

杀死一只知更鸟

世界名著学习馆
哈佛双语导读本

To Kill a Mockingbird

双语导读

原著 [美] 哈珀·李
导读 Sparknotes
主译 张滨江

天津出版传媒集团

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著作权合同登记号:图字02-2003-9

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

杀死一只知更鸟:英汉对照/(美)李(Lee, H.)原著;张滨江等
译. —天津:天津科技翻译出版有限公司,2016.1

(世界名著学习馆:哈佛双语导读本)

书名原文:To Kill a Mockingbird

ISBN 978-7-5433-3021-4

I. 杀… II. ①李… ②张… III. ①英语-汉语-对照读物 ②长
篇小说-美国-现代 IV. ①H319.4:I

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字(2015)第295382号

To Kill a Mockingbird by Lee, H.

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Chinese edition © 2008 by Tianjin Science & Technology Translation &
Publish Co.

This Chinese edition was published by arrangement with Sterling Publishing,
Inc., 387 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016.

出 版:天津科技翻译出版有限公司

出 版 人:刘 庆

地 址:天津市南开区白堤路244号

邮政编码:300192

电 话:022-87894896

传 真:022-87895650

网 址:www.tsttpc.com

印 刷:唐山新苑印务有限公司

发 行:全国新华书店

版本记录:880×1230 32开本 6.25印张 125千字

2016年1月第1版 2016年1月第1次印刷

定价:18.00元

(如有印装问题,可与出版社调换)

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TO READERS

致读者

亲爱的读者,在这个多元文化的世界里,渴望知识、钟情文学、热爱英语的你是否想过站在巨人的肩膀上摘星呢?

名著是经典传承的历史明珠,尽管岁月变迁,经典名著总是在各个时代给我们启迪和指引。哈佛双语名著导读丛书正是风行全美的经典名著导读笔记,是由哈佛学生们将名著阅读与文学学习融会贯通,编写而成的名著导读本,可谓“名著名导”。该系列精选了来自世界各国的杰出经典著作,以经典性和流行性并重的名著为素材,突出“导读”特色,以明晰的风格和地道的语言,解读名著精华和具有时代性的主题和思想。每一分册都包括著作的创作背景、人物分析、主题解析、篇章讲解、重要引文释义、作品档案,并且附有相关思考题及推荐阅读篇目。

这样的编排使你不仅仅停留在对名著内容上的了解,更可迅速、全面、深入地掌握经典名著的精华和内涵,同时也可对英语语言和文化做进一步的了解和研究。本丛书精辟、明晰的编写风格让“半天阅读一本名著”成为现实,帮你在有限的闲暇时间内享受文学,提高文学修养,同时在地道的语言环境中迅速提高英语水平,增强语言能力。

CONTEXT

Nelle Harper Lee was born on April 28, 1926, in Monroeville, Alabama, a sleepy small town similar in many ways to Maycomb, the setting of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Like Atticus Finch, the father of Scout, the narrator and protagonist* of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Lee's father was a lawyer. Among Lee's childhood friends was the future novelist and essayist Truman Capote, from whom she drew inspiration* for the character Dill. These personal details notwithstanding, Lee maintains that *To Kill a Mockingbird* was intended to portray not her own childhood home but rather a non-specific Southern town. "People are people anywhere you put them," she declared in a 1961 interview.

Yet the book's setting and characters are not the only aspects of the story shaped by events that occurred during Lee's childhood. In 1931, when Lee was five, nine young black men were accused of raping two white women near Scottsboro, Alabama. After a series of lengthy, highly publicized, and often bitter trials, four of the nine

*protagonist *n.* 主角, 主人公

*inspiration *n.* 灵感, 吸气, 鼓舞人心的人或事

作品·溯源

哈

珀·李于1926年4月28日出生在亚拉巴马州* 的门罗维尔镇。这座寂静的小镇与《杀死一只知更鸟》的故事发生地点有许多相似之处。李的父亲是位律师，而故事的叙述者和主人公斯各特的父亲阿迪克斯也是位律师。在李童年时期的朋友中，有后来成为小说家和散文家的杜鲁门·卡波特*。李从他身上找到了创作迪尔这个小说人物的灵感。尽管这些背景细节和作者本人有关，但作者坚持认为，小说描写的并非是自己童年的故乡，而是南方某一座普通小镇。她在1961年接受采访时说：“不论在什么地方，他们都是一样的。”

然而，认为这个故事是以作者童年时期发生的诸多事件为原型的观点，并不只依据书的背景和人物。1931年在作者5岁时，9名年轻的黑人被指控在亚拉巴马州的斯科茨博罗附近，强奸了两名白人妇女。经过一系列漫长的、大肆宣传又常常令人痛苦的审讯之后，9名嫌犯

* 亚拉巴马州
(Alabama)

又译阿拉巴马州，是美国东南部的一个州，北接田纳西州，东邻佐治亚州，南邻佛罗里达州。

* 杜鲁门·贾西平·卡波特

本名杜鲁门·史崔克福斯·珀森斯，是一位美国作家，著有多部经典文学作品，包括中篇小说《蒂凡尼的早餐》与《冷血》。

men were sentenced to long prison terms. Many prominent lawyers and other American citizens saw the sentences as spurious and motivated only by racial prejudice. It was also suspected that the women who had accused the men were lying, and in appeal after appeal, their claims became more dubious. There can be little doubt that the Scottsboro Case, as the trials of the nine men came to be called, served as a seed for the trial that stands at the heart of Lee's novel.

Lee began *To Kill a Mockingbird* in the mid-1950s, after moving to New York to become a writer. She completed the novel in 1957 and published it, with revisions, in 1960, just before the peak of the American civil rights movement.

Critical response to *To Kill a Mockingbird* was mixed: a number of critics found the narrative voice of a nine-year-old girl unconvincing and called the novel overly moralistic*. Nevertheless, in the racially charged atmosphere* of the early 1960s, the book became an enormous popular success, winning the Pulitzer Prize in 1961 and selling over fifteen million copies. Two years after the book's publication, an Academy Award-winning film version of the novel, starring Gregory Peck as Atticus Finch, was produced. Meanwhile, the author herself had retreated from the public eye: she avoided interviews, declined to write the screenplay for the film version, and published only a few short pieces after 1961. *To Kill a Mockingbird* remains her sole published novel. Lee eventually returned to Monroeville and continues to live there.

In 1993, Lee penned a brief foreword to her book. In it she asks

*moralistic *adj.* 说教的, 道学的

*atmosphere *n.* 气氛, 大气, 风格, 基调

中的4人被判长期监禁。许多优秀的律师和美国市民都把这个判决看成是错误的,是种族偏见造成的恶果。人们还怀疑,指控黑人青年的两名白人妇女在撒谎,而且在一次次申诉中,两人的说法变得更令人生疑。毫无疑问,构成小说核心部分的审讯,就是以人们称之为斯科茨博罗案件为蓝本创作而成的。

李在迁居纽约、成为作家之后,于20世纪50年代中期开始创作《杀死一只知更鸟》。1957年她完成这部作品并发表。1960年,恰当美国民权运动发展到高峰之前,她又对小说多次进行了修改。

评论家对《杀死一只知更鸟》的反应褒贬不一:有些评论家认为,一个年仅9岁的女孩子讲述的故事难以令人信服,他们还声称,该书有太浓的道德说教味道。然而,20世纪60年代正处在激烈的种族冲突氛围之中,该书流传很广,大获成功。1961年该书获普利策奖*,销量超过1500万册。小说发表两年后,被改编成电影,由影星格利高里·派克扮演阿迪克斯·芬奇,一举夺得奥斯卡奖*。此时,作者本人已经淡出大众的视线:她回避各类采访,拒绝为改编电影撰写剧本;1961年以后,她只出版了为数不多的短篇小说。《杀死一只知更鸟》仍然是她发表的唯一长篇小说。李最终回到故乡门罗维尔镇,并一直住在那里。

1993年,她为小说写了一篇简短的序言,要求以后

*普利策奖

也称普利策新闻奖。1917年根据美国报业巨头约瑟夫·普利策的遗愿设立,二十世纪七八十年代已经发展成为美国新闻界的一项最高荣誉奖。现在,不断完善的评选制度已使普利策奖成为全球性的一个奖项。

*奥斯卡奖

奥斯卡金像奖的简称,也即学院奖(Academy Award),全名“美国电影艺术与科学学院奖”,是美国一项表彰电影业成就的年度奖项,现已成为全世界最有影响力的电影奖项。

that future editions of *To Kill a Mockingbird* be spared critical introductions. “Mockingbird,” she writes, “still says what it has to say; it has managed to survive the years without preamble.” The book remains a staple of high school and college reading lists, beloved by millions of readers worldwide for its appealing depiction of childhood innocence, its scathing moral condemnation of racial prejudice, and its affirmation* that human goodness can withstand* the assault of evil.

*affirmation *n.* 肯定, 确定, 证实

*withstand *vt.* 承受, 经受, 反抗

再版《杀死一只知更鸟》时,应避免刊登评论性的介绍。她写道:“知更鸟仍诉说着它必须讲述的东西;多年来,本书虽然没有序言,却依旧得以生存。”本书一直被列入高中和大学必读书目之列,因其对童年天真的描写极富感染力,从道义上对种族偏见进行了严厉的抨击,以及它断言人类的善良一定经得住罪恶的攻击,所以受到了世界上数百万读者的喜爱。

PLOT OVERVIEW

Scout Finch lives with her brother, Jem, and their widowed father, Atticus, in the sleepy Alabama town of Maycomb.

Maycomb is suffering through the Great Depression, but Atticus is a prominent lawyer and the Finch family is reasonably well off in comparison to the rest of society. One summer, Jem and Scout befriend a boy named Dill, who has come to live in their neighborhood for the summer, and the trio acts out stories together. Eventually, Dill becomes fascinated with the spooky house on their street called the Radley Place. The house is owned by Mr. Nathan Radley, whose brother, Arthur (nicknamed Boo), has lived there for years without venturing outside.

Scout goes to school for the first time that fall and detests it. She and Jem find gifts apparently left for them in a knothole of a tree on the Radley property. Dill returns the following summer, and he, Scout, and Jem begin to act out the story of Boo Radley. Atticus puts a stop to their antics, urging the children to try to see life from another person's perspective before making judgments. But, on Dill's last night in Maycomb for the summer, the three sneak onto the Radley

情节·概览

斯各特·芬奇母亲去世后，她和哥哥杰姆、父亲阿迪克斯一起生活在亚拉巴马州的梅岗镇。这个寂静的小镇正经受着 20 世纪 30 年代大萧条*带来的痛苦。但阿迪克斯是位出色的律师，所以和其他阶层的人相比，芬奇一家仍过着富裕的生活。有一年夏天，杰姆和斯各特认识了夏天来度假、住在隔壁的男孩迪尔，并成了朋友，三个孩子还表演了读过的各种故事。后来迪尔对街上那幢阴森恐怖的雷德利宅院十分好奇，宅院的主人是内森·雷德利先生。他的弟弟亚瑟（绰号叫布）一直住在宅院里，多年来从不冒险外出。

那年秋天，斯各特开始上学，她对学校很厌烦。她和杰姆在雷德利家一棵树的树洞内，发现一些显然是送给他们的礼物。第二年夏天，迪尔又回到小镇，他和斯各特、杰姆三人表演布·雷德利的故事。阿迪克斯叫孩子们不要再做这些滑稽古怪的动作，并规劝他们在评判他人之前，应该先从他人的视角来看待生活。但在迪尔离开梅岗镇前的那个晚上，三个孩子偷偷溜进雷德利家，内

* 大萧条

是指 1929 年至 1933 年之间发源于美国，并后来波及许多国家的经济危机。

property, where Nathan Radley shoots at them. Jem loses his pants in the ensuing escape. When he returns for them, he finds them mended and hung over the fence. The next winter, Jem and Scout find more presents in the tree, presumably left by the *mysterious** Boo. Nathan Radley eventually plugs the *knothole** with cement. Shortly thereafter, a fire breaks out in another neighbor's house, and during the fire someone slips a blanket on Scout's shoulders as she watches the blaze. Convinced that Boo did it, Jem tells Atticus about the mended pants and the presents.

To the consternation of Maycomb's racist white community, Atticus agrees to defend a black man named Tom Robinson, who has been accused of raping a white woman. Because of Atticus's decision, Jem and Scout are subjected to abuse from other children, even when they celebrate Christmas at the family compound on Finch's Landing. Calpurnia, the Finches' black cook, takes them to the local black church, where the warm and close-knit community largely *embraces** the children.

Atticus's sister, Alexandra, comes to live with the Finches the next summer. Dill, who is supposed to live with his "new father" in another town, runs away and comes to Maycomb. Tom Robinson's trial begins, and when the accused man is placed in the local jail, a mob gathers to *lynch** him. Atticus faces the mob down the night before the trial. Jem and Scout, who have sneaked out of the house, soon join him. Scout recognizes one of the men, and her polite questioning about his son shames him into dispersing the mob.

**mysterious* *adj.* 玄妙的, 神秘的, 不可思议的

**knothole* *n.* 节孔, 树洞

**embrace* *v.* 包含, 包括, 拥抱, 接受

**lynch* *vt.* 以私刑处死

森·雷德利朝孩子们开枪射击。杰姆后来在逃跑中丢掉了裤子。他返回宅院去找裤子时,发现裤子已经缝补好,挂在篱笆围墙上。第二年冬天,杰姆和斯各特又在树上发现了更多的礼物。他们认为,这些礼物是那个神秘的布留下的。后来内森·雷德利用水泥把树洞堵上了。此后不久,另一家邻居房屋起火,正当斯各特望着熊熊燃烧的火焰时,有人把一条毛毯轻轻披在她肩上。杰姆相信,是布把毛毯披在她肩上的,于是,他把曾有人为他补裤子并向他们赠送礼物的事情统统告诉了父亲。

黑人汤姆·鲁滨逊被指控强奸了一名白人妇女。阿迪克斯同意为汤姆辩护,这可让梅岗镇白人区的种族主义者深感震惊。阿迪克斯的这一决定,使孩子们受到牵连,杰姆和斯各特受到其他孩子的辱骂,甚至在自家院子里欢庆圣诞时,也遭到谩骂。芬奇家的厨师、黑人卡尔普尼亚带他们来到当地的黑人教堂。在教堂里,黑人区的居民热情,亲密无间,他们拥抱着孩子们,热烈欢迎孩子们的到来。

第二年夏天,亚历山德拉姑妈来到小镇和孩子们同住。迪尔因不愿跟继父住在另一城镇,私自跑到梅岗镇。对汤姆·鲁滨逊的审判开始了,当被告人被关进地方监狱时,一群人聚众闹事,要求对被告动用私刑。当夜,阿迪克斯以气势压住这群闹事者。从家中偷偷溜出来的杰姆和斯各特不久就和父亲站在一起。斯各特认出其中一位闹事者,并很有礼貌地打听他儿子的情况,使他深感羞愧,于是,他驱散了闹事的人群。

At the trial itself, the children sit in the “colored balcony” with the town’s black citizens. Atticus provides clear evidence that the accusers, Mayella Ewell and her father, Bob, are lying: in fact, Mayella propositioned* Tom Robinson, was caught by her father, and then accused Tom of rape to cover her shame and guilt. Atticus provides impressive evidence that the marks on Mayella’s face are from wounds that her father inflicted; upon discovering her with Tom, he called her a whore and beat her. Yet, despite the significant evidence pointing to Tom’s innocence, the allwhite jury convicts him. The innocent Tom later tries to escape from prison and is shot to death. In the aftermath of the trial, Jem’s faith in justice is badly shaken, and he lapses into despondency and doubt.

Despite the verdict, Bob Ewell feels that Atticus and the judge have made a fool out of him, and he vows revenge. He menaces Tom Robinson’s widow, tries to break into the judge’s house, and finally attacks Jem and Scout as they walk home from a Halloween party. Boo Radley intervenes, however, saving the children and killing Ewell in the struggle. After carrying the wounded Jem home and sitting with Scout for a while, Boo disappears once more into the Radley house. Later, Scout feels as though she can finally imagine what life is like for Boo. He has become a human being to her at last. With this realization, Scout embraces her father’s advice to practice sympathy* and understanding and demonstrates that her experiences with hatred and prejudice* will not sully her faith in human goodness.

*proposition *vt.* 向……提议; 向……调情

*sympathy *n.* 慰问, 意气相投, 同情

*prejudice *n.* 成见, 偏见, 歧视