

世界经典故事系列

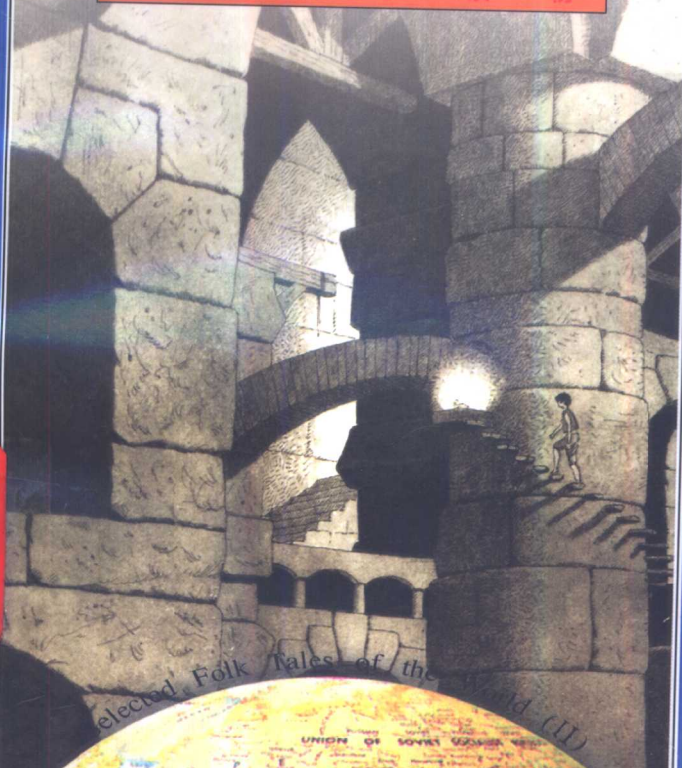
主编 章晋新 肖云南

世界民间故事精选



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英 语 有 声 读 物



湖南大学出版社

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—英语有声读物—

世界民间故事精选(二)

Selected Folk Tales of the World(II)

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前 言

近年来,随着我国对外交往日益增多,越来越多的英语爱好者已不满足于仅仅学会英语语音、语法、词汇和一些基本句型。不少人经过与英美人的交往,逐步认识到语言既是文化的载体,又是文化的一部分,两者水乳交融,密不可分。要真正学好一门语言,不仅要学会掌握和运用该语言,而且还要大量地接触、认识并了解该语言的文化,才能不断增强对该语言文化差异的敏感性,逐步提高对不同文化的比较能力,最终达到提高自身文化素质,得体地进行语言交际的目的。

我国的英语爱好者,要达到语言交际的目的,光靠小学、中学和大学所学的课本知识,是远远不够的,一定要大量地感受英语、学习英语、实践英语,逐步提高英语水平。为此,我们特为大中专学生编写了这套世界经典故事系列。我们坚信广大英语爱好者通过这些故事的学习,能扩大知识面,开阔视野,并能欣赏到世界文化宝库中的真、善、美,陶冶情操,提高自身文化素养。

本系列中的故事,题材多样,均选自中外原版图书。一般是世界上流传甚广,深受人民群众喜爱的民间、幽默、寓言、成语、侦探和科幻故事。用常用英语5000词汇进行改写、翻译,并编辑成文字流畅,通俗易懂,集思想性、知识性和趣味性于一体的有声读物。

为便于读者阅读理解、消化吸收、增进听说能力、培养翻译技能,我们在每个故事后编写了三种练习。练习

一:理解题,旨在训练阅读与听力,帮助理解故事大意和细节;练习二:翻译,从故事原文中选出几个较难的句子,要求读者译成中文;练习三:讨论题,旨在训练读者理解故事中较深层的意义,如作者的态度、观点,并训练读者的英语口语表达能力。

《世界民间故事精选》(二)由章晋新、肖云南担任主编,谭琼琳、李正华和罗庆湘为副主编;参加第二分册编写工作的还有(以姓氏笔画为序)王开颜、邓媛、张珂、陈颖、胡小华、黄晓燕;由贺国强绘制插图;特聘美籍专家 Marilyn Kress 和加拿大语言学博士 David L. Watt 进行审阅;由美国朋友 Tyra Erickson 女士、Robert Erickson 先生灌制录音带。特在此表示感谢。

因编者水平有限,疏漏之处,敬请指正。

编 者

1997 年 12 月于湖南大学

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1 The Sleeping Beauty

(Germany)

Long, long ago, there lived a wise king and a kind queen, who said every day, "If only we had a child!" However, they had neither a son nor a daughter for a long time.

One day, while the Queen was out in the garden, a frog crept out of the water onto the land, and said to her, "Your wish will be fulfilled before a year has passed, and you'll bring a lovely daughter into the world."

The frog's words came true. The Queen had a little girl who was very beautiful. The King and the Queen were so happy and named her Rosamond. They loved the little princess so much that they ordered a huge *feast* (1. n. 盛宴、欢宴) in their daughter's honor. The great feast was prepared. The entire castle was decorated from top to bottom with colorful *streamers* (2. n. 飘带) and banners. The court musicians were busy writing new songs to be played at the feast. Personal invitations were prepared not only for relatives, friends and acquaintances, but also the thirteen fairies of the kingdom. Because of the excitement and the *flurry* (3. n. 兴奋、激动), a mistake was made. One invitation was mislaid, so one of the fairies was not invited.



The feast was held with all *splendor* (4. n. 盛大), and when it came to an end, the fairies all presented Rosamond with a special gift. Each approached the child and offered her a magical promise; as she grew in size she would also grow in a virtue such as wisdom, courage, kindness, and honesty.

When the twelfth fairy was about to give her gift, the castle doors crashed open, and Mordra, the most powerful of all the fairies, stormed in. It was her invitation that had been lost. She wanted *revenge* (5. v. 报仇) for not having been invited. Without greeting anyone, or even glancing at the guests, she called out in a loud voice: "You have insulted me, so you will suffer. Before Rosamond reaches her sixteenth year old, she will *prick* (6. v. 刺) her finger on a spinning *wheel* (7. n. 纺车) and die!" Without another word she turned and left the castle.

Everyone was terror-struck, but the twelfth fairy, whose wish was still unspoken, rushed to Rosamond. She could not cancel the curse, but could only soften it, so she said: "My gift is this; you will not die, but fall into a deep sleep that will be ended by the promise of true love."

The King was so anxious to guard his dear daughter from the misfortune that he sent out a command that all the *spindles* (8. n. 纺锤) in the whole kingdom should be burned.

Years passed and each day Rosamond grew to be

more wonderful, just as the fairies had promised. Rosamond was so sweet, modest, kind, gentle, clever and beautiful that everyone who knew her could not but love her.

On the eve of her sixteenth birthday, the King and Queen were away from home and Rosamond was left quite alone in the castle. So she wandered about over the whole place, looking at rooms and halls as she liked to do. At last she came upon a staircase which wound up into an old tower. In a small room, at the top of the tower sat a gentle looking old woman at a spinning wheel. She was spinning the most delicate, shimmering thread Rosamond had ever seen.

“Hello,” said Rosamond. “What are you doing?”

“I am just spinning,” the woman answered with a sly smile.

Rosamond did not realize that the old woman was really Mordra in disguise, and she was not aware of the danger she was in. Curious, she reached out her hand to touch the wheel and said, “Oh, please let me try.”

But she had scarcely touched it before the curse (9. n. 咒语) was fulfilled. Rosamond pricked her finger upon the spindle of the wheel and spilled a single drop of blood. As Mordra laughed wickedly, Rosamond fell down and lay still in a deep sleep.

As a part of the evil fairy's *spell* (10. n. 咒语), a deep sleep also fell over the whole castle. The King and Queen, who had just come home and had stepped into

the hall, went to sleep, and all their courtiers with them. The horses went to sleep in the stable, the dogs in the yard, the doves on the roof, the flies on the wall; even the fire flickering on the *hearth* (11. n. 炉边) grew still and went to sleep, and the roast meat stopped *crackling* (12. v. 发出噼啪声). The cook fell asleep as he stirred the big pot of soup on the hearth, and the guards all *snored* (13. v. 打鼾) loudly at their posts.

Mordra was angry that her plan had been altered, caused a thick *hedge* (14. n. 树篱) of razor-sharp *thorns* (15. n. 荆棘) to surround the castle. "Let the promise of true love pass through that!" she cried.

Round the castle, the hedge began to grow up, every year it grew higher, till at last it surrounded the whole castle so that nothing could be seen of it, not even the flags on the roof.

There was a legend in the land about the lovely Sleeping Beauty, who was placed on a special bed by fairies as she lay in magical *slumber* (16. n. 睡眠). From time to time, many young men came and tried to force a way through the hedge into the castle. They found it impossible, for the thorns, as though they had hands, held them fast, and the young men remained caught in them without being able to free themselves, and so many of them died a miserable death.

Many years later, a prince from a faraway land heard the story of the Sleeping Beauty. He also knew

from his grandfather, that many young men had already come and tried but none had managed to reach Rosamond, and some had died a sad death.

But Prince Evan was a bold and adventurous young man, and something about the story seemed to stir him inside. He didn't know why, but he felt sure that he must try to find this princess. Though his grandfather did all in his power to dissuade him, the prince would not listen to his words and set off at once.

After many days of hard riding, Evan came to the thorny hedge. As he reached out to push away a branch, flowers burst forth from every part of the hedge, and the branches parted to make a path.

Evan rushed into the courtyard. To his amazement, every living thing in the castle was fast asleep. Around the snoring guards, past the sleeping King and Queen, up the tower stairs he ran. At the top, he found Rosamond asleep on her bed.

Evan was *dazzled* (17. v. 使眼花繚亂) by Rosamond's beauty. He knelt down and gently kissed her cheek. Rosamond's eyes opened, and the first thing she saw was the face of the prince. "You have broken the spell," she said, "and in you I see the promise of true love."

Then they went down together and walked through the castle. All the sleepers stirred as they passed by. The King and Queen woke up, and all the courtiers awoke, and looked at each other with astonished eyes.

The horses in the stable stood up and shook themselves, the dogs leaped about and wagged their tails, the doves on the roof lifted their heads from under their wings, looked around, and flew into the fields; the flies on the walls began to crawl again, the fire in the kitchen roused itself and blazed up and cooked the food, the meat began to crackle, the cook began to stir his pot again. And best of all, in time it was shown that the twelfth fairy's gift did indeed come to pass, for Rosamond and Prince Evan found true love together.

Exercises

I. Comprehension Questions:

1. What was the King and Queen's wish?
2. Why did the King and Queen order a great feast?
3. Who were invited to attend the party?
4. What mistake was made before the party?
5. What happened before the twelfth fairy was about to present her gift?
6. What was the twelfth fairy's gift?
7. What happened on the eve of Rosamond's sixteenth birthday?
8. Who went into the castle and made the twelfth fairy's wish become true?
9. What did Rosamond say after she opened her eyes and saw the Prince?
10. What happened to the other living things in the castle after Evan and Rosamond passed by?

I . Translation from English into Chinese :

1. The King was so anxious to guard his dear daughter from the misfortune that he sent out a command that all the spindles in the whole kingdom should be burned.
2. But she had scarcely touched it before the curse was fulfilled.
3. There was a legend in the land about the lovely Sleeping Beauty, who was placed on a special bed by fairies as she lay in magical slumber.
4. Then they went down together and walked through the castle. All the sleepers stirred as they passed by.

II . Discussion Topics :

1. Why is the story told and retold generation after generation?
2. What do you think of the evil fairy and can you find some adjectives to describe her?

Key to the Exercises

I . Comprehension Questions :

1. They wished that they would have a child.
2. Because they were very happy to have a lovely daughter at last and hoped that all people would treat her kindly.
3. Their relatives, friends, acquaintances and thirteen fairies.
4. One invitation was mislaid.

5. Mordra, most powerful of all the fairies, went in angrily and called down a curse that Rosamond would prick her finger on a spinning wheel and die before she was sixteen.
6. She said that Rosamond would not die, but she would fall into a deep sleep which would be ended by the promise of true love.
7. Mordra's evil curse was fulfilled and Rosamond pricked her finger with the spindle, as soon as she felt the prick she fell into a deep sleep.
8. Prince Evan.
9. She said, "You have broken the spell, and in you I see the promise of true love."
10. All of them awoke.

I. Translation from English into Chinese:

1. 国王非常担心他的爱女会遭受不幸,下令烧掉全国所有的纺锤。
2. 而她的手几乎还没碰到纺锤,咒语就灵验了。
3. 全国到处传说,一个可爱的美人着魔沉睡后,被仙女放到一张特制的床上了。
4. 然后,他们一起走下来,穿过城堡。他们的脚步声唤醒了所有沉睡的人。

2 The Birthday Of the Infanta

(England)

It was the birthday of the *Infanta* (l. n. 西班牙的公主), the daughter of the King of Spain. She was just twelve years old, and the sun was shining brightly on the garden of the palace. The little princess was playing with her friends in the garden. From a window in the palace the sad king watched her. He was sadder than usual today because, as he looked at the Infanta, he saw how like her mother she was. He thought of the young queen, her mother, who had come from France. She died soon after she gave birth to her child. She did not see the beautiful flowers in the garden or eat the fruit from the fruit trees which grew round the courtyard.

He had loved her so much that he did not want to bury her body in earth, so her body which was made to remain fresh as it was in life lay in the small church of the palace. Once every month the king went there and knelt by her side calling out, "My queen! My queen!"

Today the king seemed to see his queen again just as he had seen her first in the palace of the King of France. At that time he was fifteen years old, and she was not much older than the Infanta today. They were engaged to each other, and later they were married and