

READING OF THE WEST

欧美风 英语阅读丛书

班荣学 赵荣 编

感受生活

西北大学出版社

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内容简介

本书是《欧美风·英语阅读丛书》之一，所选29篇文章全部源自英美畅销报刊，如 *TIME*, *PEOPLE*, *NEWS WEEK* 等，内容有在生命攸关之际表现人类亲情的《危难时刻》、《第二次生命》，有记叙体坛健儿战胜病魔重返赛场的《再上征程》，有抨击时弊的《道歉的代价》，亦有展现人性真、善、美的《亲情似海深》、《玩偶的故事》、《人间真情》，以及其他涉及科技发展、社会生活、个人奋斗等内容的文章。

所选文章兼具知识性、趣味性、可读性强的特点，并采用文前加导读、文后加注释的方法，可为读者流利阅读提供帮助。

编辑的话

改革开放 20 年来，英语学习一直是一个在青年学生中经久不衰的热门话题。世界上恐怕没有一个国家像中国这样有那么多人投入那么大精力和那么多时间去学习英语，那么效果如何呢？如果你要问在校大学生他们最怵的功课是什么？90% 的人会毫不犹豫、异口同声地回答：英语。英语困扰过或正在困扰着多少中国人，天知道！

在不断升级的英语学习浪潮中，教育界、出版界的朋友们也在不遗余力地推波助澜。20 年来，我国的英语教学取得了很大成绩，但也存在着应试教学的误区。我们的学生很容易接受教科书，却难以读懂当代的英语原文报纸杂志。出版界亦出版了以天文数字计算的英语教材、辅导读物及其它英语类图书，在各种图书展销会、订货会、各届书市上，若以类别来排行畅销书，英语类图书总是榜上有名。这是不是说广大

英语学习者就能找到适合自己的英语书呢？回答是“**No**”——不能尽如人意。

基于此，我们决定编辑一套英语阅读丛书。我们决定将反映西方的社会文化生活作为丛书的切入点，并以阅读英语原版文章的形式来体现。丛书精选了英语国家（主要是英美）多种畅销报纸杂志上的若干篇文章，文章多角度多方位地反映了欧美国家人民的精神追求、社会发展、文化生活和价值观念，具有鲜明的时代与社会特征。在选材上重点反映西方社会文化生活，选材范围涉及社会生活的各个方面，选择有代表性的社会事件、人物、普通人的平常事，多数人关注的话题。如现代科技方面涉及的内容有环保问题、太空探险、网络文化、微软风波等；社会生活方面关注青少年犯罪、单亲家庭、刑事案件、枪械泛滥等；西方文化方面则主要反映人们对理想的追求、与东方传统文化完全不同的价值观、道德观和人生观，亦包括个人自强不息、努力奋斗的内容，其中有人熟悉的电影明星、牛仔歌手、体坛精英，更有人不甚熟悉的普通人物，他们用自己的行动谱写了一曲曲感人的不屈不挠、力求上进的个人奋斗史。文章选材上注重通俗性和大众化，而摒弃猎奇似的奇闻轶事之类。文章难易程度适合大学生的英语水平，要求读者能读懂文章大意，即能理解80%的内容即可。

为便于读者阅读，我们在每篇文章前用数百字汉

语概括出文章大意，在文后注释生词、短语、不易理解的句子，以帮助读者理解文章内容。这种方法解决了潜在的阅读困难，消除了读者对原作品的怯生感，从而缩短了读者与原作者之间的距离，排除了读者跨文化交流的心理障碍。这种作法在选材时不受语言水平的限制，又丝毫不损伤或改变原作品语言所具有的“原汁原味”的风格。完整地再现了本族语使用者所惯用的词汇、句式、结构和言语风格。同时也解决了读者在欣赏原文时所面临的阅读能力低和知识志趣高两者不相匹配的矛盾。让读者在接触、感受地道英语的表达、交流中去轻轻松松地领略英美国家的风土人情、风俗习惯，了解他们的生活方式，思维方式和处世方法。窥视他们的人生观、道德观和价值观。通过语言了解文化，通过对文化的认识，加深对语言的理解。

这套丛书的起名还颇费了一番周折。最初入选的有四五个名字，经过再三斟酌推敲，考虑到这套丛书是从社会生活面切入，目的在于给读者营造一个流利阅读英语原文的语言氛围。那么作为展示和传统中国文化截然不同的西方文明的读物，应以能体现欧美主流社会的生活风貌为命名原则，我们总编认为，以《欧美风》作为丛书名来概括为宜，意欲使读者感受到纯正的欧美气息。

我们编辑该丛书的目的在于通过阅读英语原版

报刊文章，提高读者的英语阅读能力。试图通过英语阅读这扇窗口，展示给读者英语阅读的乐趣，使读者从阅读英文中去了解欧美社会，了解西方文化，在阅读中获取信息，提高英语水平。同时在愉快的没有任何心理负担的心境下学习英语。就像许多人习惯在临睡前看几页书、翻几张报纸那样，每天翻阅一会儿《欧美风》丛书，读两三篇英语文章，坚持一年半，你必有收获。你不必担心文章后有若干道阅读理解题需要你回答，你也不必担心文章后有若干道选择题需要你去画勾，你只要能读懂文章大意即可，你只要通过阅读获取了知识即可——这便是阅读的目的，亦是我们编辑此书的初衷。

虽然从事编辑工作已十年有余，但我们很少用“编辑的话”这种方式直接与读者进行交流，编辑工作“为人做嫁”的特性使我们习惯于将一本本书默默奉献给读者。今天所说的“编辑的话”既有我们作为编辑的体会，亦有我们同是英语学习者的心得。但愿这不是多余的话。希望这套丛书对每一位读者都有所帮助。

责任编辑

1998.8.25

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The Best Places To Raise A Family

感受生活

通过调查和民意测验力求寻找到最好的生活环境，本文作者得出结论：人们所追求的“最佳安居的地方”实际上正是我们自己的生活所在地。一切都存在于我们的身边、我们的行动中。如果人类都能够努力地改善人与人、人与大自然的关系，任何地方都会成为安居乐业，生儿育女的好地方。

The Best Places To Raise A Family

We listened to the experts: parents themselves.

Where's the best place to raise a family? Working with the Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, Reader's Digest polled parents across the country about factors affecting family life.

They told us their most important requirements for a family-friendly area—an absence of crime, low rates of drug and alcohol abuse[®], good public schools, first-rate health care and a clean environment. Then came an affordable cost of living and strong economic growth.

These factors were weighted, based on the importance that parents gave them. Then they were stacked up against[®] statistical and demographic[®] portraits of 301 metropolitan[®] areas, large and small, throughout the country. Using measurable, uniform indicators—such as FBI[®] crime data, per-capita income growth[®] and EPA[®] air-quality ratings—we ranked each area.

The metropolitan areas we compared are the same standard geographical divisions used for national statistical surveys. These metro areas include city and suburban neigh-

borhoods and sometimes even neighboring cities and towns. None is without problems. But places that achieved high overall scores in our survey are places that can provide what parents want the most for their families.

The top cities may surprise you for their mix of size, location and disparate ambiance®. Winners were scattered across the country from coast to coast. Most of the top ten were in the northern tier—no “sunny paradise” climates. Smaller is beautiful, says the survey; six of the top ten places have populations of less than 250,000. But two major metropolitan areas, with million-plus populations, also made the top ten.

After analyzing the survey data, The Digest sent an editorial team out to the top ten metro areas to hear from local parents themselves. We found that if any one thread runs through the fabric of all these places, large and small, it is the golden one called “community”—the concerned neighbors, active churches and community groups that stand behind safe streets, strong schools and thriving towns.

Here's a closer look:

1. Sheboygan, Wisconsin

“We consider Sheboygan a secret haven,” says Ann Scharrer, 39, a mother of four. Just 50 miles north of Milwaukee, it is a secret no longer.

The town that scored No. 1 overall got especially high marks for its affordable cost of living and extracurricular

school activities. "It's easy to live here, easy to get a job, easy to have someone watch your kid," says Joe Gulig, city editor of the Sheboygan Press. Frank Kolenc, 78, who recently retired after 52 years at a nearby foundry®, explains: "If kids get themselves in trouble, someone is going to see it and tell their parents."

Sheboyganites may take such an active interest in their children because people put down deep multigenerational roots. Many families in town are third-or fourth-generation descendants of German and Dutch immigrants who came in the 19th century and stayed. Today, a healthy economy and pleasant life-style keep many young people in the area — 28 percent of the population is 20 or younger; 66 percent is under 45.

Neighborhoods in this city of 51,000 are filled with well-kept homes. Supermarket shoppers leave their car doors unlocked. Preteens® walk home alone after dark from soccer or hockey games. And though Sheboygan faced some rough economic times in the late '70s and early '80s, unemployment is a microscopic two percent, thanks to the city's many light industries.

2. Kenosha, Wisconsin

When Ruben Silguero came to Kenosha looking for a job as a police man, the chief of police personally waived® the residency requirement so that Silguero could "get a few paychecks under my belt " in order to bring his wife and two

small kids from Chicago, an hour's drive to the south. "Kenosha gave me a home when I had nothing except the stuff I packed in my truck." Silguero says.

Cassell Lawson, a vice president at Kenosha's Gateway Technical College, explains: "Kenoshans like to see good things happen, and they work at it." Signs remind everyone to "Keep Kenosha Clean," and this tidy Lake Michigan city of 84,000 really means it. A youth group even has a "graffiti SWAT team[®]" that removes graffiti free of charge.

Kenosha's biggest resource, says Rev. Olen Arrington of the Second Baptist Church, "is its community spirit and its people." On the day Orville Johnson, who is white, moved to Kenosha, his first visitor was a black neighbor. "He introduced himself and offered the use of his lawn mower[®]," Johnson says. Over the next, 13 years, "we watched one another's children grow and were there for each other whenever someone needed a hand."

Eric Koster, father of two, remembers the way his neighbors pitched in when his mother was dying of cancer. "People would cook for her, clean, run errands[®]," he says. "It seemed like she was part of everyone's family, not just ours."

3. Fort Collins-Loveland, Colorado

"I hate to advertise this as a great place to live, but we love it," says United Parcel Service driver David Nelson, 32, as he cheers his 11-year-old son's soccer team at a large in-