

英语阅读丛书

Tom Brown's Schooldays

汤姆·布朗的求学时代



上海译文出版社

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(简 写 本)

托马斯·休斯 原著

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作者简介

托马斯·休斯 (Thomas Hughes, 1822—1896), 英国十九世纪作家、改革家、法学家及政治家, 生于英格兰南部的伯克郡 (Berkshire)。他于 1834—1842 年在拉格比公学 (Rugby) 受教育, 后在牛津大学学习了三年, 毕业于该大学。他也曾学过法律。1854 年, 在他的资助下, 办起了工人大学, 自己担任校长达十二年之久。1865—1874 年为国会自由党议员, 并担任英国王室法律顾问。1870 年去美国讲学, 在田纳西州组织了一个叫“拉格比侨民会 (Rugby Colony)”的社会改革团体, 后因经济上受到较大的损失而告失败。他的其他著作还有生动地描述了他 在牛津大学学习、生活情景的 *Tom Brown at Oxford* 以及 *A Life of Alfred the Great* 和 *Scouring of the White Horse* 等。

内 容 简 介

《汤姆·布朗的求学时代》是托马斯·休斯第一部作品，也是他最有影响的作品。此书在 1857 年出版以后，曾大量再版，是英国学童十分喜爱的少年文艺读物，在美国青年中也有一定的影响。

本书以作者早年在拉格比公学求学时代为背景，通过汤姆和另外几个学生的学习生活，生动地描绘了学校的情景，真实地反映了学生的思想。拉格比公学是维多利亚女王时代最有影响的公学之一。当时的公学校风不正，出现年长的欺侮年幼的，老同学侮辱新同学，教师打骂、体罚学生，师生关系紧张等现象。后经拉格比公学校长托马斯·阿诺德对学校教学秩序作了一些极为重要的改革，从而对英国的教育实践产生了直接的影响，同时也赢得了汤姆对他的崇高敬意和无限热爱。汤姆就是在这样的环境中培育、成长起来的。

本书为简写本，可供大学低年级学生及具有同等水平的社会读者阅读欣赏。

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They would all get on the horse's back

One

TOM BROWN IS BORN

I am going to tell you the story of Tom Brown's schooldays, but first of all I am going to tell you what sort of people *the Browns*¹ were.

The Browns were *a fighting family*². There may be question about their beauty or ability, but about their fighting spirit there can be no question. Wherever there was any fighting going on the nearest Browns always joined in it. *The Browns could never let anything alone which they thought was going wrong*.³ They felt that they must *speak out*⁴ about it and *spend their time and money in setting it right*⁵, *however hopeless it seemed*⁶. No failure ever troubled them, or made them think that you or I or other people might be in the right. They went on just as usual. There were many Browns all over the empire. Let us *fix our minds on*⁷ one little nest of Browns which lived in the *Valley of the White Horse*⁸ in England. *To this nest of Browns our Tom Brown belonged*.⁹

As we pass along the hill called the White Horse hill

1. 布朗家族。姓氏复数形式前加定冠词,表示一家人或这个家族。 2. 一个好战的家族。 3. 布朗家对于凡是认为不对头的事,总要加以干涉。let alone 意为“不加干涉”。 4. 据理争辩。 5. 花时间和金钱把事情纠正过来。set ... right 意为“把...纠正过来”。 6. 尽管那件事看起来是毫无希望的。 7. 把我们的注意力集中于…。 8. 白马山谷(地名)。 9. 汤姆·布朗就是布朗家的人。强调部分移句首。

we look down on a little village called *Kingston Lisle*¹⁰. There are many trees planted in the village. Mr. Brown was very fond of trees. Mr. Brown lived in a large house in the village. He was a farmer. He was also a *Justice of the Peace*¹¹. That means he was Judge in a court which tried less important wrongdoers who had not done anything bad enough to be sent into the city of *Reading*¹² or to London to be tried there. He hunted the fox, and he complained of the badness of the times and the roads. His wife gave clothes and food to the poor people in the village. Tom was the eldest child, and *even as a little baby he showed all the character of a true Brown*¹³. He was strong. He was always fighting with his nurse and escaping from her. He *made friends with*¹⁴ all the village boys and went out with them *into the country round*¹⁵. So here in this quiet country village under the shadow of the hills Tom Brown grew up, and *never left the village till he first went to school when he was only eight years of age*¹⁶.



10. 金斯登莱尔(村名). 11. 治安推事. 12. 雷丁(地名). 13. 即使在他还是一个婴儿时,已表现出一个布朗家成员所具有的品格. 14. 与...交朋友. 15. 在附近的村子里. 16. 直到他只有八岁初上学时才离开这个村子. not ... till ...一直到...才...

Two

THE FEAST

Tom's nurse was a good-hearted but not very bright girl called *Charity Lamb*¹. Charity and Tom fought each other from early morning until evening. Charity was *stronger in body but not in mind*². Each day they walked to a farmhouse where Charity had a friend. As soon as Charity started talking to her friend, Tom went quietly away. Sometimes he went to the kitchen and there found cakes and cream; and when Charity ran after him he ran to the middle of the yard. The middle of the yard was covered with soft dirt. The dirt was *just hard enough to bear Tom's weight*³, but if Charity or any grown-up person tried to walk on it they would *go through up to their knees*⁴.

Tom had two friends named *Noah and Benjamin*⁵ who defended him against Charity. They had once been servants of the Brown family.

Noah was *a dry old man*⁶ aged about ninety. Long, long ago he was Miss Brown's servant and used to ride about the country with her. He had a picture of *the*

1. 查理蒂·兰姆(人名). 2. 身体比他强壮, 但脑子并不比他聪明.
3. 硬得恰好能承受得了汤姆的体重. 4. 齐膝盖而过. 5. 诺亚和本杰明(人名).
6. 一个干瘪老头.

grey horse on which he used to ride⁷. Tom was rather afraid of old Noah.

Benjamin was quite a young man by the side of Noah. He was only seventy years old; a happy, kind-hearted old fellow who knew all sorts of amusing things for young and old. He first taught Tom how to fish in the little stream which ran through the village. Tom carried three or four small fish home to his mother with great joy. Charity said that this fishing was dangerous. But Mrs. Brown saw that *Tom was now too old to be looked after by a woman*⁸ and made Benjamin Tom's nurse. As Benjamin and Tom sat by the stream fishing, Benjamin told Tom about the doings of Browns dead long ago. Benjamin also taught Tom how to ride, and stood laughing outside the door when Tom rode into the girls' school and round the table where the girls and their old teacher were sitting at work.

Benjamin came of a family well known in the valley for their powers at games. As a young man he had been a very good wrestler.

Tom had one young friend, *Harry Winburn*⁹, the quickest and best boy in the village. He was a year older than Tom but not very much bigger. He could wrestle and climb and run better than all the other boys.

*Tom was now doing lessons with a lady*¹⁰ in his own home, but as soon as lessons were finished he ran out to play with the boys in the village. 'They would catch a horse which

7. 他过去常骑的那匹灰马。used to 作“过去惯常”解。
不需要妇女照看的年龄。 9. 哈里·温伯恩(人名)。

8. 汤姆已长到了
10. 汤姆与一个少女一起做功课。



He first taught Tom how to fish

was in the field and *get two or three together on its back*¹¹. The horse would run off and then stop suddenly so that they all fell off; then it waited for another load. There was also wrestling. *Job Rudkin*¹² and Harry Winburn were the best wrestlers. Job was small and strong. His legs were like small towers. Harry was very quick. Day after day they stood *foot to foot*¹³ and fought first one and then the other, and bent from side to side till *a well-aimed movement of the foot or a push threw the boy on his back*¹⁴, and ended the battle. Tom watched eagerly. He wrestled with one of the less good wrestlers and threw him down and *so one by one he wrestled his way up to the leaders*¹⁵.

For some months he had a bad time. It was a long time before he could *stand up against*¹⁶ Job. Job won his victories chiefly by allowing others to throw themselves against him while he never moved. But Harry Winburn was Job's master. When Tom wrestled with Harry he knew from the very beginning that Harry knew more and could do more than he. Tom worked on and on and *at last learnt all Harry's tricks except one*¹⁷. This was a trick which Harry had thought out for himself. He hardly ever used it except *when hard-pressed*¹⁸, but when he used it he threw Tom every time. Tom thought about that wrestling trick on his walks and in his dreams, but he could

11. 两三个人同骑在一匹马背上。 12. 约伯·拉迪金(人名)。 13. 脚对脚地。 14. 对准了用脚一绊,或是一推把孩子仰面朝天摔倒。 15. 这样,他在摔角中,把对手一个一个地击败,而走上首领地位。 16. 勇敢地对抗。 17. 终于除了一个诀窍以外,他学会了哈里的各种诀窍。 18. = when he was hard-pressed. 被逼得没办法的时候。

think of no way of standing against it. Then Harry in his kind way told Tom *how he thought that trick should be met*¹⁹. From that time the two boys were equal. Tom often had reason afterwards to be thankful for the trick he had learned from Harry.

There was great grief amongst the village boys when Tom drove off with his father one August morning to go to his first school. This school was kept by two gentlemen, but the two gentlemen did very little work. They only came into the school to hear the boys *say their lessons*²⁰. Out of school hours the boys were looked after by two men called ushers. One of the two ushers was always with the boys; in school, in the playground, at meals, everywhere. These two ushers were not gentlemen. They had little schooling themselves. They were not bad men, but they had little interest in their work and only wanted to make their work as easy as possible. One of the ways in which they tried to make it easier was by *getting the boys to tell about each other*²¹. Another way was by *showing special favour to*²² the bigger boys, who alone could have given them trouble.

Tom was made very unhappy in his first week by an accident which happened to *his first letter home*²³. *On the evening*²⁴ on which he came to school he wrote two pages to his mother and he gave it to the housekeeper to post. Four days later the housekeeper sent for Tom and showed him his letter and said, "Oh, Tom Brown, I forgot to tell

19. 他认为该如何来对付这种诀窍。 20. 背诵课文。 21. 让学生们相互告发。 22. 对…特别偏袒。 23. 他的第一封写给家里的信。这里 home 是副词，修饰名词 letter。 24. 指某一特定的晚上，介词一般用 on。

you before, but your letter has no stamp on it.” Tom put a stamp on his letter and ran away into the corner of the playground and began to cry, and thought of the letter which he had promised to his mother, which she would be waiting for day after day, thinking he had forgotten her.

Then two boys stopped *close by*²⁵ Tom, and pointed at him, and called him “Cry-baby”.

Then Tom struck the last boy on his nose and the blood came. The other boy told the usher, and the usher told the master. As this was the first time, Tom was not beaten.

He wrote a second letter to his mother and felt quite happy again. Two days of the week were *half holidays*²⁶. On these days they used to go for walks. These walks were the great events of the week. They set out after dinner with one of the ushers for a place called *Hazelton*²⁷. There were several woods there in which all kinds of birds and insects might be found. The usher walked slowly over the hills *with such boys as might like to go with him*²⁸. The rest went off in all directions, and only joined him again when it was time to go home, but they were not allowed to go into the village. The boys had various amusements. There was a steep hill on which each week there was a great battle. The boys were divided into two sides or armies. One army was on the hill. The others cut up pieces of grass or took hard bits of earth and

25. 在…附近。 26. 半天休假。

27. 黑兹尔顿(地名)。

28. 和一些喜欢与他一起去的孩子们。

attacked the hill. When they drove the other boys off the hill they held it and were attacked. It was a good rough dirty game.

Other boys spread over the country looking for insects and mice and birds' eggs. And one boy would be sent into the village to buy sweets for all the others.

Tom learnt some Latin and Greek at the school, but on the whole the school did not suit him and he did not suit it. In the holidays he was always asking his father to send him to a *Public School*²⁹. *Great was Tom's joy*³⁰ when in the middle of his second year there was illness in the village and all the boys were sent back to their homes. Mr. Brown was not very pleased to see Tom home two months before the proper time. He went into his room and wrote several letters and some days later he said to his wife, "My dear, I have arranged that Tom shall go to *Rugby School*³¹ at once for the last six weeks of the term, *instead of wasting his time here*³². *Please see that all his things are ready by Friday*,³³ when I shall take him up to London, from where he will go on to Rugby by himself."

29. 公学。 30. 汤姆真是高兴极了。这是倒装句，强调 great. 31. 拉格比公学。英国著名的公学之一，培养贵族和资产阶级子弟的中学。 32. 而不在这里浪费他的时间。instead of 作“代替”，“而不是…”解。 33. 请你务必在星期五前把他的一切东西准备好。这里 see 作“务必使…”解，有时后面的 that 可省略。

Three

THE COACH

Tom and his father reached the *Peacock Inn*¹ in London at about seven o'clock in the evening. They had a fine supper. After supper Tom began to fall asleep.

All the way up to London Tom's father had been thinking what words he should say to Tom as his last advice, — something which the boy could always remember *in times of need*².

“Shall I tell him to read his Bible and love and serve God?” he thought. — “No, because his mother has told him that already. — Shall I tell him about the evils which he will meet? No, I cannot do that. An old man like me cannot talk about such things to a boy. He won't understand me. *It will do him more harm than good.*³ — Shall I tell him to work hard at his books? — No, because he is not sent to school for that chiefly. I don't care about Greek or Latin. I want him to be a brave, kind, truth-telling Englishman: a gentleman. That is what I want.”

Then Tom's father saw that it was nine o'clock and remembered that the coach for Rugby would leave at three o'clock; so he sent Tom off to bed. As he said good night to him he said, “And now, Tom, my boy, remember

1. 孔雀旅社。 2. 需要时。 3. 这对他将是弊多利少的。