

The Adventures
of Tom Sawyer

汤姆·索耶历险记

英语世界名著简读丛书

江苏教育出版社

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[美] 马克·吐温

周素玉 周成刚 译注

二 白 插图

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责任编辑 王书军

出版发行：江 苏 教 育 出 版 社
(南京中央路165号, 邮政编码: 210009)
经 销: 江 苏 省 新 华 书 店
印 刷: 常 熟 市 印 刷 六 厂
(常熟市赵市镇 邮政编码: 215518)

开本787×1092毫米 1/36 印张8.5 插页4 字数185,500
1992年3月第1版 1997年4月第3次印刷
印数13,351—18,350

ISBN 7-5343-1460-7

G·1296

定价: 7.30元

江苏教育版图书若有印刷装订错误,可向承印厂调换

马克·吐温与《汤姆·索耶历险记》

马克·吐温(Mark Twain, 1835—1910)是美国最孚众望的幽默小说家,他以擅长撰写男童历险故事及抨击人类的弱点与虚假著称于世。

马克·吐温出生于美国密苏里州的弗罗里达,父亲是个事业无成的律师兼土地投机商人。因为家庭负担繁重,马克·吐温上学时就干各种杂活,十二岁父亲去世,他辍学到印刷店当学徒。1856年他到新奥尔良,打算赴巴西去成家立业,但随后放弃了这个计划,做了密西西比河上的领航员。1861年南北战争爆发,密西西比河航运萧条,马克·吐温到西部内华达去找矿,辛苦了几年却一无所获,于是他来到弗吉尼亚城当记者,从此开始了他的创作生涯。

马克·吐温开始创作时,正是美国“幽默文学”极为繁荣的时期,但他总是把幽默和讽刺相结合,把现实主义的精心镂刻与浪漫主义的抒情描写相结合,使他的作品体现出丰富的思想内容和独特的艺术风格。马克·吐温是一位多产作家,他一生发表了许多优秀著作,如《异乡奇遇》(1869)、《苦行记》(1872)、《镀金时代》(1873)、《密西西比河上》(1883)和《哈克贝利·芬恩历险记》(1884)。但在他众多的作品中,最为人熟知也是最受人喜爱的要数《汤姆·索耶历险记》(1876)。这是

一部著名的儿童惊险小说，它描写南北战争前“一个淘气的小男孩”不满意乡镇上的枯燥环境、追求传奇的冒险生活。作者运用对比的手法，把生气勃勃的儿童心理同陈腐刻板的生活环境加以对照，刻画出一个个清新、淘气、逼真的人物形象和一幅幅幽默风趣、令人难忘的生活景象。小说读来使人酣畅，使人情不自禁地回忆起自己的童年时代。

我们译注的这本《汤姆·索耶历险记》是美国代尔出版公司出版的一个大众版本。它用一千多个最常用的英文单词将原文浓缩，既保持了故事的生动活泼，又体现了原作语言的洗炼流畅，是我国广大英语爱好者不可多得的一本英语初级读物。为了方便阅读，我们对书中的一些疑难之处作了注释，同时还在后面附上了译文，供读者参考。

由于我们水平有限，译注中的错误之处在所难免，恳请广大读者批评指正。

1992年1月5日

译者于苏州大学

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A Few Words to Begin

Most of the adventures in this book really happened. One or two were my own experiences. The others were experiences of boys in my school. Huck Finn really lived. Tom Sawyer is made of three real boys.

My book is for boys and girls, but I hope that men and women also will read it. I hope that it will help them to remember pleasantly the days when they were boys and girls, and how they felt and thought and talked, what they believed, and what strange things they sometimes did.

MARK TWAIN

*'in the State of Connecticut,
Hartford 1876*



1. Aunt Polly Decides Her Duty

"Tom!"

No answer.

"Tom!"

No answer.

The old lady looked around the room.

"When I find you, I—"

She did not finish. With her head down, she was looking under the bed. Only the cat came out.

She went to the open door and looked toward the garden. No Tom was there. She shouted:

"You, Tom!"

There was a little noise behind her. She turned and caught a small boy, stopping him before he could escape.

"What were you doing in that corner?"

"Nothing."

"Nothing! What is that on your hands and face?"

"I do not know, Aunt Polly."

"I know. You have been eating sweets¹. I have told you a hundred times not to eat those sweets."

Her hand was raised in the air—it started down—it was very near—

"Oh! Look behind you, Aunt!"

The old lady turned. The boy ran. In a moment he was up on the high board fence. Then he was on the far side of it.

His Aunt Polly was surprised. Then she laughed a little.

"That boy! I never know what he will do next. And he knows that I do not want to hit him. But I should. And if he does not go to school this

1. sweets: 糖果(通常用复数形式,而英语中的 sugar 是指调味用糖)

afternoon, I must make him work tomorrow. He does not like work. Especially on Saturday, when there is no school, he does not like work. All the other boys will be playing. But I must try to make him a good boy. He is my dead sister's son, and it is my duty. I must do my duty¹."

Tom did not go to school, and he had a very happy afternoon. He came home late. He hurried to do his share of the evening work². His brother Sid had already finished his share. Sid was a quiet boy, who had no adventures and also no troubles.

While Tom sat eating, his Aunt Polly asked questions. She hoped to learn about³ his afternoon.

"Tom, was it warm in school?"

"Yes, Aunt Polly."

"Did you wish to go swimming, Tom?"

Tom began to feel afraid. What did she know about his afternoon? "No, Aunt Polly. Not very much."

She touched his shirt. It was dry. But Tom knew what she would touch next. He said quickly, "Some of us put water on our heads because we were hot. My hair is not dry yet."

-
- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. do "my duty": 尽我的责任, 尽我的义务 | 2. do his share of the evening work: 干他晚上的份内活 |
| about: 了解 | 3. learn about: 了解 |

He watched her face. Yes, she believed him.
He was safe.

And Aunt Polly was glad to believe that he had been good.

The summer evenings were long. Tom walked along the street whistling like a bird. Then he stopped whistling¹. He had met a stranger, a boy a little larger than he was.

The boy's clothes were new and good, and he was wearing shoes. Tom would wear shoes and good clothes like these only to church on Sunday. Tom looked and looked. The boy's clothes seemed to become better and better, and his own clothes seemed to grow poorer.

Neither boy spoke. If one moved, then the other moved. But they moved only to the side², in a circle. They remained face to face and eye to eye³. Then Tom said:

"I can beat you!"

"Try."

"I can."

"No, you can't."

-
1. stopped whistling: 停住口哨 (stop 后跟动名词表示停止正在干的事, 后跟动词不定式 to do 则表示停下手中的活开始干某事) 2. moved only to the side: 只是往旁边移动步子
3. face to ... to eye: 面对面, 眼看眼

"Yes, I can."

"No, you can't."

"I can."

"You can't."

"Can!"

"Can't!"

A moment of quiet. Then Tom said:

"I could beat you with one hand."

"Do it. You say you can do it."

"That hat!"

"Hit it off my head if you can."

"I will."

"You are afraid."

"I am not afraid."

"You are."

"I am not."

"You are."

More moving in a circle. Now they were shoulder to shoulder, each trying to make the other fall back¹. And then suddenly they were both rolling in the dust. Each pulled at the other's hair, and each hit the other's nose.

And now through the dust Tom appeared², sitting on the new boy, beating him with hard, closed

1. fall back: 撤退, 后退 2. appeared through: 从……中露出来 (through 放在句子前面是为了起强调作用)

hands.

"Have you had enough?"¹ he asked.

The boy tried to get free. He was weeping with anger.

"Have you had enough?"

Then the new boy said, "Enough!" Tom let him stand up and walk away.

But as soon as Tom turned, the new boy threw stone, hitting Tom's back. Therefore, Tom followed him home, and waited.

The boy did not come out again. His mother came and said that Tom was a bad child. She told him to go home.

It was late when Tom got there. Very quietly and carefully, he entered through a window.

But his aunt was waiting for him. She had learned from Sid about Tom's afternoon. Now she saw his clothes and she knew that he had been fighting. She knew what she must do. Tom would work all day on Saturday.

1. Have you had enough? 你受够了吗(这里的 enough 用作名词, 意指“够”或“充足”)?

2. Strong Desires—Wise Action

Saturday morning came. All the summer world was bright and fresh and full of life¹.

Tom appeared in front of the house with paint and a big brush. He looked at the fence, and all joy left him. A deep sadness settled upon² his heart. The fence was long and high. He wet the brush and moved it along the top board. He did it again, and did it again. He looked at what he had done. The painted part was very, very small. The whole fence was very large. He sat down. He felt that he could not continue.

Jim, a boy who worked for the family, came through the gate. He was going to get water, and he was singing happily.

Tom said, "Jim, I will get the water, if you paint."

Jim said, "No. I must get the water."

"Are you afraid of Aunt Polly? She won't hurt you. She talks about it, but talk never hurts.

1. full of life: 充满活力, 生机勃勃 2. settled upon: 停留

It never hurts except when she weeps, also. You should not be afraid of her. Jim, I will give you one of my playthings. And I will show you my foot. I will show you where I hurt it."

Jim was only human.¹ He took the plaything and he put his head down to look at the foot.

In another moment he was running down the street. Tom was painting as fast as possible. And Aunt Polly was returning to the house.

But Tom began to think of the pleasure planned for this day. His hands moved more slowly. Soon the other boys would come and laugh at him for working. From his pocket he took everything² that he owned. He looked at it. There was nothing of real value. It was not enough to buy another boy's help.

At this dark moment³, a wonderful idea came to him. It was like a great, bright light.

He took his brush and went quietly to work.

Ben Rogers appeared soon. Tom had been especially afraid of Ben's laugh.

1. Jim was only human.: 吉姆也是个人(意指他可不傻,对他有益的事自然会干)。 2. from...everything: 他从口袋里掏出所有的东西(这是个倒装句型,把 from his pocket 放在句首主要是为了让 that he owned 这句定语从句紧跟它所修饰的词 everything) 3. at this dark moment: 在这令人悲伤的时刻

Ben was eating an apple. Also as he walked, he was making noises like those of a big riverboat. He would shout loudly. Then he would say, "Ding-dong-dong," like a bell. Then he would shout again, and say, "Ding-dong-dong," again, and make other strange noises. He was the boat, and he was the captain of the boat, and the boat bell.

"Turn her¹!" he shouted. "Slow her! Stop!" He made a slow, careful turn², came close beside Tom, and stopped.

Tom continued his painting. He did not look at the boat.

Ben said, "Hello! You are in trouble."

No answer. Tom moved his brush gently, and looked at the result. Ben came nearer. Tom wished for the apple, but he did not turn from his work. Ben said:

"Hello, you must work, must you?"

Tom turned suddenly. "Oh, Ben, is it you? I did not see you."

"I am going swimming, I am. Do you wish you could go with me? Or would you rather work?"

Tom said, "What do you mean? Work?"

"That is work."

1. turn her: 转航(这里的 her 指本喜爱的那条船) 2. made a...turn: 慢慢地、小心地转过身子