



阅读空间 · 新课标英语分级读物

· 英文注释版 ·

英语课程标准五级之三

5

The Canterbury Tales

坎特伯雷故事集

→ Geoffrey Chaucer ←



中国教育学会外语教学专业委员会推荐

中国电力出版社
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CENTURY ORIENTAL 世纪东方

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——第 5 级——

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出版说明

这是一套针对英语为外语的学生而出版的世界文学名著分级读物。丛书的编写紧密结合新《英语课程标准》的要求,按难易程度分为 8 个级别,适合各阶段学生的阅读需求,帮助学生在语言技能、语言知识、学习策略和文化意识等方面达到新课标的培养目标。

丛书主要有以下特点:

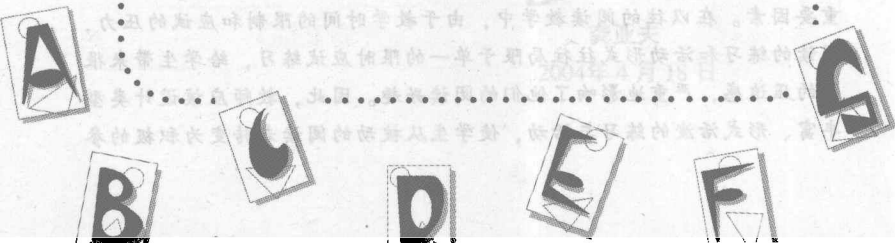
囊括西方经典文学名著,在帮助学生提高语言水平的同时,能通过阅读与自己外语水平相当的简写本一窥文学名著之全貌。

按新课标分级,词汇量从 150 词到 3500 词,满足中小学生的阅读需要。语言难度循序渐进,有助于教师拓展学生的语言知识和文化背景信息,提升学生的英语阅读技能。

第 1 至第 5 级一页一练,练习量大,测试题型丰富多样,非常有利于学生和教师以量化的方式考核和检测阅读能力与水平,是课堂教学的较好补充。

语言浅显、生动、地道,以英文注释的形式出版,既保留了英文的原汁原味,中英文双语注释又为读者在阅读英文时扫除了语言障碍,能够充分调动读者的阅读兴趣,使英语阅读更轻松。

希望本丛书能够增强我国学生的英语阅读能力,提升他们的文学素养。



序

随着国家《英语课程标准》的颁布和实施，中小学英语教学进入了一个新的阶段。新课标对学生课外阅读量和阅读目标都提出了更高的要求。作为课堂阅读的继续和延伸，课外阅读是中学英语阅读教学中的一个重要环节。新课标对课外阅读的新要求需要广大英语教师更好地解决以下三个问题：

- ❶ 如何激发和持久地保持学生的阅读兴趣？
 - ❷ 如何将课外阅读活动与课堂阅读活动有效地结合？
 - ❸ 如何在有限的课堂教学指导下监控和评价学生的课外阅读效果？
- 要解决上述问题，可以从以下几个方面考虑：

阅读选材 阅读材料的题材和难度是影响学生阅读兴趣的主要因素，因此教师在选择和推荐课外阅读材料时，首先应注意阅读材料是否符合学生的认知水平和语言水平，并在两者间找到平衡点。许多材料容易读懂，但对该年龄段的学生可能内容太过浅显，引不起学生的兴趣；也许材料符合学生的心理和认知水平，但语言太难，使学生望而却步。另外，阅读材料还应给学生提供更多的英语国家文化背景知识。许多英语文学名著、寓言故事等在英语国家家喻户晓，人们在言谈、写作时往往予以引用，如同我们引用古诗词和成语一样。如果学生对此毫不了解，就会造成交流和理解上的困难。这套百本之巨的《阅读空间·新课标英语分级读物》（西方文学名著系列）是在《英语课程标准》推广以来出版规模最大的一套中小学生英语阅读丛书，选题的设计者严格按照新课标的各个级别遴选阅读材料，提倡让英语阅读更轻松、更系统、更高效，这样的主导思想和策划方案无疑是正确的。这套丛书分级明确，语言浅显、地道，且与《英语课程标准》的分级标准相匹配，教师可以根据学生的外语水平和兴趣爱好帮助学生选择。

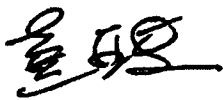
练习活动 阅读的练习和活动形式也是影响学生阅读兴趣的另一个重要因素。在以往的阅读教学中，由于教学时间的限制和应试的压力，阅读的练习和活动形式往往局限于单一的限时应试练习，给学生带来很强的压迫感，严重地影响了他们的阅读兴趣。因此，教师应该设计类型丰富、形式活泼的练习与活动，使学生从被动的阅读者转变为积极的参

与者，并使学生获得更多实践英语和使用英语的机会，如此才能激发和增强他们的阅读热情和兴趣。《阅读空间·新课标英语分级读物》丛书检测方式灵活，其多样化的阅读训练题型，对有意识地培养学生正确的学习策略很有意义。这套丛书的检测训练层级清晰，从初级的看图配话、趣味学用、拼字游戏、常识判断，到较深层的读前思考、推论归纳、背景探索，加上组对练习与互动讨论，明确地突出了学生语言应用能力的培养。

系统性与连续性 阅读材料的系统性，是指根据《英语课程标准》，从语言知识、语言技能、文化意识和学习策略等几个方面，对阅读材料进行科学分级，使学生能够循序渐进，拾级而上。阅读材料的连续性，则是指阅读材料的篇幅和内容的关联性能够让课堂阅读活动延续并拓展到课外。阅读教学中经常采用的短篇限时阅读，虽然容易控制时间，提高阅读速度，但是因学生的阅读能力存在差异而不能“面向全体”，且阅读限时和单一的应试练习形式也很难将课堂阅读活动延伸到课外。市面上的英文名著简写本版本虽多，但像《阅读空间·新课标英语分级读物》这样内容系统、分级明确，并配有大量形式多样、活泼的分项练习的，确实不多。它弥补了短篇阅读理解内容相对独立，不具有连续性的缺陷，使阅读活动能够从课堂延伸到课外。学生可以自己选择他们喜欢的、适合自己水平的读本，教师可以通过诸如写故事梗概、预测故事情节、进行小组讨论等多样、互动的阅读练习与活动，将学生在课堂中的思维延伸到课外，并在下一次课堂教学中检验和评价学生上一次课外阅读活动的结果。

希望有更多的一线教师积极总结自身的教学经验，广泛开展和参与阅读教学的课题研究与探讨，总结出更好、更有效率的阅读教学方法。

中国教育学会外语教学专业委员会理事长
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龚亚夫

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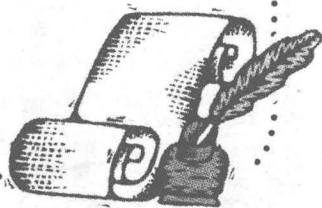
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简

介

杰弗利·乔叟于1340年左右生于伦敦，当时的英格兰正处于新旧交替的动荡之中，尽管整个国家仍处在中世纪封建礼教的控制之下，但已经孕育着一个现代世界的开端。乔叟极有可能在1360年左右开始写作，同时他也从拉丁文和法语中翻译一些文章。1385年，乔叟开始写他的《坎特伯雷故事集》，遗憾的是直到去世也没有完成。乔叟写作使用的是中世纪英语，这种英语在1100年到1500年左右广泛使用，在其所有的23个故事中，除了两篇以外，其余都是以诗歌为载体而写出来的。这些故事来自整个欧洲大陆，有的甚至来自遥远的东方，他的伟大的创作灵感据说是源自薄伽丘的《十日谈》。

《坎特伯雷故事集》以一伙香客去坎特伯雷朝圣途中所讲的故事为线索，向我们展示了一幅反映当时人们生活的生动历史画卷，并勾画出一系列来自社会各个阶层且富有时代色彩的栩栩如生的人物形象。乔叟于1400年去世，被安葬在威斯敏斯特大教堂，他也成为长眠于威斯敏斯特大教堂“诗人角”的第一个伟大的诗人。



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A selection from
THE CANTERBURY TALES
by GEOFFREY CHAUCER
retold by Jane Dolman

The Prologue

In April the sweet showers, warm sun and gentle wind wake up the plants and animals after their long winter sleep. Nature stirs¹ them into life. Men too are filled with the desire to move, to travel and to visit for eign lands and the homes of saints.

In England, people choose to go on pilgrimages² to Canterbury where the holy blissful³ martyr⁴, St. Thomas a Becket, will give them his blessing⁵ and help those who are sick.

It happened that one day in Southwark, south of London, I decided to stop for the night at the Tabard Inn before setting off on a pilgrimage to Canterbury. That same evening twenty-nine other people arrived there for the same reason. They were all together and so I joined the group and talked with each of them.

They were a mixed crowd; there was a Knight — a most distinguished⁶

NOTES

1. stir: excite or arouse, stimulate. 激励, 激发
2. pilgrimage: journey made as a pilgrim. 朝圣之行
3. blissful: extremely happy, joyful. 极幸福的, 极快乐的
4. martyr: person who is killed or made to suffer greatly because of his (esp. religious) beliefs. 战士; 尤指殉道者
5. blessing: God's favour and protection. 神恩, 神的保佑
6. distinguished: dignified in appearance or manner. (外表或举止上) 高贵的



man who loved truth, honour and chivalry¹. He had ridden into battle in Christian and heathen² lands but, despite his valorous³ deeds, he never boasted⁴ of his actions. He was travelling with his son, a fine young Squire⁵ aged about twenty with well-cared curly hair. He, too, had served his king with the cavalry. He was quite a lady's man and loved to sing and write poetry. The Yeoman was their servant. He was dressed in green and was wellskilled at woodcraft as well as being an excellent archer.

Among the religious persons taking part, there was a Nun (a Pri-
orress), called Madame Eglantine who was well-educated, coy⁶ and
delicate. She had three small dogs which she treated kindly. She was
wearing a lovely brooch engraved with the words "Amor vincit om-
nia". With her was another Nun who acted as her secretary, and three
Priests. Then there was a fat and jolly⁷ Monk who enjoyed an outdoor
life, and a merry Friar who had helped many a young girl to get mar-
ried after serving them well himself. He also listened willingly to confes-
sion, believing in penances⁸ paid through money, rather than prayers.

There was a Merchant, a Clerk, a Cook, a Plowman⁹, a Miller,
a Reeve¹⁰, a Franklin¹¹ and a worthy Woman from the City of Bath.

NOTES

1. **chivalry**: ideal qualities expected of a knight (in Middle Ages).
(中世纪的)骑士精神
2. **heathen**: not Christian. 异教徒
3. **valorous**: brave, esp. in war. 英勇的, 勇武的 (尤指在战场上)
4. **boast**: talk with too much pride and satisfaction. 自夸, 自吹自擂
5. **squire**: (formerly) young man who was a knight's attendant until he
himself became a knight. (旧时)骑士的年轻扈从 (直至自己成为骑士止)
6. **coy**: shy, timid. 害羞的, 胆小的
7. **jolly**: happy and cheerful. 愉快的, 快乐的
8. **penance**: punishment that one impose on oneself to show that one is
sorry for having done wrong. 自我惩罚
9. **plowman**: person who works the earth. 农夫
10. **reeve**: medieval feudax tax officer. (中世纪的)收税官员
11. **franklin**: medieval landowner of free, but not noble birth. 小地主.



At the end of our evening meal that night at the Tabard, our Host was so pleased with the company that he decided to join, the party and come along on the pilgrimage, too.

"I have a proposal¹ to make," he said. "To pass the time during the journey, each of you will tell two stories on the way to Canterbury and two more on the way back. The person who tells the best story will be given a free dinner, paid for by the rest, here on our return."

"And who will be the judge?" we asked.

The Host offered to and we all agreed that he should become our Governor. Early the next morning, the party departed and when we reached St. Thomas's watering-place our host stopped and made us choose straws² to see who would be the first to tell his tale.

The Knight drew³ the shortest one and so began his story.

The Knight's Tale

Part One

A long time ago there was a Duke called Theseus who was the Lord and Governor of Athens. He was also a great soldier and had succeeded in defeating⁴ the Amazons and winning over their queen, Hyppolita, whom he had married. On his way home with his bride and her younger sister, Emily, he came across a group of women, dressed in black, sitting by the roadside weeping⁵ and wailing⁶. He

NOTES

1. **proposal**: action of suggestion. 提议, 建议
2. **straw**: cut and dried stalks of grain plants. (收割后干燥的) 禾秆, 麦秆, 稻草
3. **draw**: pull sth. out of its present position (draw; drew; drawn). 抽出; 拔出
4. **defeat**: win a victory (over sb.). 击败, 战胜
5. **weep**: shed tears; cry (weep; wept; wept). 流泪; 哭泣
6. **wail**: cry or complain in a loud voice. (大声)哭, 诉苦





stopped to ask what had happened and they told him that they had once been queen and duchesses of a country called Thebes. Their husbands had been killed by the cruel old King Creon and their bodies left in the desert to be scavenged¹ by wild dogs.

On seeing such noble ladies so mistreated, the gallant Theseus vowed² to avenge³ them. He sent his wife and Emily on to Athens and turned immediately towards Thebes with all his soldiers. There, in a glorious battle the Theban king was slain⁴ and Theseus was able to return home, together with two young princes, Arcita and Palamon, who were to be kept for ever as prisoners.

Several years went by. The princes remained locked in the prison tower, overcome⁵ by grief⁶ and anguish⁷. But one fine morning in May, Emily, who had grown into a beautiful maiden, went out into her garden, which was situated next to the tower, to pick flowers.

Hearing her singing, Palamon looked out through the prison bars and when he saw such a lovely creature he cried out.

“What’s the trouble, dear cousin?” asked Arcita. “You look so pale. I know it’s terrible to be locked up in here but you must learn to be patient. We are prisoners and always shall be. There’s nothing we can do except put up with⁸ it.”

“Cousin”, answered Palamon, “you do not understand.

NOTES

1. **scavenge**: search for decay flesh as food. (尤指鸟兽)觅食腐肉
2. **vow**: swear; promise. 起誓, 发誓
3. **avenge**: hurt or punish those who did wrong. 为……报仇, 伸冤, 雪耻
4. **slay**: kill in a violent way (slay; slew; slain). 杀, 残杀
5. **overcome**: make (sb.) weak or ill (overcome; overcame; overcome). 使(某人)软弱或不适
6. **grief**: deep or violent sorrow. 忧伤, 悲伤
7. **anguish**: suffer physical or mental pain. (肉体、精神的)极度痛苦
8. **put up with**: stand; tolerate. 忍受



The Canterbury Tales

Imprisonment¹ was not what made me cry. I have been hurt this moment through the eye. You would not believe what I have just seen! Venus herself maybe! Wandering in the garden down below. Oh, Venus, if you have chosen to appear to these two miserable prisoners, please, oh please, help us to escape! Make us free!”

While Palamon was speaking, Arcita looked out of the window and saw Emily, too. “The freshness of her beauty strikes me dead,” he sighed. “Unless I see her every day I will die!”

“What are you saying? I am the one who found her first!”

“But I loved her first!”

So the two cousins quarrelled, like two dogs fighting over a bone that neither of them could ever have, and the eternal² friendship they had promised each other turned into hostility³.

Then, one day a famous Duke, Perotheus, came to stay with his friend Duke Theseus. He was a friend of Arcita's and he implored⁴ Theseus to let the poor man go free on the condition that he would leave Athens for ever and, if he happened to return, he would immediately be beheaded⁵.

Poor Arcita! The last thing he wanted was to be exiled⁶ from Athens, unable to see his beloved Emily. How he envied⁷ his cousin, left rotting⁸ in prison but with that marvellous vision so often before his eyes.

Palamon, instead, was filled with envy for his cousin because he was sure that he would find some way to declare war on Athens, and,

NOTES

1. **imprisonment**: state of being imprisoned. 关押; 监禁
2. **eternal**: lasting or existing for ever. 永恒的, 不朽的
3. **hostility**: being hostile or unfriendly. 敌对, 不友好
4. **implore**: beg; plead. 恳求, 乞求, 哀求
5. **behead**: cut off the head of (sb.). 砍头 (尤指刑罚)
6. **exile**: send sb. away from his native country or home. 流放, 放逐, 充军
7. **envy**: unsatisfied with someone else's fortune or success. 忌妒; 羡慕
8. **rotting**: abandoned until he falls apart and dies. 腐烂的



victorious, take Emily for his wife.

Which of the two lovers suffered more?

One can see his lady day by day,

but he must stay in prison, locked away.

The other's free, the world lies all before,

but never shall he see his lady more.

Part Two

So Arcita returned to Thebes and for two years he was so full of grief and sadness that his physical appearance changed completely, making him unrecognizable¹. One night Mercury came to him in a vision and advised him to return to Athens. When he woke up, he looked in the mirror and realized that he could easily pass unnoticed.

He dressed as a poor labourer and set off². "I will find a hum-
ble³ job, live quietly and see my lady every day."

Calling himself Philostrate he went directly to Court and was employed as page⁴ in the house where Emily lived.

Several years passed and Philostrate rose to a high position and became a good and trusted friend of Duke Theseus.

Meanwhile, Palamon was still locked up in prison. At last he could bear no more and he succeeded in escaping. He hid overnight in a field and, early in the morning, by chance Arcita happened to go walking through that very field. Palamon did not recognize him but, from his hiding-place, he heard him talking aloud to himself. It was a

NOTES

1. **unrecognizable**: someone or sth. can not be identified. 不可辨识的; 未被承认的
2. **set off**: begin (a journey, race, etc.). 开始(旅行、赛跑等)
3. **humble**: modest; low in rank, unimportant. 谦虚的; 卑微的
4. **page**: a youth at the service of a noble person. 侍者



The C

kind of confession¹. Amazed, Palamon jumped out of the bushes, shouting “Arcita! Traitor! You have cheated² Theseus. You shall not love my lady Emily! Let it be death for you or for me.”

“Very well, Palamon,” answered Arcita, “let us have a duel³ — tomorrow morning — and he who wins shall have fair Emily.”

Yet once again destiny was to intervene⁴ between the two old friends. In the middle of the duel, which they fought with the rage of two wild beasts, Theseus happened to arrive on the scene, together with Queen Hyppolyta and Emily. When Palamon explained who they were and why they were fighting, he was very angry and condemned them both to death. But the ladies were so moved⁵ and upset that Theseus agreed to give them both their freedom, on one condition:

“You will leave Athens but return after one year, each with one hundred knights. A joust⁶ will be held and the winner will marry Emily.”

Arcita and Palamon returned to Thebes.

Part Three

During their absence, the Duke made preparations for the great tournament⁷. He had a magnificent stadium⁸ built with three

NOTES

1. **confession**: statement of one's guilt. 承认, 坦白, 交待
2. **cheat**: trick or deceive. 欺骗, 瞒哄
3. **duel**: (formerly) formal fight between two men in order to settle a quarrel. (旧时)两男子的决斗
4. **intervene**: interfere so as to prevent or change sth. 干涉, 斡旋
5. **moved**: emotionally touched. 感动的
6. **joust**: medieval fight on horseback with lances. (中世纪骑士)骑着马用长矛打鬥。
7. **tournament**: contest between knights on horseback. 武士骑马比武; 联赛, 锦标赛
8. **stadium**: enclosed area of land for games. 体育场, 运动场





altars¹ — one to Mars (the god of war), one to Venus (the goddess of love) and one to Diana (the goddess of chastity).

And when all the knights arrived Theseus entertained² them marvellously, with food and wine and singing and dancing.

Before the battle Palamon went to the altar of Venus and prayed that he would be granted the possession of Emily.

"If I cannot have my precious Emily I would rather die by Arcita's spear³."

Emily also went to pray, at the altar of Diana. She begged to remain chaste⁴ for she wanted no man but only to run wild and free in the forest like an innocent child.

"So please take these desires away from the two men. If not, give me to the one who loves me most."

"You are destined to marry one of them," was Diana's answer, "but I cannot tell you which."

Arcita, instead, prayed to Mars, asking for victory in the battle. Mars appeared to him and told him that he would, indeed, be victorious.

Now there was a great deal of confusion in heaven until Saturn, the god of destiny, promised that Palamon would win his love and Arcita would win the battle. Now let us see how.

Part Four

It was a beautiful day in May, the day of the great joust. Crowds flocked⁵ to the stadium to watch. Duke Theseus announced the start of

NOTES

1. **altar**: table or raised platform on which offerings are made to God. 供桌, 祭坛
2. **entertain**: provide food and drink for sb. 招待, 款待
3. **spear**: weapon with a metal point on a long handle. 矛, 长枪
4. **chaste**: innocent; pure. 纯真的, 有道德的
5. **flock**: come or move in great numbers. 成群结队; 蜂拥而入

