

现代美文阅读

冯其良
董西华
编著



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前言

在滚滚红尘中,您是否有心灵枯萎的感觉?在紧张的学习和工作中,哪里是您心灵的避风港?心中的爱是否已经沉睡?蕴藏的力量何以施展?

《现代美文阅读》就是滋润您心灵的春雨,是庇护您心灵的避风港,是唤醒爱的天使,是发掘您潜力的智慧之神,是指引您通向美好人生的“伯利恒之星”。

编者在阅读这些精品时,一度冷漠的心灵感到震颤,沉睡的爱心被唤醒,脆弱的个性变得充满力量,沉闷的生活又吹清风……

享受着温馨,心中不时产生一种冲动:要介绍给学生……介绍给朋友……介绍给全世界!

不用考虑“高考”,不用担心“四级”,也不用想自己是在提高英语阅读能力。将它放在案头、枕边,抽空读上几篇,细细品位,好像同心灵对话……

坚持下去,语感的形成、英语阅读能力的提高,则是“无求而自得”的事情了。

感谢那些不知名的作者们,你们就是黑夜中的明灯,默默地照亮我们心灵的道路。

编者

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爱心篇



敢于拿出自己的生命换取他人的生命的人,才是最勇敢、最伟大的。

A Brother's Love

Many years ago, when I worked as a volunteer at Stanford Hospital, I became *acquainted*¹ with a little girl named Liz, who was suffering from a rare disease. Her only chance of recovery seemed to be a blood *transfusion*² from her 5-year-old brother. He had *miraculously*³ survived the same disease and had developed the *antibodies*⁴ needed to fight the illness. The doctor explained the situation to her little brother and asked him if he would be willing to give his blood to his sister. I saw him hesitate for only a moment before taking a deep breath and saying, "Yes, I'll do it if it will save Liz."

As the transfusion *progressed*⁵, he lay in bed next to his sister and smiled, as we all did, seeing the color return to her cheeks. Then his face grew pale and his smile faded. He looked up at the doctor and asked with a trembling voice, "Will I start to die right away?" The young boy had misunderstood the doctor; he thought he was going to have to give his sister all his blood. That's true love!

Notes

1. acquaint [ə'kweɪntɪd] *vt.* 使熟知, 通知
2. transfusion [træns'fju:z(ə)n] *n.* [医]输血, 输液
3. miraculously [mɪ'rækjələsli] *adv.* 奇迹地, 不可思议地

4. antibody [ˈæntibɒdi] *n.* 抗体
5. progress [prəˈɡres] *vi.* 前进, 进步, 进行

手足之情

多年前,我在斯坦福医院做志愿者时,认识了一个叫莉斯的小姑娘,她罹患了一种罕见的疾病,看来唯一康复的可能是从她5岁的弟弟身上输血。他曾从同样的疾病奇迹般地活了过来,已经形成了抵抗疾病所需的抗体。医生将情况向小弟弟解释了,问他是否愿意将他的血液献给他的姐姐。我看到他犹豫了一会儿,然后深深地吸了一口气,说:“行,那样能救莉斯的话,我愿意做。”

随着输血的进行,他躺在姐姐旁边的床上,我们看到她的脸上恢复了血色都微笑了,他也微笑了。接着,他的脸色苍白,失去了笑容。他抬头看着医生,用颤抖的声音问道:“我马上就要死去吗?”孩子误解了医生,他以为要把所有的血都献给他的姐姐。那才是真正的爱!

孩子的成长更需要有爱心的妈妈，
而不一定是生身之母。稚子之言道出
母爱真谛。

Adoption

Teacher Debbie Moon's *first graders*¹ were discussing a picture of a family. One little boy in the picture had a different color hair than the other family members. One child suggested that he was adopted and a little girl said, "I know all about adoptions because I was adopted."

"What does it mean to be adopted?" asked another child.

"It means," said the girl, "that you grew in your mommy's heart instead of her *tummy*²."

Notes

1. first grader 一年级的学生
2. tummy ['tʌmi] *n.* 胃, 肚子

收养

黛比·姆恩老师的一年级的学生在讨论一幅家庭的图画。图中的一个男孩的头发同其他家庭成员的头发不一样。一个小男孩提出他是收养的, 一个小女孩说: “收养我全知道, 因为我就是收养的。”

“收养是什么意思呢?” 另一个孩子问道。

“它的意思是,” 女孩子说, “你在妈妈的心中而不是在她的肚子里长大。”

幽默小贴士

Bobby's Worry

For weeks, six-year old Bobby kept telling his first-grade teacher about the baby brother or sister that was expected at his house. One day Bobby's mother allowed the boy to feel the movements of the unborn child. The six-year old was obviously impressed, but made no comment. Furthermore, he stopped telling his teacher about the impending event.

The teacher finally sat the boy on her lap and asked, "Bobby, whatever has become of that baby brother or sister you were expecting at home?" Bobby burst into tears and confessed, "I think Mommy ate it!"

爱可以创造奇迹。它比任何医生
都高明,比任何药物都有效。

三三小集

Annie

Dr. Frank Mayfield was touring Tewksbury Institute when on his way out, he accidentally *collided*¹ with an elderly cleaning lady. To cover the *awkward*² moment, Dr. Mayfield started asking questions, "How long have you worked here?" "I've worked here almost since the place opened," the maid replied.

"What can you tell me about the history of this place?" he asked.

"I don't think I can tell you anything, but I could show you something."

With that, she took his hand and led him down to the basement under the oldest section of the building. She pointed to what looked like small prison cells. Their iron bars were rusted with age. Then she said, "That's the cage they kept Annie in."

"Who's Annie?" the doctor asked. The cleaning lady then told this story.

"Annie was a young girl who was brought in here because she was *incorrigible*³—which means nobody could do anything with her. She'd bite and scream and throw her food at people. The doctors and the nurses couldn't even examine her. I'd see them trying while she spit and scratched at

them. I was only a few years younger than Annie and I used to think, I would hate to be locked up in a cage like that'. I wanted to help her, but I didn't have any idea what I could do. I mean, if the doctors and nurses couldn't help her, what could someone like me do? I didn't know what to do, so after work one night, I baked her some *brownies*⁴. The next day I brought them in. I walked carefully to her cage and said, Annie, I baked these brownies just for you. I'll put them right here on the floor and you can come and get them if you want.' Then I got out of there just as fast as I could because I was afraid she might throw them at me. But she didn't. She *actually*⁵ took the brownies and ate them. After that, she was just a little bit nicer to me when I was around. And sometimes I'd talk to her. Once, I even got her laughing. One of the nurses noticed this and she told the doctor. They asked me if I'd help them with Annie and I told them I would try. So that's how it came about that every time they wanted to see Annie or examine her, I went into the cage first. I would explain to her what they wanted and I would calm her down by holding her hands and talking quietly. That is how they discovered that Annie was almost blind."

After they'd been working with her for about a year, and it was a very hard year, the Perkins Institute for the Blind opened its doors. She was *transferred*⁶ there and they were able to help her. She went on to study and become a teacher herself.

Annie came back to the Tewksbury Institute to visit, and to see what she could do to help out. At first, the Director didn't say anything and then he thought about a letter he'd just received. A man had written to him about his daughter. She was absolutely unruly, almost like an animal. The letter said she was blind and deaf as well as "*deranged*"⁷. The fa-

ther was *at his wit's end*⁸, but he didn't want to put her in an *asylum*⁹. So he wrote to the Institute to ask if they knew of anyone, any teacher, who would come to his house and work with his daughter. And that is how Annie Sullivan became the lifelong companion of *Helen Keller*¹⁰.

When Helen Keller received the Nobel Prize, she was asked who had had the greatest *impact*¹¹ on her life and she said, "Annie Sullivan."

But Annie said, "No Helen. The woman who had the greatest influence on both our lives was a cleaning lady at the Tewksbury Institute."

Notes

1. collide [kə'laɪd] *vi.* 碰撞, 抵触
2. awkward ['ɔ:kwəd] *adj.* 尴尬的, 笨拙的
3. incorrigible [ɪn'kɔ:rɪdʒɪb(ə)l] *adj.* 无药可救的
4. brownie ['braʊni] *n.* 核仁巧克力饼
5. actually ['æktʃʊəli] *adv.* 这儿的意思是“竟然, 居然”
6. transfer [træns'fɜ:(r)] *vt.* 转移, 调转
7. deranged [dɪ'reɪndʒd] *adj.* 疯狂的
8. at one's wit's end 智穷力竭, 不知所措
9. asylum [ə'saɪləm] *n.* 救济院, 精神病院
10. Helen Keller 海伦·凯勒(1880—1968)美国聋哑女作家、教育家
11. impact ['ɪmpækt] *n.* 影响

安妮

弗兰克·梅费尔德医生在图克斯堡学院漫步。突然, 在出去的路上, 他无意中和一位上了年纪的清洁女工相撞了。为了掩饰这一尴尬的时刻, 梅费尔德医生开始问她一些问题: “你在这儿干了多久了?”

“几乎从这个地方创办我就在这儿干，”妇女回答道。

“这个地方的历史你能给我讲些什么吗？”他问道。

“我想我不能告诉你什么，但是我能让你看些什么。”

说完，她拉着他的手，把他领到了这座楼最古老的部分的地下室。她指着看上去像些小牢房的地方（它们的铁栅栏因年久而生锈），然后说：“那就是他们关安妮的笼子。”

“安妮是谁？”医生问。接着清洁女工讲了这个故事。

“安妮是个小女孩儿，被带到这儿是因为她已不可救药了，就是说没人对她有任何办法。她常咬人、尖叫，朝人身上扔食物。医生和护士们甚至都不能为她检查身体。我曾看到他们试图为她检查，而她又睡又抓他们。我只比安妮小几岁，当时就常想：‘我可不愿那样被锁在笼子里。’我想帮帮她，但是不知道该怎么办。我的意思是，要是医生和护士们都不能帮助她，像我这样的人能做什么呢？我不知怎么办，所以一天夜里下班后，我给她烤了些杏仁巧克力饼。第二天，我把饼带进来，小心翼翼地走向她的笼子，说：‘安妮，我烤的这些巧克力饼就是给你的。我就放在地板这儿，你想要的话可以过来取。’然后我尽快地出去了，因为我担心她会吧饼扔到我身上。但她没有。她居然拿起饼，吃了。以后，我在附近的时候，她对我稍微好了一点，有时候我会和她说话。有一次，我甚至惹得她大笑起来。一个护士注意到这一点，就告诉了医生。他们问我能否帮他们对安妮治疗，我告诉他们要试一试。所以那就是每次他们想见安妮或给她检查时，是我先进笼子的原因了。我会给她解释他们想干什么，拉住她的手，和她轻轻说话，让她镇静下来。就那样，他们发现安妮几乎双目失明了。”

他们给她治疗了一年后（那一年确实很艰难），伯金斯盲人学院就开门了。她被转到那儿，他们能够帮助她。她接着学习，自己成了一名老师。

安妮回到图克斯堡学院参观，看看能有什么可帮忙的。一开始，院长什么也没说，后来想起了刚收到的一封信，一个人给他写信说他女儿的情况：她完全没规矩，几乎像个动物似的。信上说她不仅“疯狂”而且又盲又聋，爸爸已无计可施，但是又不愿意把她送到精神病院，所以他给学院写信，问他们是否知道有人或者有个老师能到他家陪他女儿。安妮·沙力文就这样成了海伦·凯勒的终身伙伴。