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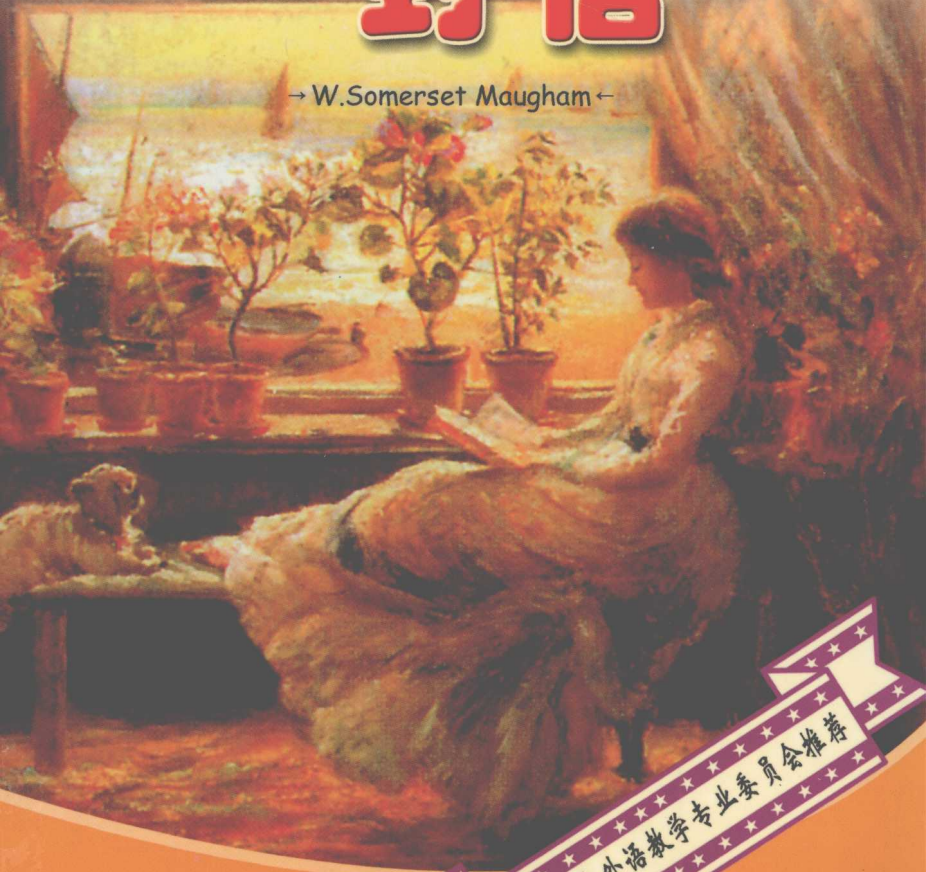
英语课程标准六级之一

6

# The Letter

# 一封信

→ W.Somerset Maugham ←



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 6 级—

# *The Letter*

## 一封信

原著：W.Somerset Maugham

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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:

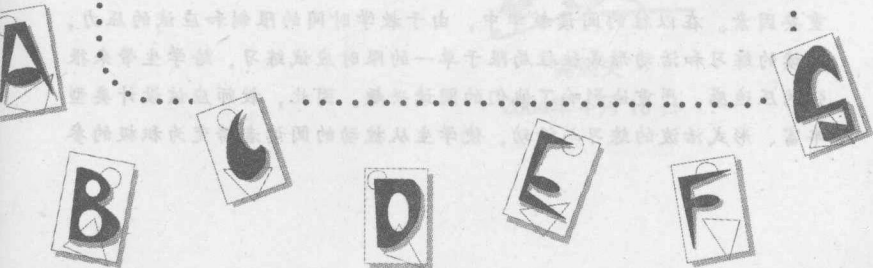
囊括西方经典文学名著,在帮助学生提高语言水平的同时,能通过阅读与自己外语水平相当的简写本一窥文学名著之全貌。

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套中小学英语阅读丛书，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。

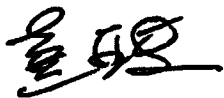
**练习活动** 阅读的练习和活动形式也是影响学生阅读兴趣的另一个重要因素。在以往的阅读教学中，由于教学时间的限制和应试的压力，阅读的练习和活动形式往往局限于单一的限时应试练习，给学生带来很强的压迫感，严重地影响了他们的阅读兴趣。因此，教师应该设计类型丰富、形式活泼的练习与活动，使学生从被动的阅读者转变为积极的参

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  
人民教育出版社外语分社社长



龚亚夫

2004年4月18日

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Bliss and Other Stories	《幸福》

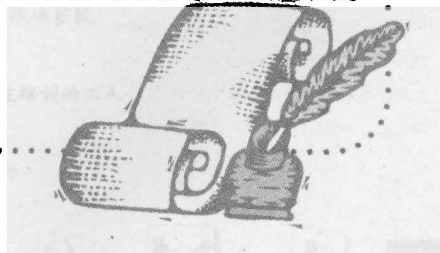
简

介

第一次世界大战期间,毛姆为驻瑞士和俄国的英国情报部门工作。以法国画家保尔·高更为原型的小说《月亮与六便士》1919年出版并受到肯定。他去过南洋、中国、马来西亚、锡兰和墨西哥。1928年他在法国利维拉买下了一座别墅,并在此安家度过余生。第二次世界大战爆发迫使他暂时离开法国去英国和美国游历讲学。毛姆是当时最有资历的英国作家,但是他不喜欢老年生活。他烧掉信件和文件来保护自己的私人生活。由于精神和身体的逐渐衰退,他在92岁生日前夕离开了人世。

毛姆最有影响力的作品都是后期创作的,其代表作《人性的枷锁》(1915)是他四十几岁时完成的,随后有《爱的真谛》(1928)、短篇小说集《艾兴顿》(1928)和最后的主要作品1944年的《剃刀边缘》。

《信》1924年首次刊登在杂志上,后来收录到1926年出版的《木麻树》中。毛姆的作品多以国外为背景,他用一种强烈的个人语气和手法将故事展现给读者。他在作品里极力表现的是实用主义、敏锐和对人性弱点的宽容。





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## The Letter

**O**utside on the quay the sun beat fiercely. A stream of motors, lorries and buses, private cars and hirelings, sped up and down the crowded thoroughfare, and every chauffeur blew his horn; rickshaws threaded their nimble path amid the throng, and the panting coolies found breath to yell at one another; coolies, carrying heavy bales, sidled along with their quick jog-trot and shouted to the passer-by to make way; itinerant vendors proclaimed their wares. Singapore is the meeting-place of a hundred peoples; and men of all colours, black Tamils, yellow Chinks, brown Malays, Armenians, Jews and Bengalis, called to one another in raucous tones. But inside the office of Messrs Ripley, Joyce and Naylor it was pleasantly cool; it was dark after the dusty glitter of the street and agreeably quiet after its unceasing din. Mr. Joyce sat in his private room, at the table, with an electric fan turned full on him. He was leaning back, his elbows on the arms of the chair,

**quay**: platform for boats. 码头

**hireling**: people who do work for money. 雇员

**speed**: went very fast. 急行, 加速

**rickshaw**: two-wheeled carriage. 两轮马车

**thread ... path**: moved efficiently. 灵活地穿梭

**throng**: crowd. 人群

**coolies**: untrained workers. (俚) 未受过培训的工人

**bales**: goods tied together. 大包的货物

**jog-trot**: slow run. 缓步而行, 款款而行





with the tips of the outstretched fingers of one hand resting neatly against the tips of the outstretched fingers of the other. His gaze rested on the battered volumes of the Law Reports which stood on a long shelf in front of him. On the top of a cupboard were square boxes of japanned tin, on which were painted the names of various clients.

There was a knock at the door.

"Come in."

A Chinese clerk, very neat in his white ducks, opened it.

"Mr. Crosbie is here, sir."

He spoke beautiful English, accenting each word with precision, and Mr. Joyce had often wondered at the extent of his vocabulary. Ong Chi Seng was a Cantonese, and he had studied law at Gray's Inn. He was spending a year or two with Messrs. Ripley, Joyce and Naylor in order to prepare himself for practice on his own account. He was industrious, obliging, and of exemplary character.

"Show him in," said Mr. Joyce.

He rose to shake hands with his visitor and asked him to sit down. The light fell on him as he did so. The face of Mr. Joyce remained in shadow. He was by nature a silent man, and now he looked at Robert Crosbie for quite a minute without speaking. Crosbie was a

**outstretched**: extended. 展开的

**gaze**: fixed look. 注视

**battered**: damaged from use. 用坏的

**japanned tin**: shiny, treated metal. 光亮的加工过的金属

**ducks**: linen trousers. 亚麻裤子

**Gray's Inn**: legal society in London. 伦敦一法律社团

**practice**: work as a lawyer. 做律师

**industrious**: hard-working. 勤奋的

**oblige**: will to help. 乐于助人的



big fellow, well over six feet high, with broad shoulders, and muscular. He was a rubber-planter, hard with the constant exercise of walking over the estate, and with the tennis which was his relaxation when the day's work was over. He was deeply sunburned. His hairy hands, his feet in clumsy boots were enormous, and Mr. Joyce found himself thinking that a blow of that great fist would easily kill the fragile Tamil. But there was no fierceness in his blue eyes; they were confiding and gentle; and his face, with its big, undistinguished features, was open, frank and honest. But at this moment it bore a look of deep distress. It was drawn and haggard.

"You look as though you hadn't had much sleep the last night or two," said Mr. Joyce.

"I haven't."

Mr. Joyce noticed now the old felt hat, with its broad double brim, which Crosbie had placed on the table; and then his eyes travelled to the khaki shorts he wore, showing his red hairy thighs, the tennis shirt open at the neck, without a tie, and the dirty khaki jacket with the ends of the sleeves turned up. He looked

**rubber-planter**: head of a tropical plantation. 橡胶园主人

**estate**: large area of land. 大片土地

**confiding**: trusting. 让人信赖的

**drawn**: thin from tiredness. 消瘦的

**haggard**: tired because of worry. 憔悴的

**felt**: wool-and-hair material. 毡

**brim**: border (of a hat). 帽檐



as though he had just come in from a long tramp among the rubber trees. Mr. Joyce gave a slight frown.

"You must pull yourself together, you know. You must keep your head."

"Oh, I'm all right."

"Have you seen your wife today?"

"No, I'm to see her this afternoon. You know, it is a damned shame that they should have arrested her."

"I think they had to do that," Mr. Joyce answered in his level, soft tone.

"I should have thought they'd have let her out on bail."

"It's a very serious charge."

"It is damnable. She did what any decent woman would do in her place. Only, nine women out of ten wouldn't have the pluck. Leslie's the best woman in the world. She wouldn't hurt a fly. Why, hang it all, man, I've been married to her for twelve years, do you think I don't know her? God, if I'd got hold of the man I'd have wrung his neck, I'd have killed him without a moment's hesitation. So would you."

"My dear fellow, everybody's on your side. No one has a good ward to say for Hammond. We're going to get her off. I don't suppose either the assessors or the judge will go into court without having already made

**tramp**: heavy walk. 踏, 蹒, 蹒跚

**a slight frown**: a small, serious expression. 严肃的表情

**pull yourself together**: take control of yourself. 控制你自己

**level**: not modulating. 平稳的

**on bail**: for a limited period (on payment of money). 交保释金后获释

**pluck**: courage. 勇气

**hang it all**: good heavens. 天哪

**get her off**: help her to go free. 帮她获释



up their minds to bring in a verdict of not guilty. ”

“The whole thing’s a farce,” said Crosbie violently. She ought never to have been arrested in the first place, and then it’s terrible, after all the poor girl’s gone through, to subject her to the ordeal of a trial. There’s not a soul I’ve met since I’ve been in Singapore, man or woman, who hasn’t told me that Leslie was absolutely justified. I think it’s awful to keep her in prison all these weeks. ”

The law is the law. After all, she confesses that she killed the man. It is terrible, and I’m dreadfully sorry for both you and for her.

“I don’t matter a hang” interrupted Crosbie.

“But the fact remains that murder has been committed, and in a civilised community a trial is inevitable. ”

“Is it murder to exterminate noxious vermin? She shot him as she would have shot a mad dog. ”

Mr. Joyce leaned back again in his chair and once more placed the tips of his ten fingers together. The little construction he formed looked like the skeleton of a roof. He was silent for a moment.

“I should be wanting in my duty as your legal adviser,” he said at last, in an even voice, looking at his client with his cool, brown eyes, if I did not tell you that there is one point which causes

**farce**: ridiculous situation. 闹剧

**subject**: make ... experience. 使……经历

**ordeal**: difficult challenge. 困难的挑战

**trial**: examination in court. 审判

**I don’t matter a hang**: I’m not important. 我并不重要

**noxious vermin**: (here) very unpleasant people. (此处意为)讨厌的人

**leaned back**: pushed his body back. 向后靠

**I should be wanting**: I would not be 100% professional. 我不是百分之百的称职





me just a little anxiety. If your wife had only shot Hammond once, the whole thing would be absolutely plain sailing. Unfortunately she fired six times. ”

“Her explanation is perfectly simple. In the circumstances any-one would have done the same. ”

“I dare say, ” said Mr. Joyce, “and of course I think the explanation is very reasonable. But it's no good closing our eyes to the facts. It's always a good plan to put yourself in another man's place, and I can't deny that if I were prosecuting for the Crown that is the point on which I should centre my enquiry. ”

“My dear fellow, that's perfectly idiotic. ”

Mr. Joyce shot a sharp glance at Robert Crosbie. The shadow of a smile hovered over his shapely lips. Crosbie was a good fellow, but he could hardly be described as intelligent.

“I dare say it's of no importance, ” answered the lawyer, “I just thought it was a point worth mentioning. You haven't got very long to wait now, and when it's all over I recommend you to go off somewhere with your wife on a trip, and forget all about it. Even though we are almost dead certain to get an acquittal, a trial of that sort is anxious work, and you'll both want a rest. ”

For the first time Crosbie smiled, and his smile strangely changed his face. You forgot the uncouthness and saw only the

**plain sailing**: simple. 简单的

**I dare say**: I suppose so. 我敢说

**prosecuting**: bringing legal action against someone. 起诉

**enquiry**: investigation. 调查

**shot a sharp glance**: looked very quickly. 扫一眼

**acquittal**: decision of innocence. 宣判无罪

**uncouthness**: rudeness. 野蛮, 无礼



.....

goodness of his soul.

“I think I shall want it more than Leslie. She's borne up wonderfully. By God, there's a plucky little woman for you.”

“Yes, I've been very much struck by her self-control,” said the lawyer. I should never have guessed that she was capable of such determination.”

His duties as her counsel had made it necessary for him to have a good many interviews with Mrs. Crosbie since her arrest. Though things had been made as easy as could be for her, the fact remained that she was in gaol, awaiting her trial for murder, and it would not have been surprising if her nerves had failed her. She appeared to bear her ordeal with composure. She read a greatdeal, took such exercise as was possible, and by favour of the authorities worked at the pillow lace which had always formed the entertainment of her long hours of leisure. When Mr. Joyce saw her, she was neatly dressed in cool, fresh, simple frocks, her hair was carefully arranged, and her nails were manicured. Her manner was collected. She was able even to jest upon the little

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**She's borne up:** she's remained positive (bear, bore, born) 她一直保持积极的态度

**counsel:** legal representative. 辩护律师

**gaol:** prison. 监狱

**composure:** calm behaviour. 镇静, 沉着

**lace:** cotton-and-silk material. 棉丝质的布料

**frocks:** dresses (old-fashioned). 旧式的衣服

**collected:** controlled. 冷静的

**jest:** make a joke. 开玩笑







inconveniences of her position. There was something casual about the way in which she spoke of the tragedy, which suggested to Mr. Joyce that only her good breeding prevented her from finding something a trifle ludicrous in a situation which was eminently serious. It surprised him, for he had never thought that she had a sense of humour.

He had known her off and on for a good many years. When she paid visits to Singapore she generally came to dine with his wife and himself, and once or twice she had passed a week-end with them at their bungalow by the sea. His wife had spent a fortnight with her on the estate, and had met Geoffrey Hammond several times. The two couples had been on friendly, if not on intimate terms, and it was on this account that Robert Crosbie had rushed over to Singapore immediately after the catastrophe and begged Mr. Joyce to take charge personally of his unhappy wife's defence.

The story she told him the first time he saw her she had never varied in the smallest detail. She told it as coolly then, a few hours after the tragedy, as she told it now. She told it connectedly, in a level, even voice, and her only sign of confusion was when a slight colour came into her cheeks as she described one or two of its incidents. She was the last woman to whom one would have expected such a thing to happen. She

**casual**: apparently not worried. 随意的

**breeding**: manners, education. 教养

**a trifle ludicrous**: a little ridiculous. 有点儿可笑的

**off and on**: from time to time. 断断续续地

**a fortnight**: two weeks. 两周

**beg**: strongly request (beg, begged, begged). 乞求

**take charge ... of**: be responsible for. 负责

**coolly**: unemotionally. 镇定自若

