



初级本

英语短文阅读菁华

Reading Masterpieces

丛书主编 张宜 ◇ 孙南南 主编



大连理工大学出版社

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前言

也许你曾经以为阅读是了无生趣的,那是因为你没有遇到倾心的文字;也许你曾觉得英语是复杂枯燥的,那是因为你没能真正地走近它。

在浩如烟海的书卷中,不乏各种英语阅读材料。但是,我们希望一套简洁明了却又实用的阅读丛书能够驻足在你的案头。于是,怀着这种美好的愿望,我们针对不同阶段的英语学习者和爱好者的实际情况,按照初级本、中级本和高级本三册精心筛选编排了内容丰富、各具特色的文章。初级本语言浅显易懂,内容活泼,适合高中或大学低年级程度的读者。中级本在词汇量和语言上较初级本都有一定的提高,适合非英语专业二、三年级程度的读者。高级本语言地道,内容亦庄亦谐,适合具有英语中级水平以上的读者。

本丛书每本均由栏目导言、词汇菜单、正文、旁注和相关知识五个部分组成。栏目导言画龙点睛,撩拨心弦,使读者产生阅读的渴望。词汇菜单罗列了与本栏目相关的词汇、词组 200 余条,它们既可作为阅读前期的“热身”,亦可作为语言学习上的参考。在正文部分编者以独特的视角,精挑细选,择优拔萃,文章体裁多样,内容丰富,令读者爱不释手。旁注为词汇量有限的读者提供了方便的查阅空间、相关知识或恰到好处地扩展了与本文有关的内容,或寓教于乐,寓庄于谐,为读者提供立体的背景信息。

本丛书梯度合理,过渡适宜。三本书之间既相对独立,又互为关联。阅读着这些文字,就如同点击着时

代的鼠标,尽情品味着人类家园的硕果,感受着社会文明的气息。其中有的文章轻松跳跃,却不流于肤浅;有的厚重深邃,却不失于陈旧。总之,每篇文章就如同一颗石子,棱角分明,然而每一颗的纹路却又各自不同。如果您愿意将它们铺在一起,会发现那就是一架坚实的桥梁,牵引着您走向明天,直到未来。

作为编者的我们,当即将把浸透着自己汗水和付出的文字奉献给亲爱的读者时,心中有一丝的忐忑,惟恐我们虽备加仔细却仍难免的疏漏带给您丝毫不悦;但同时心中积淀起来的喜悦也是很难言说的。此刻那么多无眠的日日夜夜变得更加清晰,也更加有意义。因为素未谋面的我们终于可以在这里实现一次约定——一次我们都无比虔诚而且满怀期待的约定!

编者

2007年3月

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文体掠影



您关心流行乐坛的发展吗？

您了解中国电影的最新动态吗？

您是网球运动的爱好者吗？

您是奥林匹克精神的追随者吗？

让我们一起走进文体掠影。

Passage

1

“Shrek 2” to Spawn More Sequels

《怪物史莱克2》期待更多续集

Two more *sequels*¹ to the animated film Shrek are to be made after the success of Shrek 2 *exceeded*² expectations. Shrek 2, about the adventures of a green *ogre*³, enjoyed the second-biggest US cinema opening ever, taking \$108 m over its first weekend.

Dreamworks said the film's success meant the studio would move ahead with plans for a third and fourth. Ann Daly, the head of Dreamworks *animation*⁴, said: “It wasn't really advisable to start working on three and four until we knew that we actually had something in two, and certainly this weekend *confirmed*⁵ that we do.”

Talks are *underway*⁶ with the actors who voice the characters including Cameron Diaz and Eddie Murphy. Ms. Daly said Dreamworks was also in final talks with Mike Myers and Diaz who voice Shrek and Princess Fiona. They also hope to strike a deal with Murphy as the talking Donkey, and Antonio Banderas as Puss in Boots.

1. sequel ['si:kwəl] *n.* 续集

2. exceed [ik'si:d] *v.* 超越, 胜过

3. ogre ['əʊgə] *n.* (民间传说中的)食人魔鬼, 怪物

4. animation [æni'meɪʃən] *n.* 动画

5. confirm [kən'fə:m] *v.* 确定, 批准

6. underway ['ʌndə'weɪ] *a.* 起步的, 进行中的, 航行中的

Shrek 2 has also set a new **benchmark**⁷ as the biggest animated **debut**⁸ of all time, topping the \$70m taken by the Disney/Pixar animation Finding Nemo. It also **surpassed**⁹ the biggest opening film of 2004, Mel Gibson's The Passion of the Christ, which took \$89.3m.

背景知识

美国经典动画片

<i>Challenge of the Gobots</i>	《百变雄狮》
<i>Transformers</i>	《变形金刚》
<i>Denver, the Last Dinosaur</i>	《丹佛,最后的恐龙》
<i>She-Ra Princess of Power</i>	《非凡的公主希瑞》
<i>The Snorks</i>	《海底小精灵》
<i>The Smurfs</i>	《蓝精灵》

学海拾零

Fill in the blank:

"Notre Dame de Paris"(巴黎圣母院), the famous Cathedral is a representative building of ____ art.

Key: Gothic

7. benchmark ['bentʃ.ma:k] *n.* 基准
 8. debut ['debju] *n.* 初次登场, 开张
 9. surpass [sə:'pɑ:s] *v.* 超越, 胜过

Passage

2

American Popular Music

美国的流行音乐

One of America's most important *exports*¹ is her modern music. American popular music is played all over the world. It is enjoyed by people of all ages in all countries. The reasons for its popularity are its fast pace and *rhythmic*² beat. The music has many origins in the United States. Country music coming from the rural areas in the Southern United States is one source. Country music *features*³ simple themes and *melodies*⁴, describing day-to-day situations and feelings of country people. Many people enjoy this music because of the emotions expressed by country music songs. A second origin of American popular music is the *blues*⁵. It describes mostly the sad feelings reflecting the difficult lives of American blacks. It is usually played and sung by black musicians but it is popular with all Americans. Rock music is a newer form of music. This music style featuring fast and repetitious rhythm was influenced by the blues and country music. It was first known as *rock-and-roll*⁶ in the 1950s. Since then, there have been many forms of rock music: hard

-
1. export ['ekspɔ:t] *n.* 输出, 出口
 2. rhythmic ['riðmik] *a.* 有节奏的, 合拍的
 3. feature ['fi:tʃə] *v.* 以.....为特征
 4. melody ['melədi] *n.* 悦耳的音调
 5. blues [blu:z] *n.* 忧郁的布鲁斯音乐(蓝调音乐)
 6. rock-and-roll *n.* 摇滚乐

rock, soft rock, pop rock, disco music and others. Many performers of popular rock music are young musicians. New popular songs are heard on the radio several times a day. People hear these songs sung in their original English or sometimes translated into other languages. The words may differ but the enjoyment of music is universal.

背景知识

摇滚不是天堂,是一种精神,是一张孕育自由和叛逆思想的温床。你我在这张温床上,得以超脱痛苦、消除原罪,如初生的婴儿一般,首次以彼此的灵魂沟通。常见的摇滚乐风格有:重金属、硬摇滚、朋克、民谣、说唱、爵士、宗教摇滚和迷幻摇滚。

学海拾零

Ask: Could you name some major styles of rock music?

Answer: Heavy metal, hard rock, punk, folk, rap and jazz.

Passage

3

"Harry Potter III" Stars & Fans Growing up

《哈里·波特3》影星影迷日渐成熟

The boy *wizard*¹ of "Harry Potter" is growing up—and so are his fans, many of whom have replaced their old *capas and wands*² with declarations of undying love.

1. wizard ['wizəd] *n.* 男巫, 术士

2. capas and wands 披风和魔杖

Daniel Radcliffe appeared stunned by the *enthusiastic*³ reception he received from hundreds of *shrieking*⁴ fans who lined up outside the U.S. premiere of “Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban.”

Audiences can expect a more mature film this time, too. The third *installment*⁵ of the “Harry Potter” series takes a dark turn as the young sorcerer is sought by a murderous wizard who escapes from a prison for *conjurers*⁶. It’s darker and a bit more edge of your seat.

Fans lined up as early as 4 a.m., 12 hours before the start of the film, to *angle for*⁷ an *autograph*⁸ or *glimpse*⁹ of their favorite star. The teenage “Harry Potter” stars are also giving performances with new depth.

3. enthusiastic [in.θju:zi'æstik] *a.* 热心的,热情的
4. shriek [ʃri:k] *v.* 尖声叫喊
5. installment [in'stɔ:lment] *n.* 部分
6. conjurer ['kʌndʒərə(r)] *n.* 魔术师
7. angle for 谋取,追求
8. autograph ['ɔ:təgræf] *n.* (名人等的)签名
9. glimpse [glimps] *n.* 一瞥

背景知识

《哈里-波特》作者罗琳获评全球最有影响力女性
美国的《福布斯》杂志评选出了2005年全球最具影响力的100位女性,《哈里-波特》系列魔幻小说的作者J.K.罗琳也跻身其中,而且虽然她在这个不乏政治家和商界女强人的榜单上仅名列第40位,但在