

高 / 等 / 院 / 校 / 英 / 语 / 教 / 材

大学英语

Selected Reading of English Works for College Learners

主 编 杨欣欣 郭银玲

审 校 [美] Paul Adair Wood

阅读与欣赏

河南人民出版社

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前 言

大学英语教学中,学生常常问到的一个问题就是:我们该读些什么?能否给我们推荐一些阅读材料?

从多年的英语教学实际来看,学生们普遍存在着阅读量不够的情况。究其原因,是他们往往局限于阅读课本上有限的几篇课文,然后做做课后作业,四、六级考试前再做些模拟题,仅此而已,缺乏足够的阅读训练。有的学生甚至连课文都不愿意看,因为文章词汇量大,课文难度大,内容有时枯燥乏味,学生不感兴趣。这样下来,学生的英语词汇贫乏,背景知识欠缺,英语学习也似乎仅仅成了应付考试的一项任务,毫无趣味性可言。因此,英语水平的提高也就无从谈起。

教育部最新下发的《大学英语课程要求》指出,阅读能力仍然是学生英语学习非常重要的一个方面。加大学生英语阅读量,对丰富他们的背景知识,扩大他们的词汇量,培养他们良好的语感等各方面能力的提高都大有益处。尤其是在中国这样一个以英语为外语的国度,英语阅读仍然是学生接受语言输入的一个主要途径,因此,更应该让学生大量阅读适合他们学习程度的原语言材料。

根据大学生的特点,我们从学生的实际水平出发,以贴近学生生活、符合学生兴趣为选材的着眼点,精选 60 篇文章供学生阅读,让学生在阅读与欣赏的过程中增长知识、提高修养、了解英语语言和文化。

本书分 7 个版块组织文章,有引人入胜、耐人寻味的故事,有情绪激昂的演说,有励志的名人轶事和传记,也有富有哲理让人掩卷深思的散文,还有与人类息息相关的高新科技和脍炙人口的英美诗歌,等等。文章长度、难度适中,注重思想性、知识性、趣味性和欣赏性,内容健康向上。每篇文章附有适当的注释和难句翻译,免去学生阅读过程中因查找生词而造成的许多不便。此外,对文中精彩之笔进行适当点评,帮助

学生理解学习和欣赏。本书是学生课余生活的良师益友,具有收藏价值。也是教师检查学生课外阅读的一本理想的辅助配套教材。

本书编写者都是长期在大学任教的一线老师,他们熟悉语言教学理论和教学规律,了解学生的兴趣、爱好、需要和水平。所选材料难易适中。有人说,多学习一种语言,就会多长一颗心灵。学海无涯,书山无边。我们希望从这本书开始,同学们能够经常发现适合自己阅读的文章和课外书,丰富自己的英语词汇和文化知识,充实自己的课外生活。欢迎同学们对本书提出宝贵的建议,我们期待着您的反馈!

本书特别适合于大学生及中级英语水平的自学者。

外籍教师 Paul Adair Wood 先生参与了本书的审校工作,在此向他深表谢忱。

由于作者水平有限,加之时间仓促,疏漏之处在所难免,敬请专家与同行不吝赐教。

编 者

2006 年 7 月

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Part One

Interesting Stories



Lead: Are you or have you lived with your grandparents? If so, what have you learned from them? Can you tell an unforgettable story about something happening between you and your grandparents? When Will's grandfather died, he left Will a beautiful watch. If you want to know what happened to the watch, please read the following story.

The Watch



The watch was my grandfather's. It hung by his bed. The face was marked with beautiful Roman numerals and the case was gold—heavy and beautifully carved. It was a magnificent watch and I often gazed at it longingly as I sat with my grandfather in the afternoons after school.

Grandfather, ill as he was, always liked to have me there. He would often ask about my progress at school. The day I told him of my success in the examinations, he was pleased as Punch. “You’ll be going to the new school next then, Will?” he asked.

“Then college,” I said, seeing the path straight before me.

“Then I shall be a doctor.”

“That you will, I’ve no doubt, but you’ll need plenty of patience. Patience and hard work.”

“Yes, granddad,” I said.

“Aye, Will, that’s the way to succeed.” He moved restlessly with the bed sheets. “It must be getting on.”

I handed him the watch. He gazed at it for some moments, and wound it. When he passed it back to me I held it, feeling its weight.

“That watch was given to me for fifty years of faithful service with my firm,” my grandfather said proudly. ①He had been a blacksmith, though it was hard now to believe

that those weak hands had once held the huge blacksmith's hammer.

One evening at the height of summer, as I was leaving him, he touched my hand. "Thank you, boy," he said in a voice grown weak and tired. "And you'll not forget what I told you?"

I was suddenly very moved. "No, granddad," I promised, "I'll not forget."

The next morning my mother told me that he had died in his sleep.

When his will was read, I learned that my grandfather had left me his watch. ② My mother was to hold it in trust until she considered me old enough to look after it, and she wanted to put it away until then, but I protested so strongly that she finally agreed to hang it in the kitchen where I could always see it.

The summer soon ended and it was time for me to enter the new school. ③ I have never made friends easily, and for a time I did little more than get on speaking terms with the other boys. ④ One of them was a well-to-do fellow whose way of impressing the rest of us was to display his possessions before us. Crawley's bicycle was new; his boots were of the best leather, everything, in fact, that Crawley had was better than ours—until he brought the watch.

Yes, said Crawley, the watch had a beautiful second hand and luminous figures, and wasn't it absolutely the finest watch we had ever seen?

"I have a better watch than that," I announced.

"Yeah?"

"Yes, I have," I insisted. "My grandfather left it to me."

"Well, show it to us," Crawley said.

"I haven't got it here."

"You haven't got it at all," Crawley said.

"I'll bring it this afternoon," I said. "Then you'll see."

I wondered how I would persuade my mother to let me take the watch, but on the bus going home I remembered that today was washing day, when my mother put the watch in a drawer, away from the steam. I had only to wait for her to step outside and I could slip the watch into my pocket.

I was too excited to wait for the return bus, and after lunch I got my bike out of the shed. "Are you taking your bike, Will?" asked my mother. "I thought it needed mending."

"It's only a little thing," I told her. "It'll be all right."

I rode fast, excitement coursing through me. Then suddenly a small dog ran out into my path. I pulled at my back brake and the cable snapped—that was what I had intended to repair. I pressed on the front brake, the bike came to a standstill, and I shot over the

handlebars.

I picked myself up, rubbing the side on which I had fallen. ⑤Then I put a trembling hand into my pocket, and brought out what was left of my grandfather's proudest possession. There was a deep bulge in the case, the glass was shattered, and the Roman numerals looked crazily at one another. I put the watch back and rode slowly on to school, numb with misery.

"Where's the watch, Will?" asked the boys.

"My mother wouldn't let me bring it," I lied.

"His mother wouldn't let him," Crawley said mockingly, "what a story!" The others took up his cries.

As I sat quietly at my desk, a strange feeling stole over me. It was not shame at my classmates' mocking, nor was it fear of my mother's anger. No, all I could think of was my grandfather lying in his bed, his tired voice saying, "Patience, Will, patience."

And I nearly wept, for it was the saddest moment of my young life.

(860 words)

注释

1. **numeral** *n.* word or figure representing a number 数字
2. **carve** *vt. & vi.* form (sth.) by cutting away material from wood or stone 雕刻
3. **magnificent** *adj.* splendid; remarkable; impressive 壮丽的; 壮观的
4. **longingly** *adv.* with intense desire 渴望地
5. **Punch** *n.* the chief character in the puppet-show "Punch and Judy" 庞奇(传统木偶戏《庞奇和朱迪》中的驼背丑角); **pleased as Punch** very pleased 非常快乐
6. **wind** *vt.* cause a mechanism (esp. a clock or watch) to operate, e. g. by turning a key to tighten the spring 上(尤指钟表)发条
7. **blacksmith** *n.* a person who makes and repairs things of iron 铁匠
8. **trust** *n.* 信托财产; **in trust** 受托保管财产
9. **get/be on speaking terms with sb.** know sb. well enough to speak to him 与某人熟识到可交谈的地步
10. **well-to-do** *adj.* rich; wealthy 富裕的; 富有的
11. **possession** *n.* personal property 私人财产
12. **leather** *n.* material made by tanning animal skins 皮革
13. **luminous** *adj.* giving out light 发光的
14. **course** *vi.* (esp. of liquids) move or flow freely(尤指液体)流动
15. **brake** *n.* device used on bikes or cars for reducing speed or stopping 刹车; 车闸
16. **snap** *vt. & vi.* to break suddenly with a sharp noise 断裂并发出尖利声音
17. **standstill** *n.* halt; stop 停顿
18. **handlebar** *n.* bars with a handle at each end, for steering a bicycle, etc. (自行车等的)把手

19. **bulge** *n.* rounded swelling; outward curve 鼓起; 凸出
20. **shatter** *vt. & vi.* to break into small pieces 粉碎
21. **numb** *adj.* without the power to feel or move 失去感觉的; 麻木的
22. **misery** *n.* great suffering or discomfort (of mind or body) (精神或肉体的) 痛苦, 难受
23. **mock** *vt. & vi.* to make fun of (sb./sth.) 取笑; 嘲弄; **mockingly** *adv.* 嘲弄地
24. **take up** to add one's voice to sth. 一起说、唱或喊

阅读与欣赏

本文没有空洞的理论,没有华丽的辞藻,作者以平静的语气,毫不雕琢地叙述了主人公威尔不慎摔碎其祖父遗留的那块手表的故事。故事一开始作者对手表进行了细致的描绘,表达出了威尔对这块手表的无限喜爱之情以及它在他心中的重要地位。这块手表不仅外形美观,而且通过祖父之口“*That watch was given to me for fifty years of faithful service with my firm.*”我们知道它对于祖父具有非常特殊的意义(his proudest possession)。这为后来手表的摔碎给威尔带来的巨大痛苦埋下了伏笔。同时,从字里行间可以看出祖孙之间的深厚感情以及祖父对“我”的殷切希望和谆谆教导。而正是因为“我”没有牢记祖父的教导才导致了手表的摔碎,这进一步加深了“我”的痛苦。(… it was the saddest moment in my young life.)

威尔就是这样以祖父的叮咛“… you'll need plenty of patience.”“… that's the way to succeed.”“It must be getting on.”和自己的真切感受告诫人们:耐心对于成功来说是多么的重要,突出了作者对培育青年人耐心的态度和认识。以事说理,使文章更具有说服力和感染力。

难句翻译

1. He had been a blacksmith, though it was hard now to believe that those weak hands had once held the huge blacksmith's hammer. 他过去是一位铁匠,尽管现在很难相信那双孱弱的手曾经举起过巨大的铁锤。

2. My mother was to hold it in trust until she considered me old enough to look after it, and she wanted to put it away until then, but I protested so strongly that she finally agreed to hang it in the kitchen where I could always see it. 我的母亲本打算替我收藏起来,直到她认为我可以自己保管的时候。但我对此表示强烈反对,最后她终于同意把它挂在厨房里,以便我每天都能看见。

3. I have never made friends easily, and for a time I did little more than get on speaking terms with the other boys. 一直以来,我都很难与人交往,以至于在很长一段时间内,我与其他男孩仅能攀上只言片语。

4. One of them was a well-to-do fellow whose way of impressing the rest of us was to display his possessions before us. 其中有一位有钱的家伙,他总在我们面前炫耀他的

富有。

5. Then I put a trembling hand into my pocket, and brought out what was left of my grandfather's proudest possession. 然后,我颤抖着手伸进衣袋,掏出祖父留下的他最引以为豪的宝贝。

思考与讨论

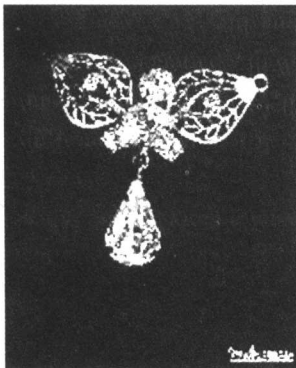
1. Why was it the saddest moment in Will's young life?
2. What would happen when Will's mother found out about the watch?

2

Lead: *What makes a person more attractive? Is it good appearance, proper make-up, nice dress, self-confidence or something else? Since Genevieve was a shy girl, nobody asked her to the benefit dance at the country club. She wanted to go to the dance more than anything else. See how things changed for her after she bought the beau catcher.*

Please read the following interesting story.

The Beau Catcher



What had really brought her into Waller's Department Store was something definitely not romantic. ① She had promised her mother to get herself a pair of boots, but as she wandered through the store, she was looking longingly at the things she couldn't afford or wouldn't be allowed to wear. That two-piece bathing suit, for instance, was just like the one Renee Weston had.

Renee Weston, yes ... whom Bert Howland was probably taking to the benefit dance this Saturday, this very night. And as for herself, who had asked her to go to the benefit dance at the country club? Why, nobody, for who was going to ask bashful Genevieve Smith?

She was walking along the aisles with her head down and her heart, to judge from the way she felt, dragging on the floor behind her. It was the sign BEAU CATCHERS in front of some hair ribbons that stopped her. Around the sign was a selection of those bow ribbons for your hair. In every color of the rainbow, it said—pick a color to suit your personality.

② She stood there a moment, wondering if her mother would let her wear a big, showy bow like that, even if she had the nerve, which she didn't. These beau catchers, they were the kind—yes—the kind Renee Weston would wear.

"This would be a nice one for you, dearie," said the saleslady.

"Oh, no, I couldn't wear anything like that," she answered, but at the same time she was reaching longingly for the green ribbon.

The saleslady, looking surprised, replied, "With that lovely copper-colored hair and those pretty eyes? Why, child, you could wear anything."

Maybe it was only a sales talk, but she didn't need much urging; she fastened the bow in her hair.

"No, a little farther front," the saleslady advised. "One thing you have to remember, honey, if you're going to wear anything unusual, wear it like nobody had a better right than you. In this world, you got to hold your head up." She looked at the position of the ribbon critically and nodded approval: "That's better. Why, you look positively ... exciting."

"I'll take it," Genevieve said, a little surprised at the note of decision in her voice.

"Now if you want to get another for formal wear," the saleslady went on, "for a party or a dance ..."

Genevieve shook her head and paid for the ribbon. ③ She rushed out of the store so fast that she bumped into a big woman with a lot of packages and almost got knocked over. As she neared the door, a funny old man was staring at her—a man with black eyes and a droopy gray mustache under a green hat—you could feel that under the mustache he was smiling at the beau catcher! It was a conquest, even if it wasn't much, so she gave him a glance.

The next moment a shiver of fright went through her, for the man was actually following her. That beau catcher couldn't ... but this was really dreadful. She started to look around, but then she heard him call to her. She ran like a rabbit, and she didn't stop running until she was a block away.

Suddenly she was in front of Carson's drugstore, and she realized she'd been intending to go there from the start, for every girl in town knew this was the place where Bert Howland spent Saturday afternoons.

He was there all right, sitting at the soda counter, hunched over a cup of coffee, not drinking it. "Renee turned him down," thought Genevieve. "She's going to the dance with somebody else." She sat down at the other end and ordered a soda. Soon she realized that he had turned and was staring at her. She sat up very straight, holding her head high, conscious—very conscious—of that green beau catcher in her hair.

"Hi, Genevieve."

"Why, Bert Howland," she said, pretending to be surprised, "how long have you been sitting here?"