

Great American Stories



美国名人名著短篇精选 3



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美国名人名著短篇精选 ③

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。

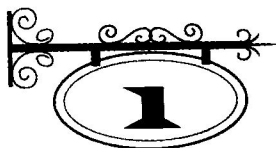
本套书既可以作为各类英语学校或培训机构开设英语名著阅读课的教材,也可以作为英语学习的通俗读物,其承载的世界先进文化遗产和英语学习策略将影响着读者进步和成功。



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The Journey to Hanford

汉福德之行

Adapted from the story by William Saroyan

William Saroyan's family came to the United States from Armenia. His older brother and sisters were born there, and William was born in Fresno, California, in 1908. The Saroyan family was large and loving, but very poor. After Saroyan's father died when Saroyan was only three, his mother had no money at all. She had to put her children in an orphanage (a home for children with no parents) for five years. Saroyan began working at the age of eight, selling newspapers. He left school at the age of fourteen. He decided to become a writer, and taught himself by reading. He wrote stories, poems, and plays. His work is often about his own life and his own family. The story that follows, "A Journey to Hanford," is from the book *My Name Is Aram*. All the stories in this book are told by Aram, a boy in a large, poor Armenian family in the California farmlands. Saroyan writes about the goodness of people and the richness of life. He often writes about how people are able to find happiness, hope, and joy in very difficult times. Saroyan himself was not always happy with life in the United States. After 1958, he lived mostly in Paris. But he kept his home in Fresno, and he died there in 1981.



About the Author

Read the paragraph about William Saroyan. Write down three things you learned from this paragraph about Saroyan's early childhood.

The Journey to Hanford

I

- 1 The time came one year for my sad uncle Jorgi to get on his bicycle and ride twenty-seven miles to Hanford. There was a job for him there in a farmer's field. Of course, before he went, the family had to decide who would go with him.
- 2 It is true that Jorgi was a kind of fool. That was all right with the family most of the time. But right now, in the summer, they wanted to forget him for a while. Now he would go away to Hanford and work in the watermelon fields. All would be well. He would earn a little money and at the same time be out of the way. That was the important thing—to get him out of the way.
- 3 “Away with him and his zither both,” my grandfather said. “You will read in a book that a man can sit all day under a tree and play music on a zither and sing. Believe me, that writer is a fool. Money, that's the thing. Let him go and work under the sun for a while. In the watermelons. Him and his zither both.”
- 4 “You say that now,” my grandmother said, “but wait a week. Wait, and you will need music again.”
- 5 “Foolish words!” my grandfather said. “You will read in a book that a man who sings is truly a happy man. But that writer is a dreamer, not a businessman in a thousand years. Let him go. It is twenty-seven miles to Hanford. That is a very good distance.”
- 6 “You speak that way now,” my grandmother said. “But in three days you will be a sad man. I will see you walking around like a tiger. I will see you roar with anger. I am the one who will see that. Seeing that, I am the one who will laugh.”
- 7 “You are a woman,” said my grandfather. “You will read in a book that a woman is a perfect and beautiful thing. Believe me, that writer is not looking at his wife. He is dreaming.”
- 8 “It is just that you are no longer young,” my grandmother said. “That is why you are roaring.”

- 9 "Close your mouth," my grandfather roared. "Close it right now! "
- 10 My grandfather looked around the room at his children and grandchildren. "I say he goes to Hanford on his bicycle," he said. "What do you say?"
- 11 Nobody spoke.
- 12 "Then it is done," my grandfather said. "Now, who shall we send with him on this journey? Which of our children shall we punish by sending him with Jorgi to Hanford? You will read in a book that a journey to a new city is a great thing for a young man. That writer is probably a fool of eighty or ninety. His only journey was two miles from home once when he was a little child. Who shall we punish? Vask? Shall Vask be the one? Step up here, boy."
- 13 My cousin Vask got up from the floor and stood in front of the old man. My grandfather put his hand over Vask's face. His hand almost covered the whole head.
- 14 "Shall you go with your uncle Jorgi to Hanford?" my grandfather said.
- 15 "If it pleases my grandfather, I will," Vask said.
- 16 The old man began to make faces, thinking about it.
- 17 "Let me think a minute," he said. "Jorgi is one of the foolish ones in our family. Vask is another. Is it wise to put two fools together? Let me hear your spoken thoughts on this."
- 18 "I think it is the right thing to do," my uncle Zorab said. "A fool and a fool. One to work, the other to clean house and cook."
- 19 "Perhaps," my grandfather said. "Can you cook, boy?"
- 20 "Of course he can cook," my grandmother said. "Rice, at least."
- 21 "Let the boy speak for himself," my grandfather said. "Is that true, boy, about the rice? Four cups of water, one cup of rice, a little spoon of salt. Do you know how to make it taste like food, and not swill, or am I dreaming?"
- 22 "I have cooked rice," Vask said. "It tasted like food. But it was salty. We had to drink water all day and all night."
- 23 "All right. It was salty," my grandfather said. "Of course you had to drink water all day and all night. We've all eaten rice like that." He turned to the others. He began to make faces again. "I think this is the boy to go," he said.
- 24 "On second thought," my uncle Zorab said, "two fools, one after the other,



perhaps not. We have Aram here. I think he should go. Without question, he needs to be punished."

25 Everyone looked at me.

26 "Aram?" my grandfather said. "You mean the boy who laughs? You mean loud-laughing Aram Garoghlanian? What has the boy done to be punished like this?"

27 "He knows," my uncle Zorab said.

28 My grandfather looked at me. "What have you done, boy?"

29 I knew he was not angry with me. I began to laugh, remembering the things I had done. My grandfather listened for a minute, then began laughing with me. We were the only Garoghlanians in the world who laughed that way.

30 "Aram Garoghlanian," he said. "I say again: What have you done?"

31 "Which one?" I said.

32 "You know which one," my uncle Zorab said.

33 "Do you mean," I said, "telling all our friends that you are out of your mind?"

34 My uncle Zorab said nothing.

35 "Or do you mean," I said, "going around talking the way you talk?"

36 "This is the boy to send with Jorgi," uncle Zorab said.

37 "Can you cook rice?" my grandfather said.

38 I understood perfectly now. If I could cook rice, I could go with Jorgi to Hanford. I forgot about the writer who said a journey was a great thing. Fool or old or anything else, I wanted to go.

39 "I can cook rice," I said.

40 "Salty or swill, or what?" my grandfather said.

41 "Sometimes salty," I said. "Sometimes swill. Sometimes perfect."

42 "Let us think about this," my grandfather said. "Sometimes salty. Sometimes swill. Sometimes perfect. Is this the boy to send to Hanford?"

43 "Yes," my uncle Zorab said. "The only one."

44 "Then it is done," my grandfather said. "That will be all. I wish to be alone."

45 I started to go. My grandfather took me by the neck. "Stay a minute," he said. When we were alone, he said, "Talk the way your uncle Zorab talks."

- 46 I did, and my grandfather roared with laughter. "Go to Hanford," he said. "Go with the fool Jorgi and make it salty or make it swill or make it perfect."

II

- 47 We left the following morning before the sun was up. Sometimes Jorgi rode the bicycle and I walked, and sometimes I rode and Jorgi walked. We got to Hanford in the late afternoon.

- 48 The idea was for us to stay until Jorgi's job ended. So we looked around town for a house to live in. We found one that Jorgi liked and moved in that night. The house had eleven rooms, running water, and a kitchen. One room had two beds in it, and all the other rooms were empty. After we moved in, Jorgi took out his zither, sat on the floor, and began to play and sing. It was beautiful. It was sad sometimes and sometimes funny, but it was always beautiful. I don't know how long he played, but suddenly he got up off the floor and said, "Aram, I want rice."

- 49 I made rice that night that was both salty and swill, but my uncle Jorgi said, "Aram, this is wonderful."

- 50 The birds got us up with the sun.

- 51 "The job," I said. "You begin today, you know."

- 52 "Today," my uncle Jorgi said in a low, sad voice.

- 53 He walked slowly out of the empty house. I looked around for something to clean with, but found nothing. So I went out and sat on the steps to the front door. It seemed to be a nice part of the world in daylight. It was a street with only four houses. There was a church across the street from one of the houses. I sat on the steps for about an hour. My uncle Jorgi came up the street on his bicycle. The bicycle was going all over the place, and my uncle Jorgi was laughing and singing.

- 54 "Not this year, thank God," he said. He fell off the bicycle into a large plant covered with flowers.

- 55 "What?" I said.

- 56 "There is no job," he said. "No job, thank God."

- 57 He smelled a flower.

- 58 "No job?" I said.
- 59 "No job, praise our Father above us."
- 60 "Why not?" I said.
- 61 "The watermelons," he said.
- 62 "What about them?" I said.
- 63 "The season is over," he said.
- 64 "That isn't true," I said.
- 65 "The season is over," my uncle Jorgi said. "Believe me, it is finished. Praise God, the watermelons are all gone. They have all been taken up."
- 66 "Who said so?" I said.
- 67 "The farmer himself. The farmer himself said so," my uncle Jorgi said.
- 68 "He just said that," I said. "He didn't want to hurt you. He just said that because he knew your heart wouldn't be in your work."
- 69 "Praise God," my uncle Jorgi said, "the whole season is over. All the big, beautiful watermelons have been taken up and put in the barn."
- 70 "Your father will break your head," I said. "What will we do? The season is just beginning."
- 71 "It's ended," my uncle Jorgi said. "We will live in this house a month and then go home. We have paid six dollars for the house and we have money enough for rice. We will dream here a month and then go home."
- 72 My uncle Jorgi danced into the house to his zither. Before I could decide what to do about him, he was playing and singing. It was beautiful. I didn't try to make him leave the house and go back to the farm. I just sat on the steps and listened.
- 73 We stayed in the house a month and then went home. My grandmother was the first to see us.
- 74 "You two came home just in time," she said. "He's been roaring like a tiger. Give me the money."
- 75 "There is no money," I said.
- 76 "Did he work?" my grandmother said.
- 77 "No," I said. "He played and sang the whole time."
- 78 "How was your rice?" she said.



79 "Sometimes salty," I said. "Sometimes swill. Sometimes perfect. But he didn't work."

80 "His father mustn't know," she said. "I have money."

81 She got some money out of a pocket and put it in my hands.

82 "When he comes home," she said, "give him this money."

83 "I will do as you say," I said.

84 When my grandfather came home he began to roar.

85 "Home already?" he said. "Is the season ended so soon? Where is the money he got?"

86 I gave him the money.

87 "I won't have him singing all day," my grandfather roared. "Some things simply have to stop, in the end. You will read in a book that a father loves a foolish son more than his wise sons. Believe me, that writer is not married, and also he has no sons."

88 In the yard, under the flowering tree, my uncle Jorgi began to play and sing. My grandfather came to a dead stop and began to listen. He sat down in his big chair, and began to make faces.

89 I went into the kitchen to get three or four glasses of water because of last night's rice. When I came back to the living room, the old man was sitting back in his chair, asleep and smiling. His son Jorgi was singing praises to the whole world at the top of his sad, beautiful voice.

KEY WORDS

praise, perfect, punish Son, if you do this job *perfectly*, without any mistakes, I will *praise* you with golden words. But if you do this job badly, I will *punish* you by keeping you at home every night this week.

rice, swill In this story, a boy cooks *rice*—small white grains that he cooks in water. If he adds too much water, the *rice* will become like *swill*—that is, more like a bad soup than well-cooked grains. Real *swill* is made of leftover food mixed with water or bad milk, and fed to pigs.

season, watermelon In this story, the time of year, or *season*, is summer. Summer is the *season* for *watermelon*—a large, round, heavy fruit, green on the outside, red on the inside, with many little black seeds in the red fruit.

tiger A large, wild animal in the cat family

● True or False

True or false, then rewrite the sentence to make it true.

- _____ 1. Jorgi went to Hanford because he wanted to work in the fields there.
- _____ 2. The grandfather believed that money was more important than music.
- _____ 3. Uncle Zorab thought he could punish Aram by sending him to Hanford with Jorgi.
- _____ 4. Aram thought that only a fool would go to Hanford.
- _____ 5. When Jorgi arrived in Hanford, the watermelon season was already over.
- _____ 6. Jorgi spent the whole month in Hanford playing his zither and singing.
- _____ 7. Aram's grandmother gave Aram some money for the work he did cleaning and cooking for Jorgi.
- _____ 8. Aram's grandfather didn't like Jorgi's music.
- _____ 9. Aram's rice was always salty.

● Close Reading

Aram's grandfather often talks about what we can read in books. He believes that what we read in books isn't always true in real life. In this exercise, reread the grandfather's words about books, and then answer questions about them.

1. "You will read in a book that a man can sit all day under a tree and play music on a zither and sing. Believe me, that writer is a fool." (paragraph 3)

Why does the grandfather think the writer is a fool? What does the grandfather think about men who play music, not in books, but in real life?

2. "You will read in a book that a woman is a perfect and beautiful thing. Believe me, that writer is not looking at his wife." (paragraph 7)

What is the writer looking at? What did the grandmother say, in real life, to anger the grandfather?

3. "You will read in a book that a journey to a new city is a great thing for a young man. That writer is probably a fool of eighty or ninety." (paragraph 12)

According to the grandfather, how many journeys did that writer probably make? What does the grandfather think about journeys to new places, not in books, but in real life?

4. "You will read in a book that a father loves a foolish son more than his wise sons. Believe me, that writer is not married, and also he has no sons." (paragraph 87)

Does the grandfather love his foolish son, Jorgi? What does the grandfather do, in real life, when Jorgi begins to play his music?

● Discussion

1. The paragraph about Saroyan tells us that his family was a large and loving one. Do you think the family in "The Journey to Hanford" is a loving one? Why or why not?
2. The grandfather in the story is like the king of the family. His word is law. And he is the king mostly because he is the oldest man. Perhaps that was the way with families in his old country (Armenia). Do you know a family where the oldest man is like the king of

the family? Do you think every family needs a king (or queen)? Why or why not?

3. Did this story make you laugh or smile in places? Which places?

4. What kind of work do you like best? What do you like to do when you are not working?

What do you think about Jorgi's music: Is it play or work?

● Vocabulary Practice

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

fool	season	praise	salty
punish	roar	journey	watermelon
zither	swill	perfect	

In this story, nothing is what it seems. For example, uncle Zorab thinks he will _____ Aram by sending him to Hanford with Jorgi. But Aram really likes the idea of a _____ to a new place. The grandfather says he doesn't want to hear Jorgi play any more music on his _____. But he begins to _____ like a tiger when the music stops. Jorgi goes to Hanford for a job in the _____ fields. But when he arrives, the farmer tells him that the _____ is over. Most important, although the grandfather tells everyone that Jorgi is a _____, his smile at the end of the story is the highest kind of _____ for his son. The only sure thing in this story is that Aram's rice will be sometimes _____, sometimes _____, and sometimes _____ !

● Language Activity: Interview About Immigrants

The paragraph about Saroyan tells us that his family came to the United States from Armenia. They were *immigrants*, that is, people who moved from one country to another to live. The United States is sometimes called a country of immigrants because it is made up of people from all over the world. But all countries have