

中学英语拾级读物

**GRADED
ENGLISH
第五级 READERS**

**Life
in the Universe**

宇宙的奥秘

第**4**册

上海外语教育出版社

中学英语拾级读物

Graded English Readers

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邓叔野 曹雅梅 编注



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责任编辑：孙梅琳

封面设计：张杰梅

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前言

受国家教育委员会中学司委托,由上海外国语学院、北京外国语学院、北京师范大学、华东师范大学所属的四家大学出版社联合编辑、出版的《中学英语拾级读物》(简称《拾级读物》或《拾级》)与读者见面了。这是我国中学英语教学的一项重要配套工程,旨在促进中学英语教学的改革。

取名《拾级读物》,不仅因为它有十个级别五十本书,而且还寓有“循序渐进,拾级而上”之意。中学生从初二开始阅读,逐级向上攀登,便可达到借助词典读懂浅近原著的水平。《拾级读物》每册的词汇量、字数以及对应的年级大致如下:

级别	词汇量	每册大约字数	对应年级
一	500—700	10万	初二
二	600—900	10万	初二
三	800—1200	12万	初三
四	1000—1500	12万	初三
五	1400—1800	12万	高一、高二
六	1700—2000	12万	高二、高三
七	2000—2500	14万	重点中学高三
八	2500—3000	16万	外国语学校高三
九	3000—3500	18万	高材生、中学教师
十	3000—3500	18万	高材生、中学教师

阅读是学好任何一种语言的必由之路，也是获取信息的主要渠道。只做习题，不大量阅读，是学不好英语的。近年来不少学生为了应付考试，花费大量的精力和时间去做各种各样的复习题、模拟试题，但收效甚微，对外语能力的提高并无多大益处，这是外语教学中的一种偏向。《拾级读物》的出版正是为了给中学英语教学提供一套可读性与系统性相结合的课外读物。

《拾级读物》主要供学生自己阅读，但教师可根据学生的实际水平帮助他们选择使用，并进行适当的辅导，特别在阅读方法上教师可作示范性的讲示，引导学生逐步摆脱语法和汉语的束缚。在此过程中，一是抓篇章大意和故事情节；二是注意学过语言现象的再现和在新环境下的发展。对不易理解之处，要启发学生先根据上下文去琢磨，实在影响阅读时再查阅词典。对不影响理解全文的语言难点则要舍得放过。只有这样，才能培养学生良好的阅读习惯，保持他们阅读的兴趣，提高他们阅读的速度。

《拾级读物》的级别是衡量中学生英语阅读水平的客观尺度。为了便于检查，我们还准备编写一套相应的测试材料和教学参考书。

《拾级读物》除供中学生使用外，还可作为中学英语教师培训、进修的教材。

本册读物是第五级第四册，收入三十八篇文章。本书的内容丰富多采，以知识性题材为主，除了科普小品和名人轶事之外，还能使读者领略到英美等国的历史、地理和风土人情。文章短小精悍，生动活泼，使学生在学英语的同时，开阔了视野，增长了知识。

本书由上海外国语学院英语系何兆熊教授审订。

鉴于编者水平有限,读物在选材、注释等各方面肯定存在不少缺点,敬请广大师生、各界读者不吝指正,供我们再版时参考。

《中学英语拾级读物》编辑委员会

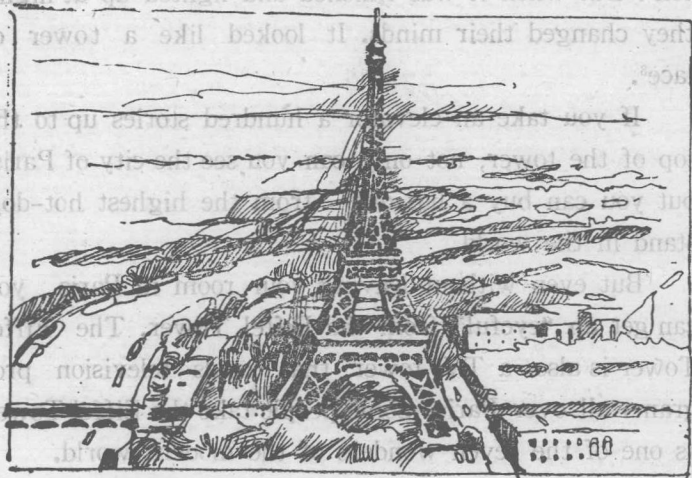
一九八七年五月

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1. The Eiffel of Paris



Do you know where you can get an “eyeful”² of Paris? From the top of the Eiffel Tower, of course.

But the name and the view only sound alike. The Eiffel Tower is named for Alexandre Eiffel, a great French engineer. Mr. Eiffel built this first skyscraper³ of them all before your grandparents were born.

France decided to have a fair⁴ to show off its finest goods and machinery. The people of France wanted

the fair to have something extra specially in the middle of the fair grounds, and Alexandre Eiffel was picked to build it.

When the iron beams⁵ started to rise, many people did not like the tower. They called it a gigantic⁶ skeleton⁷. But when it was finished and lighted up at night, they changed their minds. It looked like a tower of lace⁸.

If you take an elevator a hundred stories up to the top of the tower, not only can you see the city of Paris, but you can buy a hot dog⁹ from the highest hot-dog stand in the world.

But even without leaving your room in Paris, you can get an “eyeful” from the Eiffel Tower. The Eiffel Tower is also a TV tower that sends television programs all over Paris. Some people take the Eiffel Tower as one of the seven wonders of the modern world.

Notes

1. the Eiffel Tower 爱菲尔铁塔, Eiffel /'aɪfəl/
2. eyeful /'aɪfəl/n. 满眼, 与 Eiffel 发音相近。此处 get an eyeful of Paris 可作“饱览巴黎”解。
3. skyscraper /'skai'skreɪpə/ n. 摩天楼
4. fair /fɛə/ n. 博览会
5. beam n. (横)梁
6. gigantic /dʒaɪ'gæntɪk/ a. 巨大的, 庞大的

7. skeleton /'skelɪtn/ n. 骨架

8. lace n. 花边

9. hot dog n. 热狗(中间夹热香肠的面包卷)

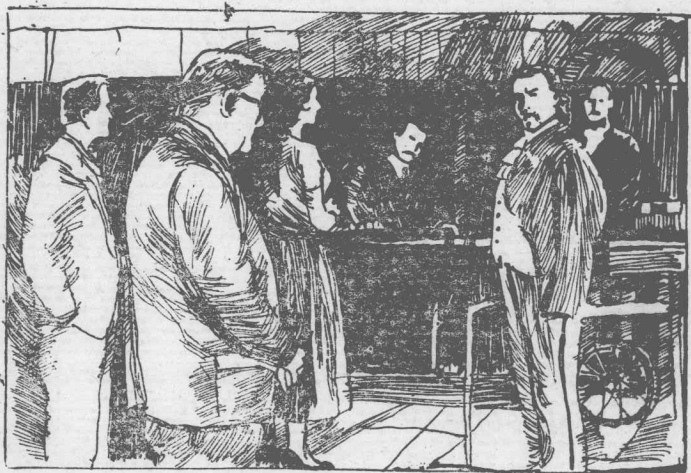
2. House of Wax



Heads and hands of wax, eyes of glass, real hair and plaster bodies dressed in real clothes—that's what the "living" statues at Madame Tussaud's wax works in London, England, are made of. The statues look so alive that sometimes you can't tell the real people from the wax people.

At Madame Tussaud's, you can see statues of presidents and kings, politicians and athletes, writers and "chutmen", television stars and movie queens.

2. House of Wax¹



Heads and hands of wax, eyes of glass, real hair, and plaster² bodies dressed in real clothes—that's what the "living" statues³ at Madame Tussaud's wax-works in London, England, are made of. The statues look so alive that sometimes [you can't tell the real people from⁴ the wax people.

At Madame Tussaud's, you can see statues of presidents and kings, politicians and athletes⁵, writers and churchmen⁶, television stars and movie queens,

And you can go down into a dark underground room called the Chamber of Horrors⁷ and see all kinds of scary things—murderers killing people, a guillotine⁸ ready to cut off a head, masks⁹ of people made after their deaths, a man tied to an electric chair, and another sitting in a gas chamber.

After you see the Chamber of Horrors, you can go back upstairs and look for a little old lady dressed in black with glasses on her nose. When you find her, you will be looking at a wax statue of Madame Tussaud, the woman who founded the famous waxworks.

Notes

1. house of wax 蜡像陈列馆, wax *n.* 蜡
2. plaster /'plɑ:stə/ *n.* 石膏
3. statue /'stætju:/ *n.* 雕像, 塑像
4. tell...from 把...与...区别开来
5. athlete /'æθli:t/ *n.* 体育家, 运动员
6. churchman /'tʃə:tʃmən/ *n.* 牧师, 教士
7. the Chamber of Horrors 恐怖之室, chamber /'tʃeimbə/ *n.* 室, 穴; horror /'hɒrə/ *n.* 恐怖
8. guillotine /gɪlə'ti:n/ *n.* 断头台
9. mask /mɑ:sk/ *n.* 面具

3. Big Ben of London



People all over the world write to Big Ben. They even send birthday presents. One present was a bottle of oil—to help keep Big Ben running. Big Ben is not a person. It's a clock!

Big Ben is the great clock high up in a tower of the Parliament¹ building. This is the building in London where laws are made. The people of London like to see

Big Ben's friendly faces. (The clock has four.) They like to hear its sound every 15 minutes. They like to hear the big bell striking on the hour. *BONG! BONG! BONG!*

Radio sends the sound of the big clock to the rest of the world. The BBC² began to broadcast the sound in 1923. Ever since, Big Ben has been a radio star.

The BBC broadcasts news around the world. In World War II, it could be heard in many countries, even in a country taken over by the enemy. But there, anyone caught listening might be killed³. People listened anyway. They heard the news—and Big Ben. To them the sound of Big Ben was the sound of freedom and of hope. To them Big Ben said, "London is safe—and still fighting!"

Big Ben's story starts in 1834. In that year the old Parliament building burned down. Its clock tower crashed⁴ to the ground. There had to be a new building—and a new clock.

Plans were made. They called for a "King of Clocks, the biggest and best in the world." So the clock had to be big. And it had to keep very good time.

Some people said, "No one can make such a clock." They were wrong. The big clock was made in two years. But it couldn't be put in the tower. The tower wasn't even built!

Five more years went by before the clock tower

was finished. Then four bells were brought into the tower. And at last the giant hour bell was put in place. It rang out for the first time on July 11, 1859.

This great bell had to have a name. A meeting of Parliament was called to pick one. "The clock is the King of Clocks," one man said. "Let's call the bell the Queen of Bells."

"Then why not Victoria?" said another. (Victoria was the British queen at that time.)

The talk about names went on and on. Then Benjamin Hall⁵ got up to speak. He was a big man that the others liked. By this time they were all tired. Someone shouted, "Why not call it Big Ben and be done with it?"

Everybody laughed, and the meeting broke up. But Big Ben it was from then on. Not just the bell, but the whole clock.

Big Ben is still the King of Clocks. But it is more than a clock. It is a dear friend. It warms the hearts of people all over the world.

Notes

1. parliament /'pɑ:ləmənt/n. 议会
2. BBC 英国广播公司, 全称为 British Broadcasting Company
3. anyone caught listening might be killed 任何被发现收听者可能被处死, 句中 caught listening 是用来修饰 anyone 的。

4. crash /kræʃ/ v. 倒塌

5. Benjamin Hall 本杰明·霍尔(当时负责重建议会工程的官员)

6. be done with it 就这么办了

A. The Magic World of Dolls



Dolls, dolls, dolls! More than 8000 of them! They all live on Sam Pryor's farm in Connecticut. He has made over his big barn into a fine building of them.

"This is a doll library," he says. "My dream is to make it the best and largest in the world."

Doll library? Yes, because to Mr. Pryor every doll is like a book. It has a story to tell.

"Look at any doll," says Mr. Pryor. "See how it is dressed—just like a little person. Its clothes tell you about its country."

To see just what Mr. Pryor means, study the doll