

《21世纪大学英语》教学与学习辅导丛书（核心版）

# 21<sup>世纪</sup> 大学英语 阅读精选

（第二册）

张增健 编著

復旦大學  
出版社

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Selected Readings for College Students (II)

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## 编者的话

《大学生英语阅读精选》是为配合大学英语教学而编选的一套英语读物,计划在两年内共编四集,现在与读者见面的是其第二集。

《大学生英语阅读精选》(第二集),按题材(subject matter)分成10个单元,共收选文30篇。选文大多取自近年来出版的英美报刊书籍,语言清新,体裁多样,有故事、随笔、杂感、短评及新闻报道等。在编选过程中,为确保原作的“真实性”(authenticity),不随意改动原文,即使对少数篇幅过长的文章,也只是略加删节,而不作任何文字上的“加工”。

《大学生英语阅读精选》的每篇选文,都配有适量的阅读和翻译练习。“理解检测”(Comprehension Check),旨在提高读者语篇水平上的阅读理解能力,确保读者对整个文章——从主题思想到主要细节以至语言难点——的全面理解。

至于“佳句试译”(Selected Sentences for Translation Practice)这一练习的设置,不仅仅着眼于为读者提供翻译实践的机会。由于所选的语句,大多是文章的精髓、也是难点所在,读者反复琢磨、玩味之余,自然会对文章有更深入的理解。

阅读应该是一种享受,而不该视为一种负担。享受阅读,寻求书中的逸趣,乃是学习求知的最高境界。编者深信,在高等学府的莘莘学子中,勤于开卷、深得阅读意趣的,大有人在。编者之所以致力编选这样一套贴近现实窗口、力求融“趣味、知识、哲理”于一体的英语读物,也正是基于这一信念。但愿《大学生英语阅读精选》一书,能为这一读者群所喜欢,并最终成为当今大学生们的生活之友。

张增健

2001年12月

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## Unit One Stories About Celebrities

*Every life has a story.*

——*Biography Magazine*

*Celebrities seek fame. They take action to get attention. Heroes have risked something to help others. Their action involves courage.*

——*James Bradley and Ron Powers*

- ❖ Reading 1 Prologue (From Celine Dion: *My Story, My Dream*)
- ❖ Reading 2 “It’s the Books That Changed Me”
- ❖ Reading 3 Prince William: To Be the King of Hollywood Action Movies?

## Reading 1

### Prologue<sup>①</sup>

From **Celine Dion: My Story, My Dream**

*Celine Dion is one of the world's most popular and well-known singers today. When she sang at the opening ceremonies of the Olympic Games in Atlanta, her voice reached 3.5 billion people worldwide. Her **albums**<sup>②</sup> are instant bestsellers upon release. 18 million copies of "My Heart Will Go On," the theme from Titanic has been sold. Celine Dion is admired and loved by fans around the world. And her concerts fill **stadiums**<sup>③</sup>, whatever the size. With 115 separate music awards to her name, she is a living **legend**<sup>④</sup>.*

One beautiful morning last winter, a *manatee*<sup>⑤</sup> appeared in the canal right behind our house in Jupiter, Florida. It stayed there for hours, as if it were waiting for something. Or somebody. As soon as I went into the water, it started coming toward me. I spoke to it, petted it, and we swam together for a while.

This was no big feat. A lot of people in southern Florida have fun swimming with manatees. They are nice, large, very *affectionate*<sup>⑥</sup> animals that we call sea cows. People say they come from the legend of the *Sirens*<sup>⑦</sup> because of the very sweet and *unsettling*<sup>⑧</sup> sound they make.

The incident made me realize how much I've changed during these last months. When I was working on my singing career, and was subject to certain precautions, the idea never would have come to me to *dive*<sup>⑨</sup> right into cloudy water and go make friends with an unknown animal.

But on that morning, I hadn't been working for more than three months, and I was already doing all sorts of things that had been almost unimaginable before, things that

① 序言 ② 唱片集 ③ 露天体育场 ④ 传奇(人物) ⑤ 海牛 ⑥ 温柔亲切的

⑦ 塞王(希腊神中的女海妖,以美妙歌声诱惑过往水手而使船只触礁沉没) ⑧ 令人神魂不安的

⑨ 跳(水)

even I sometimes found surprising.

While I was swimming with my Siren, a flood of memories crashed through my head, clear, precise images of my childhood, of summer, of happiness.

I was eight, nine, ten years old. I was on a picnic with my brothers and sisters in the *Laurentides*①, just north of Montreal. There were farms, a lot of animals, planted fields, woods, a river, horses that my sisters and I rode. I saw all of it again so clearly. I saw myself climbing trees, swimming in the river, walking in the woods. And I was saying to whoever would hear me that one day I'd buy a horse, as soon as I earned my first money as a singer.

And then I forgot all about it, carried away by another dream of being a singer, a dream that left room for nothing else in my life. A few years later, when I got my first pay as a singer, my thoughts were already elsewhere. Instead of a horse, I bought myself a pair of *high heels*②.

Now, twenty years later, it was all springing forth from my memory. That horse I never bought and never thought about again, the light of summer, the freshness and the smell of the *Laurentides* rivers and lakes, the fragrance of the earth and of cut hay. Again I saw the path that we took to get down to the river, the overturned *canoe*③ on the beach, the laughter of my sisters, the thick trees my brother dove from, the pebbles, the sand, the *raspberry*④ bushes that scratched our legs, the *crackling*⑤ of burning branches in the fires we made during evenings on the shore. And all of us singing together late into the night, watching shooting stars and northern lights.

As I got out of the canal after saying goodbye to my Siren, I didn't feel like speaking or being spoken to. I hardly dared move, my head was so filled to the *brim*⑥ with all these memories, and I didn't want to lose a single drop. I wanted to keep these images in me as long as possible, to review them one by one and maybe to remember others.

I don't think it was nostalgia, but rather a kind of curiosity about a very faraway period of my life that I thought I'd forgotten, and in any case, had never thought about so intensely. I felt as if I were seeing and hearing the real living little girl I had been, feeling her very close to me again, so close I could recognize her dreams, her wishes,

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① (加拿大境内蒙特利尔市北面的)劳伦河流域 ② 高跟鞋 ③ 独木舟 ④ (植物)覆盆子  
⑤ 噼啪(爆裂)声 ⑥ (杯、碗等的)边

her plans. And I felt a little like one of those dolls that contain a series of smaller dolls, each inside the other, with that little girl Celine inside of me.

But these images quickly began to lose their color and clarity. Afterward, I thought for days and days about my childhood, and the whole journey I had traveled. Of what I'd been and done or tried to do for twenty years, starting with my first performances and that first pair of high heels.

And I kept asking myself why I wanted and dreamed so much about all of this, all that's happened to me. Why, at twenty, fifteen, at twelve, even at eight, I think, and even at five, I so wanted to succeed, why I dreamed so much of becoming a famous singer, who'd be listened to in every corner of the planet.

Not everyone is driven by such ambition. A lot of young boys and girls spend a long time wondering what to do with their lives. Some never find an answer. But I always knew. Not that I claim any credit for knowing. I'm like that *tubby*<sup>①</sup> Obelix, a character in a famous French *comic strip*<sup>②</sup>, who fell into a magic *potion*<sup>③</sup> when he was a baby. As soon as I was born, I fell into singing, show business. And once in it, I felt like a fish in water.

I've loved every bit of the life I've led up to this *sabbatical*<sup>④</sup>. I lived my most beautiful dreams to the fullest—a rare piece of luck. I've been fulfilled emotionally, professionally, artistically, and I always will be. I love and I'm loved. I sing and that is my happiness. And I thank heaven for it everyday of my life.

I am good at being happy. Happiness comes to me in waves, always unexpectedly and unexplainable. I'm not talking about the sweet and shallow feeling that comes with a *platinum*<sup>⑤</sup> album or a good review, but about real happiness, the kind that comes and goes without warning. I never felt this happiness so close at hand, so overwhelming, as I did that winter of 2000, during the first months of my sabbatical.

(988 words)

## Comprehension Check

Choose the best answer to each of the following questions.

1. In this prologue, Celine Dion intends to tell readers \_\_\_\_\_.

A) what has motivated her to be a famous singer ever since childhood

① 肥胖的 ② 连环漫画 ③ (有魔力的) 饮料 ④ 休假 ⑤ 白金

- B) what kind of person she really is behind that magnificent voice  
C) what prompted thoughts of revealing her story and dream as a singer  
D) what a wonderful vacation she enjoyed in the winter of 2000
2. The author tells us that on a beautiful winter morning she got into the canal and made friends with a “sea cow.” From her description we may infer that she did it \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) merely out of curiosity  
B) in order to have great fun  
C) because she was fascinated by the manatee’s sweet melodious voice  
D) because she felt totally carefree, inclined to find surprises in new experiences
3. The expression “was subject to” ( Paragraph 3 ) is closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) “was used to”  
B) “tended to have”  
C) “was ruled by”  
D) “was exposed to”
4. Which of the following is NOT true according to the selection?
- A) Celine Dion was swimming with the manatee one winter morning when memories of the childhood raced across her mind.  
B) While swimming with the “sea cow,” Celine Dion was nostalgic for her earlier days.  
C) Staying in the canal with her Siren, Celine Dion recalled her happy childhood in the Canadian countryside, conjuring up many clear images in her mind.  
D) When a child, Celine Dion wished to buy a horse but, later on, she totally forgot about it because she was too absorbed in the dream of being a singer.
5. The phrase “(be) carried away by” can best be replaced by \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) “(be) too excited about”  
B) “(be) much devoted to”  
C) “(be) overwhelmed by”  
D) “(be) fully satisfied with”
6. Having got of the water that winter morning, Celine Dion was \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) unable to recover from the overwhelming emotions  
B) entirely lost in thought

- C) trying hard to keep alive all those memories and images  
D) in a state of great bewilderment
7. What did Celine Dion do after that winter morning?
- A) She kept thinking hard about her childhood, trying to “see” and “hear” the real living little girl she had been.  
B) She was trying to look back on her earlier days in perspective—her days both as a child and as a singer.  
C) She kept asking herself why she had ever since dreamed so much of becoming a famous singer.  
D) Both B) and C)
8. According to Celine Dion, when does “real happiness” come to her?
- A) When she is singing.  
B) When a platinum album is issued.  
C) When a favorite review comes out.  
D) All of the above.

## Translation Practice

*Carefully read the following passage and translate it into Chinese.*

Now, in her own words, the most dynamic vocal talent of our time—the international singing sensation whose recordings have sold millions, and whose performances electrify the world’s great arenas—gives us her poignant, intimate, and inspiring life story . . . from the heart.

**Celine Dion**

### **My Story, My Dream**

She was born into a working-class Canadian family, the youngest of fourteen children. She gave her first performance standing on a kitchen table and dreamed of becoming a superstar. Few in her field can rival the phenomenal God-given abilities of Celine Dion. Fewer still have experienced the love, sorrow, accomplishment, and ecstasy that have shaped her remarkable life and carried her to the pinnacle of the entertainment world.

## Unit 1

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## Reading 2

## “It's the Books That Changed Me”

By Peter Swet

*Sean Connery, as James Bond and in some other film roles, seems to be a man who has always been wealthy and **well-polished**<sup>①</sup>. Also, you most likely see him as a well-educated man. But it was not always so. You will probably be surprised as you learn about his background and how Sean Connery says he changed his life.*

As a young boy in Scotland, Thomas Sean Connery was put to bed each night in the bottom drawer of the family *wardrobe*<sup>②</sup>. “When my brother Nell came along,” he remembered, “he got the wardrobe, and I graduated to the *settee* (small sofa).”

Connery was recalling Edinburgh during *the Depression*<sup>③</sup>. “There was a lot of industry there, and every house had coal, so there was also a lot of smoke. We lived in a tenement—no electricity or hot water, six floors up with four flats per floor, and one hallway toilet for each two flats. My dad was a laborer who brought in £ 2 a week and was glad to have it.”

We were seated in the garden of a hotel in *Marbella*<sup>④</sup>, Spain, resort on the *Costa del Sol*<sup>⑤</sup> that is known for its gleaming white buildings, warm sun, and soft Mediterranean breezes. At 61, Sean Connery was still fit, *trim*<sup>⑥</sup>, and handsome—even without the *toupee*<sup>⑦</sup> he often wears in films. A major international star since he first created a sensation as James Bond in 1962, the actor has a home in Marbella, another in *Mónaco*<sup>⑧</sup>, and yet a third in *the Caribbean*<sup>⑨</sup>. I wanted to know how he has escaped the mean streets of a poor, smoke-filled neighborhood to become what is, for many, an example of wealth, fame, and elegance. Had he known, as a child, that he was poor?

① 很有教养的 ② 衣柜 ③ (1929 年至 30 年代早期世界性的)经济大萧条

④ 马贝勒(西班牙南部滨海小城) ⑤ 科斯塔索尔(西班牙南部海滨疗养区)

⑥ 修长的 ⑦ 遮秃假发 ⑧ 摩纳哥 ⑨ 加勒比海

"No, I don't think so," Connery said. "As a kid, you're not concerned about life's unfairness of how disadvantaged you are. You just do what you have to. Me, I went to work when I was 9 and delivered milk by horse cart seven days a week. I was at the job 6 A. M. , then straight to school, which I left at age 12. It was 1943. The war was on, and schools were *dispersed*<sup>①</sup> into people's homes because of the bombs. And there was a shortage of men, which meant work to be had."

His earnings went to the family, with Connery's "mum" setting aside just enough for his expenses. Meanwhile, "Big Tam," as he was called by *pals*<sup>②</sup>, grew tall and strong, devoting what little free time had to soccer and swimming at the public baths—"which you did often," he explained, "just to keep clean."

"I grew up with no notion of a career, much less acting," Connery continued with a smile. "When I was 16, I signed into the Navy for 12 years but was out in three because of *ulcers*<sup>③</sup>. Obviously, I wasn't suited for the service. I mean, someone who gets ulcers has got certain feelings of anxiety. I wanted something to do in life but didn't know what, so I came back to various laborer jobs, then learned that as a disabled *vet*<sup>④</sup> I was entitled to schooling to learn a trade: barber, *upholsterer*<sup>⑤</sup>, tailor, or *French polisher*<sup>⑥</sup>. I chose the latter, which meant putting the finishes on things like pianos and coffins."

One day in 1953, a friend talked him into going down to London to enter *the Mr. Universe contest*<sup>⑦</sup>. The trip proved to be *fateful*<sup>⑧</sup>. Not only did Connery place third in the tall men's category but he also was told *auditions*<sup>⑨</sup> at the *Drury Lane*<sup>⑩</sup> Theatre for the male *chorus*<sup>⑪</sup> in *South Pacific*. "I thought, 'What the hell, it's an easy way to make a living for a few hours' work,'" he recalled. "Well, I got on stage and sang good and loud, and did some *handstands*<sup>⑫</sup>. I must've looked right as a sailor, because I got the job, and that's what started me as an actor."

"This American in the *cast*<sup>⑬</sup>, Robert Henderson, helped me," Connery continues. "Gave me a list of books to read." He started *ticking off*<sup>⑭</sup> the works: All of George Bernard Shaw, *An Actor Prepares* and *My Life in Art*, by *Stanislavsky*<sup>⑮</sup>, all of

① (被)疏散 ② 伙伴 ③ 胃溃疡 ④ 老兵(veteran的缩略) ⑤ 室内装潢工 ⑥ 罩光漆漆工  
⑦ 世界先生选拔赛 ⑧ 决定性的 ⑨ 试演 ⑩ 特鲁里街(伦敦西区街名,以剧院集中著称)  
⑪ 合唱(队);(歌舞喜剧中的)歌舞队 ⑫ 手倒立 ⑬ 演员班子  
⑭ (在书名旁边)打钩号(表示已读完该著作) ⑮ 斯坦尼斯拉夫斯基(前苏联戏剧家)

Thomas Wolfe<sup>①</sup>, all of Oscar Wilde<sup>②</sup>, all of Ibsen, *Remembrance of Things Past*, by Proust<sup>③</sup>, Joyce's *Finnegan's Wake and Ulysses*<sup>④</sup>."

What was it like to face these masterworks as a 22-year-old who hadn't been to school since he was 12? "Well, it was tough going!" he said. "But the power of those works does seep<sup>⑤</sup> through. Plus, I had a dictionary at my side." Connery laughed, his face turning bright red. "I spent my *South Pacific tour*<sup>⑥</sup> in every library in Britain, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales," he said, "and on the nights we were dark. I'd see every play I could, meet the actors and learn. But it's the books, the reading, that can change one's life. I'm the living evidence."

(766 words)

## Comprehension Check

*Make the best choice or fill in the blank with suitable words to complete the following statements.*

1. Sean Connery is a(n) (American/Scottish/English) actor, noted for the role of \_\_\_\_\_ he has played in the serial film "007."
2. Connery was born into a worker's family; they lived in a(n) (townhouse near the inner city/apartment building in the suburban area/overcrowded apartment building in the slums) and, his parents were so poor that they could not even provide him or his brother with \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Connery started to work at the age of \_\_\_\_\_ as a (milkman/paperboy/office boy).
4. Connery left school at age 12 because \_\_\_\_\_.
5. As a teenager, Connery had to work to help \_\_\_\_\_ and, whenever he had a little free time, he would \_\_\_\_\_ to keep himself "clean."
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Connery had to leave the navy after 3 years instead of the 12 years he had planned on.
7. Later on, when Connery came to know that as a disabled veteran he had the right to \_\_\_\_\_, he decided to learn the trade as a (tailor/barber/French polisher).
8. Sean Connery started his acting career in 1953 after he \_\_\_\_\_,

① 托马斯·沃尔夫(美国小说家) ② 奥斯卡·王尔德(爱尔兰剧作家) ③ 普鲁斯特(法国小说家)

④ (爱尔兰小说家)乔伊斯的《菲涅根的守灵夜》和《尤利西斯》 ⑤ 渗漏 ⑥ 巡回演出

and his first acting job was to play a menial part in a(n) (opera/musical comedy/feature film).

9. On the suggestion of Robert Henderson, another actor in the troupe, Sean Connery began to \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Sean Connery attributes his success as a film star to \_\_\_\_\_.
11. This article most probably appears (as a news story in a popular magazine/in a biography as a preface or introduction/as an episode in a film scenario).

## Translation Practice

*Carefully read the following passage and put it into Chinese.*

### Amazing Fall of Miss America

Here she is, Miss America 1998—and she's serving hot dog at a New York fast food restaurant!

Beauty queen Kate Shindle, 22, has gone from wearing a diamond-studded crown and pocketing a six-figure salary to wearing a waitress uniform for minimum wage.

It seems a terrible comedown for the pageant winner. But Kate is happy and has already won the admiration of her co-workers for her hard-working, but clumsy style. After graduating from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, in June, the former Miss Illinois moved to New York in hopes of becoming an actress. Incredibly, she believes her new job will help her grow as an actress.

"I really want to experience what it's like to be a young artist in New York," says Kate, "to work a job where someone complains the food is not hot enough. I think that's good for the soul. You can never have too much humility."

——Globe Magazine (December 21, 1999)