

英语阅读丛书

**READING  
LABORATORY**

III Б

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## 《英语阅读丛书》第二套 (IVa)

### 征订启事

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# POWER BUILDER 1

## Brave Ballerina

### HER DETERMINATION TURNED TRAGEDY INTO SUCCESS

*by Margaret F. Atkinson and May Hillman*

1 On the fateful night in 1930 when the first German bombs fell on Poland, young Nina Novak, one of Poland's most promising dancers, was performing in the Opera House in Warsaw. Two days later the Opera House was destroyed by bombs. Nina's whole life had been devoted to ballet now her world collapsed around her. In the dark years that followed, it seemed that she would never dance again, much less become one of the world's leading ballerinas.<sup>1</sup> But Nina had courage — and a dream that began when she was very young.

2 Nina was born in Warsaw and spent the early years of her childhood there. Her first schoolteacher noticed little Nina's grace and told her she should study dancing. Nina delightedly reported the teacher's words at home, but her mother fought the idea, saying that no daughter

of hers was going to be a dancer. Nina, however, was a determined child. She had made up her mind to be a really great ballerina no matter what the cost<sup>2</sup>, and she worked toward this goal with her whole being. She coaxed and raged until her mother finally gave in and let her enroll at the Polish Opera Ballet School.

3 Her first appearance on stage came three years later, when she was allowed to dance the part of a slave girl in the opera *Aida*. Shortly after this, Nina became a real professional, dancing for two years as prima ballerina of the Children's Ballet of Warsaw.

4 When she was thirteen, she was taken into the Polish Opera Company. She was the youngest dancer ever to become a member of its *corps de ballet*<sup>3</sup>. The following year, she started out with the company on a long European tour. She spent two exciting years dancing in the capitals of Europe, and she rose from her humble place in the *corps de ballet* all the way to soloist.<sup>4</sup>

5 She had just returned to Warsaw after this tour when the Polish State Ballet was invited to dance at the World's Fair in New York early in 1939. But while she was dancing gaily in New York, war clouds were darkening over her native country. Nina had been home for only a month when Hitler marched into Poland.

6 The invading Germans decreed that anyone who did not have a job would be sent to a work camp. At great

risk, Nina refused to dance at the large theater that the Germans had taken over. Instead, she joined a group of Polish dancers in a small, ill-equipped theater where they gave performances only for their own countrymen.

7 The dark years of World War II wore on<sup>5</sup>. One by one, the members of Nina's large and wealthy family were arrested and sent to concentration camps. Her adored older brother was taken first, then her father, then Nina and her other brothers and sisters. They were separated and sent to different camps. Nina frantically asked for news of her family from each new prisoner who came to her camp. Dreary months dragged by before the tragic news reached her that her beloved brother had been killed for anti-Nazi activities. Her father, too, was dead — of starvation.

8 Dazed with grief, she no longer cared whether she lived or died. Six months later, when liberating troops arrived and threw open the prison gates, she was so thin that she could hardly walk.

9 Barely aware that the war was over, Nina listlessly began to pick up the threads of her life.<sup>6</sup> She was reunited with what was left of her family, and they tried to make some sort of life<sup>7</sup> for themselves in war-torn Poland. She began to feel vague stirrings of the old, familiar desire to dance, but she was still too depressed and weak to practice. Her younger brother tried to encour-

age her. He began to practice with her, and soon they had built up a charming little dance routine<sup>8</sup> of their own. Together they found dancing engagements in many Warsaw night spots. The family decided that the best future for Nina as a dancer was in the United States, and they started saving money for her to make the trip.

10 Nina arrived in New York in 1947 — {a slight girl whose tragic dark eyes held the only hint of the heartbreak she had been through.} She set about learning to speak English and took intensive ballet lessons to retrain her still-frail body. She applied for a position in the *corps de ballet* of the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo in 1948, and was accepted. She worked hard, determined to rise to the top. Four years later, she had made the grade<sup>9</sup> — she was the top-ranking ballerina with the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo.

11 The bitter war had brought Nina heartbreak and had driven her to the verge of physical collapse. But in spite of this, she says today, "Always in life, I have luck—I *really* have luck!" She insists that it was luck that brought her two of her greatest roles. The first was Swan-hilda in *Coppelia*. Nina danced that role on three days notice when the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo was in Chicago. Replacing Danilova, who was ill, she danced so well that she got rave notices from the Chicago critics.

12 It was luck again, according to Nina, that brought

her the role in *Mute Wife* for which she is best known. The leading ballerina had an argument with the choreographer and walked out<sup>10</sup>. Nina stepped in.

- 13 She has won a leading role in almost every ballet of the Ballet Russe. Still driven by ambition, she is so dedicated to her profession that nothing else matters to her. Nina Novak has taken for her creed the words of her teacher of long ago: "If people tell you that you cannot dance, do not believe them, for you can. But if they say that you are wonderful, do not believe them either, for you must always improve."

## HOW WELL DID YOU READ?

### How exact was your reading?

1. In the Children's Ballet of Warsaw, Nina was
- ☒ A the star, or prima ballerina
  - ☐ B the youngest dancer
  - ☐ C still a beginner

### What happened when?

2. Of the following events, the first to occur was
- ☒ A the German invasion of Poland
  - ☒ B Nina's European tour
  - ☐ C the World's Fair in New York
3. Nina spent the last part of the war



A dancing in Warsaw night spots

B working with a small Polish troupe

☒ C in prison

4. Nina began her work in ballet again

A while she was still in prison

B as soon as the war was over

☒ C when she arrived in New York

**Do you know the reason why?**

5. Nina refused to dance at the theater taken over by the Germans because she

A wanted to dance in a larger theater

B was no longer interested in dancing

☒ C did not want to dance for the Germans

**Can you see the similarity?**

6. With both the Polish Opera Company and the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo, Nina

☒ A began in the *corps de ballet*

B was a top-ranking ballerina

C both A and B

**Can you draw the right conclusions?**

7. It is most accurate to say that the war

☒ A did not affect Nina's devotion to dancing

☒ B almost ruined Nina's whole life

☒ C changed Nina's most important goals

8. Nina's statement that it was luck that brought her two of her greatest roles is

A completely untrue

B partially true

C the whole truth

9. Nina thinks that she

A still must prove to others that she can dance

B still must work at learning to dance

C has at last reached her goal

## LEARN ABOUT WORDS

A. Often you can tell the meaning of a word by reading the words around it. This is called getting the meaning from context.

Directions: Find the word in the paragraph that means

1. important; disastrous (1)
2. ordered (6)
3. very sad (7)
4. indifferently; dejectedly (9)
5. indefinite; not clear (9)
6. thorough; strenuous (10)
7. edge; brink (11)
8. statement of belief (13)

B. A word may have more than one meaning. Its meaning depends on the way it is used.

Directions: Read the three meanings for each word. Look back to the paragraph to see how the word is used in

the story. Write the letter that stands before the correct meaning.

9. followed (1)  
A obeyed  
B came after in time  
C listened closely
10. familiar (9)  
A well-known  
B friendly; close  
C too bold; presumptuous
11. position (10)  
A location  
B opinion  
C job
12. notice (11)  
A warning; announcement  
B printed sign  
C courteous attention
13. leading (12)  
A guiding; directing  
B principal; chief  
C beginning: opening
- C. *re* (again)  
*un* (not)  
*im* (not)

A knowledge of these prefixes will provide you with a

key to the meaning of many unfamiliar words. Some words that have these prefixes are

*reread* = read again

*unjust* = not just

*imperfect* = not perfect

Directions: The words in column II have the prefix *re-*, or *im-*. Write the word that matches each definition in column I and underline the prefix.

I	II
14. plain	ungrateful
15. not clean	unfathomed
16. not measured; very deep	undecorated
17. come back	impolite
18. not thankful	impure
19. bounce back	return
20. not polite	rebound

D. Sometimes *re*, *un*, and *im-* are not prefixes — they do not join with a base word to change its meaning. In the words *rest*, *unit*, and *imp*, *re-*, *un-*, and *im-* are prefixes. Directions: All the words listed begin with *re-*, *un-*, or *im-*. If the beginning is a prefix, write P. If it is not a prefix, write N.

21. unity

22. restful

23. uneasy

24. impersonal

25. regain

26. imitate

E. Many words are built on base words that you know well.

check — unchecked, checker, checking

Directions: All but one of the words in each line are built on the same base word. Find the wrong word and write it.

27. wild, wilderness, willingness, wildwood

28. hard, chard, hardness, harder

29. quality, equal, sequel, qualify

30. admire, admiration, admiring, admit x

31. excuse, custodian, excusable, excused

32. sender, sending, sentry, sent

33. timid, time, timed, timing

## NOTES

1. much less...ballerinas 要成为世界上第一流的芭蕾舞演员就更没指望了 2. no matter what the cost 不惜任何代价 3. *corps de ballet* 芭蕾舞团 4. she rose...to soloist 她从舞团中一个地位低下的成员一跃成为独舞演员 5. wore on 逐渐流逝 6. to pick up...life 恢复自己的生 7. 活历程 to make some sort of life 找些生计. 8. dance routine 舞蹈步法 9. she had made the grade 她达到了目的 10. walked out. 甩手不干了

## POWER BUILDER 2

### SKELETONS FROM THE SEA CREATE

# The Treasure of Sanibel Island

*by Murray T. Pringle*

1 On the beach of a little island in Florida, a college professor was collecting seashells from among thousands that lay strewn over the sands. They were of all sorts, shapes, sizes, and descriptions. Gathering an armful of the choicest specimens, he carried them to higher ground, well beyond the greedy clutch of the ocean. He left them there for about thirty minutes. When he returned, he stared in astonishment; every shell had vanished!

2 The only footprints in the sand were his own, so that no thief was responsible. Nor could ocean waves possibly have reached the spot, because the sand was bleached white and bone dry<sup>1</sup>. What, then, had become of the shells?<sup>2</sup> The solution was extremely simple: they had been "repossessed." What the professor had believed to be empty, lifeless shells were actually occupied by hermit crabs. While he was gone the crabs had simply taken their shells home to the shoreline. Mystery solved<sup>3</sup>.

3 Such experiences are not unusual for the amateur conchologists (shell collectors) who seek the treasure of Sanibel Island. Sanibel, a strip of land twelve miles long and two miles across at its widest point, is four miles off Florida's Gulf Coast. Although it is visited by many<sup>4</sup> who are interested in shell collecting, it is inhabited by only a few dozen people. Most of these earn their living by collecting and selling the strange treasures that the tide tosses on their shores.

4 For hundreds of years, the ocean has cast up tons of such wealth on the little island. With the exception of Australia's Great Barrier Reef and a few remote spots in the South Pacific, there is no other place in the world that offers collectors such a variety. Sanibel shells include nearly four hundred different species.

5 Following almost every storm, gay and unusual shells are washed onto the beaches. They form four or five long heaps, each as much as three feet deep. Even on calm nights, the ceaseless ocean tides deliver fresh supplies.

6 Why, of all islands in the Western Hemisphere, should Sanibel be so rich in this strange treasure? The answer lies in its position. Sanibel is the last in a string of coastal islands extending south from Charlotte Harbor. The rest of the islands run from north to south, but Sanibel runs from east to west, forming a natural barrier that blocks shelled creatures working their way northward<sup>5</sup> from the

tropics.

- 7 Shell collecting may never become as popular as stamp or coin collecting, but it is enjoyed by thousands of people all over the world. There are about 150,000 different types of shells. They can be divided into two main classes: univalves and bivalves. Univalves are best typified by conches and snails. Bivalves have twin shells connected by a hinge; there are more than 16,000 varieties, including the familiar oyster, clam, scallop, and mussel.
- 8 Seashells range in value from a few cents to hundreds, even thousands, of dollars.<sup>6</sup> Some of the deepwater shells around Sanibel are worth \$ 400 apiece. Not long ago a wealthy collector paid \$ 10,000 for a rather mediocre collection in order to obtain a rare univalve volute.
- 9 If a shell collector wanted to be cute in describing his hobby, he could say, "I collect skeletons!" For that is what shells really are — the skeletons of creatures that wear their bony framework on the outside rather than on the inside as most other animals do.
- 10 Every year a shell show is held on the island. It draws collectors and shell experts who come from all over the world to study and marvel at the thousands of specimens and the novelties that have been made from the more common shells. The main exhibits, however, are not for sale. These include the rare and beautiful *gloria maris* (glory of the sea), which is found in Philippine wa-



ters. This shell is valued at \$ 1000, but so few are known to exist that no collector who owns one will sell for any price.

11 Since the advent of deep-sea diving, and skin diving<sup>7</sup>, several shells that were once extremely rare have dropped in value. An example is the junonia, which is among the shells found on Sanibel. It is a striking specimen, a creamy white shell of slim spindle shape, marked with spiral rows of brown or orange spots. Once, around the middle of the nineteenth century, a junonia shell sold at a London shell auction for \$ 2500. Only a few years ago a junonia was still fetching a price of \$ 200. Recently, however, more and more have been found. Today good specimens are worth \$ 30, and ordinary ones sell for as little as \$ 3.

12 The rarer, more valuable shells found on Sanibel are sold to hobbyists, museums, and dealers. The more common types are shipped by the barrel to manufacturers who turn the shells into ashtrays, lamps, and other articles.

13 Shells have been used as money by many peoples. The American Indian, for instance, used shell money, which he called wampum. Indians also used certain shells as razors or as decorations for their costumes.

14 Shells were also used in early industries. The Phoenicians of ancient Tyre discovered that a purple dye could be made by crushing certain shells; this dye was used to