英美文学经典丛书 English & American Classics

大学生必读

Harriet Beecher Stowe

青岛出版社

UNCLE TOM'S CABIN 汤姆叔叔的小屋

Harriet Beecher Stowe

顾问方平

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青岛出版社

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

汤姆叔叔的小屋/(美)斯陀(Harriet B. S.)著;吴芳注释.一青岛:青岛出版社,2005.1

ISBN 7-5436-3287-X

I.汤... □.①斯...②吴... □.英语一语言读物, 小说 Ⅳ, H319.4:I

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2004)第 143049 号

书 名 汤姆叔叔的小屋

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注 释 吴 芳

出版发行 青岛出版社

社 址 青岛市徐州路 77 号(266071)

本社网址 http://www.qdpub.com

邮购电话 (0532)5814750 5840228

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装帧设计 张小玉

照 排 青岛海讯科技有限公司

印 刷 青岛星球印刷有限公司

出版日期 2005年1月第1版 2005年1月第1次印刷

开 本 32 开(787mm×960mm)

印 张 14.125

字 数 500 千

书 号 ISBN 7-5436-3287-X

定 价 21.00元

盗版举报电话 (0532)5814926

青岛版图书售出后如发现印装质量问题,请寄回承印公司调换。 地址:胶南市珠山路120号 电话:0532-8183519 邮编:266400

本书建议陈列类别:英语教育

序言

一个民族由于文学的产生,语言的色彩因而更丰富,语言的表现力更生动了。在文学的民族宝库中蕴藏着民族语言的精华。在不同的人生场合,我们有所感悟、有所感慨时,往往会感激古人,把我们想倾吐而又不知该怎么说的,表达得那么贴切、精辟,如同自己的肺腑之言。例如:"同是天涯沦落人,相逢何必曾相识。""不识庐山真面目,只缘身在此山中。"

我们甚至不曾意识到我们的日常谈吐中已融入了代代相传、都有来历的语言,而且多不胜举,像"割鸡焉用牛刀"(《论语·阳货》),"人言可畏"(《诗·郑风·将仲子》),"战战兢兢"(《诗·小雅·小旻》),"勾心斗角"(《阿房官赋》),"三思而行"(《论语·公冶长》)等等。孔子自述"三十而立,四十而不惑,五十而知天命"(《论语·为政》);我们借以表达人已进入某一阶段时,就说"而立之年"、"不惑之年"、"知命之年"。

英美文学中的佳句、警句,同样显示出进入日常语言的亲和力。例如:美国期刊《时代》(Time,2002,12,23)发表专文推荐可能为奥斯卡年度最佳外语片的《对她说》(Talk to Her),文章标题脱胎于《第十二夜》开头第一句"If music be the food of love, play on",作者巧妙地把它

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改为"If Conversation Be the Food of Love, Talk On" ("如果谈话是爱情的食粮,谈下去吧")。

第二次世界大战期间,英国首相邱吉尔访美,呼吁大力援助战争物资,引用了狄更斯笔下的孤儿奥列佛。退斯特,在儿童收容所中饥饿难忍,端起一只空碗,向掌勺的人发出的那一声迫切的呼吁:"Give me more!"(再添一些吧!)借助于这文学背景,在座的议员们为之动容,演讲收到了非常好的效果。

明白了一个民族的语言精华蕴藏在他们优秀的文学作品中,也就可以理解我们编写这套"英美文学经典丛书"的宗旨所在了。因为对于广大英语学习者来说,掌握了基本词汇量,攻克了语法等难点,具备了一定的阅读能力,又有志于进一步提高自己的英语修养,从而对于英语能有更深入、更亲切的认知,那么广泛阅读,尤其是有选择的精读优秀的英美文学,可说是不二法门了。



导 读

这是一部让你每次捧读都会潸然泪下却又不忍释手的小说;它的作者是一位身高不足五英尺,却被林肯称为"引发了一场战争的小妇人"。这位"小妇人"的大作出版后的销量一度曾超过了《圣经》。这就是斯托夫人的代表作《汤姆叔叔的小屋》的巨大魅力。它奠定了斯托夫人的文学地位,使她成为内战后美国现实主义的先驱。

哈莉特·伊丽莎白·比彻·斯托夫人(Harriet Elizabeth Beecher Stowe,1811—1896)出生于美国康涅狄格州的利契费尔德小镇的一个基督教家庭。父亲莱曼·比彻是一位严厉古板的加尔文教师,1832年任俄亥俄州辛辛那提市莱思神学院首任院长。从幼年时期,斯托的生活便与宗教有着紧密的联系。这对她以后的文学创作产生了深刻的影响。斯托13岁起开始学习历史、修辞、写作及拉丁文、法文、意大利文等,少女时代便展露了非凡的文学才华。1833年她的第一本书《儿童地理常识》问世,一年后短篇小说《一个新英格兰故事》在写作比赛中获奖。1836年她与神学教师卡尔文·斯托结婚,婚后生育七子,其中一名夭折。婚后他们全家生活贫困,斯托夫人在照顾家庭的同时坚持文学创作。《汤姆叔叔的小屋》中的部分内容就是她趴在厨房的灶台边完成的。

1850年美国议会通过了《逃奴法案》,规定任何帮助 逃亡的奴隶的行为均为非法,因此逃到自由州的奴隶也 会被抓回。斯托夫人生活的辛辛那提市与蓄奴州仅隔着 一条俄亥俄河。她耳闻目睹了奴隶遭受的非人待遇,看 到他们像牲口一样被任意买卖,妻离子散,家破人亡。她 家中的黑人厨娘和仆人也经常向她讲述自己为奴隶时的 遭遇。《逃奴法案》的通过使得一直坚持废奴思想的斯托 夫人极为愤怒,在她的两个哥哥和姐夫的鼓励下,她决心 创作一部揭露奴隶制罪恶的文学作品。于是《汤姆叔叔 的小屋》问世了,并成为美国文学史上的经典之作,也是 争论最激烈、最持久的作品之一。 小说发表后,遭到了许 多奴隶制维护者的攻击。他们认为斯托夫人的小说纯属 捏造,毫无事实根据。为此斯托夫人于1853年发表了 《关于〈汤姆叔叔的小屋〉的答辩》一书,用法律条文、法庭 记录、私人信件等各种各样的材料证明了自己作品内容 的真实性。

1853年,斯托夫人到欧洲旅行并宣传她的废奴主义思想。1856年,她出版了一部反对蓄奴制的小说《德雷德:阴暗的大沼泽地的故事》。1859年至1869年的十年间,她相继出版了《牧师的求婚》(1859)、《奥尔岛上的明珠》(1862)、《老镇上的人们》(1869)等作品,但其影响力都比不上《汤姆叔叔的小屋》。1896年7月1日,斯托夫人在哈特福德的家中病逝。

《汤姆叔叔的小屋》的故事背景是美国南方的肯塔基州。主人公汤姆是性情温和的庄园主谢尔比的得力助手。谢尔比因投资股票失败,被债权人黑利逼迫卖掉庄园中最值钱的奴隶汤姆和谢尔比太太宠爱的使女伊莱扎

的儿子小哈里来抵债。伊莱扎偷听到这个消息后,决定 携子连夜逃走,同时告诉了汤姆,但汤姆决定牺牲自己来 换取所有人的幸福。伊莱扎的丈夫乔治也成功地从主来 魔爪中逃走,之后两人不期而遇,在废奴组织"地下铁路" 的帮助下成功地逃往加拿大,开始了他们自由幸福的生 活。汤姆被贩卖的途中,在船上救起落水女孩伊娃,在伊 娃的哀求下,其父圣·克莱尔将汤姆买下,汤姆在克莱尔 家中过着安静的生活,并和伊娃结为忘年交。但是好家 中过着安静的生活,并和伊娃结为忘年交。但是好家 不长,伊娃病逝,克莱尔在酒吧中意外被刺身亡,而他被 冷酷无情的庄园主雷格里买下,在他的庄园中受尽折磨。 由于汤姆始终拒绝说出逃亡的两个女奴的下落,并漠视 雷格里的淫威,终被殴打致死。



处何方,遭受多少苦难,总是手不离《圣经》,高唱赞美诗, 善待自己的黑人同胞,并宽容地原谅虐待他的主人,成为 一位被赋予了神圣色彩的完美形象。

斯托夫人的笔下出现了一系列有血有肉的黑人形象:有笃信宗教,敦厚驯服的汤姆;有美丽勇敢的伊莱扎;有视自由如生命的乔治·哈里斯;有受尽屈辱,足智多谋的凯西;有不谙世事的小机灵鬼托普西以及残害同胞,丧尽天良的白人帮凶山宝和昆宝。同时该书中刻画的白人女性形象得到了女权运动者的推崇。斯托夫人主张男女平等。该书中,大多数白人女性表现出来的智慧、勇气和精神力量丝毫不让须眉,而且她们在生活中是丈夫的贤内助,在他们遇到挫折时又给予最有力的支持。

《汤姆叔叔的小屋》于1852年首次在华盛顿废奴主义刊物《民族时代》上连载,立即引起了强烈的反响,仅第



一年就在国内印刷了 100 多版,销售愈 30 万册。后来该书被译为 20 多种文字在世界各地出版;1852 年被改编为戏剧;在中国最早由文学翻译先驱林琴南和魏易合作翻译出版,书名为《黑奴吁天录》(1901)。"汤姆叔叔"成为"逆来顺受的老黑人"的绰号,而"西蒙·雷格里"则成为冷酷无情的代名词。

评论界认为本书在激发民众的反奴隶制情绪方面起了重大作用,使废除奴隶制和美国内战的爆发成为不可逆转的历史趋势。正如斯托夫人在书中所言:"啊,非洲,你最后受到召唤的民族,被召唤去戴荆棘冠,受鞭笞,流血流汗,背负起痛苦的十字架;这将是你的胜利!当天国降临时,你将与基督一同为王。"①

吴 芳

① 王家湘:《汤姆叔叔的小屋》译著,第408页,北京:人民文学出版社,1998年。

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CHAPTER 1

IN WHICH THE READER IS INTRODUCED TO A MAN OF HUMANITY^①.

Late in the afternoon of a chilly day in February, two gentlemen were sitting alone over their wine, in a well-furnished dining parlor[®], in the town of P—, in Kentucky[®]. There were no servants present, and the gentlemen, with chairs closely approaching[®], seemed to be discussing some subject with great earnestness.

For convenience' sake^⑤, we have said, hitherto^⑥, two gentlemen. One of the parties, however, when critically examined, did not seem, strictly speaking, to come under the species . He was a short thick-set man, with coarse commonplace features®, and that swaggering air of pretension[®] which marks a low man who is trying to elbow his way upward in the world. He was much overdressed, in a gaudy vest of many colors, a blue neckerchief, bedropped gayly with yellow spots, and arranged with a flaunting tie. quite in keeping with the general air of the man. His hands, large and coarse, were plentifully bedecked with rings 0: and he wore a heavy gold watch-chain, with a bundle of seals of portentous size®, and a great variety of colors, attached to it—which, in the ardor of conversation, he was in the habit of flourishing and jingling with evident satisfaction. His conversation was in free and easy defiance of Murray's Grammar , and was garnished at convenient intervals with various profane expressions, which not even the desire to be graphic in our account shall induce us to transcribe.

His companion, Mr. Shelby, had the appearance of a gentleman; and the arrangements of the house, and the general air of the housekeeping, indicated easy, and even opulent[®], circumstances. As we before stated, the two were in the midst of an earnest con-

① A MAN OF HUMANITY:人性未泯的人 ② parlor:客厅 ③ the town of P—, in Kentucky:肯塔基州 P 城 ④ approach, 靠得很近 ⑤ For convenience' sake:为了方便起见 ⑥ hitherto:到此为止 ⑦ to come under the species:属于绅士 ⑧ with coarse commonplace features: 相貌粗俗平庸 ⑨ swaggering air of pretension:狂妄自大,装腔作势的样子 ⑪ were plentifully... rings:戴着好几枚戒指 ⑪ with a ... size: —申 极大的印章 ⑫ Murray's Grammar:《默里语法》。默里(1745—1826),美国语法学家,从事教科书编写工作,所编《英语语法》、《英语拼写课本》、《英语课本》、等曾在英美广泛使用。 ⑬ and was ... expressions:并且不时地夹杂着各式各样亵渎的粗话 ⑭ transcribe:转述 ⑮ opulent:富有



versation,

"That is the way I should arrange the matter," said Mr. Shelby.

"I can't make trade that way, —I positively can't, Mr. Shelby," said the other, holding up a glass of wine between his eye and the light.

"Why, the fact is, Haley, Tom is an uncommon fellow; he is certainly worth that sum anywhere,—steady, honest, capable, manages my whole farm like a clock."

"You mean honest, as niggers go," said Haley, helping him-

self to a glass of brandy.

"No; I mean, really, Tom is a good, steady, sensible, pious fellow. He got religion at a camp-meeting ①, four years ago; and I believe he really did get it. I 've trusted him, since then, with everything I have,—money, house, horses,—and let him come and go round the country; and I always found him true and square ② in everything."

"Some folks don't believe there is pious niggers, Shelby," said Haley, with a candid flourish of his hand, "but I do. I had a fellow, now, in this yer last lot I took to Orleans.—'t was as good as a meetin', now, really, to hear that critter. pray; and he was quite gentle and quiet like. He fetched me a good sum., too, for I bought him cheap of a man that was 'bliged to sell out; so I realized six hundred on him. Yes, I consider religion a valeyable thing. in a nigger, when it 's the genuine article, and no mistake."

"Well, Tom 's got the real article, if ever a fellow had," rejoined the other. "Why, last fall, I let him go to Cincinnati alone, to do business for me, and bring home five hundred dollars. 'Tom,' says I to him,'I trust you, because I think you 're a Christian—I know you would n't cheat.' Tom comes back, sure enough; I knew he would. Some low fellows, they say, said to him,'Tom, why don't you make tracks for Canada?' 'Ah, master trusted me, and I couldn't,'—they told me about it. I am sorry to part with Tom, I must say. You ought to let him cover the whole balance of the debt say, and you would, Haley, if you had any conscience."

"Well, I 've got just as much conscience as any man in business can afford to keep,—just a little, you know, to swear by[®], as 't were," said the trader, jocularly[®]; "and, then, I 'm ready to

① camp-meeting:野营布道会 ② true and square:诚实可靠 ③ Orleans:奧尔良 ④ critter:[方]生物;动物。此处指黑利之类的白人不把黑人看做人。 ⑤ He fetched me a good sum;我从他身上赚了一大笔。⑥ a valeyable thing:有用的东西 ⑦ Cincinnati:辛辛那提(美国俄亥俄州西南部城市) ⑧ cover the whole balance of the debt:抵掉剩下的全部债务 ⑨ to swear by:用来赌咒 ⑩ jocularly:打趣,逗乐



do anything in reason to 'blige friends^①; but this yer, you see, is a leetle too hard on a fellow,—a leetle too hard." The trader sighed contemplatively^②, and poured out some more brandy.

"Well then, Haley, how will you trade?" said Mr. Shelby, af-

ter an uneasy interval of silence.

"Well, have n't you a boy or gal that you could throw in with Tom?"

"Hum! —none that I could well spare; to tell the truth, it 's only hard necessity makes me willing to sell at all. I don't like

parting with any of my hands, that's a fact."

Here the door opened, and a small quadroon boy, between four and five years of age, entered the room. There was something in his appearance remarkably beautiful and engaging. His black hair, fine as floss silk, hung in glossy curls about his round dimpled face , while a pair of large dark eyes, full of fire and softness, looked out from beneath the rich, long lashes, as he peered curiously into the apartment. A gay robe of scarlet and yellow plaid, carefully made and neatly fitted, set off to advantage the dark and rich style of his beauty; and a certain comic air of assurance, blended with bashfulness , showed that he had been not unused to being petted and noticed by his master.

"Hulloa, Jim Crow!" said Mr. Shelby, whistling, and snap-

ping a bunch of raisins towards him, "pick that up, now!"

The child scampered[®], with all his little strength, after the prize, while his master laughed.

"Come here, Jim Crow," said he. The child came up, and the master patted the curly head, and chucked him under the chin.

"Now, Jim, show this gentleman how you can dance and sing." The boy commenced one of those wild, grotesque songs common among the Negroes, in a rich, clear voice, accompanying his singing with many evolutions of the hands, feet, and whole body, all in perfect time to the music.

"Bravo!" said Haley, throwing him a quarter of an orange.

"Now, Jim, walk like old Uncle Cudjoe, when he has the rheumatism", said his master.

Instantly the flexible limbs of the child assumed the appearance of deformity and distortion, as, with his back humped up, and his master's stick in his hand, he hobbled about the room, his

① 'blige friends:帮朋友的忙 ② contemplatively:沉默地 ③ hard necessity:境况困难 ④ quadroon:夸德隆(指有四分之一血统的人,即白人与黑白混血儿摩拉托[mulatto]所生的孩子) ⑤ round dimpled face:长着一对酒窝的圆脸 ⑥ blended with bashfulness:带着害羞的神情 ⑦ raisins:葡萄干 ⑧ scamper:蹦蹦跳跳 ⑨ Bravo:棒极了! ⑩ rheumatism:风湿病 ⑪ deformity and distortion:扭曲变形



childish face drawn into a doleful pucker Φ , and spitting from right to left, in imitation of an old man,

Both gentlemen laughed uproariously².

"Now, Jim," said his master, "show us how old Elder Robbins leads the psalm." The boy drew his chubby face. down to a formidable length, and commenced toning a psalm tune through his nose with imperturbable gravity.

"Hurrah! bravo! What a young un!" said Haley; "that chap's a case, I'll promise. Tell you what," said he, suddenly clapping his hand on Mr. Shelby's shoulder, "fling in that chap and I'll settle the business,—I will. Come, now, if that an't doing the thing up about the rightest."

At this moment, the door was pushed gently open, and a young quadroon woman, apparently about twenty-five, entered the room.

There needed only a glance from the child to her, to identify her as its mother. There was the same rich, full, dark eye, with its long lashes; the same ripples of silky black hair. The brown of her complexion gave way on the cheek to a perceptible flush, which deepened as she saw the gaze of the strange man fixed upon her in bold and undisguised admiration. Her dress was of the neatest possible fit, and set off to advantage her finely moulded shape; a delicately formed hand and a trim foot and ankle were items of appearance that did not escape the quick eye of the trader, well used to run up at a glance the points of a fine female article.

"Well, Eliza?" said her master, as she stopped and looked

hesitatingly at him.

"I was looking for Harry, please, sir;" and the boy bounded toward her, showing his spoils[®], which he had gathered in the skirt of his robe.

"Well, take him away then," said Mr. Shelby; and hastily she

withdrew, carrying the child on her arm.

"By Jupiter," said the trader, turning to him in admiration, "there's an article, now! You might make your fortune on that ar gal, in Orleans, any day. I 've seen over a thousand, in my day, paid down for gals not a bit handsomer."

"I don't want to make my fortune on her," said Mr. Shelby, dryly; and, seeking to turn the conversation, he uncorked a bottle

of fresh wine, and asked his companion's opinion of it.

① doleful pucker:愁眉苦脸的样子 ② laughed uproariously:捧腹大笑③ leads the psalm:領唱赞美诗 ④ chubby face:圆胖的脸蛋儿 ⑤ imperturbable gravity:沉着庄重 ⑥ if that... rightest:这样最公道了。 ⑦ complexion:肤色 ⑧ a perceptible flush:一丝红晕 ⑨ spoil;战利品 ⑪ By Jupiter:老天! ⑪ there's an article;这可是头等货。 ⑫ that ar gal: 那个女人



"Capital, sir,—first chop!" said the trader; then turning, and slapping his hand familiarly on Shelby's shoulder, he added,—

"Come, how will you trade about the gal? —What shall I say

for her, -what 'll you take?"

"Mr. Haley, she is not to be sold," said Shelby. "My wife

would not part with her for her weight in gold."

"Ay, ay! women always say such things, cause they han't no sort of calculation. Just show 'em how many watches, feathers, and trinkets² one's weight in gold would buy, and that alters the case, I reckon."

"I tell you, Haley, this must not be spoken of; I say no, and I

mean no," said Shelby, decidedly.

"Well, you'll let me have the boy, though," said the trader; "you must own I 've come down pretty handsomely \$\mathbb{G}\$ for him."

"What on earth can you want with the child?" said Shelby.

"Why, I 've got a friend that 's going into this yer branch of the business,—wants to buy up handsome boys to raise for the market. Fancy articles entirely,—sell for waiters, and so on, to rich 'uns, that can pay for handsome 'uns. It sets off one of yer great places,—a real handsome boy to open door, wait, and tend. They fetch a good sum; and this little devil is such a comical, musical concern, he 's just the article."

"I would rather not sell him," said Mr. Shelby, thoughtfully; "the fact is, sir, I 'm a humane man, and I hate to take the boy

from his mother, sir."

"Oh, you do? —La! yes,—something of that ar natur. I understand, perfectly. It is mighty onpleasant getting on with women, sometimes, I al'ays hates these yer screechin' screamin' times. They are mighty onpleasant; but, as I manages business, I generally avoids 'em, sir. Now, what if you get the girl off for a day, or a week, or so; then the thing 's done quietly,—all over before she comes home. Your wife might get her some ear-rings, or a new gown, or some such truck. to make up with her."

"I 'm afraid not, "

"Lor bless ye®, yes! These critters an't like white folks, you know; they gets over things, only manage right. Now, they say," said Haley, assuming a candid and confidential air®, "that this kind o' trade is hardening to the feelings; but I never found it so. Fact is, I never could do things up the way some fellers manage the business. I 've seen 'em as would pull a woman's child out of her

① Capital, sir,—first chop:棒极了,先生,—流货!② trinket:首饰③ come down pretty handsomely:做了不小的让步④ rich 'uns: 阔佬⑤ They fetch a good sum:他们能让你赚不少钱。⑥ something of that ar natur:是这么回事儿⑦ truck;不值钱的小玩意儿⑧ Lor bless ye:上帝保佑⑨ assuming a... air:装出坦诚和信任的口气

arms, and set him up to sell, and she screechin' like mad all the time;—very bad policy,—damages the article,—makes 'em quite unfit for service sometimes. I knew a real handsome gal once, in Orleans, as was entirely ruined by this sort o' handling. The fellow that was trading for her did n't want her baby; and she was one of your real high sort, when her blood was up. I tell you, she squeezed up her child in her arms, and talked, and went on real awful. It kinder makes my blood run cold to think on 't; and when they carried off the child, and locked her up, she jest went ravin' mad, and died in a week. Clear waste, sir, of a thousand dollars, just for want of management,—there 's where 't is. It 's always best to do the humane thing, sir; that's been my experience." And the trader leaned back in his chair, and folded his arms, with an air of virtuous decision, apparently considering himself a second Wilberforce.

The subject appeared to interest the gentleman deeply; for while Mr. Shelby was thoughtfully peeling an orange, Haley broke out afresh, with becoming diffidence. but as if actually driven by

the force of truth to say a few words more.

"It don't look well, now, for a feller to be praisin' himself; but I say it jest because it 's the truth. I believe I 'm reckoned to bring in about the finest droves of niggers that is brought in ,—at least, I 've been told so; if I have once, I reckon I have a hundred times, all in good case,—fat and likely, and I lose as few as any man in the business. And I lays it all to my management, sir; and humanity, sir, I may say, is the great pillar of my management."

Mr. Shelby did not know what to say, and so he said, "In-

deed!"

"Now, I 've been laughed at for my notions, sir, and I 've been talked to. They an't pop'lar, and they an't common; but I stuck to 'em, sir; I 've stuck to 'em, and realized well on 'em; yes, sir, they have paid their passage, I may say," and the trader laughed at his joke.

There was something so piquant and original in these elucidations of humanity. that Mr. Shelby could not help laughing in company. Perhaps you laugh too, dear reader; but you know humanity comes out in a variety of strange forms nowadays, and there is no end to the odd things that humane people will say and do.

Mr. Shelby's laugh encouraged the trader to proceed.

① and she... up:她火气上来的时候可真够厉害的。 ② It kinder... on 't:一提起这件事就让我有点不寒而慄 ③ Wilberforce:威尔伯福斯(1759—1833),英国下院议员[1780—1825],慈善家,致力于废除奴隶贸易和英国海外属地的奴隶制。 ④ diffidence:胆怯 ⑤ I believe... in:我相信大家公认我卖出去的黑奴质色最好。 ⑥ There was... humanity:有关于人道的阐述中有种刺激的独创的意味 ⑦ in company:陪着