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余健明  
熊前莉

主编

【CLASSIC】

随MP3光盘加赠演讲原声

# 英语名篇名段 背诵精华

口袋本

让您在不知不觉中提高美学修养

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华东理工大学出版社  
EAST CHINA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PRESS

· 上海 ·

## 图书在版编目(CIP)数据

英语名篇名段背诵精华(口袋本)(随 MP3 光盘加赠演讲原声及沪江 20 元学习卡)/余健明,熊前莉主编.

—上海:华东理工大学出版社,2013.6

ISBN 978-7-5628-3555-4

I. ①英... II. ①余...②熊... III. 英语-阅读教学  
IV. ①H319.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2013)第 109329 号

## 英语名篇名段背诵精华(口袋本)

(随 MP3 光盘加赠演讲原声及沪江 20 元学习卡)

主 编 / 余健明 熊前莉

责任编辑 / 信 艳

责任校对 / 金慧娟

封面设计 / YUKI 工作室

出版发行 / 华东理工大学出版社有限公司

地 址:上海市梅陇路 130 号,200237

电 话:(021)64250306(营销部)

(021)64252710(编辑室)

传 真:(021)64252707

网 址:press.ecust.edu.cn

印 刷 / 常熟新骅印刷有限公司

开 本 / 710mm×1000mm 1/32

印 张 / 7.75

字 数 / 191 千字

版 次 / 2013 年 6 月第 1 版

印 次 / 2013 年 6 月第 1 次

书 号 / ISBN 978-7-5628-3555-4

定 价 / 20.00 元(赠 MP3 光盘)

联系我们:电子邮箱 [press@ecust.edu.cn](mailto:press@ecust.edu.cn)

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《英语名篇名段背诵精华(口袋本)》可供高等学校英语专业、英语二专、双语以及与英语运用相关专业的学生作为语音朗读、背诵或名著选读的教材,也可供中等程度以上的英语学习者自学之用。

从小学到大学,我们所背诵过的古诗文几乎都还可以信手拈来,这说明背诵对我们语言表达能力的提高帮助很大。英语专家朱光潜、戴镛龄、赵元任、许国璋、李赋宁诸位先生都对背诵在语言学习中的作用给予了充分肯定。在英语学习中重视利用年轻时的这段宝贵时光,尽可能多地背诵一些名篇名段和诗文、格言等,一定会终身受益。本书所选70多篇文章,体裁包括散文、随笔、评论、演说、诗歌、小品文和电影脚本等,覆盖自文艺复兴、启蒙运动等时期以来各流派知名作家的作品。我们从读者、文本、审美等角度来综合选取合适的短文和段落,并力图有所创新。因为我们认为,这种选本,一要吸取西方文化之精华,二要符合当代年轻人的兴趣,启发、引导和培养他们高尚的情操,激发他们丰富的想象力和创造力。出于这样的目的,在实际精选英语短文的过程中,我们邀请了上海外国语大学、广东外语外贸大学、复旦大学、武汉大学等高校师生共同推荐他们喜爱的、脍炙人口的经典篇章,以期选到好文章,来帮助学生,使他们的英语水平得到突破。

最后也是最重要的,本书在编写过程中参考了国内外众多教材和资料,在此向原作者表示深深感谢。同时还要感谢国内十多所高校英语教学第一线的教师 and 朋友们为我们寄来了推荐的文章,感谢 Clive Shepherd 博士审校全书英文。

参加本书选编、注释和部分翻译的还有李恒平、苗慧、戴鸿斌、朱梅华、印松霞、穆莉萍、祝国芳。由于编者水平有限,本书疏漏、差错之处在所难免,恳请广大读者批评指正。

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For a true writer each book should be a new beginning where he tries again for something that is beyond attainment. He should always try for something that has never been done or that others have tried and failed. Then sometimes, with great luck, he will succeed.

— Ernest Hemingway (1899 – 1961)

# 1. Best of Times

## 最好的时代



狄更斯在《双城记》一书开头就说,“这是一个最好的时代,也是一个最坏的时代”。妙哉斯言!这段文字因含有多个平行句(句子结构相同)而打动读者。文中句型的反复、形式上的对偶、内容上的对比、总体结构上的平行值得仔细玩味。

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times; it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness; it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity; it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness; it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair; we had everything before us, we had nothing before us; we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way.

Excerpt From *A Tale of Two Cities*

By Charles Dickens

**wisdom** [ˈwɪzdəm] *n.* 智慧, 明智的行为, 学识

*the ability to make sensible decisions and give good advice because of the experience and knowledge that you have*

**epoch** [ˈi:pək, ˈepək] *n.* 新纪元, 时代, 时期 *age, era, period*

**incredulity** [ˌɪnkrəˈdju:ləti] *n.* 怀疑

*the state or quality of being incredulous; disbelief*

**despair** [dɪˈspeə(r)] *n.* 绝望, 失望

*complete lose of hope or confidence*



查尔斯·狄更斯 (Charles Dickens, 1812—1870), 英国大名鼎鼎的作家, 是 19 世纪英国现实主义文学的主要代表人物之一。他笔耕一生, 靠勤奋和汗水创作出了《双城记》《大卫·科波菲尔》等世界文学名著。其作品艺术上以妙趣横生的幽默、细致入微的心理分析以及现实主义描写与浪漫主义气氛的有机结合而著称。他的作品被译成多国语言, 他的小说经改编成话剧、电影、音乐剧等。

✉ [译文] 这是一个最好的时代, 也是一个最坏的时代; 这是明智的年代, 这是愚昧的年代; 这是信任的纪元, 这是怀疑的纪元; 这是光明的季节, 这是黑暗的季节; 这是希望的春日, 这是失望的冬日; 我们面前应有尽有, 我们面前一无所有; 我们都将直上天堂, 我们都将直下地狱。

## 2. Great Expectations

### 远大前程



文学评论界一贯认为,狄更斯对英语语言的把握可谓出神入化。他的作品用词简单明了,朴实易懂。他不选用那些华而不实的词语,作品中不含半点矫揉造作之势。所以,他的作品读来朴实无华,如行云流水。本篇选段即摘自他晚期作品《远大前程》。

As the night was fast falling, and as the moon, being past the full, would not rise early, we held a little council: a short one, for clearly our course was to lie by at the first lonely tavern we could find. So, they plied their oars once more, and I looked out for anything like a house. Thus we held on, speaking little, for four or five dull miles. It was very cold, and, a collier coming by us, with her gallery-fire smoking and flaring, looked like a comfortable home. The night was as dark by this time as it would be until morning; and what light we had, seemed to come more from the river than the sky, as the oars in their dipping stuck at a few reflected stars.

Excerpt From *Great Expectations*

By Charles Dickens

**council** ['kaʊnsəl] *n.* 讨论会议

*an assembly of persons called together for consultation, deliberation, or discussion*

**tavern** ['tævən] *n.* 酒馆, 客栈 *a pub or an inn*

**plied their oars:** 使劲划起桨来

**collier** ['kɒliə] *n.* 运煤船 *a ship that carries coal*

**gallery-fire** ['gæləri'faɪə] *n.* 厨房 *here refers to kitchen*

**Great Expectations**, 意思为“一笔遗产”, 中文有的译为《远大前程》(有的译作《孤星血泪》)。这个译名给读者一种印象, 即作品的主人公是有远大前程的。而事实上, 这个“远大前程”是带讽刺意义的。这部作品的主题绝非仅仅是写孤儿皮普想成为上等人的理想幻灭的故事, 如果这样理解, 就错误地理解了狄更斯创作这部作品的意义。皮普生活在姐姐家里, 生活艰苦, 他的理想是当一名像姐夫一样的铁匠, 他没有想过要成为上等人。后来他之所以想成为上等人是环境使然。狄更斯的哲学思想之一是环境对人思想的影响。不同的环境可以造就不同的人。皮普的整个发展过程是符合一般人性论的。

☛ [译文] 天黑得很快, 偏巧这天又是下弦月, 月亮不会很早升起。我们就稍稍商量了一下, 可是也用不着多讨论, 因为情况是明摆着的, 再划下去我们一遇到冷落的酒店就得投宿。于是他们又使劲打起桨来, 我则用心寻找岸上是否隐隐约约有什么房屋的模样。这样又赶了四五英里路, 一路上好不气闷, 大家简直不说一句话。天气非常冷, 一艘煤船从我们近旁驶过, 船上厨房里生着火, 炊烟缕缕, 火光荧荧, 在我们看来简直就是个安乐家了。这时夜色已经黑透, 看来就要这样一黑到天明, 我们仅有的一点光亮, 似乎不是来自天空, 而是来自河上, 一桨又一桨的, 搅动着那寥寥几颗倒映在水里的寒星。

(王一科 译)

### 3. Heart of a Stranger

#### 陌生人之心



每位作家在滚滚红尘中，大概都渴望有一个宁静恬适的地方，在那里不但可以思考、写作，有时候也可以让疲惫的心灵停泊在避风的港湾。虽然有些作家相信“大隐隐于朝，中隐隐于市”，并不刻意想在大自然中寻觅隐居之所，然而自然总是具有某种不可抗拒的魔力，当自然喃喃细语、含情轻诉之时，恐怕没有哪个作家能够抵挡这野性多情的呼唤。

The most loved place, for me, in this country has in fact been many places. It has changed throughout the years, as I and my circumstances have changed. I haven't really lost any of the best places from the past, though. I may no longer inhabit them, but they inhabit me, portions of memory, presences in the mind. . . My best place at the moment is very different, although I guess it has some of the attributes of that long-ago place. It is a small cedar cabin on the Otonabee river in southern Ontario. I've lived three summers there, writing, birdwatching, riverwatching. I sometimes feel sorry for the people in speedboats who spend their weekends zinging up and down the river at about a million miles an hour. For all they're able to see, the riverbanks might just as well be green concrete and the river itself flowing with molten plastic.

Excerpt From *Heart of a Stranger*

By Margaret Laurence

**circumstance** [ˈsɜ:kəmstəns] *n.* 环境

*the conditions and facts that are connected with and affect a situation, an event or an action*

**inhabit** [ɪnˈhæbɪt] *v.* 居住于, 栖息

*to live or reside in*

**attribute** [ˈætrɪbjʊt] *n.* 品质, 特征

*a quality or feature of sb/sth*

**cedar** [ˈsi:də] *n.* 雪松

*a tall evergreen tree with wide spreading branches*

**cabin** [ˈkæbɪn] *n.* 小屋, 船舱

*a small house or shelter, usu. made of wood*

**Otonabee river:** 奥托拿比河

**Ontario:** 安大略湖, 位于北美洲中东部, 是美国和加拿大共有的湖

**birdwatching** *n.* 赏鸟

*watching birds in their natural environment and identifying different breeds*

**riverwatching** *n.* 观河

*watching rivers*

**speedboat** *n.* 高速游艇

*a motor boat that can travel very fast*

**zinging** *n.* 〈俚〉〈拟声语〉尖啸声; 风嗖嗖声

*moving or making sth move very quickly, often with a high whistling sound*

**concrete** [ˈkɒnkri:t] *n.* 混凝土

*building material that is made by mixing together cement, sand, small stones and water*

**molten** [ˈməʊltən] *adj.* 熔铸的

*heated to a very high temperature so that it becomes liquid*



---

玛格丽特·劳伦斯(Margaret Laurence, 1926—1987)出生在加拿大中部的曼尼托巴省尼帕瓦镇,她的故乡后来成为她小说系列中虚构的马那瓦卡镇。劳伦斯自幼就开始写作。她的作品有《石头天使》(1964)、《上帝的嘲弄》(1966)、《受尽煎熬的人》(1969)、《笼中之鸟》(1970)以及儿童系列读物《杰逊的追求》(1970)。

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✉ [译文] 在这个国家,我最喜欢的地方其实一直有许多。这些年来,由于我个人和情况的变迁,我最爱的地方也随着改变。虽然如此,我并不曾真正失去我过去喜爱过的任何地方。我或许不再居住在那儿,但它们却存在我的心里,成为我记忆中的片段,时常浮现在脑海中……此刻我最喜爱的地方相当不同,但我想它仍具有和老早那个地方(即明湖, Clear Lake)相同的某些特质。这个地方是安大略省南部奥托拿比河边的一间松木小屋。我在那儿度过了三个夏天;写作、赏鸟、观河。有时候我为那些来此地度周末,却驾着快艇以极快的速度在河上往来呼啸的人感到难过,因为这些人看见的河岸只不过是绿色的混凝土岸,而河流本身也仿佛只是条闪亮的流动塑料。



## 4. The Pleasant Family

### 快乐的家庭



这也许是世间无数对夫妻的生活写照,这种生活模式给人一种天伦之美,井然有序的幸福,但是又好像欠缺一点儿什么。

When in an hour they crowded into a cab to go home, I strolled idly to my club. I was perhaps a little lonely, and it was with a touch of envy that I thought of the pleasant family life of which I had had a glimpse. They seemed devoted to one another. They had little private jokes of their own which, unintelligible to the outsider, amused them enormously. Perhaps Charles Strickland was dull judged by a standard that demanded above all things verbal scintillation; but his intelligence was adequate to his surroundings, and that is a passport, not only to reasonable success, but still more to happiness. Mrs. Strickland was a charming woman, and she loved him. I pictured their lives, troubled by no untoward adventure, honest, decent, and, by reason of those two upstanding, pleasant children, so obviously destined to carry on the normal traditions of their race and station, not without significance. They would grow old insensibly; they would see their son and daughter come to years of reason, marry in due course — the one a pretty girl, future mother of healthy children; the other a handsome, manly fellow, obviously a soldier; and at last, prosperous in their dignified retirement, beloved by their descendants, after a happy, not unuseful life, in the fullness of their