

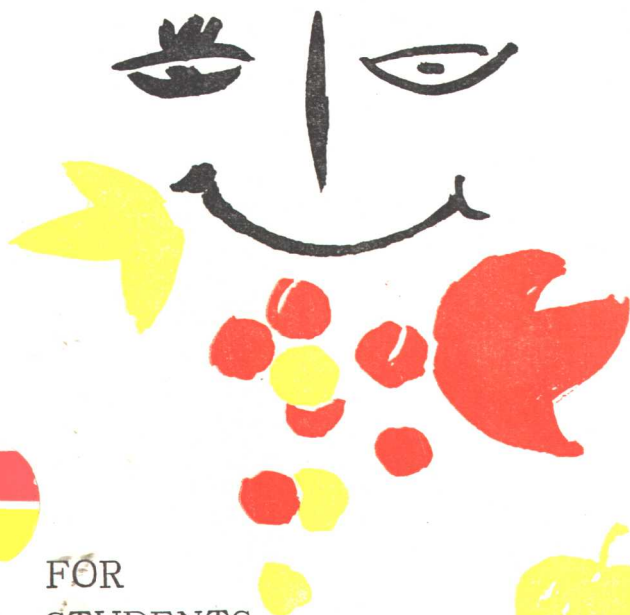
第四册

成都科技大学出版社

# 中学英语趣味读物

四川省教育学会外语教学研究会 主编

ENGLISH



FOR  
STUDENTS  
OF MIDDLE SCHOOLS

SHORT

INTERESTING

# 中学英语趣味读物

(第四册)

四川省教育学会外语教学研究会 主编

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## 编 者 的 话

兴趣，是点燃智慧的火花；兴趣，是攀登文化科学高峰的起步台阶；兴趣，是克服困难的内在动力之一。

为了提高中学生学习英语的兴趣，扩大词汇量，开阔知识视野，培养阅读、自学和运用英语的能力，以及紧密配合中学英语课外活动的开展，我们选编了这套《中学英语趣味读物》（共四册）。

本书内容包括四十九个妙趣横生、浅显易懂的故事、寓言和名人轶事等阅读材料，另附有中外格言、谚语和四十八幅插图。本书图文并茂，题材广泛，加以适当注释，适合高二以上学生阅读，也可供英语教师作为对学生进行听能训练的材料。

本书由周瑞昌插图。

由于我们水平有限，加之时间仓促，错漏之处在所难免，敬请读者批评指正。

编 者

一九八六年三月

1437/19

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## 1. THE MOON IN THE WELL<sup>①</sup>

A well is a hole in the ground. There is water at the bottom. To get the water we turn a handle.<sup>②</sup> This lets a bucket<sup>③</sup> go down the well and into the water. Then we turn the handle to bring the bucket up.

One night a foolish man looked down a well. The water at the bottom was like a mirror. The man saw the moon in the water.

"The moon has fallen down the well," he said.  
"I must get it out."

He ran home to get a hook<sup>④</sup>. He untied<sup>⑤</sup> the bucket from the rope and tied the hook to the rope. Then he turned the handle and let the hook go down into the well. He wanted the hook to catch the moon and pull it up! The hook reached the water and the man turned the handle to pull up the hook. But the hook caught underneath<sup>⑥</sup> a big stone. The man pulled and pulled but the handle would not move. Suddenly the stone moved. The hook flew up the well. The man fell on to his

back⑦. He could see the sky. The moon was in the sky.

“Good!” he said. “I have put the moon back into the sky!”

注：①well [wel] n. 井 ②handle ['hændl] n. 柄，把手 ③bucket ['bakit] n. 水桶 ④hook [huk] n. 钩 ⑤untie ['ʌn'tai] vt. 解开 ⑥underneath (ʌndə'ni:θ) prep. & adv. 在下，在下部 ⑦The man fell on to his back. 这人仰面朝天地跌倒在地。

### Proverbs①

Having half-baked knowledge is worse than knowing nothing at all.

一知半解，不如不知不解。

He, who knows nothing but pretends to know everything, is indeed a good-for-nothing.

不懂装懂，永世无成。

注：①proverb ['prevəb] n. 谚语，格言



## 2. HEAT UNDER YOUR FEET



There is a place on our earth where hot water and steam come up from under the ground. It is a large island in the Pacific Ocean. The island is North Island, in New Zealand<sup>①</sup>.

The planet on which we live is a ball of very hot rock. It is a good thing for us that the outside shell<sup>②</sup> is cold. If it were not, no one could

live here<sup>③</sup>. What if our earth were only as big as an egg<sup>④</sup>? Then the outside part would be as deep as the egg's shell.

The earth's shell has cracks<sup>⑤</sup> in it in some places. In New Zealand this shell seems to have more cracks than in other places on the earth. There are spots where the ground is so hot that it burns the bottom of your shoes. In some places, hot water shoots into the air from time to time. At other points, you can see steam coming up from pools of hot water.

The people who live in these places make use of<sup>⑥</sup> the heat that comes from inside the earth. Some of them cook in the hot pools. They put food into a basket and place it in the water. washing clothes is done in much the same way<sup>⑦</sup>.

Many people bring the hot water from below the earth into their homes. They do this by putting a pipe<sup>⑧</sup> a hundred feet or more into the ground. In this way they get hot water and steam for cooking and washing, and for heating their homes.

For most of us, the heat under our feet is too far away to use. We must make our heat by burning coal<sup>⑨</sup>, oil, or gas. The people who get heat from inside the earth are lucky. It takes money to<sup>⑩</sup>

pay for coal, oil, or gas.

注：①New Zealand ['nju: 'zi:lənd] 新西兰（大洋洲）②shell [ʃel] n. 外壳③If it were not, no one could live here. 如来它的外壳不是冷的，这里人就无法生存④What if our earth were only as big as an egg? = What would happen if our earth...  
⑤crack [kræk] n. 破裂⑥to make use of 利用  
⑦in much the same way 以差不多还是那种相同的方式⑧pipe [paip] n. 管子⑨coal [kəul] n. 煤⑩to take money to do sth. 花钱作（某事）

### A Proverb

Life is fine and enjoyable, yet you  
must learn to enjoy your fine life.

生活是美好的，但要美好地生活。

### 3. THE HOUSE THAT NOBODY WANTED ( I )



There was once a little house that stood on a hill. It was an old house—very old and very gray<sup>①</sup>. A little old man and a little old woman lived in it. They had lived there for a long time.

They didn't go out much. But one fine day they went to visit their friends.

They got into their old car and rode away. They rode uphill<sup>②</sup> and downhill<sup>③</sup> and then uphill and downhill again. And at last they saw the house of their friends. It was a little red house

with white doors and windows, and all around it flowers and green things were growing.

The little old man and the little old woman had a good time with their friends.

When they came back home, they decided to sell the old house and then bought a pretty house like their friends'. So they tried to sell their house.

The first buyer<sup>④</sup>, a man, came to look, "No," he said. "This house is too gray for me. I like a red house." And he went away.

"Let's paint<sup>⑤</sup> the house red," said the little old man. "Then maybe someone will buy it." So they painted the house red.

Soon after a woman came to look. "I like a house that has white windows and white doors," she said. "I like a white fence<sup>⑥</sup> and a white gate too." And she went away.

So the little old man and the little old woman painted the windows white. Then they painted the doors and the gate and the fence white too.

Soon after that, a man and a woman came to see the house. They liked the outside. "But it's so gray inside," said the woman. And they went away.

So this time they painted the walls inside the

house. Some were painted yellow and some were painted blue.

注：①gray [grei] adj. 灰色的，灰白色的 ②uphill ['ʌp'hil] adv. 往山上 ③downhill ['daun'hil] adv. 往山脚下 ④buyer ['baɪə] n. 买者 ⑤paint [peint] vt. (用油漆、涂料等)修整、装饰 ⑥fence [fens] n. 篱笆，栅栏

### A Proverb

Real happiness lies in the fruit of labour produced by one's sweat and toil.

真正的幸福是用血汗创造的劳动成果。

#### 4. THE HOUSE THAT NOBODY WANTED ( I )



Soon another man came to see the house. "This is a pretty house," he said. "But I'm looking for a house with a garden." And he too went away.

The little old man and the little old woman began to work on a garden. Soon green grass was growing. Then one day there were flowers—red

and purple<sup>①</sup> and yellow——growing all around the house.

“Now someone will want to buy this house!” the little old woman said. “Then at last we can buy a house we want.”

“What kind of house do we want?” the old man asked.

“Well,” she said. “We want a pretty house.”

“Painted inside and outside?” he asked.

“Oh, yes!” she said.

“With grass and flowers growing around it?” asked the old man.

“Oh, yes!” said the old woman.

The little old man laughed. “Look around, old woman!” he told her.

So the little old woman looked around. She saw a red house with white windows and doors, a white fence, and a white gate too. She saw grass and flowers growing. Inside the house she saw bright yellow and blue walls.

“Well!” she said, surprised. “This is a pretty house, isn’t it?”

“This is just the house we want!” said the little old man.

So the little old man and the little old woman went right on living in the little old house on the



hill. Only it wasn't a little gray house any more. ②

注：① purple ['pə:pl] adj. 紫色的 ② Only it wasn't a little gray house any more. 只不过它再也不是一所灰色的房子了。

**A Proverb**

Happiness does not drop from the  
skies, it is to be created by our hands.

幸福不是从天上掉下来的，要用双手去  
创造。