

中学英语拾级读物

**GRADED
ENGLISH
READERS**

第二级

**Stories of Ancient
Greece and Rome**

古代希腊、罗马故事

第**5**册

外语教学与研究出版社



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宜 凌 编注

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前 言

受国家教育委员会中学司委托,由上海外国语学院、北京外国语学院、北京师范大学、华东师范大学所属的出版社联合编辑、出版的《中学英语拾级读物》(简称《拾级读物》或《GE》)与读者见面了,这是我国中学英语教学的一项重要配套工程,旨在促进中学英语教学的改革。

取名《拾级读物》,不仅因为它有十个级别五十本书,而且还寓有“循序渐进,拾级而上”之意。中学生从初二开始阅读,逐级向上攀登,便可达到借助词典读懂浅近原著的水平。

《拾级读物》每册的词汇量、字数及对应年级大致如下:

级别	词 汇 量	每册大约字数	对 应 年 级
一	500—700	10 万	初二
二	600—900	10 万	初二、初三
三	800—1200	12 万	初三
四	1000—1500	12 万	初三、高一
五	1400—1800	12 万	高一、高二
六	1700—2000	12 万	高二、高三
七	2000—2500	14 万	重点中学高三
八	2500—3000	16 万	外国语学校高三
九	3000—3500	18 万	高材生、中学教师
十	3000—3500	18 万	高材生、中学教师

阅读是学好任何一种语言的必由之路,也是获取信息的主要渠道。只做习题,不大量阅读是学不好英语的。近年来不少

学生为了应付考试,花费大量的精力和时间去做各种各样的复习题,模拟试题,但收效甚微,对外语能力的提高并无多大益处,这是外语教学中的一种偏向。《拾级读物》的出版正是为了给中学英语教学提供一套可读性与系统性相结合的课外读物。

《拾级读物》主要供学生自己阅读,但教师可根据学生的实际水平帮助他们选择使用,并进行适当的辅导。特别在阅读方法上教师可作示范性的讲示,引导学生逐步摆脱语法和汉语的束缚,在此过程中,一是抓篇章大意和故事情节;二是注意学过语言现象的再现和在新环境下的发展。对不易理解之处,要启发学生先根据上下文去琢磨,实在影响阅读时再查阅词典。对不影响理解全文的语言难点则要舍得放过。只有这样,才能培养学生良好的阅读习惯,保持他们阅读的兴趣,提高他们阅读的速度。

《拾级读物》的级别是衡量中学生英语阅读水平的客观尺度,为了便于检查,我们还准备编写一套相应的测试材料和教学参考书。

《拾级读物》除供中学生使用外,还可作为中学英语教师培训、进修的教材。

第二级共五册,书目如下:(1)《布朗家的孩子们》;(2)《当代故事》;(3)《剧本和对话》;(4)《法网难逃》;(5)《古代希腊、罗马故事》。本册选收古代希腊神话故事6篇,古代罗马历史故事12篇。除专有名词外,约用900个英语常用词叙述,在语法项目方面有严格限制,注释比较详细。

鉴于编者水平有限,本读物在选材、注释等各方面肯定有不少缺点,敬请广大师生、各界读者不吝指正,供我们再版时参考。

《中学英语拾级读物》编辑委员会

一九八七年五月

《中学英语拾级读物》 第二级 第五册

古代希腊、罗马故事

古代希腊、罗马故事在欧美各国广泛流传,几乎家喻户晓。本书包含著名古代希腊神话故事 6 篇,古代罗马历史故事 12 篇。内容充实,语言浅易。在词汇方面,除专有名词外,大约共用 900 个英语常用词叙述,词语重复率很高;在语法项目方面有严格的限制,结构一般比较简单。配有插图 52 幅,注释详尽,适于中学生和初学英语者阅读。

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Stories of Ancient Greece

1. The Head of Medusa

1

Once there were two princes.¹ They were brothers.

The two princes lived in a country named Argos.²

Argos was a beautiful country, but the princes were not happy. They were not happy because they quarrelled.³ Acrisius⁴ said, "I will kill my brother."

An old man came to Acrisius. The old man said, "You wanted to kill your brother. You have a daughter named Danaë.⁵ Your daughter will have a son, and that son will kill you. Your daughter's son will kill you because you wanted to kill your brother."

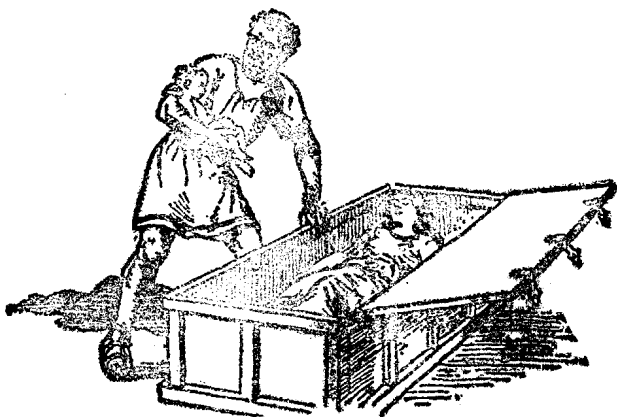
After a year Danaë had a son: he was a beautiful child. Then Acrisius said, "When that child becomes a man he will kill me. So I will kill him and his mother now."

Then Acrisius put Danaë and her child in a box. He put the box into the sea.

The sea carried the box away. Danaë and her child were carried away over the sea. But they did not die.

The sea carried the box to a country far away.

An old man came down to the sea to get fish. He was a very



great man and he had two servants to carry his fish. He was the brother of the King of that country. His name was Dictys.⁶

Dictys saw the box. He said, "What is that? — A big box in the sea! ... There is something in the box. ... It is a woman! It is a beautiful woman and a child!"

Dictys took Danaë and her son out of the box. He took them to his home. Danaë and her son lived there for fifteen years.

Danaë called her son Perseus.⁷

2

Fifteen years passed and Perseus was now fifteen years old. He was very big and strong. He was very beautiful. People said, "He is like a god:⁸ he is so strong and so beautiful."

Perseus became a seaman⁹ and went away on a ship. The ship came to an island.¹⁰ Perseus went for a walk. He came to a for-

est and sat down at the foot of a tree. Then he went to sleep. Perseus saw a beautiful woman in his sleep. He said, "Who are you?"



She answered, "I am the Goddess Athene.¹¹ I know what men think. They want to hide¹² their thoughts,¹³ but I see inside them. I know those who are strong and those who are not. I can make strong men stronger. Do you want to be strong and to work for me and do what I say?"

Perseus said, "Yes! I want to be strong. I want to do great things. Please help me!"

Athene had a shield¹⁴ on her arm. She said to Perseus, "Look in my shield. Tell me what you see."

Perseus saw in the shield a terrible face. It was the face of a woman, but it was bad and ugly,¹⁵ and on the head of the woman there were snakes.¹⁶

Perseus said, "That is a terrible thing. It will be good to kill that thing."

Athene answered, "That thing is called Medusa.¹⁷ I will help you to kill Medusa. But first you must go home and do the work there which you have to do. I will come to you again."

He looked up. Athene had gone. There was no one in the wood.

3

When Perseus went away, the King made Danaë go and live in his house. He made her work as a servant. She brought water from the river; she washed the floors; she washed clothes; she carried food to the table.

Perseus came home. He went to Dictys and said, "Where is my mother?"

Dictys was very sad: he said, "The King took her. I could not save her. He has made her a servant in his house."

Then Perseus said, "A servant! My mother a servant! — That is a terrible thing!"

He ran to the King's house. A soldier at the door said, "You cannot go in"; but Perseus threw the man down and went into the house. He went into a room; his mother was not there. He went into another room — and another. Then he found his mother washing the floor in a little room at the back of the house. He took her hand and led¹⁸ her into the great hall¹⁹ where the King was sitting. He said to the King, "You have made my mother a servant! I shall kill you for this!"

Dictys ran into the hall. He cried, "No! No! He is my bro-

ther. Do not kill him. I saved you from the sea: now I ask you to save him. Do not kill my brother!"

Perseus said, "Because you ask me, I will not kill him. He shall live."

Perseus took his mother away. There was a House of the Goddess Athene in that place. He put his mother in the House of Athene: the King could not take her away from there. Perseus and Dictys went to see her every day

Perseus took his mother to the House of Athene: the King could not take her away from there. So the King said, "I must send Perseus away. I cannot get Danaë when he is here." Then he said, "Ha! I know what I will do! I know how I can send Perseus away."

4

On the King's birthday all the rich men went to the King's house, and all gave him some beautiful or useful²⁰ thing. One man gave the King a horse; another gave him a beautiful coat; another man gave him a box made of gold;²¹ another gave him a jewel.²² All gave him some beautiful thing.

The King asked Perseus to come on his birthday, and Perseus went with the other men to the King's house; but he had nothing to give. He was not rich: he had come there as a child in a box and he had no house, no fields, no money — nothing.

Then the King said, "Perseus, I am your King. I have asked you to my house on my birthday. All the other men have given

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me something; what will you give me?"

Then all the rich men laughed: they said, "This man was thrown up by the sea. He has nothing. Why is he here? He cannot give anything to the King. What can this poor man give the King? Will you give the King six eggs, or some flowers, Perseus?" Then they all laughed.



Perseus said, "I will bring some thing which no other man can bring."

The rich men said, "Ha! Ha! What will you bring?"

Then Perseus thought of the thing which he saw in his sleep (or it may be that Athene made him think of it then). He said, "I will bring the head of Medusa!"

The King and all the rich men laughed long at this. They had all heard of Medusa: they knew that Medusa was the most terrible of all living things.

Then the King answered, "You have said it! You have said

that you will bring me the head of Medusa. Go! — Come back when you have got it!"

"He will not come back," thought the King, because he knew that any man who looks at the face of Medusa is changed into stone. "Perseus will go, and become a stone, and he will not come back." Then he laughed.

5

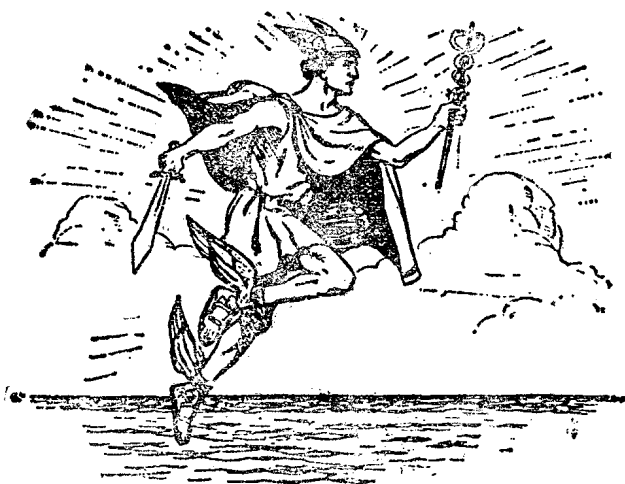
Perseus went and stood by the sea. He thought, "The King is very happy. He wanted me to say that! He thinks that I shall be changed into stone and never come back. No one will save my mother from the King when I am away. I have been foolish. O Athene, help me! Tell me what I must do now!"

Perseus saw some bright thing far away over the sea. The thing was like a small sun: it was very bright: he could not look at it. He shut²³ his eyes. Then he opened his eyes again; it was coming nearer and nearer.

Then he saw Athene standing in front of him with her bright shield on her arm. At her side there was a man whose eyes were as bright as suns, and he had in his hand a sword²⁴ made of one great jewel. On his feet there were golden²⁵ shoes, and on the shoes there were wings.²⁶ He was the God Hermes.²⁷

Athene said, "Perseus, you are strong. You are a man. You were not afraid of the King. Are you afraid of Medusa? Are you afraid to kill Medusa and cut off her head?"

Perseus said, "What is Medusa?"



Athene said, "Once Medusa was a beautiful woman, but she did a terrible thing, so she was changed into a Gorgon.²⁸ There are snakes on her head and her hands are like the feet of a bird. Her face is so terrible that any man who looks on it is changed into stone. Many men have gone to kill Medusa the Gorgon: none of them has come back. They are stones — dead stones standing in the place where they looked on her face."

"How can I kill Medusa? I shall become a stone when I look at her!" said Perseus.

"Take this shield," said Athene. "When you come near her do not look at her, but look at her face in this shield. When you have cut off her head, put it in a cloth so that it cannot be seen. But think before you go out to kill Medusa. She lives very far away. You will go far over land²⁹ and sea. You must go over the Country of the Dead. Many men have died there and no one has



ever found them.”

“Where is this Country of the Dead, and where is Medusa? How can I go across³⁰ the seas to get to her?” asked Perseus.

“Go north — north — north,” said Athene. “There, in the far north, you will find the Three Sisters who have only one eye. Say to them, ‘Where are the Daughters of Night who sit near the Golden Tree?’ The Three Sisters can tell you where they live. Then go on — on — on, and find the Daughters of Night. Say to the Daughters of Night, ‘Where is Medusa the Gorgon?’ They can tell you where she is.”

“How can I go across the seas?” said Perseus. “I have no boat.”³¹

Then the God Hermes who was standing near Athene said, “Take these wings. Put them on your feet. They will carry you over the sea. Take this sword: this sword will cut off the head of Medusa.”

Perseus said, “Shall I first see my mother and Dictys and tell

them that I am going?"

"No!" said Athene. "I will tell them. Come with me now!"

They went up to the top of a hill. Then Perseus put the wings on his feet and took the jewel-sword.

Athene said, "Jump off the top³² of this hill. The wings will carry you. You will not fall into the sea."

Perseus looked down. He saw the sea far, far down. He thought, "I must not be afraid." He shut his eyes and jumped. The wings carried him up and up. He looked back and saw Athene and Hermes far under him, very small and bright on the hill-top.

6

Then Perseus went north — north — north, over the sea. He came to the Country of the Dead, where there is no water and there are no trees and no living things.

Then he came to the far north where the Three Sisters sat near a fire.³³ They had only one eye. The First Sister looked at Perseus; then she gave the eye to the Second Sister. The Second Sister put the eye in her head and looked. Then she gave the eye to the Third Sister and she put the eye in her head and looked at Perseus.

Perseus said, "O Sisters, you are old, and you know many things. Tell me, Old Sisters, where can I find the Daughters of Night?"

Then the First Sister said, "Who calls us old? Who is this who calls us old?"