

英语阅读快车

# 赤脚元冈的故事

## The Story of Barefoot Gen

中文编译 周 正  
审 校 刘栋梁

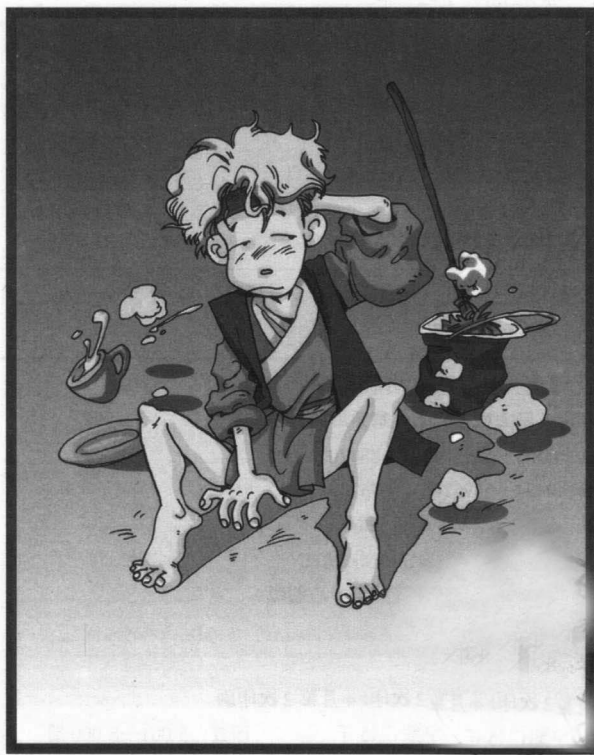


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## 1



Gen Nakaoka , the hero of our story , was born and brought up in Hiroshima . When he entered primary school , Japan was at war with Great Britain and the U . S . A . The story begins a little before the time when Japan was defeated in the war.

Gen was an impish , cheerful boy of seven . He was a genius at thinking up new kinds of mischief , and his little brother Shinji admired him immensely . Each day after Gen came home from school , they always played with each other until it grew dark . Father was a skilled craftsman , who could make beautiful designs in lacquer - work . He supported his family by drawing lacquer pictures on wooden clogs in his small work room at home , while Mother kept busy taking care of the family and helping Father with his work . Koji , the eldest brother ,

3. **at war with**... = [in a state of armed struggle with..., .....在交战中] 6.  
**was a genius at thinking up**... [在想出.....上是个天才] [think up = invent  
 (an idea), 发明, 创造, 想出 (一个主意)] 11. **lacquer work** [油漆活 (本  
 文指在木屐上用油漆绘画)] 14. **while** = [and on the other hand (另方面)]

was a middle school student . He and his classmates were now away from home , working in a munitions factory in a city near Hiroshima instead of studying at school . This was a part of government policy ; in order to help Japan  
 5 win the war , students had to assist at factories , whether they wanted to or not . Along with the other children in his class at school , Akira , the second eldest brother , had had to leave home for a remote country district , where there was less danger from bombing . “ I don’t want to go , ”  
 10 said Akira to Mother with his eyes full of tears as he left . The evacuation was from the third year and Akira was a third grader . Eiko , the only sister , was in the fifth year . Since she was not strong enough to go to the country with the group evacuation , she was left at home with her  
 15 parents . These seven people were all the family of Gen . They did their best to help each other through the trials and difficulties of the war , but not all of them lived to see the end of it .

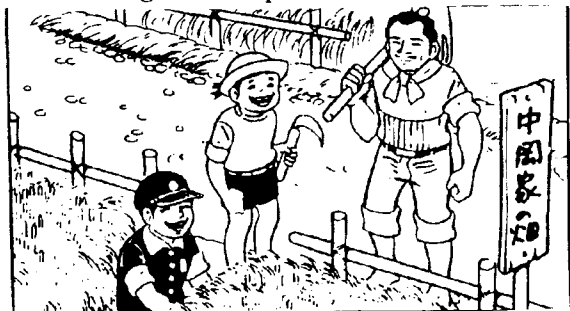
One day , Gen’s mother told him to put his ear to her  
 20 side . Somewhere inside Mother’s body , something was energetically moving . “ We’ll soon have a baby in our house again , ” said Mother , smiling . “ It’s my baby brother

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2. **munitions factory** [军需品工厂]    5. **whether they wanted to or not** [= whether they wanted to assist or not, 不管他们是否愿意去协助.to 为不定式符号] 6. **Along with**… [Together with…, 与……一起, 与……一道] 11. **evacuation** [疏散, 腾出, 14. group evacuation, 集体疏散] 17. **lived to see**… [= lived until they could see… 一直活到他们能看见……to see 表示结果的不定式] 20. **side** [身体的侧边, 胁, 侧腹]

or sister ! ” shouted Gen . “ And the baby’s kicking ! ” Ever since the two elder boys’ departure , the spirits of the family had been dampened by feelings of loneliness . But now , Gen’s joyous chatter filled the entire household with a new sense of courage and hope.

5



The greatest pleasure for Gen and Shinji was to go to the family wheat field and help Father take care of it . They looked forward to harvesting their wheat , because they were sure they would be able to make bread or noodles with it . Their only wish was to have their 10 stomachs full of food , even if only just for once . Each day they ate watery gruel , in which they could almost have counted the grains of rice . They were always hungry , just as most of the people in Japan were during those dark days.

15

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7. family wheat field [家庭菜地的麦田] 8. looked forward to... [期待着 (盼望着) ...to 后带有名词或动名词] 11. even if only just for once [即使仅仅有一次也好] 12. could almost have counted... [几乎都能数清 (数出来) ...] 14. the people in Japan were [=the people in Japan were hungry, 日本人民在挨饿]

## 2

Father sometimes grew downcast, for he knew that Japan was fighting a hopeless war . The soldiers in the southern islands far beyond the sea ate up weeds , rats , snakes and anything which they could find . Even so ,  
 5 many of them were dying for want of food . Some fell ill and others were blown to pieces by bombing . Father longed for the end of the war so that his family might live happily . In spite of his wishes , the war only grew more furious, day by day.



1. downcast (*adj.*) [萎靡不振的, 垂头丧气的] 2. The soldiers in the southern ... [士兵们在南方…… 此句是指第二次世界大战时, 日军在太平洋诸岛与美军作战中, 节节败退, 许多日军士兵在原始森林中因饥饿和热带病而死亡。]
6. were blown to pieces [被吹成了碎片] 8. In spite of ... [=In opposition to ... 与……相反]



On the first day of April in 1945, American forces landed on Okinawa, the last outlying bulwark of Japan. Fierce fighting engulfed the citizens of Okinawa, almost to a point of total destruction. The green land and the blue sea of Okinawa were dyed with crimson blood. 5  
 Enemy air squadrons flew over the mainland almost every day. They showered bombs on the cities, which turned to seas of fire and were reduced to ashes overnight. In the midst of the flames, countless people were actually burned to death. But the radio and the newspapers gave 10  
 the people nothing but false reports, which assured them that Japan was winning all of the battles. The leaders who had started the war insisted, "Japan is a sacred country! We will win the war!" They kept on telling lies, and they refused to put an end to the fighting. As for the people 15  
 who listened to the reports, most of them were convinced that they would win the war in the end. Every day, they drilled hard, trying to learn how to kill the enemy with flimsy bamboo spears. They all vowed that they would fight to the last man. 20

One day Father went to the spear drill in the neighbourhood after he had drunk too much rice wine.

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2. the last outlying bulwark of Japan〔在日本外围的最后防线〕 4. to a point of...〔达到……程度〕 6. air squadrons〔空军中队〕 8. overnight = within (a few) hours.〔昨夜一晚上;一夜之间〕 10. But the radio and...〔但是广播和…… 此句至本页第20行系指日本在第二次世界大战时实行舆论管制,如在1941年颁布《言论出版集会结社等临时取缔法》,封锁真实消息,广播和报纸等对日本人民作虚假报道〕 11. nothing but〔=only,仅仅,只是, which是关系代名词,其先行词是false reports〕 15. put an end to〔=stop(停止),对……加以结束〕 20. fight to the last man〔=fight until the last man was killed.(一直战斗到最后一个人被杀死)〕



That made the leader of the drill angry . He was the chairman of the local Neighbourhood Association.

“ You are not serious about our all - important war effort , ” said the chairman . “ How dare you come drunk to this drill ? How can you defeat American soldiers with that attitude? You don’t have the right spirit ! ”

“ Chairman , such a man should be thrown out ! He’s no better than a traitor ! ” said the old retired soldier who came to show them how to handle bamboo - spears .

10 “Right!” the chairman agreed.

That made Father angry . “ Shut up ! I won’t be called a traitor just because I drink , ” he exclaimed . “ Besides , it’s useless to hope to kill the Americans with bamboo sticks . From beginning to end , this war is a mistake ! ” Then , he

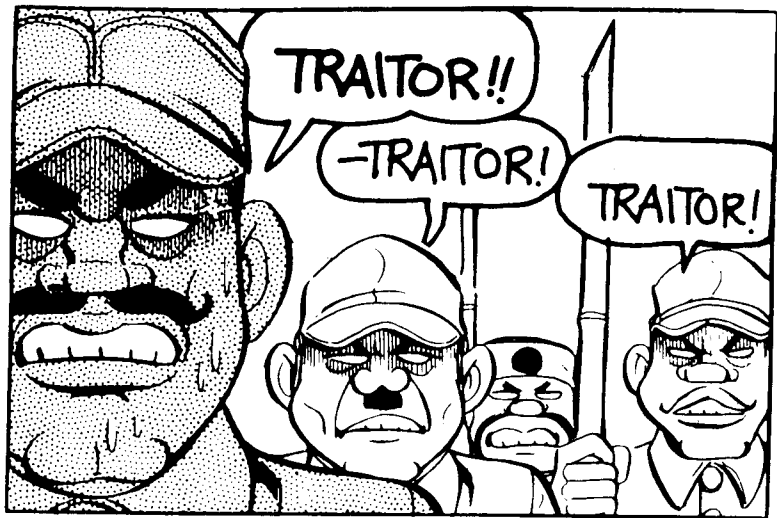
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2. the local Neighbourhood Association [社区居民委员会] 3. all-important war effort [至为重要的与战争的协作] [all-important (至为重要, 非常重要); war effort (战争努力, 战争成就), 即“为了打胜战争的运动”之意]

7. no better than... [=almost the same as... (不比……好, 和……一样坏)]

8. traitor [=a person who is disloyal to his country (一个对他国家不忠的人, 一个背叛他国家的人. 叛徒, 卖国贼)]

threw away his spear and went home , with the chairman and his men shouting ‘ traitor ’ after him . All too often , those who opposed the war were called ‘ traitors ’ . They were despised as persons little better than criminals .



1. **with...shouting...** [某人叫嚷着什么的状态, 即……叫嚷…… with 表示附带的事物, 是 with+目的语+形容词(或分词或副词短语)的形式] 2. **All too...** [太…… 过于…… 例句: He seems only too eager to leave. (他好像急于离开这里)] 4. **little better than...** [不比…好多少, 几乎和……一样坏。与 no better than…的意思大致相同。]

## 3

“ Listen to me , Gen , ” said Father . “ The war destroys people , animals , plants , and houses . It also destroys people’s spirits and their common sense . It will leave to us nothing but pain and suffering . Japan should stop the war  
5 and walk in the way of peace . ”

What he said was a little too difficult for Gen to understand . Even so , Gen felt sure that Father was right . But their neighbours who happened to meet Gen and his brother on the street often gave them contemptuous  
10 stares and whispered to their own sons : “ Their father is a traitor . Like father , like son . Keep away from them . ”

One day Gen , Eiko and Shinji were pulling a cart loaded with the wooden clogs which their father painted . They were off to take the clogs to the wholesaler’s , and  
15 they intended to buy some rice on the black market with the money . When they came to the riverside road , someone suddenly began throwing stones at them . It was Ryukichi , the chairman’s son , with some of his ill - natured friends . They stood in the way of the three children and  
20 shouted , “ Hey , traitors ! You aren’t getting past here ! ”

11. Like father , like son. [有其父必有其子。日本谚语：蛙的儿子还是蛙]

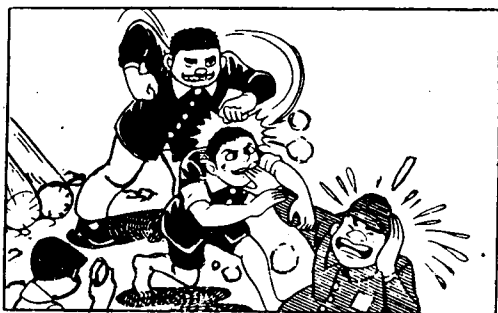
12. a cart loaded with… [=a cart which was loaded with… (装满了……的拉货车)] 14. They were off…wholesaler’s [他们出发把木屐运到批发商那里]

19. stood in the way of… [挡住……的去路。stood 是 stand 的过去式及过去分词]

20. You aren’t getting past here! [=We won’t let you past here. (不准你们从这儿过去)]

Then they took the cart from them and pushed it into the river . The clogs were soaked in the water and turned out to be useless.

Gen exploded with anger and cried , “ Father isn’t a traitor . You are a liar ! ” In another instant , he sprang at Ryukichi and bit him in the finger . He wouldn’t let it go , even though he was struck on the head with a large stone .



Ryukichi cried and ran away , with his finger bleeding . Gen won the fight , but he could not enjoy his victory . Eiko and Shinji were shedding tears of vexation . Suddenly , Gen remembered what Father had always told him . “ Be patient , Gen . You must be strong , like wheat . Wheat gets stepped on again and again , and that is why it grows up to be strong . ”

- 
6. **bit him in the finger** 〔咬住了他的手指。是“bite (pat, catch, hold 等) + 人 + 前置词 + the + 身体的一部分”的形式，表示“把人的身体一部分……”的意思。〕〔wouldn’t let it go = wouldn’t stop holding it (决心不放开它)〕 7. **he was struck on the head** 〔= they struck him on the head, 他被打在头上。struck 是 strike (打, 攻击) 的过去式〕 8. **with his finger bleeding** 〔他的手指流着血〕 10. **tears of vexation** 〔气愤 (着急) 的眼泪〕

They gathered the wet clogs  
floating on the river and came  
home, but they did not tell their  
parents what had happened; they  
5 only told them that they had fallen  
into the river.



## Exercise (1)

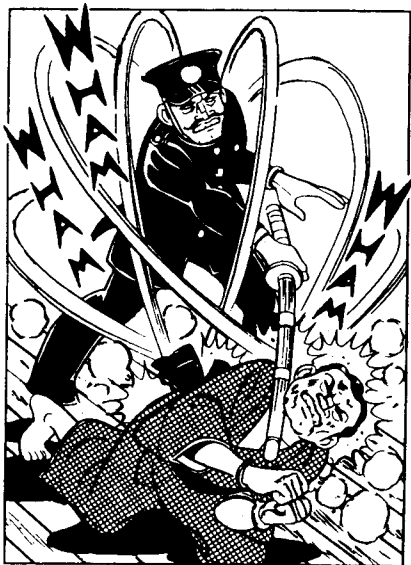
### A. Choose the correct sentences. (选出正确的句子)

1. Gen's father supported his family by making wooden clogs at home.
2. Koji, the eldest brother, gave up his studies and went to war.
3. Gen and Shinji only wished to have their stomachs full of food, even if only just for once.
4. Japan was winning all the battles in the southern islands and the people were sure that they would win the war.
5. Because Father was against the war, he was called a traitor and was despised as a person little better than a criminal.
6. When Gen threw a stone at Ryukichi, it hit him on the finger. Ryukichi ran away with his finger bleeding.

### B. Answer the following in English. (用英语回答下列问题)

1. Where was Gen born and brought up?
2. Eiko was old enough to go to the country with the group evacuation. Why was she left at home?
3. What was the greatest pleasure for Gen and Shinji?
4. Did the radio and the newspaper give true reports to the people?
5. Every day what did the people in the neighbourhood try to learn?
6. What did Father say to the chairman when he was called a traitor?
7. What became of the clogs that were thrown into the river with the cart?

One day a policeman came and said to Father , “ You’re to be questioned . Report immediately to police head - quarters . ” He put handcuffs on Father and took him to the police station . Father was made to squat on the cold  
 5 floor , and was beaten hard with a club . When he fainted they dashed water over his head , kicked him with their hard leather boots and beat him until he fainted again . But no torture could make him give up his ideas about the war.



1. **You're to be questioned** [= We have questions to ask you. 我们有疑问要问你, 你要被讯问 (审问)]    2. **Report (…)** to… [到……报到, =present oneself at a given time or place (在指定的时间或地点交出自己)]



Gen and the rest of the family were left helpless at home . They had no money to buy food with , for they had no one to bring in an income . Shinji cried , “ I am hungry ! I’m starving to death. ”

“Wait till Papa comes home,” said Mother.

At that time , it was very difficult to get rice . Rice was as precious as diamonds and nearly as scarce , so people had to eat strained lees of beans , runners of pumpkins or anything else that was edible in place of rice . The rice dealers refused to sell food to the Nakaokas , because they had been told not to deal with ‘ traitors ’ or their families . Now there was no food left.

Then , Gen was struck with a bright idea and cried , “ Mama , let’s catch some locusts and have them for supper ! ” Gen and Shinji dashed to the artillery range , and Mother and Eiko followed them with a bag . There were lots of weeds and insects in the field . They caught some locusts and made for home to grill them for their supper that evening . On the way , they met Father who was also coming home . He had at last been set free two weeks after he was arrested . Joyously , Gen and Shinji jumped at him . Father hugged them tightly and cried , “ It’s all right

4. **I'm starving to death.** [=I am very hungry. 我非常饥饿。我快饿死啦。]

7. **nearly as scarce** [=nearly as scarce as diamonds. 像钻石那样缺少。]

8. **strained lees of beans** [豆类压挤后的残渣 (豆腐渣)] **runners of pumpkins** [南瓜的蔓] 11. **deal with...** [=do business with... (和……做买卖)]

13. **Gen was struck with a bright idea** [=A good idea came suddenly to the mind of Gen. (元被一个好主意打动了=一个好主意突然来到元的头脑里=元想出来一个好主意。)]

15. **artillery range** [炮兵打靶场] 18. **made for home** [走 (回) 向家去。made 是 make 的过去式和过去分词。make for... (向……方向前进)]