路 11 号)

邮政编码: 510075

广东新华发行集团股份有限公司经销

南海市彩印制本厂印刷

(南海市桂城叠南)

850 毫米 × 1168 毫米 32 开本 7.25 印张 138000 字

2001 年 8 月第 1 版 2001 年 8 月第 1 次印刷

ISBN 7-5406-4470-2/H·67

定价: 13.00 元

如有印、装质量问题,影响阅读,请与我社(电话 020-87616267)联系调换。

编 者 的 话

浓厚的兴趣和广泛的知识是学习英语的重要条件，盖惟此才有开卷之欲，惟此才能触类旁通。

《轻松英语加油站》英语系列读物集趣味性和知识性于一体，旨在激发英语学习者的学习兴趣，拓展英语爱好者的知识面，进而达到轻轻松松学习、地地道道使用英语之目的。

该系列读物选材新颖，内容涉及文化、教育、科技等各个方面，如文化习俗(《西方节日习俗》)、幽默故事(《走进幽默天地》)、逻辑推理(《侦探故事乐园》)、科技知识(《科普世界新知》)、文化教育(《世界名城名校》)、名人轶事(《名人趣闻轶事》)等。

书中所选各篇相对独立，且大多短小精悍，便于随时翻阅。文中较难较重要的词语均附有读音注解，以扩充读者的词汇量；篇末还配有练习题及参考答案，以加深读者对文章的理解。尤其值得一提的是，书中不少篇章颇适于朗诵复述，而用英语向同学、朋友讲述一个幽默故事，或介绍一个节日习俗，于已于人往往会收到意想不到的奇效！总之，该系列读物力图使英语阅读既生动有趣，回味无穷，又学以致用，益学益智。

本系列读物适合一切英语学习爱好者，尤其是



中学生和大学低年级学生使用。

由于时间仓促，加之编者水平有限，书中错漏在所难免，恳请广大读者指正。

编 者

2001 年 7 月



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The Case of the Walk-In^① Burglar

A dog barked *furiously*^② as Nina and Max knocked at a door.

“Be sure you speak clearly,” Nina whispered to Max. “Mr. Hackett *is hard of hearing*^③.”

“Come on in, kids,” Mr. Hackett called through the *screen*^④. He *soothed*^⑤ the large dog as he gestured for the cousins to sit down. “Glad you could come right over.”

“You said someone had broken into your house,” Max said loudly. “What happened?”

The old man sighed. “Actually they just walked in. I had a hard time sleeping last night, so I decided to have a nap right after breakfast, left my wallet on the table there by the door. Anybody looking in could have seen it. I should have locked the screen, I know, but Spot and I

① walk-in *adj.* (房间等)能直接进入的；未经预约而来的

n. 人进得去的冰箱；不速之客

② furiously [ˈfjʊəriəsli] *adv.* 狂怒地；喧闹地

③ be hard of hearing 耳聋；听觉有问题

④ screen [ˈskrin] *n.* 屏；幕；帘

⑤ soothe [su:ð] *vt.* 安慰

were tired.” He pointed to a rug near the sofa. “Spot was napping right beside me.”

“So your wallet was stolen?” Nina asked.

“No, my money. I had four *twenties* ① lying beside the wallet. I was checking to see if I had enough cash for groceries later, and I didn’t put the cash back inside. Stupid of me not to have taken better care, but I just wasn’t thinking. Someone must have come to the screen, seen the money, walked in, and robbed me.”

“It’s funny that your dog didn’t bark,” Max said.

“Poor Spot.” Mr. Hackett patted his dog’s head. “Usually he barks at everyone he doesn’t know really well, but we’re both getting old. Guess he’s not hearing as well as he used to. *Sort of* ② like me.”

“So you don’t have any idea of who might have done it?” Nina asked.

“No. But a new neighbor just moved in next door. She doesn’t know any of the neighborhood kids, but she says she happened to be looking out of the window and she saw a blond-haired boy leaving my house an hour or so ago. He walked down the sidewalk to the south. She thought he was about thirteen or fourteen.”

“If he was walking, he must not live too far away,” Max said. “I know three guys who fit that description in

① twenty 20 美元的钞票

② sort of (informal) in a way; rather 有点, 有几分地



this neighborhood. They all live to the south."

Nina stood. "Let's go to talk to them."

"Sure, I know who Mr. Hackett is," Cody Wilson said when they reached his house. "I don't see him often, but he seems like a nice old guy. I was up on his end of the street this morning, but I wasn't there to see him. My piano teacher lives up that way. She wasn't at home, so I couldn't talk to her."

Mark Scott said he knew Mr. Hackett, too. "I ought to know him," he said. "I deliver his newspaper every evening, don't I? But I wasn't near his house this morning. I slept in real late, then watched some TV with my little brother. Can you believe it? I still like those cartoons!"

"I just got back from shopping," Bill Morris told the cousins. "I've seen that old guy around, but I don't even know where he lives. He's hard to talk to. He can't hear much, I guess. Sometimes my mom helps him with his taxes. I needed new shoes for gym, so I got up early and walked over to the store."

"I think I might know who did it," Max said as he and Nina left Bill's house.

"Me too," Nina told him.



Quiz

Can you solve the case? Whom do the cousins suspect, and

why?

A. Cody Wilson

B. Mark Scott

C. Bill Morris

D. Not sure



Exercises

A. Fill in the blanks with appropriate prepositions and adverbs:

1. It's very difficult to talk to my granny, because she is hard _____ hearing.
2. The thief robbed him _____ a rare silver coin.
3. We've got some new neighbors. The Smiths moved _____ yesterday.
4. Who is going to take care _____ your baby when you are away?

B. Fill in the blanks with appropriate words from the story:

5. My father used to _____ me with my lessons.
6. A dog usually _____ at strangers.
7. The shoes exactly _____ me. I'll buy them.
8. We hope that you can _____ the books to us as soon as possible.



The Case of the Sneak^① Thief's Sneakers^②

It was Saturday afternoon and Max and Nina were playing space *aliens*^③ in the woods. "Something's different," Max said as they took a break between battles. "I know Mr. Reed's not practicing."

Mr. Reed was the school's music teacher. The woods lay right by his property and every Saturday, as they played, the young cousins could always hear music coming from the *shack*^④ behind Mr. Reed's house.

Nina climbed down from the tree house they were using as their star *cruiser*^⑤. "You're right. I hope nothing's wrong." The words were barely out of her mouth when they heard a distant shout. "That's him."

Max and Nina ran to the edge of the woods. In front of them was Mr. Reed's field. In the middle of the field was the shack. Mr. Reed was there, staring through the

① sneak [sni:k] *n.* 鬼鬼祟祟的人; 偷偷摸摸的行为

adj. 暗中进行的

② sneaker ['sni:kə] *n.* (常用复数)帆布胶底运动鞋, 旅行鞋

③ alien ['eiljən] *n.* 外人; 外侨

④ shack [ʃæk] *n.* 小室

⑤ cruiser ['kru:zə] *n.* 巡航机

shack's open door.

"I've been robbed," he shouted for the fourth time.
"Max, Nina. Hello." He was trying to control his anger.

"I'd just unlocked the door when I noticed a split reed on my *clarinet* ①. I went back to my house to get a new one. I left the shack unlocked, just for a few minutes. And now look."

Max and Nina had never seen the inside before, but they'd heard about it. Mr. Reed's music shack had been *burgled* ② last year, everything was stolen. When the music teacher brought in new furniture, he bolted it all to the floor—the table in the center, the single chair by the table, even the file cabinets.

At first glance, nothing seemed *out of place* ③. But then Nina saw the broken pieces of pink *pottery* ④ on the table. "Someone broke open your *piggy bank* ⑤?"

Mr. Reed looked embarrassed. "It held my rare silver dollar collection." He crossed the room and stretched his tall *frame* ⑥ up to the blank space on his only shelf. "I kept it right here."

① clarinet [klæri'net] *n.* [乐]竖笛; 单簧管; 黑管

② burgle ['bɜ:gl] *v.* 偷窃

③ out of place 不在适当的位置; 不合适

④ pottery ['pɒtəri] *n.* 陶器; 陶器场

⑤ piggy bank (猪形) 储钱罐

⑥ frame [freim] *n.* 体格

“A crime of opportunity,” Max said, as if he dealt with this every day. “The thief saw the unlocked door and was looking for something to steal. He or she took the piggy bank, broke it open on the table...”

“Look,” Nina interrupted. “Footprints. Those aren’t yours, are they?”

“No,” Mr. Reed replied, examining the path of prints on the dusty floor. “I haven’t been in here since last Saturday. Being in the middle of a field, this place gets dusty pretty fast.”

Very carefully, Max followed the prints, from the door over to the shelf, then back to the table. After that, a **jumble** ① of prints led all around the room. “I wonder what he was doing?”

Nina was on the other side of the shack by a pair of nailed-down file cabinets. “These look like knee-prints,” she said, pointing to a pair of round prints between the cabinets. “Why would the thief kneel down?” She knelt down in the two knee prints. Right away, something shiny between the two cabinets caught her eye. Nina reached her arm through the narrow gap and pulled out a silver dollar. “The thief was trying to reach this,” she said proudly and handed the coin to Mr. Reed. “He was wearing ‘Sky Master’ sneakers.” Max stood up and wiped a little floor dust from his nose. “It’s printed on

① **jumble** [ˈdʒʌmbl] *n.* 混乱

the dust. Don't worry, Mr. Reed. We'll find your thief."

Max and Nina got on the case immediately. This was a lot more fun than fighting space aliens.

Their first stop was Garvey's, the only shoe store in town. Mr. Garvey informed them that "Sky Master" was a new brand of sneaker. "Since getting them in last week, I've made three sales," he said, checking his computer. "The first pair went to Todd Jones. You know him?" "Sure," Nina said. Everybody knew Todd "Beanpole" Jones. He looked like a seven foot tall *skeleton*① and was the center of the high school basketball team.

"I sold the second pair to Ollie Infree. You kids probably don't know Ollie."

But they did. Ollie Infree was a short and fat criminal whose taste for red suits made him look like a *fireplug*②, or like a short Santa Claus without the beard. He'd been arrested several times, once on Max's and Nina's suggestion. But he always managed to avoid *conviction*③.

The third pair had been bought by Mona Everest, a human mountain, as tall as Beanpole and as fat as Ollie. Mona had made a career for herself as a professional

① skeleton ['skelɪtn] n. (动物之)骨架, 骨骼; 骷髅

② fireplug ['faɪəplʌg] n. 灭火塞; 消防塞; 消防栓

③ conviction [kən'vɪkʃən] n. 定罪; 宣告有罪

wrestler^①. Two years ago, she retired and moved to Harborville in order to raise pet dogs.

“We’ll have to **spy on**^② them all,” Nina whispered as they left the store. “Maybe break into their houses and see —” “We’re not breaking into anyone’s house,” Max insisted. “I already think I know who the thief is.”



Quiz

Can you solve the case? Whom does Max suspect?

- A. Todd B. Ollie
C. Mona D. Not sure



Exercises

Choose the best answer:

- He _____ a gun and shot the criminal to death.
A. took in B. pulled in C. pulled out
- The chairs are _____. Put them in good order, please.
A. out of place B. in place C. disorder
- Your spelling mistakes _____ my eye as soon as I read your composition.
A. took B. caught C. attracted

① wrestler [ˈreslə] n. 摔跤选手

② spy on 侦查, 暗中监视