美国公私立中学首选经典课外读本

[美]威廉·H. 麦加菲/主编 查文宏 马洛红/译

## AMERICAN ECLECTIC READERS

# 美国语文

中学 🕩



培根、欧文、狄更斯、富兰克林 …… 文豪云集 联袂打造

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双语 插图版



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青少年朋友们学习英语是为了交流。但是,传统的英语学习往往偏离这个语言 学习的目的,仅仅为了学习而学习,为了考试而考试。这种功利化的学习方式显然 已经不适应大家出国留学、工作、定居的实际需要。

语言是文化的载体,语言带有文化的烙印,文化是语言的底座。英语这种世界上使用最广泛的语言深深根植于其所属民族文化的土壤之中,它反映了以英语为母语的民族的历史文化背景、生活态度、思维方式等。因而,学习英语,不能不了解这种语言的文化背景。

语言能力和文化能力是学习英语的青少年朋友们需要掌握的核心能力,其中后者更为重要。语言能力是进一步获得文化知识的必要前提和手段,应当首先掌握。 而通过英语学习,培养文化意识,即通过英语学习了解异族文化,提高文化理解能力,提高文化对比能力,提高跨文化交际能力,提高处理异文化的能力,则是英语学习更高层次的追求。

中国语言学大师吕叔湘先生曾说:"学外语而不懂其文化,等于记住了一连串没有实际意义的符号,很难有效地加以运用,而且每每用错。"因而,英语学习不

能只局限于国内教材,只背记语法规则,应该扩大学习视野,追求经典原版读物,充实英语知识,了解英语国家的文化和社会风俗习惯,以提高文化能力。

我们一直想为中国的青少年朋友们引进一套优秀的原版英语读本,帮助青少年 朋友掌握英语学习的语言能力和文化能力。通过甄选,我们选中了美国著名教育家 威廉·H.麦加菲精心选编的这套美国语文课外读本。这套迄今为止影响了美国整整 五代人的精美读本出现在我们眼前时,我们满怀惊喜。培根、欧文、狄更斯、富兰 克林、约翰逊、泰勒、霍斯、戈德史密斯等大文豪挥笔而作的篇篇经典完美呈现了 英语之美。在这里,西方语文教育与文化素质教育结合得如此完美。

本书所有文章均选自美国原版语文读本《麦加菲读本》,语言纯正,内容丰富,既有生动幽默的故事寓言、意境幽远的散文,亦有动人心弦的诗歌、曲折离奇的短剧,每篇文章皆有丰富的内涵与哲理,耐人咀嚼,能为青少年朋友们提供最原汁原味的英语阅读体验。

如此大师云集、难得一见的英语经典读本,不仅是青少年学生极佳的课外英语读物,对于大众读者来说,也是自我提升教育的典范读本,值得开卷细读。



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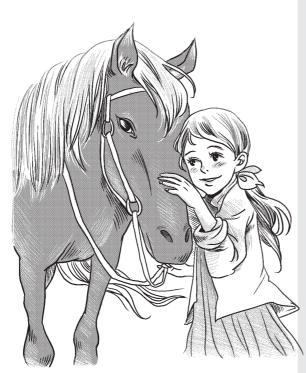


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# Sart 1 温馨情愫

想被人爱,就要去爱别 人,并让自己可爱。

——本杰明·富兰克林



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### Lesson One The Generous Russian Peasant

A DUMANON

LET Vergil sing the praises of Augustus, genius celebrate merit, and flattery **extol** the talents of the great. "The short and simple **annals** of the poor" **engross** my pen; and while I record the history of Flor Silin's virtues, though I speak of a poor peasant, I shall describe a noble man. I ask no **eloquence** to assist me in the task; modest worth rejects the aid of ornament to set it off.

It is impossible, even at this distant period, to reflect without horror on the miseries of that year known in Lower Volga by the name of the "Famine Year". I remember the summer, whose scorching heats had dried up all the fields, and the **drought** had no relief but from the tears of the ruined farmer.

I remember the cold, comfortless autumn, and the despairing

**源译文** 300 ·

#### 慷慨的俄罗斯农民

当你遇上真正的慷慨时,它有着不可思议的魅力。作为一种品质,人无论贵贱贫富,都一样可以拥有它。

#### Words & Phrases

#### extol

[ik'stol] v. 赞美,极力称赞

#### annal

['ænl] n. 年鉴,编年史

#### engross

[in'gros] v. 占用,使全神贯注, 独占

#### eloquence

['eləkwəns] n. 雄辩,口才,修辞 drought [draut] n. 于旱、缺乏 让维吉尔去歌颂奥古斯都;才子们去颂扬丰功伟 绩;阿谀奉承的人把溢美之词献给帝王吧!我的笔撰写的 却是《穷人简要纪事》,我在书中记载了弗洛·斯林的美 德故事,虽然他只是位贫穷的农民,但在我的叙述中,他 更是位品德高尚的人。正如谦逊的品德无须耀眼的饰品来 衬托,我的文字也无须华丽的辞藻来点缀。

即使时光已流逝多年,每当我回忆起发生在伏尔加河下游的"饥荒之年"的惨状时,仍感到不寒而栗。我记得那炎炎夏日,炙热的阳光把田野烤得一片荒芜,农民们眼中绝望的泪水也扼制不了干旱的肆虐。

我记得那寒冷凄惨的秋天, 沮丧的农夫们团团围住



**rustics**, crowding round their empty barns, with folded arms and sorrowful **countenances**, pondering on their misery, instead of rejoicing, as usual, at the golden harvest. I remember the winter which succeeded, and I reflect with agony on the miseries it brought with it. Whole families left their homes to become beggars on the highway.

At night the canopy of heaven served them as their only shelter from the piercing winds and bitter frost. To describe these scenes would be to harm the feelings of my readers; therefore, to my tale. In those days I lived on an **estate** not far from Simbirsk; and, though but a child, I have not forgotten the impression made on my mind by the general calamity.

In a village adjoining lived Flor Silin, a poor, laboring peasant, —a man remarkable for his **assiduity** and the skill and judgment with which he cultivated his lands. He was blessed with abundant crops; and his means being larger than his wants, his **granaries**, even at this time, were full of corn. The dry year coming on had beggared all the village except himself. Here was an opportunity to grow rich. Mark how Flor Silin acted. Having called the poorest of his neighbors about him, he addressed them in the following manner:

"My friends, you want corn for your **subsistence**. God has blessed me with abundance. Assist in thrashing out a quantity, and each of you take what he wants for his family." The peasants were amazed at this unexampled generosity; for sordid **propensities** exist in the village as well as in the populous city.

The fame of Flor Silin's **benevolence** having reached other

#### Words & Phrases

#### rustic

[ˈrʌstik] n. 农夫

#### countenance

['kauntnəns] n. 面容

#### estate

[i'steit] n. 庄园;住宅区 assiduity

[əˈsidʒu:iti] n. 勤勉

#### granary

['grænəri] n. 谷仓,粮仓 subsistence

[səb'sistəns] n.

#### 生存,生活 propensity

[prə'pensəti] n. 倾向,特性,习性

#### benevolence

[bi'nevələns] n. 善行,仁义 那些空空的谷仓,双臂交叉,愁容满面。他们苦苦思索着 这悲哀的命运,再也不像以前那样兴高采烈地欢庆金色丰 收。我记得那接踵而至的冬天,记得它带来的烦忧和苦难。 一户户人家背井离乡,在路上乞讨。

夜晚,他们在苍穹下露宿,寒风刺骨,冰霜砭人。如果我继续写这些惨景,那么读者们可能也会不忍卒睹, 所以我还是直接讲故事吧。那时我只是个孩子,住在离辛 比尔斯克不远的一座种植园里,这场灾难给我留下了难以 磨灭的印象。

附近村子里有位贫穷而勤劳的农民,名叫弗洛·斯林。 他勤勉耕作土地,种植技术高超,又有准确的判断力,所 以他的收成总是很好;他的收入也总比他预想的要多。即 使在那样的灾年,他的谷仓里也装满了粮食。干旱使所有 的村民都沦为乞丐,而他却没有,这对他来说,真是一个 发家致富的好机会。请看看弗洛·斯林是怎么做的吧。他 召集来那些最穷的邻居们,对他们说出了下面一番话:

"我的朋友们,我知道你们需要粮食才能活下去。上 帝保佑我获得了丰收。这些是已脱好的谷粒,你们各自帮 家人拿一些回去吧。"农民们都被他这闻所未闻的慷慨行 为怔住了,因为不管是在贫瘠的乡村还是繁华的都市,都 有一些卑劣习性啊。

弗洛・斯林仁义的善行很快就传到其他村庄, 许多



villages, the famished inhabitants presented themselves before him, and begged for corn. This good creature received them as brothers; and, while his store remained, afforded all relief. At length, his wife, seeing no end to the generosity of his noble spirit, reminded him how necessary it would be to think of their own wants, and hold his lavish hand before it was too late. "It is written in the Scripture," said he, "Give, and it shall be given unto you."

The following year Providence listened to the prayers of the poor, and the harvest was abundant. The peasants who had been saved from **starving** by Flor Silin now gathered around him.

"Behold," said they, "the corn you lent us. You saved our wives and children. We should have been *famished* but for you; may God reward you; he only can; all we have to give is our corn and grateful thanks." "I want no corn at present, my good neighbors," said he, "my harvest has exceeded all my expectations; for the rest, thank heaven: I have been but an humble instrument."

They urged him in vain. "No," said he, "I shall not accept your corn. If you have **superfluities**, share them among your poor neighbors, who, being unable to **sow** their fields last autumn, are still in want; let us assist them, my dear friends; the Alimighty will bless us for it." "Yes," replied the grateful peasants, "our poor neighbors shall have this corn. They shall

**愛 译文 ③** 

饥肠辘辘的人们找到他,乞求他给点粮食。斯林把他们都 当作自己的兄弟一样,倾其所有来接济他们。最后,他妻 子看到他慷慨解囊的义举似乎没有尽头,就提醒他不要对 别人太大手大脚,要留点粮食给自家人,以免到时后悔莫 及。斯林却回答说:"《圣经》里写着:只要付出,你就会 有回报。"

第二年,上苍听到穷人们的祈祷,让人们获得了大 丰收。那些因弗洛·斯林的救助而躲过饥荒的农民们又聚 到了他的周围。

"看那!"他们说,"这些是您借给我们的粮食,您救了我们的妻子和孩子。如果不是您的救助,我们也许就饿死了。上帝会报答您的,他能做到这一切。我们所能给您的就是献给您这些粮食和诚挚的谢意。""我的好邻居们,我目前也不需要粮食。"斯林说,"我也获得了意想不到的大丰收,至于其他的事,让我们感谢上苍吧!我不过是他谦卑的子民而已。"

村民们坚持让斯林收下粮食,可他坚决不收。"不。"他说,"我不会收你们的粮食。如果你们的粮食太多了,那么就分一些给你们的穷邻居吧。他们去年秋天颗粒无收,现在仍需要帮助。我亲爱的朋友们,让我们去帮助他们吧。上苍会为此而保佑我们的。""是的。"那些心怀感激的农民们说,"我们应该把这些粮食送给那些可怜的邻

Words & Phrases

#### <u>starve</u>

[starv] v.

(使)挨饿,(使)饿死

#### famish

「'fæmi,∫ ] v.

(使)饥饿

#### superfluity

[ˌsupər'fluəti] n. 多余物,过剩品

#### sow

[sou] v.

播(种)