

新编

# 美国文学赏析

主编 © 谭丽华

❧ Appreciation of American Literature ❧



新编

## 美国文学赏析

# APPRECIATION OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

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# 前言

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本书是一本为适应高等学校英语本科高年级文学课的需要,根据《全国高等学校英语专业英语教学大纲》的要求,结合英语专业文学课教学的实际情况,为高等学校英语专业三四年级学生编写的美国文学课程教材。本书共收录了22位美国作家的作品,分别代表了美国各个历史时期不同文学流派的特征。编写本书的目的是为高校英语专业三四年级学生以及非英语专业美国文学爱好者提供学习和欣赏美国传统文学经典作品的机会。

本书既可作为一学期使用的教材,也可作为英语文学爱好者的文学欣赏读物,以此来陶冶情操、增强文化修养。所选作品包括散文、小说、诗歌、戏剧。每篇体例包括了对作者的介绍、对该作品的鉴赏导读、作品原文、注释及讨论题5个部分。本书在编写的时候,针对欠发达地区高校学生英语水平,力求考虑符合教学的实际需要,特别注意对作者生平、学术贡献,以及代表著作做简明扼要的介绍。导读部分提供对选文的鉴赏及阅读视角,选文之后对文中生词和难句做了注释,另外,每篇选文后设计了能帮助学生理解原文内容的思考题,可以让学生自由讨论。本书选文都是每个时期的经典作品,提供美国建国以来各个时期、各种流派的代表作家及其经典代表作品,力求为读者提供更多20世纪,尤其是当代具有代表性的作品。有“迷惘的一代”代表作家菲茨杰拉德(F.Scott Fitzgerald)揭露“美国梦”幻灭的小说《了不起的盖茨比》(The Great Gatsby);海明威(Ernest Hemingway)表现战争机器怎样粉碎人们理想和生活的小说《永别了武器》(A Farewell to Arms);斯坦贝克(John Steinbeck)揭露美国经济危机时期严重社会问题的小说《愤怒的葡萄》(The Grapes of Wrath);还有南方文艺复兴时期最主要的作家福克纳(William Faulkner)的著名短篇小说《献给艾米莉的玫瑰花》(A Rose for Emily)。当代文学作品在小说方面有犹太代表作家贝娄(Saul Bellow)的《只争朝夕》(Seize the Day),著名的战后现实主义小说代表作家塞林格(J.D.Salinger)的《麦田里的守望者》(The Catcher in the Rye),“黑色幽默”流派代表作家海勒(Joseph Heller)的《第二十二条军规》(Catch-22),黑人文学代表作家托尼·莫里森(Toni Morrison)的《最蓝的眼睛》(The Bluest Eye),著名华裔女作家谭恩美(Amy Tan)的《喜福会》(The Joy Luck Club);在戏剧方面有战后著名戏剧家米勒(Arthur Miller)的社会道德剧《推销员之死》(Death of a Salesman)等。通过对这

些名作的阅读，可以帮助读者从不同的视角了解美国的社会。

在编写本书时，我们力求选择美国文学史中各个时期最有影响的作家及经典作品，希望学生及文学爱好者在阅读欣赏作品的同时，对美国文学的历史以及这些经典作家对美国文学发展的影响有所了解。本书可作为文学读物单独使用，若与《美国文学史》或《美国文学大纲》配合使用，效果会更好。

本书内容选择、体例设计以及统编、修改和审阅由谭丽华完成。在编写工作中，我院文学教学组几位老师都付出了大量心血，她们是宁梅、范翠华、陈晔、胡非非。这几位都是有多年文学课教学经验的老师，编者在此深表感谢。还要感谢在编写工作中给予帮助，做整理工作的贵州大学外国语学院英语语言文学研究生李蓓蕾、李应梅、张安宴、周维等。也要感谢我院领导对此项工作的大力支持。

尽管编者尽了最大的努力，但由于涉猎有限，难免有错讹之处。企盼使用本书的教师、学生及爱好文学的读者批评指教。

编 者

2010年10月于贵州大学

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## UNIT 1

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# THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

*Thomas Jefferson*

### 【作者简介】

Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826) was a great liberal leader, statesman, democrat and thinker in American history, and a symbol of American democracy. He has been thought of as one of the most versatile and enlightened men of his generation. He was a member of the Continental Congress, Governor of Virginia, American Minister to France, the first secretary of State, vice president, and the third president of the United States. He devoted himself not only to the ideal of individual freedom, but to literature writing. *The Declaration of Independence* (1776) (《独立宣言》) drawn by Jefferson is a brilliant document not merely in American history, but throughout the world civilization. As a writer, he is famous for his simple, clear, inspiring and graceful neoclassical prose style.

In the second Continental Congress on June 7, Richard Henry Lee, a Virginia delegate put forward a resolution of independence, and four days later Jefferson, Franklin, Adams, etc., were appointed as a committee to draft the declaration. The actual writing of this document was begun by Jefferson, and then some corrections were made by Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and the Congress as a whole. *The Declaration of Independence* is based on the natural rights theory by Locke and the 18th century French philosophers. Adopted on July 4, 1776, *The Declaration of Independence* not merely announced people's common will for the birth of a new nation, but also sang the praises of human freedom, individual will and the spirit of democracy, and thus enjoyed its unique importance in human history. It is called by Karl Marx "the first human right declaration in human history". The views on

value it figures out — existence, equality, liberty, democracy, etc has exerted a profound impact on American culture. The sentence "All men are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, and among these rights are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" are often heard and well remembered around the world. Jefferson also claimed that the government is the servant instead of the master of the people.

In *The Declaration of Independence*, Jefferson justified and emphasized people's right of self-government. The natural rights with which everybody is born are inalienable. The government is based upon the people's consent. The purpose of government is also for the perseverance of people's natural rights. The people have the capacity to make moral judgments, discriminate good and evil, and tell right from wrong.

### 【作品评析及导读】

托马斯·杰弗逊（1743—1826）是资产阶级民主派的杰出领袖，美国第三任总统。除了政治方面取得了巨大的成就之外，他还是一位优秀的散文家。

杰弗逊出生于弗吉尼亚的一个贵族家庭，曾就读于威廉—玛丽学院，他博览群书，多才多艺，精通法律、历史、建筑等学科。1767年，杰弗逊成为律师，1769年当选为弗吉尼亚下院议员。在此期间，他积极投身于独立运动之中，并代表弗吉尼亚出席大陆会议。此后，他曾两次当选弗吉尼亚州长，于1800年当选为美国总统。

1776年7月4日《独立宣言》的发表是美国历史上划时代的大事，也是世界历史的重要篇章之一。《独立宣言》全称《美利坚合众国十三个州一致宣言》，这一美国赖以立国的重要文本由杰弗逊主要执笔，是13个州联合为合众国的独立宣言。

《独立宣言》充分反映了北美民族资产阶级和人民大众渴望独立自强的共同愿望，阐述了很多诸如“人生而平等”等人权原则，马克思曾评价它为世界上“第一个人权宣言”，对美国后来的思想文化发展影响深远。在美国，《独立宣言》具有崇高的历史和文化地位，其原件珍藏于华盛顿国家档案馆。该文的文字简约有力，字里行间闪耀着智慧及精神力量的光芒。尤其在人权方面，它对美国宪法中的《人权法案》（The Bill of Rights）等文件具有不可忽视的影响作用。

《独立宣言》气势磅礴、笔调流畅，其主要内容是列出英国殖民当局的累累罪行，对当时英国王权的腐败和残暴进行有力的批判。《独立宣言》第一部分阐明了民主和自由的思想；第二部分具体列举了殖民地当局的暴行，以证明美国人民的自由受到了严重侵犯，并指出“一个君主，当他的品格已打上了暴君行为的烙印时，

是不配做自由人民的统治者的”；第三部分郑重宣布这些联合一致的殖民地从此成为独立自主的国家。作品向“君权神授”的封建传统观念提出挑战，呼吁人民团结起来摆脱英国的王权桎梏；指出造物者赋予的权利包括生存权、自由、平等及对幸福的追求；明确要为殖民地的人民争取人权的前提是独立及主权的获得；表达了殖民地人民要求摆脱宗主国统治的强烈愿望；体现了美国人民崇尚法治的精神等。但我们也应该看到，政治宣言并不一定与现实协调一致。例如，美国的社会现实仍表现出与“平等”及“自由”观念的一些不协调，种族歧视仍然存在等。在赏析此文时，我们应将文本与现实加以区分，在了解文章中表达的先进思想的同时也应注意它的局限性，力求更客观地解读。赏析的侧重点应在于文章中内含的美国思想文化精髓及文章在文学创作方面的特色。

### 【作品选读】

## The Declaration of Independence

In Congress, July 4, 1776

The Unanimous Declaration of the Thirteen United States of America<sup>1</sup>.

When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness<sup>2</sup>. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just power from the consent of the governed. That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be

changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shown that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity, which constrains them to alter their former systems of government. The history of the present King of Great Britain<sup>3</sup> is usurpations, all having in direct object tyranny over these States. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his assent to laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved representative houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasion on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the meantime exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without and convulsion within.

He has endeavored to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migration hither, and raising the condition of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing judiciary powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of new officers, and sent hither swarms of officers to harass our people, and eat out their substances.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, standing armies without the consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the military independent of and superior to the civil power.

He has combined with others<sup>4</sup> to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his assent to their acts of pretended legislation.

For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us;

For protecting them, by a mock trial, from punishment for any murder which they should commit on the inhabitants of these States.

For cutting off our trade with all parts of the world;

For imposing taxes on us without our consent;

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of trial by jury;

For transporting us beyond seas to be tried for pretended offenses;

For abolishing the free system of English laws in a neighbouring Province<sup>5</sup>, establishing therein an arbitrary government, and enlarging its boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule these Colonies;

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments;

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated government here, by declaring us out of his protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large armies of foreign mercenaries<sup>6</sup> to complete the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of cruelty and perfidy scarcely parallel in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow citizens taken captive on the high seas to bear arms against their country, to become the executioners of their friends and brethren, or to fall themselves by their hands.

He has excited domestic insurrection amongst us, and has endeavored to bring

on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes, and conditions.

In every stage of these oppressions we have petitioned for redress in the most humble terms: our repeated petitions have been answered only by repeated injuries. A prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have we been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpation, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces<sup>7</sup> our separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, enemies in war, in peace, friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress assembled, appealing to the supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the name, and by authority of the good people of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United States Colonies and Independent States; that they are absolved by from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, and to do all other acts and things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.

### 【注释】

1. 宣言除了包含很多政治哲学观点之外,还反映了杰弗逊准确、清晰、有力的行文风格。
2. Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness: 约翰·洛克在《政府论》第二章中提及的自然权利包括生命、自由及财产权利。
3. King of Great Britain: 乔治三世,执政期从1760年至1820年,制定了很

多引起民众反叛的政府政策。

4. others: 英国议会。

5. the free system of English laws in a neighbouring Province: 《魁北克法》  
(1774) 对法国基督教徒做出了一定退让, 恢复了《民法典》, 因此在充满争议的情况下将魁北克郡与沿海殖民地分离。

6. targe armies of foreign mercenaries: 德国士兵, 主要是由英国雇佣来负责殖民管理的黑森人。

7. denounces: proclaims. 宣告、声明。

### 【思考题】

1. According to *The Declaration of Independence*, what are the rights that people are endowed with by their Creator?
2. What enormities of the King of Great Britain have been listed and criticized?
3. What are the truths, which are mentioned in *The Declaration of Independence*, still exert a great impact on today's America?

## UNIT 2

### RIP VAN WINKLE

*Washington Irving*

#### 【作者简介】

Washington Irving (1783-1859), one of the pioneering American novelists, was the first American writer who gained international reputation. As the youngest of 11 children of a rich New York merchant, he was born in New York on April 3, 1783. Gently born and well-educated, he had a strong interest and devoted himself in reading and writing from his childhood. Irving was regarded as the "father of American literature". Famous for his literary innovations and transitional role in American literature history, he contributed to American literature in a variety of ways. He embodied particular enthusiasm for European scenery and culture.

Irving's literary career started in journals and newspapers. At the age of 19, he published his first pieces of writing, a series of satirical letters to the "Morning Chronicle" (1803-1803), a newspaper owned by one of his brothers by the pen name of "Jonathan Oldstyle, Gent". With different themes woven together, most of his stories are based on the readymade plots. His works include *Salmagundi* (1809) (《萨马根迪》), *The History of the Life and Voyages of Christopher Columbus* (1818) (《哥伦布的生平和航行》), *The Alhambra* (1832) (《阿尔罕伯拉传奇》), *Tales of a Traveler* (1824) (《游客述异》), *A Tour of the Prairie* (1835) (《草原漫游》), *Life of Olive Goldsmith* (1840) (《奥利弗·歌德史密斯传》) and *Life of George Washington* (1856-1859) (《乔治·华盛顿传(1856—1859)》). His masterpiece *The Sketch Book* (1820) (《见闻札记》) marked the beginning of American Romanticism. These works reflect the shift in American literature from the Rationalism of the 18th century to the Romanticism in the 19th century. They reveal the contrasts between continental Europe and America. Irving didn't view the

New world as a paradise free of corruption. His artistic style was precise, simple, and graceful, never lacking in a sense of humor.

Irving initiated the Native American literature and introduced the familiar essay from Europe to America. He made short stories, historical legends and biography again the focuses of writers' and readers' attention. He wrote to entertain, which departs from the emphasis on morality by his puritan ancestors. He emphasized the recreational and enlightening function of his works, and preferred to address himself to the feeling and fancy of readers more than to their judgment and reflection.

### 【作品评析及导读】

华盛顿·欧文(1783—1859)是美国著名的小说家,散文家及历史学家。1809年,欧文发表了他的第一部作品《纽约外史》,这是一个以住在纽约的荷兰后裔为描写对象的幽默故事集。他的杰作《见闻札记》于1820年面世并为他获得了世界声誉,这部以描写英国和美国的生活为主,穿插以改编的欧洲民间故事为题材的随笔和短篇小说集是以“杰弗莱·克莱昂”为笔名出版的,它收录了欧文在1819—1820年间居住在英国乡村时创作的三十余篇作品,内容丰富,其通俗易懂的文风赢得了广泛的读者,《见闻札记》在美国文学史上还具有里程碑的性质。此外,欧文还创作了很多讽刺小说,旅行散文集以及人物传记。他的作品不仅具有独特的艺术价值,而且反映了早期北美人民的风土人情,使世界其他地区读者对北美的风光及文化产生了浓厚的兴趣。

收录在《见闻札记》中的《瑞普·凡·温克尔》是美国文学史上最为著名的短篇故事之一。它取材于德国民间故事,以殖民地时期哈德逊河畔一个山村为背景,描述了朴实乐观的村民——瑞普沉睡了二十年,醒来惊讶地发现周围的世界已发生了翻天覆地的变化。现在,这个乐观向上,可爱亲切的小人物形象在美国文化中家喻户晓。他性情温和,乐观积极,却害怕凶悍妻子的责难,而且不愿意做单纯追求利益的工作。通过这个人物,欧文直接或间接地探讨了当时的一些政治事件,如美国独立战争,性别文化,妻管严等。

在故事中,欧文运用幽默和夸张手法,将传奇式的情节融入美国独立战争的时代背景,体现出浪漫主义、现实主义及神秘主义文学的特色。他对变革似乎持一种较保守的态度,认为变革大多是打乱了事物的自然秩序,而很少为大众带来益处。故事中充满了哥特及超自然氛围,生动活泼的人物形象给读者留下了深刻的印象。

另外，作品语言优雅精致，富于音乐感。

本文选自小说的前半部分，讲述了乐观可爱的瑞普在沉睡前的日常生活以及误打误撞喝下荷兰人美酒，并因此沉睡了20年之久。醒来后，他发现时光飞逝，美国独立战争早已发生，周围的世界已面目全非。像瑞普这样被社会及其自身命运推来推去而感到无可奈何的小人物总是让读者感觉真实可信，亲切自然。实际上，生活在世界中的大部分人都会对生活的现实境况感到或多或少的遗憾和无奈，因此这样的小人物典型很容易引起读者的共鸣。同时，文中的风光描绘，如对卡兹吉尔丛山水墨画似的渲染，也非常引人入胜。文中体现出的欧文独特的创作思维主要来源于作者在早年对旅游的热爱和实地考察奇特风土人情的习惯。

### 【作品选读】

## Rip Van Winkle

### (Excerpt)

Whoever has made a voyage up the Hudson<sup>1</sup> must remember the Kaatskill mountains. They are a dismembered branch of the great Appalachian family<sup>2</sup>, and are seen away to the west of the river, swelling up to a noble height, and lording it over the surrounding country. Every change of season, every change of weather, indeed, every hour of the day, produces some change in the magical hues and shapes of these mountains, and they are regarded by all the good wives, far and near, as perfect barometers. When the weather is fair and settled, they are clothed in blue and purple, and print their bold outlines on the clear evening sky; but, sometimes, when the rest of the landscape is cloudless, they will gather a hood of gray vapors about their summits, which, in the last rays of the setting sun, will glow and light up like a crown of glory.

At the foot of these fair mountains, the voyager may have descried the light smoke curling up from a village, whose shingle-roofs gleam among the trees, just where the blue tints of the upland melt away into the fresh green of the nearer landscape. It is a little village, of great antiquity, having been founded by some of the Dutch colonists<sup>3</sup>, in the early times of the province, just about the beginning of