

英语阅读丛书

**READING
LABORATORY**

III Б

3

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POWER BUILDER 1

A Pound of Butter

1 One winter evening, a country storekeeper in Vermont was going about closing up his shop for the night. While he was standing outside in the snow putting up the window shutters,¹ through the glass he could see Seth, a lazy, good-for-nothing² fellow, still lounging about inside. As the ~~grocer~~ watched, Seth grabbed a pound of fresh butter from the shelf and concealed it in his hat. No sooner did the storekeeper see the act than he hit upon exactly the right revenge³. He would punish the thief, and at the same time he would satisfy his own appetite for fun⁴ to the fullest.

2 "I say, Seth," said the storekeeper, coming in and closing the door after him, slapping his hands over his shoulders and stamping the snow off his feet. Seth had his hand on the door, his hat on his head, and the roll of butter in his hat. He was, naturally, anxious to leave as soon as possible.

3 "I say, Seth, sit down," said the grocer in a friendly

tone. "I reckon, now, on such a cold night as this a little something warm to drink would not hurt a fellow."

4 Seth felt very uncertain⁵. He had the butter and was eager to be off, but the temptation of something warm to drink made him hesitate. The matter was quickly settled when the rightful owner of the butter took Seth by the shoulders and planted him in a seat close to the stove⁶. Now Seth was cornered. He was surrounded by boxes and barrels in such a way that if the grocer kept in front of him, there was no possibility of getting out. And sure enough⁷, it was in that very place that the storekeeper sat down.

5 "Seth, we'll have a little warm drink," the grocer said. "Without it, you'd freeze going home on such a night as this." As he spoke, he opened the door of the stove and stuffed in as many sticks of wood as he could, possibly fit inside.

6 Seth already could feel the butter settling down closer to his hair. A hot drink no longer sounded so appealing⁸ to him. He jumped up, declaring that he must go.

7 "Not until you have something warm, Seth. Come, I've got a story to tell you." And Seth was pushed back into his seat by his cunning tormentor.

8 "Oh, it's so hot in here," said the thief, attempting to rise again.

9 "Sit down; don't be in such a hurry," replied the grocer, pushing him back into the chair once more,

10 “But I’ve got the cows to feed, and the wood to chop, and I must be going,” said the unhappy man.

11 “You mustn’t tear yourself away⁹ like this, Seth. Sit down, let the cows take care of themselves, and keep yourself cool. You appear to be a little fidgety,” said the roguish grocer with a wicked smile.

12 So Seth was forced to stay where he was. The next thing he knew, the grocer was bringing out two glasses filled with a steaming hot drink. In Seth’s present situation, hot as he was, the very sight of such a thing would have made his hair stand on end——had it not been well oiled and kept down by the melting butter.

13 “Seth, I will give you a toast now, and you can butter it yourself,” said the grocer, with such an innocent air that poor Seth could not believe that the theft had even been suspected. “We will drink to a Christmas goose, well roasted¹⁰, eh? I tell you, it’s the greatest eating in the world. And Seth, don’t you ever use hog’s fat or common cooking butter to baste it with. Come, now, Seth, taste your butter——I mean, taste your drink.”

14 Poor Seth now began to smoke as well as melt. He could not even open his mouth; it was sealed up as if he had been born dumb. Streak after streak of the butter came pouring from under his hat, and the handkerchief he wore tied around his neck was already soaked with the greasy

overflow.

15 Talking away as if nothing were the matter, the fun-loving grocer kept on stuffing wood into the stove while poor Seth sat upright, his back against the counter and his knees almost touching the redhot furnace.

16 "Cold night, this," said the grocer in a casual, conversational way. Then, as if surprised, he remarked, "Why, Seth, you seem to be perspiring as if you were warm! Why don't you take your hat off? Here, let me put your hat away for you."

17 "No!" exclaimed poor Seth at last, unable to stand it a moment longer. "No, I must go; let me out; I ain't well; let me go!"

18 A greasy waterfall of butter was now pouring down the poor man's face and neck, soaking into his clothes, and trickling down his body into his boots. He was bathed in oil from head to toe.

19 "Well, then, good night, Seth, if you really must go," said the humorous Vermonter. And just as his unhappy victim darted out the door he added, "I say, Seth, I reckon the fun I've had out of you is worth the money, so I shan't charge¹¹ you for that pound of butter in your hat."

HOW WELL DID YOU READ?

When did it happen?

1. The grocer discovered Seth's theft
A at the moment it occurred
B after he went inside
C when Seth tried to leave
2. Seth realized that the theft was known when the grocer
A spoke to him as he left
B proposed a toast
C stuffed wood in the stove

Did you understand why?

3. The reason the grocer did not turn the matter over to the law was probably that he
A knew he could not prove Seth was a thief
B did not think that the theft was important enough
C wanted to punish Seth more severely
4. Seth stayed long after closing time because he was
A interested in the grocer's story
B hoping to be able to return the butter
C trapped so that escape was impossible

How careful was your reading?

5. This story took place in a
A small Vermont town
B city in the East
C British village
6. The season in which the story took place was
A fall
B winter

C not mentioned

Did you gain insight into the characters?

7. Seth can best be described as

☒ A dull-witted

B cunning

C bitter

8. The grocer's friendliness to Seth was

A sincere

B unintentional

C exaggerated

Did you get the point?

9. The real victim in this story was

A unaware that he had been punished

B triumphant about the punishment

C punished in a very fitting way

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. hid (1)

2. way of returning an injury (1)

3. attraction (4)

4. clever; sly (7)

- 5. playful; mischievous (11)
- 6. careless; informal (16)
- 7. moved suddenly and quickly (19)

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. Then choose the correct meaning and write the letter that stands before it.

8. glass (1)

☒ A windowpane

B mirror

C container for drinking

9. settled (4)

☒ A clarified

B established

☒ C decided

10. toast (13)

☒ A browned bread

☒ B drink in honor of a person

C person who is honored

11. baste (13)

A strike; beat

B sew with loose stitches

C moisten while roasting

12. charge (19)

A blame

B put down as a debt

C attack vigorously

C. compl(ai)n s(ea)l f(oa)m

When two vowels come together in a word, usually the first vowel is long and the second is silent. **Directions:** In each word *ai*, *ea*, or *oa* is missing. Think of the word that fits the meaning and write it. Underline the vowel that is silent.

13. —gle (a bird)

14. p—nt (liquid for coloring things)

15. l—f (package of bread)

16. l—f (green part of a plant)

17. l—d (cargo)

18. str—m (small river)

19. st—m (what comes from boiling water)

D. ta/ble un/cle mar/ble

If a word ends in *le*, the consonant just before the *le* usually begins the last syllable. Words that end in *ckle* are exceptions. The *k* goes with the first syllable.

pick/le

Directions: Write each word and draw a line between the syllables.

20. tremble

21. spangle

22. buckle

23. gargle

24. twinkle

25. ankle

26. cycle

E. mis- = wrong; badly

dis- = not; opposite of

The prefixes mis- and dis- can be added to many words you know to change their meanings.

mis+behave = misbehave (act badly)

dis+honest = dishonest (not honest)

Directions: Find the word in column II that matches each meaning in column I. Write the word.

I	II
27. put in the wrong place	disappear
28. not organized	misstep
29. opposite of agree	misname
30. bad luck	misplace
31. take a wrong step	disagree
32. vanish	misfortune
33. name wrongly	disorganized

NOTES

1. putting...shutters 上窗板 2. good-for-nothing 游手好闲, 无所事事。3. No sooner...revenge 店主看到这偷窃行动, 立即想到一个恰如其分的惩罚办法。4. appetite for fun 好开玩笑。5. un-

certain 心神不定。6. took Seth by...stove 抓住塞思的肩膀，让坐在炉旁的一个座位上。7. sure enough 果然。8. sounded appealing 听来有诱惑力。9. tear oneself away 忍痛离去。10. goose, well roasted 一支烤透了的鹅（双关语指Seth）。11. (not) charge (不) 收费。

POWER BUILDER 2

ADVENTURE WITH A PET LION IN AFRICA

Elsa Kills a Buffalo

by Joy Adamson

- 1 One morning we were walking quietly along the river. Elsa was with us, full of energy and, judging by the twitching of her tail, having a wonderful time. Having walked for two hours, we were looking for a place to have breakfast. Suddenly I saw Elsa stop short, ears cocked and body tense¹. The next moment she was off, jumping noiselessly down the rocks along the river. Then she disappeared into the thick brush below.
- 2 We had stopped to wait to see what she had discovered. Then we heard what I thought was an elephant trumpeting. Deep vibrations shook the air². I was sure that there was more than one elephant in the thicket³. My husband, George, disagreed. He said that the noise was made by a buffalo. I had heard many buffaloes making different kinds of bellows, but never one that sounded so much like an elephant.
- 3 We waited for at least five minutes, hoping that Elsa

would get bored with her big friends⁴. She usually did after a short time. Then came a deep rumbling sound. Before I realized what was happening, George leaped down the rocks, saying that Elsa was in trouble. I followed as fast as I could, but stopped when the sound of violent bellowing began again just ahead. I felt most uneasy as I pushed through the thick brush. I imagined that at any moment an angry elephant would break through and squash everything in its path. The men and I stopped and called to George not to go on, but nothing would stop him. He disappeared behind the green walls of creepers and trees.

4 Now we heard an ear-splitting scream, followed by urgent shouts from George: "Come quick, quick!" My heart turned to lead⁵. An accident must have happened. I raced as fast as I could through the thicket with terrible scenes flashing through my mind. But soon, thank God, I saw George's sunburnt back through the trees. He was standing upright, so he had to be all right.

5 Again he told us to hurry. When I got to the riverbank, I saw Elsa. She was dripping wet, sitting on top of a bull buffalo in the middle of the rapids⁶. I could not believe my eyes. Here was a buffalo helplessly forced down with his half under the water, while Elsa tore away at his thick skin and attacked him from every angle.

6 We could only guess what had happened in the ten minutes since I first heard my "elephant noise". Elsa must

have found the buffalo while he was resting close to the water. She had chased him toward the river. While he was trying to cross the river he must have fallen on the slippery rocks of the rapids, and Elsa had taken advantage of his difficulty⁷. She had jumped on him. Then she had held his head under water until he was half drowned and too tired and weak to get up. As soon as Elsa gave him a chance, George ended the poor buffalo's agony with a bullet.

7 The next problem was to get the dead beast out of the river. We would have to drag it through the rapids between the slippery rocks. It would not be easy to pull twelve hundred pounds over such ground, especially with an excited lioness guarding it.

8 Elsa, intelligent as she was, saw our difficulty. She seized the buffalo by the root of the tail and did her part while the three men pulled at the head and legs. With much laughter at Elsa's efforts, the men succeeded in hauling out the buffalo body. Then they cut it up. Here again, Elsa was most helpful. Each time one of the big, heavy legs was cut from the buffalo's body she at once dragged it into the shade of a bush, saving the men the work of doing so later on. Luckily, we were able to bring a truck to within a mile of the place. We managed to get most of the meat to camp in the truck.

9 Elsa was exhausted. She must have swallowed a lot of water during her battle with the great beast. She had spent

at least two hours up to her neck in the fast current of the river⁸. But, tired as she was, she would not leave her kill until she knew that it was safe and that it had been completely cut up. She waited until it was all finished before she rested in the shade of a bush.

10 I joined her a few moments later to relax after the excitement. She licked my arm, embraced me with her paw, and hugged me. She was very gentle. She took care to avoid scratching me with the claws that only a short time ago had been deadly to the thick skin of a powerful buffalo.

11 It would have been a remarkable achievement for even a wild lion to kill a buffalo bull single-handed. But Elsa had been raised as a pet. She had just learned how to hunt. Although the river had been a big help to her, it had taken a good deal of intelligence for Elsa to do it. I felt very proud of her.

HOW WELL DID YOU READ?

When did it happen?

1. The killing of the buffalo took place in the

A morning

B late afternoon

C evening

2. The author was certain that a buffalo had made the "elephant noise" when

- A she heard it a second time
- B her husband identified it
- C ~~she~~ saw the buffalo

Did you understand why?

- 3. The author's husband called to her to hurry because
 - A ~~the~~ scene was so unusual
 - B Elsa needed immediate help
 - C he had been injured
- 4. George shot the buffalo out of
 - A anger
 - B ~~pity~~
 - C necessity

How carefully did you read?

- 5. There is evidence in the story that Elsa had
 - A ~~previously~~ shown interest in big game
 - B never before had experience in hunting
 - C killed small game as she killed the buffalo
- 6. The purpose for which the buffalo meat was saved was
 - A to supply the whole camp
 - B to feed Elsa
 - C not mentioned

What was the similarity?

- 7. In handling the buffalo's body and in greeting the author, Elsa showed great
 - A strength
 - B humor