- ●中学生英语文库
- 主编 陈锡麟

英语阅读片段精选

陈锡麟 赵启敏 编写



复旦大学出版社

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内容提要

这是〈中学生英语文库〉中又一册有关英语阅读的参考书。书中的材料部分为英美文学名著简写本中有代表性的片段,部分是世界名著的英译文片段,另外还精选了一些英美名人的传记和演讲词原文,以及著名小说原著片段和诗歌等。编注的目的是让读者初步接触英美文学,阅读地道的而且经得起时间锤炼的精美语言,在提高阅读能力的同时,有机会进一步了解英语国家的文化。本书除了对选文的来源加注外,对超过教材范围的词语和难句作了简要的注释。每篇选文后面都编有少量理解性练习。对于具有一定英语程度的读者来说,本书无疑是促进英语能力迅速提高的有效辅助材料。

前言

随着我国改革开放形势的发展,广大的青少年及家长们都知道英语非常有用,迫切希望尽快掌握好这一门工具,为今后的学习和工作创造良好的条件。

英语是一门实践性很强的学科。英语学习有它自身的规律。要想学好英语,不仅要学词和语法,更重要的是让学习者接触大量的语言材料,经过充分的语言操练,才能使他们具备较好的语言能力,也就是英语的理解和表达能力。任何"捷径"、"突击"和"速成"都只可能是一种不现实的愿望。英语学习必须是循序渐进的和全方位的,既要学习英语的语音、词汇和语法知识,又要接受听、说、读、写各方面的训练。《中学生英语文库》正是基于这一前提而为中学生编写的涉及英语学习各个环节的参考丛书,它们包括英语阅读、语法、常用词用法、说话和写作等各个方面。这些参考书既为读者提供了有益的学习材料,同时又指导学习者遵循英语学习的规律,用正确的方法去学习,以期达到事半功倍的效果。这些参考书是对现用教材的补充,也是对校内英语学习的一种辅助和促进。希望这一套丛书能帮助中学生在英语学习方面打好扎实的基础,以利于将来的深造和熟练掌握英语。

陈锡麟 1998 年 8 月

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1. Lincoln's Death1

In the afternoon, as was his habit, he went out for a drive with Mary. In a happy mood he daydreamed about the future.

"We have had a hard time since we came to Washington," he said to her, "but the war is over and with God's blessing² we may hope for four years of peace and happiness, and then we will go back to Illinois and pass the rest of our lives in quiet... I will open a law office at Springfield or Chicago and practice law and at least do enough to help give us a livelihood³."

Returning from the drive he was not in the mood to work⁴. To friends who came for a visit he read a few chapters from a favorite book with such pleasure that dinner had to wait.

After his meal he walked over to the War Department to see whether any more news had come from Sherman's Army. Then it was time to go to the theater. In the morning it had been planned that the President and Mrs. Lincoln, together with a number of guests, would visit Ford's Theater to see *Our American Cousin*. One reason he was going was that the capital was crowded with soldiers and officers all eager to see him.

When the Presidential party reached the theater the play was already in progress⁵. As the President entered, the actors stopped playing and the musicians struck up "Hail to the Chief⁶." Lincoln

bowed⁷ to the audience, then took his seat at the back of the box⁸.

While he watched the play a young man went on with his mad design to kill him. He was twenty-six-year-old John Wilkes Booth, a member of a famous family of actors and a romantic⁹ lover of the South. Though his mind was unbalanced and he was under the influence of drink¹⁰, he made his preparations with great care. A few hours before the play began he was in the theater making a small hole in the door of the Presidential box. Now he was back again—and as the guard had wandered away no one interfered¹¹ with him. Quietly Booth entered the box. In his left hand was a small knife, in his right hand a gun. Aiming the gun at the back of the President's head he fired.

For a time there was nothing but confusion. Then a young army doctor climbed into the Presidential box. Mary gripped¹² his arm. "Oh, Doctor! Is he dead?" The doctor looked at Lincoln's injury, and his face darkened. The President had been badly wounded in the head. There was no hope.

The wounded President was lifted by the shoulders and legs and carried across the street to the nearest house, where he was laid on a bed.

All through the night Lincoln fought with death. At 7:22 in the morning it was all over. The great and good man was at peace with the world. And in the stillness of the little room a voice was heard to say:

"Now he belongs to the ages." 13

Notes:

- 1. 本篇选自斯蒂芬·洛伦特(Stefan Lorant)的《林肯传》(Life of Abraham Lincoln)的简写本。亚伯拉罕·林肯(1809—1865)是美国第十六任总统,为解放黑奴立下了不朽的功勋。这里选录的是林肯遏刺的经过。
- 2. blessing: 祝福
- 3. Livelihood: 生计,谋生之道
- 4. not in the mood to work: 没有心情工作
- 5. in progress; 在进行中
- 6: the musicians struck up "Hail to the Chief": 乐队奏起了"欢迎领袖"的曲子
- 7. bow: 鞠躬
- 8. box: 包厢
- 9. romantic: 浪漫的
- 10. under the influence of drink: 喝醉了酒
- 11. interfere: 干涉
- 12. grip: 紧握
- 13. Now he belongs to the ages: 现在他永垂不朽了。

Exercise

Multiple Choice

- 1. Who do you suppose Mary was?
 - A. Lincoln's friend.
 - B. Lincoln's secretary.
 - C. Lincoln's wife.
 - D. Lincoln's daughter.
- 2. Lincoln planned to _____.

- A. work for the government for the rest of his life
- B. be a lawyer again after he finished his work for the govern-
- C. make a living in Washington
- D. visit Chicago or Springfield when he could manage the time
- 3. Which of the following statements is not true?
 - A. The man who killed Lincoln was an actor.
 - B. The man who killed Lincoln used to be a soldier.
 - C. The man who killed Lincoln loved the slavery system.
 - D. The man who killed Lincoln was for the South.

Proverb Better an open enemy than a false friend. 公开的敌人比伪善的朋友好。

2. Oliver Asks for More¹

Oliver was even less happy in the workhouse. He now had to work, which made him hungrier than ever. He had only three meals of thin soup² every day: the soup was made by boiling very little meat and a lot of other things in a lot of water. He had a small piece of bread on Sundays.

The room in which the boys were fed was a big hall. A large pot stood at one end. When it was time for meals, a master served the soup from the pot³ to the boys. He was helped by one or two women servants.

Each boy had one small bowl of soup and no more. The bowls never needed washing. The boys cleaned them with their spoons⁴ until they shone. When the boys had eaten their soup and cleaned their bowls they sat looking at the pot with eager eyes as if they could have eaten all the soup in it.

Oliver Twist and his friends suffered from this terrible hunger for three months. At last they grew so wild with hunger⁵ that one boy, who was tall for his age, told the others that, unless he had another bowl of soup every day, he might some night eat the boy who slept next to him.

He had an eager, hungry eye, and the other boys believed what he said. So they talked together, and they chose a boy to walk up to the master after supper and ask for more. The boy chosen was Oliver Twist.

The evening arrived and the boys took their places. The master stood by the pot; the servants stood near him, and the soup was served.

It disappeared quickly. The boys whispered to one another, and made signs to Oliver. His neighbours pushed him. Although he was only a child he was wild with hunger, and this gave him courage.

He rose from the table and went to the master, with his bowl and spoon in his hand. Almost afraid of his own courage, he said, "Please, sir, I want some more."

The master was a fat, healthy man, but he turned very white. He looked with surprise at the small boy. The servants were silent with surprise, and the boys were silent with fear.

"What?" said the master at length⁶ in a faint voice.

"Please, sir," said Oliver, "I want some more."

The master hit Oliver with his spoon, then seized him in his arms and cried for help. Mr Bumble and some of the workhouse officers came rushing into the room. The master told them what Oliver had said.

"He asked for more!" they cried. "Do we understand that he wanted more than his usual supper?"

They could hardly believe it.

"That boy will live to be hanged!" cried one of them.

They took Oliver away and shut him up in a dark room. The next morning a notice appeared on the gate of the workhouse. This notice offered five pounds to anybody who would take Oliver Twist.

Notes:

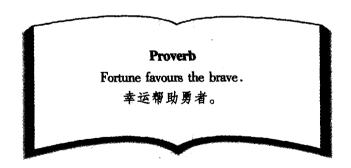
- 1. 本篇选自英国作家查尔斯·狄更斯(Charles Dickens 1812—1870)的长篇 小说《奥列弗·退斯特》(Oliver Twist)的简写本。小说描写一个年轻孕 妇在贫民收容所生下一个男婴后死去。管理收容所的本布尔为孤儿取 名奥列弗。奥列弗寄养在一个专靠剥削小孩生活费为生的老妇家。九 年后本布尔把他领回,让他干活。一次奥列弗因吃不饱要求再添点,为此被本布尔视为叛逆关押起来。本布尔贴出告示,愿领养奥列弗 者可得酬金五镑。于是十岁的奥列弗成了殡仪馆的学徒。但他不堪虐 待而出逃,落入贼帮手中。一个叫蒙克斯的人勾结贼首法琴,要求把奥列弗培养成惯窃。原来奥列弗与蒙克斯是同父异母兄弟。他们父亲死前留下遗嘱规定,如果奥列弗行为不端,那份遗产将归蒙克斯。结果善恶终有报应:蒙克斯逃到美国死于狱中;法琴被绞死。奥列弗接受了遗产,过上了幸福的生活。这里选录的是奥列弗在孤儿院受苦的情景。
- 2. soup: 汤
- 3. pot: 锅子
- 4. spoon: 调羹
- 5. wild with hunger: 饿得发慌
- 6. at length: 终于

Exercise

Multiple Choice

- 1. From the first paragraph we can learn that ______
 - A. Oliver had soup for each meal
 - B. Oliver got bread only on Sundays
 - C. Oliver got meat, bread and other things for meals

- D. Oliver was hungry while he had to work
- 2. Why did Oliver ask for more?
 - A. He was so hungry.
 - B. The boys wanted him to.
 - C. He was the bravest boy.
 - D. Both A and B
- 3. What do you think a workhouse probably means?
 - A. A factory.
 - B. A workshop.
 - C. A kind of school.
 - D. A poor place for orphans.



3. At the Churchyard¹

Winter had almost come, and Elizabeth Jane seized on² one of the last days of pale autumn sunshine to visit the spot where her mother lay buried. She reached the churchyard³ at about half-past ten in the morning, but someone was there before her.

A single dark figure⁴ was reading the words on Mrs Henchard's gravestone. It was a lady, beautifully dressed, and Elizabeth felt all her own freshness and prettiness stolen away by this stranger. This was clearly no country woman from Casterbridge.

When Elizabeth at last stood before the grave in some confusion, the lady said, "I guess how it is with you." She waved her hand towards the gravestone⁵. "That was your mother."

"Yes," said Elizabeth, "my only friend."

"But your father, Mr Henchard, is he living?"

"Yes, he is living," said Elizabeth Jane.

"Is he not kind to you?"

"I have no wish to complain of him."

"There has been a disagreement?"

"A little. It is all my fault, I dare say. And my faults are owing to my history."

"What is your history?"

"It is not very attractive. And yet I can tell it if you really want