



READING AMERICAN LITERATURE

# 美国文学阅读教程

程爱民 主编



南京师范大学出版社

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南京师范大学出版社出版发行

(江苏南京宁海路 122 号 邮编 210097)

江苏省新华书店经销 江苏淮安文教印刷厂印刷

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开本 850×1168 毫米 1/32 印张 18.5 字数 530 千

1996 年 8 月第 1 版 1996 年 8 月第 1 次印刷

印数 1—4000

ISBN7-81047-054-X/H·5

定价:20.00 元

(南京师大版图书若有印、装错误可向承印厂退换)

## 编写说明

《美国文学阅读教程》是在我国改革开放和高等教育飞速发展的形势下,根据教学实际需要编写的一种新型教材,也是一本阅读美国文学的入门书籍。

根据有关资料,我国目前已有 150 多所院校开设了英语专业,其中有相当一部分是外经外贸类、理工类或农业、林业、医科、航空和航海类院校。现在,有许多英语专业的学生选修“美国文学”课程并非为了系统地学习美国文学和美国文学史,而是为了了解美国文化、增强自己的阅读理解能力,提高自身的文学修养和欣赏水平。因此,那种传统的以文学史为框架的美国文学教材已不能满足学生的多层次的需要。有鉴于此,我们借鉴了国内外美国文学研究领域里的最新成果以及文学教科书的编写方法,编写了《美国文学阅读教程》这本教材。其主要特点如下:

一、本教材以文学体裁为框架,精选美国文学名家名作,注重可读性、代表性和文化内涵,辅以文学基本知识,如文学体裁、文学术语、文学批评、创作方法、阅读技巧等,注意提高学生的学习兴趣,注重培养学生的语言理解和表达能力、提高学生的文学修养和欣赏水平。

二、为提高学生的英文阅读、理解能力,本教材用英文编写。注释侧重文化背景知识、语言难点和选文关键之处。一般常用词典(如《新英汉词典》、《现代高级英汉双解词典》等)上可查到的均不注,以培养学生独立工作的能力。

三、每种文学类型的前面冠有一篇 Introduction,对此文学类型作一总体介绍。

四、每个单元包括:作家(作品)简介、选文、注释、讨论题、文学知识、阅读书目等。

五、选材长度:Poetry 部分以短诗为主;Novel, Short Story,

Drama, Biography and Autobiography, Essay, Speech 部分, 每篇作品控制在 3000 词左右。个别作品因内容情节需要稍短或稍长。

六、为了便于那些想系统地了解美国文学和美国文学史的学生们的学习, 本教材除了在书中有关部分提供了一些美国文学史方面的知识之外, 还采用了那种“anthologies within an anthology”的编写方法, 在 Contents 之后增设了根据文学史编排的 Alternate Table of Contents, 使得本教材具有多种用途。

本书书名已经点明了全书的两个侧重点: 阅读和美国文学。所以这本教材既适用于选修“美国文学”课程的学生, 也适用于那些想提高自己的英语水平的学生。因此, 本书不仅是大学英语专业学生的必备教材, 而且也是函授、夜大、自学考试学生以及其他外语学习者的理想读物。

参加本书个别章节编写的还有文楚安教授、王正文副教授和徐劲、胡碧媛等同志。美国专家 Edwin McAlister 和 Susan MacAlister 博士审阅了本书绝大部分初稿, 在此一并致谢。限于水平, 本书在编写中肯定存在着一些缺点和不足之处, 望不吝指正。

编者  
1996.3

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# POETRY

## INTRODUCTION

### POETRY IN THE UNITED STATES

Although poetry is one of the oldest forms of literature, it was almost two centuries before a really fine poem was written on the New Continent after the first settlement of the Puritans in the beginning of the 16th century. There had been much writing of verse in the Colonial Period and the Period of Revolution, but it lacked the sophistication and charm which constitute good poetry. Therefore, there were not many good poems before the 17th century.

The first great wave of poetry came in the first half of the 19th century with the works of William Cullen Bryant. Upon its crest rode Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, John G. Whittier, Oliver W. Holmes, and James R. Lowell. Even Emerson and Thoreau, the two great Transcendentalists, whose greatest messages were given in prose, contributed their share in poetry. Edgar Allan Poe, who stood in isolation and whose genius, originality and eccentricity are now known worldwide, added his name to American poetry in this period.

To a great extent, the period from around the Civil War time to the end of the 19th century was an age of prose. However, two of the greatest American poets lived in this period: Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson. Only the voice of the former was heard then, while the latter's poems seem to belong to the 20th century rather than to the 19th.