



ZHIHUI JIAOYU HUODONG CONGSHU

智 慧 教 育 活 动 丛 书

节日习俗

这里有阅读的眷恋、深情、体悟；
这里我们一起分享，让阅读与学习相长，思维共智慧齐飞……

牛芳丽◎主编

[英汉对照]



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前言

许多教育专家都认同这样的观点：教育的一半是知识教育，另一半是智慧教育。智慧教育对学生的未来发展起着决定性作用。但如今，我们往往重视知识教育，却忽视了智慧教育。

很多人都看见过苹果落地，看见过吊灯的自然摆动，都觉得这是正常的。结果，苹果还是苹果，吊灯还是吊灯。但拥有智慧的牛顿、伽利略却能从中看到事物的本质，产生联想。从而发现了地球的引力作用，发明钟表。由此，我们不仅要推崇知识，更要启迪智慧。

生活本是智慧之源，当我们倡导教育要回归智慧的时候，理所当然呼唤教育也要回归生活。我们应该把书本中的智慧和生活中的智慧结合起来。引导这种结合，本身需要一种悟性，这种悟性只有热爱智慧的人在实践中才能获得；只有热爱智慧才能从书本中、生活中去汲取智慧、获得智慧，才能把对学习、生活水平的理想转化为现实生活中的实践智慧，从而走向智慧的优化和创新。可以说，热爱智慧——获得智慧——优化智慧，这就是智慧教育生成的三

部曲。

因此,我们精心组织编写了《智慧教育活动丛书》,让学生在阅读中,在获得知识的同时,积极思考,提高阅读能力,养成良好的阅读习惯,提升学生整体的阅读素养与人文素养,优化智慧。本套丛书选材广泛,内容丰富,体裁灵活多变,选入的主题有语言学习、体育运动、文化生活、环境保护、文学艺术、音乐影视、风俗礼仪、自然科学、饮食文化、兴趣爱好、科学技术、地球、电脑、情感、成长、诗歌、幽默、名人、旅游、交际、演讲等,从各个层面分主题介绍。并采取中英文对照的形式编排,让学生在学习过程中,体会、认识两种语言与文化的差异,增强跨文化意识;同时,本套书也可作为各种英语活动、竞赛的教材、参考资料。

限于编者水平有限,时间仓促,难免有纰漏之处,恳请读者批评指正。

编者



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中国节日





Spring Festival

The Spring Festival is the most important and biggest festival in China. To the Chinese people it is as important as Christmas to people in the West.

It is the first day of the lunar calendar and usually lasts for about one month, heralding^① the beginning of spring, thus it is known as Spring Festival. This traditional festival is also a festival of reunion, thus no matter how far away people are from their home, they would try their best to get back home to have the Reunion Dinner.

The Chinese meaning of this festival is Guo Nian. Guo means pass over and Nian means year. The origin of the Chinese New Year Festival can be traced back thousands of years.



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According to one of the most famous legends, in ancient China there lived a monster named Year who, with a horn on the head, was extremely ferocious. Year lived deep at the bottom of the sea all the year round and climbed up to the shore only on New Year's Eve to devour^② the cattle and kill people's lives.

Thereupon on the day of every New Year's Eve people from all villages would flee, bringing along the old and the young, to the remote mountains so as to avoid the calamity caused by the monster of Year.

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On the day of that New Year's Eve the people of Peach Blossom village were bringing along the old and the young to take flight when there came from outside the village an old beggar. With a stick in his hand and a bag hanging upon his arm, he had eyes twinkling like stars and graceful beard as white as silver.

Seized with panic, the villagers were in a great hurry to run away. Some were closing the windows and locking the doors, some were packing, and others were urging the cat-



tle and driving the sheep. At a time when the people were shouting and the horses were neighing^③ no one was in the mood to care for the beggar.

Only a grandmother living in the east end of the village gave the old man some food and advised him to flee to the mountains to avoid the Year monster. But the old man stroked his beard and said with a smile, "If you allow me to stay at your home for the night, I'm sure to drive away the monster Year."

The old woman was surprised to hear this. She looked at him unbelievably only to find that, with white hair and ruddy^④ complexion, the old man had a bearing out of the ordinary. She went on to persuade him to take flight. But he only smiled without reply. Thereupon the grandmother could not help but leave her home and flee to the mountains.

Around midnight the monster Year rushed into the villages. He found the atmosphere was quite different from that of the previous year. The house of the grandmother in the east end of the village was brilliantly illuminated^⑤, with



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bright red paper stuck on the doors. Greatly shocked, the monster gave a strange loud cry.

The monster Year stared angrily at the house for a moment. And then howling furiously, he made a pounce on it. As he approached the door, there came all of a sudden the exploding sounds of bang-bong. Trembling all over, the monster dared not make a step forward.

It turned out that the red color; flame and exploding were what Year feared the most. And when the door of the grandmother's house was thrown open and an old man in a red robe burst out laughing in the courtyard, the monster Year was scared out of his wits and fled helter-skelter^⑥.

The next day was the 1st of the first lunar month. When people came back from their hideouts and found everything safe and sound, they were quite surprised. The old woman suddenly realized what had happened and told the villagers about the old beggar's promise.

The villagers swarmed^⑦ into the grandmother's house, only to find that the doors were struck with red paper, the



ember of a pile of bamboo were still giving out exploding sound of bang-bong in the courtyard, and a few candles were still glowing in the room...

The story was soon spread far and wide and everybody was talking about it. They concluded in the end that the old beggar was surely the celestial[®] being who came to expel the calamities and bless the people, and that red paper, red cloth, red candles and the exploding firecracker were certainly the magic weapons to drive out the monster Year.

To celebrate the arrival of the auspiciousness[®], the raptured villagers put on their clothes and new hats and went one after another to their relatives and friends to send their regards and congratulations. This was soon spread to the surrounding villages, and people all got to know the way to drive away the monster Year.

From then on, on each New Year's Eve, each family stick on their doors antithetical[®] couplets written on red paper, blow up firecrackers, keep their houses brilliantly illuminated and stay up late into the night. Early in the morn-



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ing of the 1st of the first lunar month they go to their relatives and friends' to send their regards and congratulations.

These customs are spreading far and wide and kept for generations. It becomes the most ceremonious traditional festival of the Chinese people.

Notes



- ① herald v. 预示……的来临
- ② devour v. 吞没, 吞食
- ③ neigh v. (马)嘶
- ④ ruddy adj. 红润的, 红色的
- ⑤ illuminate v. 照亮, 照射
- ⑥ helter-skelter adv. 匆忙地; 混乱地
- ⑦ swarm v. 蜂拥, 挤满
- ⑧ celestial adj. 天上的, 神圣的



⑨ auspiciousness n. 吉利, 吉兆

⑩ antithetical adj. 对偶的, 对立的

