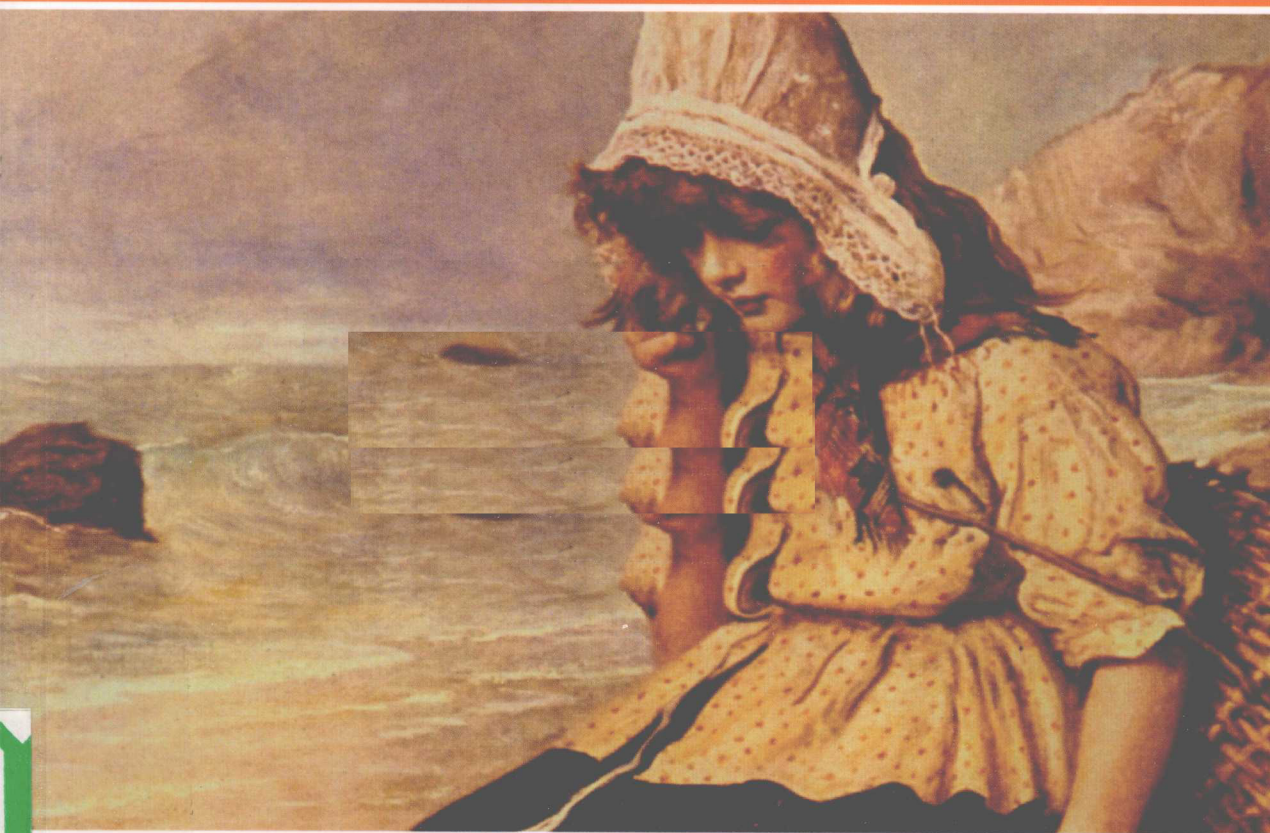


Great American Stories



美国名人名著短篇精选 1



Great American Stories

美国名人名著短篇精选 ①

一本书一个世界

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前言

学习语言不读文学就如隔靴搔痒,因为文学中的语言是最丰富、最灵活、最具表现力的,同时文学中的情节、故事引人入胜,进而充分调动读者阅读兴趣,培养读者文学修养,至此,语言的学习水到渠成。同时,英语学习呼唤人文精神情怀已成为外语界共识,所以许多学校把美国名家小说选读与欣赏作为选修课开设,但在课程内容的选择、课程程度的控制、课程进度的把握上颇费踌躇和思量,基于此,我们编写了这套《美国名人名著短篇精选》(1-3)。

全套书撷取美国文学史上最著名、最经典的诸如马克·吐温、欧·亨利、艾德加·艾伦·坡、欧内斯特·海明威、杰克·伦敦、凯特·肖邦等小说家的脍炙人口、享誉世界的作品,完全按照选修课程需要及课堂教学情景组织材料、设计板块,充分体现实用性、有效性的文学阅读与欣赏的教学策略。

1. 难度循序渐进 本书选文对结构、词汇和句子长度的控制贯穿始终。新的语法结构也随着故事情节而变化,超出核心词表的词汇均出现在使其意义明显的语境之中,方便读者的理解和学习。

2. 名家精品荟萃 所有作品都在国内脍炙人口,耳熟能详。而其中包含的美国历史、文化和人们多年前的日常生活情况也十分精彩,其丰富的人物性格、清晰的情节和矛盾冲突以及出人意料的结局引人入胜。

3. 英汉对照,方便阅读 既保留了教科书的功用,又照顾到读者自学的方便,对提高读者文学欣赏水平和英语运用能力大有裨益。

本套书既可以作为各类英语学校或培训机构开设英语名著阅读课的教材,也可以作为英语学习的通俗读物,其承载的世界先进文化遗产和英语学习策略将影响着读者进步和成功。

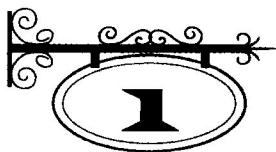
《美国名人名著短篇精选 1》由佳木斯大学张邱慧老师主编,长春大学的姜燕老师、吉林省经济管理干部学院的康立文老师参加了编写。其中,张邱慧老师编写了《麦琪的礼物》、《眷恋生命》、《泄密的心》、《约翰的归来》、《淘金记》约 10 万字,同时做终稿审定。



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The Gift of the Magi

麦琪的礼物

Adapted from the story by O. Henry



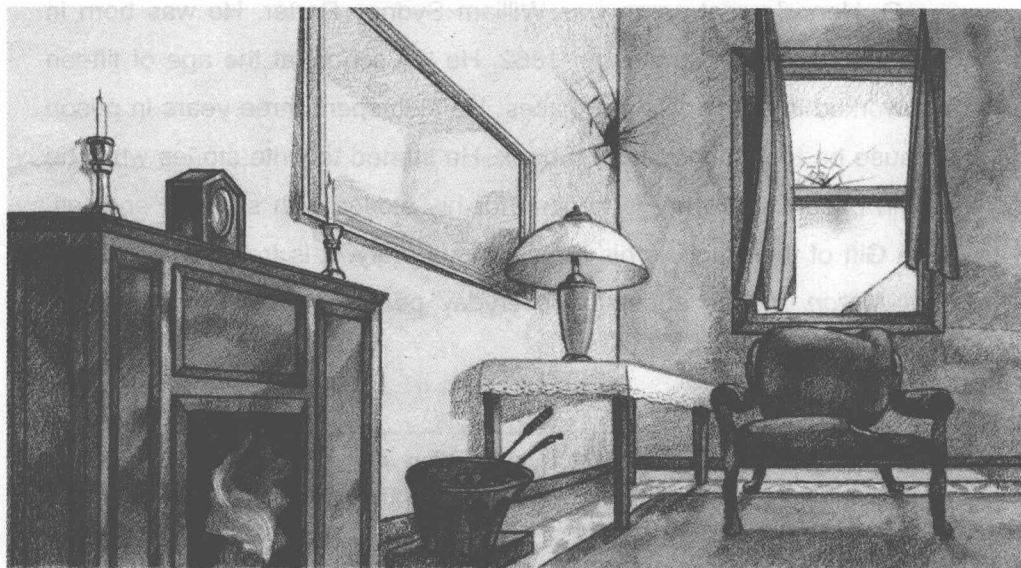
O. Henry's real name was William Sydney Porter. He was born in Greensboro, North Carolina, in 1862. He left school at the age of fifteen and worked in many different places. He also spent three years in prison because he took money from a bank. He started to write stories while he was in prison. O. Henry is famous for his stories with surprise endings. "The Gift of the Magi" is his most famous story. It is from the book *The Four Million*, stories about the everyday people of New York City. O. Henry died in 1910.

About the Author

Read the paragraph about O. Henry. What do you think is the most interesting thing about O. Henry's life?

The Gift of the Magi

- 1 Della counted her money three times. She had only one dollar and eighty-seven cents. That was all. And tomorrow would be Christmas. What Christmas gift could she buy with only one dollar and eighty-seven cents? Della lay down on the old bed and cried and cried.
- 2 Let's leave Della alone for a while and look at her home. The chairs and tables were old and poor. Outside there was a mailbox without mail, and a door without a doorbell. The name on the door said MR. JAMES DILLINGHAM YOUNG—Della's dear husband, Jim.
- 3 Della knew that Jim would be home soon. She dried her eyes and stood up. She looked in the mirror. She began to comb her hair for Jim. She felt very sad. She wanted to buy Jim a Christmas gift—something good. But what could she do with one dollar and eighty-seven cents? She combed her hair in front of the mirror and thought. Suddenly she had an idea.



4 Now, Jim and Della had only two treasures. One was Jim's gold watch. The other was Della's hair. It was long and brown, and fell down her back. Della looked in the mirror a little longer. Her eyes were sad, but then she smiled. She put on her old brown coat and her hat. She ran out of the house and down the street. She stopped in front of a door which said, MME. SOPHRONIE. HAIR OF ALL KINDS. Madame Sophronie was fat and seemed too white. The store was dark.

5 "Will you buy my hair?" Della asked.

6 "I buy hair," said Madame. "Take off your hat. Let's see your hair."

7 Della took off her hat. Her hair fell down like water. Mme. Sophronie lifted Della's hair with a heavy hand. "Twenty dollars," she said.



8 "Give me the money now!" said Della.

9 Ah! The next two hours flew past like summer wind. Della shopped in many stores for the right gift for Jim. Then she found it—a chain for his gold watch. It was a good chain, strong and expensive. Della knew the chain would make Jim happy. Jim had a cheap chain for his watch, but this chain was much better. It would look good with the gold watch. The chain cost twenty-one dollars. Della paid for the chain and ran home with eighty-seven cents.

10 At seven o'clock Della made coffee and started to cook dinner. Jim would

be home soon. He was never late. Della heard Jim outside. She looked in the mirror again. "Oh! I hope Jim doesn't kill me!" Della smiled, but her eyes were wet. "But what could I do with only one dollar and eighty-seven cents?"

11 The door opened, and Jim came in and shut it. His face was thin and quiet. His coat was old, and he had no hat. He was only twenty-two. Jim stood still and looked at Della. He didn't speak. His eyes were strange. Della suddenly felt afraid. She did not understand him. She began to talk very fast. "Oh, Jim, dear, why do you look so strange? Don't look at me like that. I cut my hair and sold it. I wanted to buy you a Christmas gift. It will grow again—don't be angry. My hair grows very fast. Say 'Merry Christmas', dear, and let's be happy. You don't know what I've got for you—it's beautiful."

12 "You cut your hair?" Jim spoke slowly.

13 "I cut it and sold it," Della answered. "Don't you like me now? I'm still me, aren't I?"

14 "You say that your hair is gone?" Jim asked again.

15 "Don't look for it, it's gone," Della said. "Be good to me, because it's Christmas. Shall we have dinner now, Jim?"

16 Jim seemed to wake up. He smiled. He took Della in his arms.

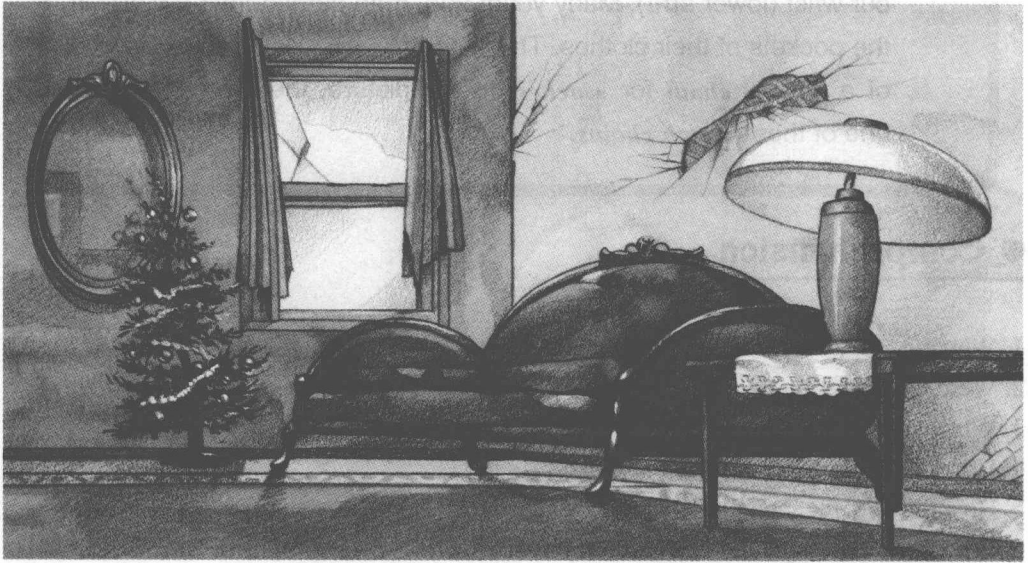
17 Let's leave them together for a while. They are happy, rich or poor. Do you know about the Magi? The Magi were wise men who brought Christmas gifts to the baby Jesus. But they could not give gifts like Jim's and Della's. Perhaps you don't understand me now. But you will understand soon.

18 Jim took a small box out of his pocket. "I love your short hair, Della," he said. "I'm sorry I seemed strange. But if you open the box, you will understand." Della opened the box. First she smiled, then suddenly she began to cry. In the box were two beautiful combs. Combs like those were made to hold up long hair. Della could see that the combs came from an expensive store. She never thought she would ever have anything as beautiful! "Oh, Jim, they are lovely! And my hair grows fast, you know. But wait! You must see your gift." Della gave Jim the chain. The chain was bright, like her eyes. "Isn't it a good one, Jim? I looked for it everywhere. You'll have to look at the time one hundred times daily, now. Give me your watch. I want to see them together."

19 Jim lay back on the bed. He put his hands under his head, and smiled. "Della," he said, "let's put the gifts away. They are too good for us right now. I

sold the watch to buy your combs. Come on, let's have dinner."

²⁰ The Magi, as we said, were wise men—very wise men. They brought gifts to the baby Jesus. The Magi were wise, so their gifts were wise gifts. Perhaps Jim and Della do not seem wise. They lost the two great treasures of their house. But I want to tell you that they were wise. People like Jim and Della are always wiser than others. Everywhere they are wiser. They are the magi.



KEY WORDS

comb People usually *comb* their hair in the morning. If they don't have a *comb*, they might use their fingers. Women with long hair sometimes put special *combs* in their hair. The *combs* hold up their hair and add beauty.

Magi The word *Magi* (MAY-jai) means "wise men." They are carrying gifts for the baby Jesus.

watch and chain A *watch* tells us the time. Usually, we wear a *watch* on our wrist (lower arm). Many years ago, men carried their *watches* in the pockets of their clothes. This kind of *watch* was often at the end of a special *chain* for *watches*. In the picture, the man is holding one of these *watch chains*.

● Comprehension

1. Why did Della want to buy a gift for Jim?
2. Were Della and Jim rich? How do you know?
3. What were Jim's and Della's greatest treasures?
4. How did Della get enough money for Jim's gift?
5. How did Jim get enough money for Della's gift?
6. Who were the Magi, and what did they do?
7. Why does the writer think Della and Jim were wise?

● True or False

- _____ 1. Della and Jim were very poor.
- _____ 2. Della was very happy before she bought Jim's present.
- _____ 3. Madame Sophronie gave Della two dollars for her hair.
- _____ 4. Before Christmas, Jim had an expensive chain for his watch.

- _____ 5. Jim was young, but his coat was old.
 _____ 6. Della laughed when Jim gave her the combs.
 _____ 7. Jim didn't show Della his watch.

● Discussion

1. The writer, O. Henry, tells us that the Magi were wise. He also says that Jim and Della were wise. Why does he say this? Were they all wise in the same way? Do you agree with O. Henry?
2. A gift is one way of showing love. Do you think it is a very important way? Why, or why not?
3. Do you give gifts to everyone you love? Do you ever give gifts to people you don't love? If so, why? If not, why not?

● Vocabulary Practice

For each space in the sentences below, choose the best word from the following list.

mirror	watch	gift	wise
count	treasures	doorbell	comb

1. Della needed to _____ her money many times.
2. Della's hair and Jim's watch were their two great _____.
3. When Della looked in the _____, she saw her long hair.
4. Della's _____ to Jim was a chain for his watch.
5. Jim gave Della not just one beautiful _____ for her hair, but two of them.
6. At the beginning of the story, Jim has a cheap chain for his _____. At the end, he has an expensive chain.
7. Jim and Della's door had no _____.
8. Were Jim and Della _____ to give the gift of love?

● Writing: Madame Sophronie Speaks

In this exercise, you are Madame Sophronie. Answer each question in complete sentences. The information in paragraphs 4—7 will help you.

Example:

What is your name? Do you have a store in the city, or in the country?

My name is Madame Sophronie. I have a store in the city.

1. Do you buy and sell hair, or do you buy and sell gold chains?
2. One day, did a young woman come into your store, or was it her husband?
3. Did she want to sell her hair, or buy it?
4. Did you tell her to take her hat off, or to put it on?
5. Did she have beautiful long hair, or beautiful short hair?
6. How much did you pay for it?
7. Did you plan to sell it later for more money, or for less money?

After you have answered the seven questions, put your answers together in one paragraph. Begin the paragraph with the sentences

My name is Madame Sophronie. I have a store in the city.

Now, add a second paragraph with your answers to the following questions. You will find the answers to these questions in your mind, not in the story.

1. The next day, did a rich woman or a poor woman come into your store?
2. Did she like the young woman's hair a lot, or just a little?
3. How much did you ask her to pay for it?
4. How much did she want to pay for it?
5. In the end, how much did she pay for it?
6. Did you feel happy, sad, or just OK about that price?

Translation

麦琪的礼物

根据欧·亨利同名故事改写

欧·亨利的真名是威廉·西德尼·波特，1862年生于北卡罗来纳州的格林斯波罗。他十五岁弃学，曾在很多地方工作，也曾挪用公款而服刑三年。他在狱中开始写作。欧·亨利因其写的故事有意外的结局而闻名。《麦琪的礼物》是他最有名的作品《四百万》中的一篇，该书描述了纽约市日常生活中形形色色的人物。他逝世于1910年。

黛拉把钱数了三遍，只有一元八角七，一分不多。明天就是圣诞节了，就这么一点钱能买什么礼物呢？她倒在那张破旧的长沙发上，不停地哭。

暂且不说黛拉，咱们来看看她的家吧：屋里的桌椅都很破旧；屋外有个信箱，可惜里面没有邮件；还有一扇门，但是没有门铃。门上写着：詹姆斯·迪灵汉·扬。这是指黛拉亲爱的丈夫——吉姆。

黛拉知道吉姆很快就要回来了。她赶紧擦干眼泪，站起身来，照照镜子，开始梳头，准备迎接吉姆。她心里很难过，因为她想为吉姆买一件像样的圣诞礼物。可是，一元八角七又能买什么呢？她在镜子前一边梳头，一边琢磨。突然，她灵机一动，想出个主意来。

眼下，吉姆和黛拉只有两件值钱的东西，一是吉姆的金表，另一件是黛拉的头发。黛拉的头发是棕色的，长长的，一直垂到后背。她又在镜子前发了一会儿呆。她眼神虽然哀伤，但这会儿，却笑了。她穿上那件棕色的旧外衣，戴上帽子，从家里跑出去，来到大街上。她在一家小店门口停了下来，小店的门上写着：索芙尼太太，专收各种毛发。

索芙尼太太很胖，皮肤显得过白。店里很阴暗。

“你想买我的头发吗？”黛拉问。

“这儿是收头发，”索芙尼太太说。“把帽子摘掉，我们看看货。”

黛拉摘掉帽子，她那长发像瀑布一样垂落下来。索芙尼太太用一只有力的大手颠了颠黛拉的头发后说：“20 美元。”

“我要现钱！”黛拉说。

哈！接下来的两个小时过得真像夏天里的风一样飞快。为了给吉姆买到合适的礼物，黛拉跑了很多商店。后来，她终于找到了——是一条与他的金表相匹配的表链。这条表链质地很好，做工结实，但价格非常昂贵。黛拉知道吉姆一见到它准会高兴。吉姆现在用的表链很便宜，但这条可就好多了，配他的金表正合适。这条表链的售价是 21 美元。黛拉交完钱，带着剩下的 87 美分跑回家了。

晚上七点，黛拉煮好咖啡，开始做晚饭。吉姆很快就要回来了，他从不晚归。黛拉听到了门外吉姆的声音，又照了照镜子。“哦！但愿吉姆别掐死我！”黛拉笑了，但眼睛却湿润了：“可是，仅有一元八角七，不这么办又能怎么样呢？”

门开了，吉姆走了进来，随手又把门关上。他的脸很瘦削，但很安详。他身上的外衣已经很旧了，头上没有戴帽子。他才 22 岁。吉姆站住了，静静地看着黛拉，一句话也不说，眼神很奇怪。黛拉有些紧张，她不明白吉姆为什么会这样。她开始急促地说：“哦，吉姆，亲爱的，你看上去怎么这么怪？别这样看我。我把头发剪下来卖掉了。我要给你买圣诞礼物。头发还会长出来的，别生气。我的头发长得很快。快说‘圣诞快乐’呀，亲爱的，咱们高兴点儿。你不知道我给你买了什么吧，可漂亮了！”

“你把头发剪了？”吉姆慢吞吞地说话了。

“我把它剪下来卖掉了，”黛拉回答说。“你不喜欢我了吗？我还是我，不是吗？”

“你是说你的头发没了？”吉姆又问了一遍。

“别找了，没了，”黛拉说。“今天是圣诞节，对我好点嘛。我们现在吃晚饭好吗，吉姆？”

吉姆好像突然间醒悟过来。他笑了，一把将黛拉抱在怀里。

我们就让这对夫妻甜蜜一会儿吧。他们是幸福的，且不说贫富。你听说过《圣经》中的麦琪，也就是东方三贤士吗？他们是为初生的耶稣送去圣诞礼物的智者。但他们却拿不出吉姆和黛拉那样的礼物。也许你现在还不能理解我的话，但过一会儿你就会明白的。

吉姆从衣袋里掏出一个小盒子。“我喜欢你的短发，黛拉，”他说。“对不起，我刚才的确有些怪。可是，你要是打开盒子的话，就什么都明白了。”黛拉打开盒子。她先是笑了，继而又哭了起来。盒子里有两把漂亮的梳子。那是用来拢住长发的梳子。黛拉看得出这种梳子是从高档商店里买来的。她从未幻想过她会有这么漂亮的东西！“哦，吉姆，它们真可爱！我的头发长得快，你知道。哦，等一下！你一定要看看我给你买的礼物。”黛拉把表链拿给吉姆。表链亮晶晶的，像黛拉的眼睛。“不好吗，吉姆？我跑了那么多地方，总算买到了。以后，你每天得看上百次才行。把表给我，我要把它们配在一起。”

吉姆躺倒在长沙发上，两手放到脑后，笑了。“黛拉，”他说，“咱们还是先把这些礼物收起来吧。它们实在是太好了，咱们现在还不能受用。我把表卖了，给你买的梳子。来吧，咱们吃饭。”

如刚才所说，麦琪是智者，他们非常聪明。他们给初生的耶稣送去了礼物。因为聪明，所以他们送去的礼物也是智慧的礼物。吉姆和黛拉看起来或许并不聪明，他们损失了家里的两件宝物。但是我要告诉你，他们其实很聪明。像吉姆和黛拉这样的人往往比别人聪明——不管在哪儿。因为他们就是麦琪。



Love of Life

卷 恋 生 命

Adapted from the story by Jack London

Jack London was born in San Francisco, in 1876. His family was poor. He left school at fourteen. He worked on boats, on farms, and in the woods. He loved to visit new places. His first long trip was to Japan. When he was eighteen he returned to high school for one year. Then he went to the University of California at Berkeley.



But again he left after one year and began to write for money. In 1897 he went to the Klondike, in northwest Canada, near Alaska. Many men went to find gold in that cold, empty land. London wrote stories about the men and animals there. He traveled to many other different places, too, and found adventures everywhere. He put these adventures into his famous stories and novels. London continued to travel until a few years before his death in 1916.

About the Author

1. Read the paragraph about Jack London. Why do you think London wrote adventure stories?
2. The paragraph tells us that London went to the Klondike in 1897. Where is the Klondike? Why did men go there at that time? What kind of place was it?