



总顾问 · 陈琳

威廉·莎士比亚

# Much Ado About Nothing

无事生非



华东师范大学出版社

商务印书馆（香港）

5  
Level



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# 序

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一套供青少年和英语爱好者阅读的丛书，应满足三个要求：

Read for pleasure;

Read for information;

Read for language improvement.

《Black Cat 有声名著阶梯阅读》满足了以上要求而有余。

首先，这是一套同时供听觉享受的书。一部作品，当它由专业演员朗读时，就能以其优美的声音、抑扬顿挫的语调、加上传神的表达，使读者和听者真正身临其境，最充分地领会作品中的情、境、思。而这一效果，就不是只有白纸黑字的书面材料所能提供的了。加之这套书图文并茂，更使视、听两种感官得以完美地结合。

其次，这套书为读、听者提供了有益的背景资料，包括作家生平、时代背景、人文知识等，有助于培养青少年的跨文化意识。书中许多传世名画，更给人充分的艺术享受。

再者，虽是读物，却兼具教科书的功能。每本书都编入为数不少的练习，涉及阅读理解、词汇辨析以及语法结构等，为课堂的语言教学提供了有效的补充。

在教育部颁布的国家英语课程标准中指出了泛读的重要性，明确规定了学生每学期的课外阅读量。学习任何外语，只有课内的精读，没有课外大量的泛读，是不可能学好的，更不用说获得语感。《Black Cat 有声名著阶梯阅读》丛书的编印出版，为广大青少年和英语爱好者提供了一个学习英语的新天地——我为你们庆幸。

教育部《英语课程标准》  
专家组组长 陈琳

二〇〇三年冬为第一版而作

二〇〇九年夏为第二版修订

# 使用说明

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## 1 应该怎样选书？

### 按阅读兴趣选书

《Black Cat 有声名著阶梯阅读》精选世界经典作品，也包括富于创意的现代作品；既有脍炙人口的小说、戏剧，又有非小说类的文化知识读物，品种丰富，内容多样，适合口味不同的读者挑选自己感兴趣的书籍，享受阅读的乐趣。

### 按英语程度选书

《Black Cat 有声名著阶梯阅读》现设 Level 1 至 Level 6，由浅入深，涵盖初、中级英语程度。读物分级采用了国际上通用的划分标准，主要以词汇 (vocabulary) 和结构 (structures) 划分。

Level 1 至 Level 3 出现的词汇较浅显，相对深的核心词汇均配上中文解释，节省读者查找词典的时间，以专心理解正文内容。在注释的帮助下，读者若能流畅地阅读正文内容，就不用担心这一本书程度过深。

Level 1 至 Level 3 出现的动词时态形式和句子结构比较简单。动词时态形式以一般现在时 (present simple)、现在进行时 (present continuous)、一般过去时 (past simple) 为主，句子结构大部分是简单句 (simple sentences)。此外，还包括比较级和最高级 (comparative and superlative forms)、可数和不可数名词 (countable and uncountable nouns) 以及冠词 (articles) 等语法知识点。

Level 4 至 Level 6 出现的动词时态形式，以现在完成时 (present perfect)、现在完成进行时 (present perfect continuous)、过去完成进行时 (past perfect continuous) 为主，句子结构大部分是复合句 (compound sentences)、条件从句 (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> conditional sentences) 等。此外，还包括情态动词 (modal verbs)、被动形式 (passive forms)、动名词 (gerunds)、短语动词 (phrasal verbs) 等语法知识点。



根据上述的语法范围，读者可按自己实际的英语水平，如词汇量、语法知识、理解能力、阅读能力等自主选择，不再受制于学校年级划分或学历高低约束，完全根据个人需要选择合适的读物。

## 2 怎样提高阅读效果？

阅读的方法主要有两种：一是泛读，二是精读。两者各有功能，适当地结合使用，相辅相成，有事半功倍之效。

泛读，指阅读大量适合自己程度（可稍浅，但不能过深），不同内容、风格、体裁的读物，但求明白内容大意，不用花费太多时间钻研细节，主要作用是多接触英语，减轻对它的生疏感，巩固以前所学过的英语，让脑子在潜意识中吸收词汇用法、语法结构等。

精读，指小心认真地阅读内容精彩、组织有条理、遣词造句又正确的作品，着重点在于理解“准确”及“深入”，欣赏其精彩独到之处。精读时，可充分利用书中精心设计的练习，学习掌握有用的英语词汇和语法知识。精读后，可再花十分钟朗读其中一小段有趣的文字，边念边细心领会文字的结构和意思。

《Black Cat 有声名著阶梯阅读》中的作品均值得精读，如时间有限，不妨尝试每两个星期泛读一本，辅以每星期挑选书中一章精彩的文字精读。要学好英语，持之以恒地泛读和精读英文是最有效的方法。

## 3 如何充分利用本系列 CD？

本系列每本书均配有 CD，提供作品朗读，朗读者都是专业演员，英国作品由英国演员录音，美国作品由美国演员录音，务求增加聆听的真实感和感染力。多聆听英式和美式英语两种发音，可让读者熟悉二者的差异，逐渐培养分辨英美发音的能力，提高聆听理解的准确度。

聆听与阅读的安排可随读者喜爱，先读后听，先听后读，边听边读或交替进行。读者亦可以本系列的 CD 为核心，着重提高听的能力，此时应选择

程度稍浅的品种。

若将 CD 随身携带，反复聆听、诵读，日积月累，对英语理解能力和表达能力的提高必有显著成效。

#### 4 本系列的练习与测试有何功能？

《Black Cat 有声名著阶梯阅读》特别注重练习的设计，为读者考虑周到，切合实用需求，学习功能强。每章后均配有训练听、说、读、写四项技能的练习，分量、难度恰到好处。

听力练习分两类，一是重听故事回答问题，二是聆听主角对话、书信朗读或模拟记者访问后写出答案，旨在以生活化的练习形式逐步提高听力。

模仿录音朗读故事或模仿主人翁在戏剧中的对白，则是训练口语能力的好方法。

阅读理解练习形式多样化，有纵横字谜、配对、填空、字句重组等等，注重训练读者的理解、推敲和联想等多种阅读技能。

写作练习尤具新意，教读者使用网式图示（spidergrams）记录重点，采用问答、书信、电报、记者采访等多样化形式，鼓励读者动手写作。

书后更设有升级测试（Exit Test）及答案，供读者检查学习效果。

充分利用书中的练习和测试，可全面提升听、说、读、写四项技能。

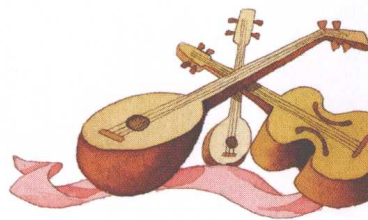
#### 5 本系列还能提供什么帮助？

《Black Cat 有声名著阶梯阅读》提倡丰富多元的现代阅读，巧用书中提供的资讯，有助于提升英语理解力，拓展视野。

每本书都设有专章介绍相关的历史文化知识，经典名著更有作者生平、社会背景等资讯。书内富有表现力的彩色插图、绘图和照片，使阅读充满趣味，部分加上如何解读古典名画的指导，增长见识。有些剧作包含舞台演出台本，可供戏剧爱好者一显身手。有的书还提供一些与主题相关的网址，比如关于不同国家的节庆源流的网址，让读者多利用网上资源增进知识。



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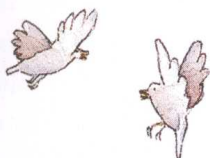
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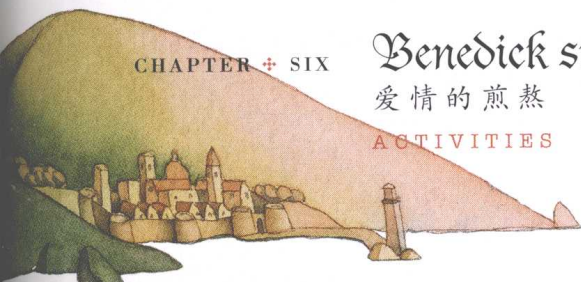
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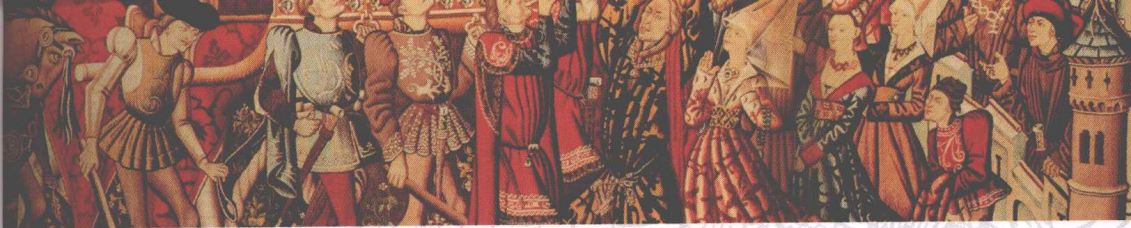
This story is recorded in full. 故事全文录音



These symbols indicate the beginning and end of the extracts linked to the listening activities.

听力练习开始和结束的标记





# SHAKESPEARE'S LIFE

**W**illiam Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon in 1564.

It is thought that he was born on 23 April. William Shakespeare's father was John Shakespeare, a merchant who played an important role in the politics of Stratford-upon-Avon. John Shakespeare married Mary Arden, and they had 8 children. He became bailiff<sup>1</sup> and justice of the peace<sup>2</sup> in 1568. In later years the business fortunes of John Shakespeare declined.<sup>3</sup> It is not known where the young William Shakespeare went to school, although it is thought that he attended the local grammar school, where pupils were instructed in Latin.

Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway when he was 18 years old, and the couple had 3 children – a daughter, Susanna, who was born in 1583, and twins, Hamnet and Judith, who were born in 1585.

How Shakespeare earned his living as a young adult is not known, although there is some evidence that he may have been a schoolmaster. It is not known, either, how he first entered the world of the theatre. According to one story, an actor in the Queen's Company died shortly before the company visited Stratford-upon-Avon in 1587; it is said that Shakespeare took the dead man's place.

The first reference to Shakespeare is in a pamphlet written in 1592. The pamphlet

1. **bailiff**: 负责执行法庭判决的官吏。

2. **justice of the peace**: 治安法官。

3. **declined**: 衰落。





shows that Shakespeare was already established<sup>1</sup> in the theatrical world by that date. By 1594 Shakespeare was an important member of the Lord Chamberlain's Men, a theatrical company based in London. The company played at the Globe Theatre from 1599 onwards, and changed their name to the King's Men in 1603. In 1608 the King's Men moved to the Blackfriar's Theatre.

Shakespeare wrote 38 plays for the theatre before he died in 1616, as well as poetry and the most famous series of sonnets in the English language. His work was gathered together and published after his death. Visitors to Stratford-upon-Avon can visit many places associated with the playwright's life, including the house where he was born and Anne Hathaway's cottage. They can also visit the Royal Shakespeare Theatre and see performances of his plays.

**1 Answer the following questions. Indicate which answers are CERTAIN and which ones are just LIKELY.**

- a. Where was Shakespeare born?  
He was born in Stratford-on-Avon..... CERTAIN
- b. When was he born?  
.....
- c. Who were his parents?  
.....
- d. Where did he go to school?  
.....
- e. How old was Shakespeare when he got married?  
.....
- f. How many children did he have and what were their names?  
.....
- g. What jobs did Shakespeare do before becoming an actor?  
.....
- h. How did Shakespeare get his first acting job?  
.....
- i. Which theatrical companies did he work with?  
.....
- j. When were his theatrical works published?  
.....

1. established : 奠定稳固的地位。



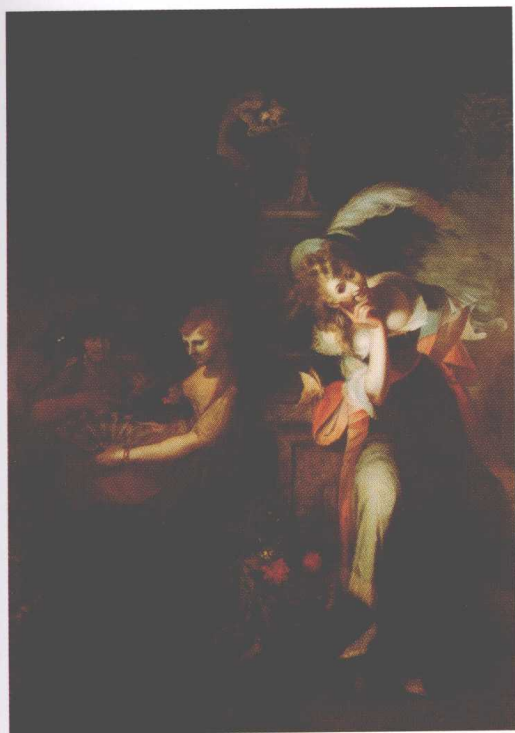
## SHAKESPEARE'S *Much Ado About Nothing*

**M***uch Ado About Nothing* was probably written between 1598 and 1599. It is a comedy about love. The action of the play begins with the visit of the Prince of Aragon, Don Pedro, to Messina, where he is the guest of Leonato. One of Don Pedro's officers, Claudio, falls in love with Leonato's daughter, Hero. Don Pedro helps Claudio to win Leonato's permission for the marriage. The Prince's brother, Don John, is determined to destroy the relationship between Claudio and

Hero. He enters into a plot with his friend Borachio to make it seem that Hero already has a lover.

Claudio's best friend is another young officer called Benedick. Benedick is well-known for his humour, and his determination never to fall in love. The Prince and Claudio decide to play a trick on him by making him believe that Leonato's niece, Beatrice, is in love with him. They also try to persuade Beatrice that Benedick is in love with her.

Claudio is very angry when he discovers that Hero seems to have a lover, and he decides to humiliate<sup>1</sup> her at the wedding ceremony. He denounces<sup>2</sup> her in



Scene from *Much Ado About Nothing* (1789)  
by Johann Heinrich Füssli.

Gemäldegalerie Alte Meister, Dresden.

1. **humiliate** : 羞辱。
2. **denounces** : 谴责。





front of the guests, and refuses to marry her. Hero faints with shock in the church, and Claudio and Don Pedro believe that she is dead.

The local constables, Dogberry and Verges, soon discover Don John's plot against Claudio and the Prince. Claudio is full of remorse <sup>1</sup> when he learns the truth. Leonato tells Claudio that he was responsible for Hero's death, and asks him to marry one of Hero's cousins. Claudio agrees to do this, in order to make amends <sup>2</sup> for his cruelty to Hero. When Claudio arrives at the wedding he is amazed to discover that the 'cousin' is really Hero herself. Benedick interrupts the proceedings <sup>3</sup> to ask if he can marry Beatrice. The play ends happily with all the problems resolved.

## Who's who

### **1** Answer the following questions.

- a. Who visits Leonato?  
.....
- b. Who are the two officers of this visitor?  
.....
- c. Who is Leonato's daughter?  
.....
- d. Who is Leonato's niece?  
.....
- e. Who falls in love with Hero?  
.....
- f. Who plays a trick on Benedick?  
.....
- g. Who never wants to fall in love?  
.....
- h. Who faints in the church?  
.....
- i. Who plots against the lovers?  
.....
- j. Who discover the plot?  
.....

1. **remorse** : 悔恨。  
2. **make amends** : 补偿。  
3. **proceedings** : (此处指) 婚礼的过程。

Before you read**1** Fill in the gaps in the text with suitable words. Then listen and check.

Leonato, the Governor of Messina, 0.....<sup>was</sup>..... walking in the city with his daughter Hero and his niece Beatrice. The two young women were 1..... beautiful, and they chatted happily to 2..... other as they went along. Leonato watched them both with a smile. He, too, was contented.

Suddenly a messenger appeared 3..... the far end of the street. He was looking 4..... the Governor. 5..... he saw Leonato, he ran up to him with a letter in 6..... hand. He bowed in front of the Governor, and handed him 7..... letter.

Leonato opened the letter and read 8..... quickly.

'Is Don Pedro coming here?' he 9..... the messenger.

'Yes, sir,' the messenger replied. 'The Prince of Aragon 10..... coming to Messina. He 11..... arrive shortly.'

'He says here that the army had a great victory,' Leonato said. 'Did we lose 12..... soldiers in the battle?'

'No, sir,' the messenger said proudly. 'Very 13..... of our men were 14....., I am happy to say.'

Leonato was pleased.

'That's good news,' he commented. He turned to the letter again. 'I see that Don Pedro 15..... very pleased with the young Florentine, Claudio.'

'True, sir,' the messenger confirmed. 'The Prince 16..... honoured Claudio for his courage in the battle.'

'What 17..... Benedick?' Beatrice asked the messenger. 'Have you got any news about him?'

'He, too, has come home safely,' the messenger replied politely. 'He is famous for his humour.'

'I'm glad 18..... hear that he's famous for his humour,' Beatrice said coldly. 'It's the only good thing about him.'

The messenger looked at Beatrice in surprise. He thought she was being rude about Benedick, and he 19..... not know 20..... to reply to her.



# Dramatis Personae



DON JOHN  
his brother



DON PEDRO  
Prince of Aragon



CLAUDIO  
a young Lord of Florence



LEONATO  
Governor of Messina



ANTONIO  
his brother



BENEDICK  
a young Lord of Padua



BORACHIO and CONRAD  
followers of Don John





BEATRICE  
Niece of Leonato



HERO  
Daughter of Leonato



MARGARET and URSULA  
waiting-gentlewomen of Hero



FRIAR FRANCIS



BALTHAZAR  
servant of Don Pedro



DOGBERRY  
a Constable



VERGES  
a Headborough



