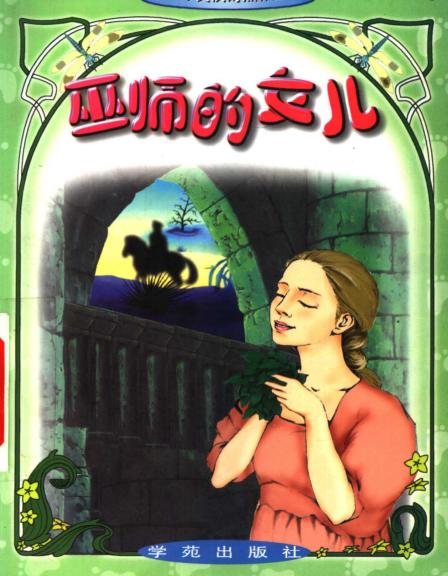


(美) 唐娜・乔・纳波利

少年文学英汉对照作品证券



巫师的女儿 乙fl

(美)唐娜·乔·纳波利 著 Donna Jo Napoli 何向明 萬秀莲 由 华 侯明题

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All young adults in America have to read fiction in school and then discuss it from the stance of literary analysis. That is, they have to talk about the character development, the plot, the setting, and the writing style in the book. Many of these young people read fiction for pleasure outside of school, as well. But others don't. The ones who don't often find reading a chore and they have enough chores in their life without picking up a book.

When I write for young adults, I always remember that reading can be a chore—so I want to make that chore worth it for them. My goal is to get the reader to care so much about the characters, that turning the page is a joy. I don't think about trying to send a message or anything didactic like that. I think only of trying to tell a good story—one that helps the reader get inside the skin of my characters and truly understand them.

When I was a child, I lived in a poor family I didn't have many opportunities to

know much about life outside the small environment I lived in. But I was very lucky: I loved to read. And reading opened up the world for me. It taught me that there were other cultures, other languages, other ways of living. I became such a good reader that school was easy for me and I was lucky again: I got a scholarship to go to college. Then I studied further and became a university professor. And now I am a writer, as well.

When I write, I remember the child I was—I remember how reading opened up doors for me. My job as a writer is to give the gift of lovingto read to children and young adults. That way maybe I can help open up doors for them, too. So I never write only for the "good" reader. I try to write for everyone. I try to entice everyone, grab their hearts, make them laugh or cry or both.

I hope you enjoy these books. I wrote them for you.

Sincerely,

Ronnage hapoli Donna Jo Napoli

作者致中国读者

亲爱的读者:

小说是美国青少年在校学习的一项内容,他们不但要读,还要从文学分析的角度进行讨论。他们要讨论人物的成长、情节、背景及作品的写作风格。不少年轻人都把课外读小说当做一种乐趣。不过,也有一些人把它当成负担,在他们看来,生活中的负担本来就不少,哪有心思去读书?

因此,在为青少年写书时,我总是提醒自己:读书可能是乏味的事。记住这一点就能促使我为他们写出值得一读的作品。我的创作目标是让读者对书中的描述更感兴趣,从而把读书当成一件快乐的事。我不想有意说教,而只想讲一个有意思的故事——一个能让读者设身处地地体验书中人物,从而真正了解他们的故事。

我小时候家里很穷,除了自己生活的小天地,很少有机会去了解外面的世界。但幸运的是,我有读书的嗜好。读书使我开阔了眼界,从书上我知道世界上还有别的文化、别的语言和别的生活方式。爱读书的习惯还使我成了一名好学生,并使我幸运地拿到了上大学的奖学金。这样我才得以继续深造,后来当上了大学教授。现在我还是一名作家。

每次写书的时候,我总会想起自己的孩提时代,我清楚地记得读书是怎样为我打开了认识世界的大门。作为一名作

家,我要把培养爱读书的习惯作为一份礼物送给我们的青少年,或许这样也能为他们打开一扇认识世界的门。正因为这个原因,我的书不只是写给那些爱读书的人们,而是写给所有的人。我要用自己的作品去唤起他们的兴趣,抓住他们的心,让他们跟着我的故事开怀大笑或伤心落泪。

希望你们喜欢我的这些书,因为这书就是为你们而写的。

唐娜・乔・纳波利

译者的话

我国的英语阅读教学长期存在费时较多、成效较少的问题。究其原因,主要是课文讲解单调枯燥,占时过多,学生自主读书的时间和选择余地太少,尤其是难以读到时代气息较浓、适合他们年龄的当代英语少年文学读物。

为改变这种状况,首都师范大学英语系两年前率先在《英语沙龙》杂志上开办了"阅读伴我成长"栏目,以介绍美国少年文学作品为目的,在青少年读者中引起了强烈反响。而后又结合教学科研,利用选编的少年文学阅读材料在北京市一些高中进行了学生阅读兴趣的调查。结果表明,学生们普遍认为,英语教材应适量增加文学体裁文章的比重,所选文章应与他们的现实生活与心理需求有关连,有时代感,不应只局限在传统文学经典范围之内,非常希望能够读到更多的海外少年文学作品,认为这种体裁的读物故事性强、篇幅短、语言浅显、通俗易懂,描述的又正好是他们这个年龄层次所特有的理想与烦恼,易于产生阅读兴趣。

同学们的反响坚定了我们运用少年文学进行阅读教学改革的决心,促使我们更加努力地选编、翻译、推荐国外当代优秀少年文学作品,致力于同世界范围的文化组织——国际读书协会接轨,打通引进国外优秀少年文学作品的渠道,使这些作品能够陆续同国内广大青少年读者见面。

此次与学苑出版社密切合作,首次在中国大陆推出美国

九十年代女作家唐娜·乔·纳波利的六部少年儿童小说,是我们近年来不断努力的结果。唐娜·乔·纳波利是美国 Swarthmore 学院的资深语言学教授,作为五个孩子的母亲,她非常了解少年人心理,善于运用孩子的语言为青少年写故事,她的作品深受美国青少年读者的欢迎,自 1990 年起已有十五、六部作品问世,其中多部获奖。

这次选译的六部作品,语言诙谐,在平凡的叙事中给人以美感与启迪。简练的文体、幽默的语言让人在阅读过程中尽享轻松、愉快;曲折的情节和巧妙的构思又给人们提供了品味英语词汇的多种语境;可以让青少年读者在快乐的心境中了解海外同龄人的生活,在提高英语阅读能力的同时接受文学作品及地道英语的熏陶。

我们希望,这一套英汉对照读物的出版,对于丰富我国 英文图书市场,激发学生读英文书兴趣,强化课外阅读起到 推动作用。

首都师范大学英语读书协会 王小萍 杨 阳

景 目

第一部分	礼物 (THE GIFT) (3)
第二部分	拒绝 (REJECTION) (81)
第三部分	孤独 (LONELY) ····· (161)
第四部分	着魔 (OBSESSED) (223)
第五部分	物 (THE KISS) ····· (305)
第六部分	爱 (LOVE) ····· (353)
第七部分	离散 (SCATTERING) (381)
第八部分	团聚 (GATHERING)(393)

第一部分 礼物 (瑞士,十六世纪中叶)

THE GIFT Switzerland, mid-1500s

"Oh, Mother, the goose is on her nest again." Zel rests her weight on the windowsill and leans out. Her feet dance on tiptoe. The goose stretches her neck forward and smacks^① the bottom of her bill on the rocky soil. "Goose!" Zel shouts. "Dear goose. You're terribly confused." Zel hears a thunk. She spins around.

Mother has just put a bowl of apricots² on the center of the table. "Forget that goose. Eat well. You'll need your energy."

"I will?" Zel grabs a fruit from the cool water it floats in. She eats greedily, her teeth sharp as the shells she has collected on their visits to the lake. She sees that Mother wears her good shoes. "Oh, we're going to town today!" She laughs. And now her dancing feet take her around the table, around Mother, impelled by the rare joy of town. Zel sings, "Today today today today."

Mother catches the tips of Zel's braids and gives a playful

第一章 赛尔

"哎呀,妈妈,鹅又趴窝了。"赛尔全身 伏在窗台上,把头探出窗外,两只脚尖在地 板上踢腾着。只见那只鹅一面向前探着脖子, 一面用它那只扁嘴的底部咂磨着硬实的土地。 "鹅呀!"赛尔喊道,"我的好鹅呀,你真是太 糊涂了。"这时,只听咣呜一声响动,赛尔急 忙转过去。原来是妈妈把一盆杏子放在了桌 子上。"别看鹅了,好好吃吧。吃了东西才能 有劲呀。"

"是吗?" 赛尔随手拿起一只浸在冷水盒中的杏子塞进嘴里。她起劲地嚼着,一口牙齿就像她从湖边捡来的贝壳那么尖利。看到妈妈穿了双好鞋,她乐了,"哦,咱俩今天要进城啦!"一边说着一边围着桌子,围着妈妈蹦跳起来,沉浸在进城给她带来的那种少有的欢乐之中。"今天,今天……" 跳着跳着,她又禁不住唱了起来。

妈妈抓住赛尔的辫梢打趣似地拉了过来,

①smack: 咂唇作响。

②spricot: 杏。

tug. Holding tight, she dips her fingers in the water in the bowl and smooths the curls that have sprung free back into place. Then she turns to the shelf and takes down the dark loaf. She saws with a long, strong knife.

Zel sniffs the air, lifting her nose like the lone chamois^① she watched one day last month when she climbed high into the Alps^②.

"I love the smell of bread. Sweet, sweet bread."

"Nourishing bread." Mother puts two pieces on the table.

Zel takes a bite of bread, then ties on her shoes. She has already tended to the rabbits and hens, so there is nothing to delay her and Mother. "I wonder if the crier with the melons will be there." She would love to see the crier's wide chest and hear his rough voice.

"The first melons might be ripe already." Mother speaks distractedly.

"Tell me: will he?" Zel chooses a second apricot and rolls it on the table, making a design of its wet trail. She takes hold of her wooden chair by the halfmoon hole in its back, pulls it out from under the table, and sits.

Mother smiles. She closes her eyes. When she opens them, she says, "At least a few melons are ripe. He'll be there."

"Mother." Zel's eyes hold Mother's with insistence. "I want to be able to close my eyes and know things, like you. But when I close my eyes, all I do is stumble $^{\textcircled{3}}$."

Mother picks up her own hunk of bread. She eats, quick and silent.

她用手指在果盒里沾了点水,把女儿辫子上的 乱发抚平。随后她转过身去从放食物的架子上 取下了黑面包,又拿起一把长大的刀子切了起来。

赛尔撅起鼻子来闻着,那模样就好像上个 月她爬上阿尔卑斯山时看到的那只孤独的小羚 羊似的。"我就爱闻面包的香味。甜甜的。"

"面包是养人的。"妈妈往桌子上了放了两 片面包。

赛尔咬一了口面包,然后把鞋子系好。她已经安顿好了鸡和兔子,所以她和妈妈可以放心地上路了。"不知道今天那个卖甜瓜的小伙子还会不会在那儿?"她真想再见到那个胸膛宽厚、嗓音粗哑的卖瓜人。

"第一茬瓜可能已经熟了。"妈妈心不在焉 地说。

"你说他会去吗?"赛尔从带水的果盆里又挑出一颗杏子,用它在桌面上画了一个图案。她抓过一把椅子,用手伸进椅背上半月形的小洞里,把它从桌面下拉出来坐了上去。

妈妈微笑着闭上了眼睛。片刻之后她睁开 眼睛对女儿说,"起码该有一些瓜熟了,他会去 的。"

"妈妈,"赛尔盯着妈妈的眼睛,认真地说, "我也想一闭眼睛就什么都能知道,和你一样。 可我闭上眼睛就该摔跤了。"

妈妈拿起她的那块面包,什么也没说,很快地吃了起来。

① chamois: 岩羚羊, 欧洲及亚洲西南部高 山所产之小羚羊。 ②the Alps: 阿尔卑斯 山,处于法意边境。

③stumble: 摔跤。

Zel stands with her eyes closed and bumbles her way across the room, through the doorway, purposely bumping into baskets and beds. She opens her eyes and laughs. "Let's go."

Mother takes a cloth sack off the peg on the wall. She picks up the piece of bread that Zel has left on the table and slips it in Zel's pocket as she walks past and out the door.

On the side of the next mountain to the east, a herd of long-horned goats skips over stone loosened by spring rains. There is little grass on that mountain, but on Zel's and Mother's meadow the grass is thick as moss. No place on earth is as fine as their alm^{\odot} . Zel skips through the grass, mimicking the goats.

"Keep clean, Zel. We must be presentable for town."

"Everyone else will be caked with grime."

"We aren't everyone else."

Zel doesn't understand Mother's passion for cleanliness. No one else seems to share it. Still, she returns to the path.

"Pay homage to the cypresses." Mother nods toward the row of tall trees.

Zel bows her head. These are the only cypresses Zel has ever seen in all her mountain wanderings. They define the edge of their alm. One winter night the thunder of snow breaking from the mountainside woke Mother and Zel, and by the time they managed to rush from the cottage, the avalanche[®] was over-blocked by the looming trees. Zel was sure the trees had not been there before that night, but Mother said it's easy not to notice trees and plants until you need them. Mother notices every tree everywhere, it seems.