

高等院校英语专业教材

# A LISTENING AND READING COURSE FOR ENGLISH CLASSICS

主编：刘浣波



## 英语经典文学名著 听读教程

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## A LISTENING AND READING COURSE FOR ENGLISH CLASSICS

下册

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下册

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# 前 言

一个人的文学修养是衡量他整体素质的重要标志之一。我国高等院校英语专业在高年级课程中大多开设有《英美文学选读》，有的侧重历史，有的侧重作品，版本也有多种，但一部将阅读、听力与欣赏联系起来的选本目前似乎尚付缺如。有鉴于此，作者编辑了这套《英语经典文学名著听读教程》。该教程精选英美经典文学名著约30部中的精彩片断，并配以一流的朗读，声情并茂、引人入胜。学生边听边看，既提高听力和阅读能力，又提高文学修养，可以收到一举三得的功效。

《英语经典文学名著听读教程》分上、中、下三册。内容包括《鲁宾逊漂流记》、《名利场》、《孤星血泪》、《远大前程》、《简·爱》、《呼啸山庄》、《月亮宝石》、《苔丝》、《吸血鬼》、《39级台阶》、《印度之行》、《儿子与情人》、《恋爱中的女人》、《蝴蝶梦》、《白鲸》、《天真年代》、《最后的摩西根人》、《了不起的盖茨比》等近30部英美经典文学名著。

本教程共30课。每课分作者简介、作品概述、作品选段和注释四部分。作者简介、作品概述和注释部分试图节省教师和读者听众一些翻检之劳，仅供参考。

本册Moby Dick由莫显良和郑社养选编，The Great Gatsby和A Connecticut Yankee in the Court of King Arther由莫显良、黄宇选编；The Last of the Mohicans由周莉选编；The Turn of the Screw和The Age of Innocence由郑社养选编。全书作者简介、作品概述和注释由刘潆波编写。

本教程可作高校外语院系英语专业英美文学史、文学作品选读及泛读课程教学用书或参考书，也可作为广大中学英语教师及具有一定程度的英语自学者和英美文学爱好者进修读物。

本书配套磁带由西南师范大学音像教材出版社出版。

在本书的编写过程中，我们得到了电子科大出版社张焰女士和谢晓辉女士的热情帮助。在此谨致以衷心的感谢。

由于编者水平有限，书中错误缺点在所难免，敬请专家学者和广大读者、听众不吝指正。

编者

1997年7月

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# Herman Melville

(1819—1891)

## About the Author:

Herman Melville was born in 1819, the son of Allan and Maria Melville. He was one of a family of eight children who lived during his childhood in comfortable circumstances in the “right” neighbourhoods of New York City.

In 1830 when his father’s business failed, and unable to cope with the strain of debts and misfortune, died shortly afterwards, Herman, then on the verge of adolescence, suffered great tragedy. Herman resolved to go to sea.

He signed on as a ‘boy’ on the British ship the *St. Lawrence* and sailed with her across the Atlantic to Liverpool and on the return voyage to America. While life as a sailor was harsh, his thirst for these was not quenched. He immediately signed on a whale ship the *Acushnet*, which made the long voyage around South America and into the Pacific. The ship finally dropped anchor at a beautiful isle of the Marquesas. The filth of the ship,

the wretched crew, and the brutality of the officers caused Melville and a companion to desert and flee into the interior of the island. Inadvertently they came upon a group of cannibals; fortunately the cannibals “adopted” the two white men, but refused to let them return to the harbour. His companion, Toby Greene, finally escaped. Melville remained, and, in many respects, admired the simple and peaceful life of the natives. But despite the pleasures, Melville became restless and successfully escaped to an Australian Whaling ship, the *Lucy Ann*. When it landed at Tahiti young Melville again deserted, this time with the ship’s “doctor,” named Long Ghost. After a pleasant stay among the tribesmen, Melville sailed to Hawaii on a Nantucket whaler called the *Charles and Henry*. In Hawaii he signed on as a seaman on the U. S. Man-of-war, the frigate *United States*. Melville was outraged by the floggings administered to the seamen. When the ship finally arrived in Boston in 1844, Melville obtained his release. His days at sea were forever ended.

He turned to writing. In 1846 *Typee*, a novel based on his life with the cannibals, appeared. In 1847, *Omoo*, a novel based on his life in Tahiti, was published. In 1848, *Redburn*, a novel based on his first voyage to England and return, was published. In 1850, *White-jacket*, a strong protest against floggings in the U. S Navy, appeared, and ultimately was to influence the abolition of this practice by an act of Congress. All were great successes and his popularity as a writer rose rapidly.



In July, 1851, Melville—after 16 months of strenuous writing—completed *Moby Dick*. In 1852 he published *Pierre*. He suffered a nervous breakdown and was sent on a rest journey to the Holy Land and Europe, just after he had completed work on another book., *The Confidence Man*. When he returned to America he was in much better spirits.

Herman Melville's career as a writer began with *Typee* and when he returned from Palestine. In the spring of 1891, a few months before his death in New York City, he completed the manuscript of *Billy Budd*, written in memory of a seaman, Jack Chase, whom he had known on the frigate *United States*, and one of Melville's few acknowledged friends.

Melville died quietly on September 28, 1891. For nearly the last thirty years of his life he had tried desperately to remain obscure in New York City, hidden from the world of letters.

This great American author lived in an exciting time in the history of his country and an inspiring time in the history of its literature.

## **Moby Dick**

by *Herman Melville*

### **The Plot**

We hear the story of Moby Dick from the lips of a man who, at the very beginning of the story, says simply, "Call me Ishmael."

One cold and wet December day he enters the shipping port of New Bedford, and shares his bed with a massive South Sea Islander named Queequeg. Queequeg is a heathen, and an expert harpooner on whaling ships.

Ishmael and Queequeg become fast friends. The time arrives to leave New Bedford, cross the short expanse of sea to Nantucket, where together they will search out a whaling ship. On the packet boat en rout to Natucket a foolish landlubber, is accidentally plunged into the icy water. Only Queequeg dives into the sea and rescues him. The next day Ishmael chooses the *Pequod*. When the ship's owners are told about Queequeg, and subsequently see him, they gladly sign him on also.

The captain of the ship is Ahab. He is confined to his cabin.

On Christmas morning, as Ishmael and Queequeg approach the ship, they see several dark figures scurry aboard. Shortly the *Pequod* sets sail upon a wind-swept Atlantic. The world of the *Pequod* is surrounded by the mysterious sea.

Ishmael introduces us to Starbuck, the chief mate, Stubb, the second mate, and Flask, the third mate; and their harpooners who are, respectively, Queequeg, Tashtego, and Daggoo. As the ship enters warmer air, Ishmael catches his first glimpse of Ahab. A shiver of terror comes over Ishmael.

The crew is commanded to come before Ahab and there he tells that the sole purpose of the *Pequod's* is to hunt down the fierce, cunning Great Dick which has torn away his leg during the last encounter. Ahab confesses his deep, burning, tormenting desire to strike back at the creature who took his leg from him.

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Moby Dick is a larger-than-usual sperm whale with a peculiar snow-white forehead, a deformed lower jaw, and a malicious temper which drives him to madness when attacked. No other whale approaches the evil of Moby Dick.

The crew sights its first sperm whales and the whale boats are lowered from the *Pequod*. In the wild excitement of the first chase Ishmael's boat capsizes, he realises the crew finds humour in this reckless adventure.

In a later lowering, Little Pip is tossed from a boat and presumably left to die. Although he is finally rescued, this harrowing experience turns Pip into an idiot.

The *Pequod* continues voyaging and the suspense of the chase for Moby Dick steadily heightens. The tempo of the chase increases. At long last, the Great White Whale — Moby Dick — is sighted by Ahab.

The first day harpoons are driven into Moby Dick but the furious whale smashes Ahab's boat. All the whalers are rescued, but Moby Dick escapes.

The second day the harpoons of all three boats find their marks in Moby Dick's huge sides and again Ahab's boat is capsized.

The third day Ahab drives a harpoon into Moby Dick's side. Two of the boats, in danger, are ordered back to the *Pequod*. Ahab's boat remains alone to fight the whale. The angered Moby Dick drives his forehead into the side of the *Pequod*, splintering its bow. Ahab throws another harpoon into Moby Dick, but its rope catches Ahab about the neck and drags him into

the depths. The *Pequod* sinks. Ishmael, the only survivor, is rescued by another whaler, the *Rachel*, to tell the story.

The meaning of *Moby Dick* is so involved and complex that few critics would agree upon a single accepted interpretation. The novel can be approached from a multiplicity of viewpoints; thus, it would be highly superficial to attempt to suggest one basic meaning and we therefore offer only one approach to the novel.

# Moby Dick

At last, when the ship drew near to the outskirts, as it were, the Equatorial fishing ground, the watch — then headed by Flask — was startled by a cry so plaintively wild and unearthly — that one and all, started from their reveries, and sat, or stood, or leaned and listened. Below in his hammock, Ahab did not hear, but the following morning when this was recounted to him by Flask, he laughed, and told them all the course.

These rocky islands were the resort of a large number of young seals that had lost their dams, and sailing by the ship, and cry with their strange human sort of wail. But even it explained the badness struck the crew. And the bodings of the crew were destined for another fall of boding. When it's sun-rise the man who mounted the mast-head at the fore; whether he was not yet waked or what suddenly fell from his perch into the brine<sup>1</sup>.

And when he launched the life-buoy, a long slender cask it'd lain so long in the sun that it had dried completely in the parched wood filling in every pore it, too, sunk. And thus the first man of the Pequod<sup>2</sup> that mounted the mast to look out for the White Whale, on the White Whale's own peculiar ground; that man was swallowed up in the deep. The lost life-buoy was now to be

replaced; but as no cask of sufficient lightness could be found, Queequeg hinted that the canoe might do. And despite some fall boating this was agreed. And Pequod sail with coffin hung for emergence across the stern.

The next day, a large ship was described, bearing directly down upon the Pequod, at first, they took this a good omen — but the broad-winged windward stranger shot nigh to them, the boastful sails all fell and all life spared from the smitten hulk. ‘Bad news; Bad news,’ muttered the old Manxman. But before the captain with trumpet raised could speak to the Pequod to tell his tale, Ahab’s voice was heard.

‘Hast<sup>3</sup> seen the White Whale?’

‘Aye, yesterday. Have ye seen a boat adrift?’

Throttling his joy, Ahab negatively answered this question, and too excited by the prospect to the closeness of this Prag would he fain boarded the other vessel immediately. When the strange captain was seen descending for the journey himself. Miserably arrived on board, the captain then spoke, ‘It’s seem the while three boats of the ritual as it was called were outengaged with a shoal some four or five miles from the ship. The white hump and head of Moby Dick had suddenly loomed up out of the blue water. A fourth boat was immediately launched to get chase and seemed to have succeeded fastening when according to the watch the mast-head the diminished dotted boat, suddenly turned swiftly gleam of bulbing white water, and after that, there was nothing more. The story told, the stranger Captain immediately went on to reveal his object in boarding the Pequod. He desired that ship to unite with

his own in the search.

‘My boy, my own boy is among them. For God’ sake — I beg you, I conjure you’ — here exclaimed the stranger Captain to Ahab, who thus far had icily received his petition. ‘For eight-and-forty hours let me charter your ship — I will gladly pay for it.’

‘His son!’ cried Stubb, ‘what says Ahab? We must save that boy.’

‘I will not go,’ said the stranger, ‘till you say aye to me. — Yes, yes, I see your relent; run, run, men, now, and stand by to square in the yards.’

‘Avast<sup>4</sup>,’ cried Ahab — ‘touch not a rope-yarn, captain Gardiner; I will not do it. Even now I lose time. Good bye, good bye. God bless ye, man, and may I forgive myself. Mr.Starbuck, let the ship sail as before.’

Hurriedly turning, with averted face, he descended into his cabin, leaving the strange captain transfixed, Then Gardiner silently hurried to the side; more fell than stepped into his boat, and returned to his ship. And soon the two ships diverged their wakes.

And now that at the proper time and place, after so long and wide a preliminary cruise, Ahab seemed to have chased his foe into an ocean-fold, so Ahab’s purpose now fixedly gleamed down upon the constant midnight of the gloomy crew.

All humor, forced or natural, vanished. Stubb no more strove to raise a smile; Starbuck no more strove to check one. Like machines, they dumbly moved about the deck.

Nor, at any time, by night or day could the mariners now step

upon the deck, but Ahab was before them; his whole life was now become one watch on deck. Ahab by his scuttle and the Parsee<sup>5</sup> by the main mast fixedly gazing upon one another.

At the first glimmering of the dawn, his iron voice was heard — ‘Man the mast-heads!’ But when three or four days had slid by, after meeting the children-seeking Rachel; and no spout had yet been seen; the monomaniac old man seemed distrustful of his crew’s fidelity.

‘I will have the first sight of the whale myself,’ — he said. ‘Aye! Ahab must have the gold doubloon<sup>6</sup>!’ and with his own hands he rigged a nest of basketed bowlines; and gave a word for his maid to hoist them to his perch and thus with one hand turning round the royal mast. Ahab gazed upon the sea for miles and miles. The intense Pequod sailed on and another ship most miserably misnamed the Delight was described.

Upon the stranger’s shears were beheld the shattered, white ribs, and some few splintered planks, of what had once been a whale-boat.

‘Hast seen the White Whale?’

‘Look!’ replied the hollow-cheeked captain and with his trumpet he pointed to the wreck.

‘Hast killed him?’

‘The harpoon is not yet forged that ever will do that,’

‘Not forged!’ cried Ahab. ‘Look ye, Nantucketer; here in this hand I hold his death!’

‘Then God keep thee, old man — see’st thou that’ — pointing to hammock — ‘I bury but one of five stout men, who



were alive only yesterday; — may the resurrection and the life —’

‘Brace forward! Up helm!’ cried Ahab suddenly.

But the started Pequod was not quick enough to escape the sound of the splash that the corpse soon made as it struck the sea. As Ahab now glided from the dejected Delight, the strange life-buoy hanging at the Pequod’s stern came into conspicuous relief. ‘In vain, oh, ye strangers,’ cried a foreboding voice in her wake, ‘ye fly our sad burial; ye but turn us your taffrail to show us your coffin!’

It was a clear steel-blue day. Hither, and thither, on high, glided the snow-white wings of small, unspeckled birds; these were the gentle thoughts of the feminine air; but to and fro from the deeps, far down in the bottomless blue, rushed mightily leviathans<sup>7</sup>, sword-fish, and sharks; and these were the strong, troubled, murderous thinkings of the masculine sea.

Slowly crossing the deck from the scuttle, Ahab leaned over the side, and more and more strove to pierce the profundity. From beneath his slouched hat he dropped a tear into the sea; nor did all the Pacific contain such wealth as that one wee drop. Starbuck saw the old man; saw him, how he heavily leaned over the side. Careful not to touch him, he yet drew near to him, and stood there.

Ahab turned.

‘Starbuck!’

‘Sir,’

‘Oh, Starbuck! It is a mild, mild wind, and a mild looking sky. On such a day — I struck my first whale — a boy