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STORIES FROM
ENGLISH HISTORY

英國歷史故事

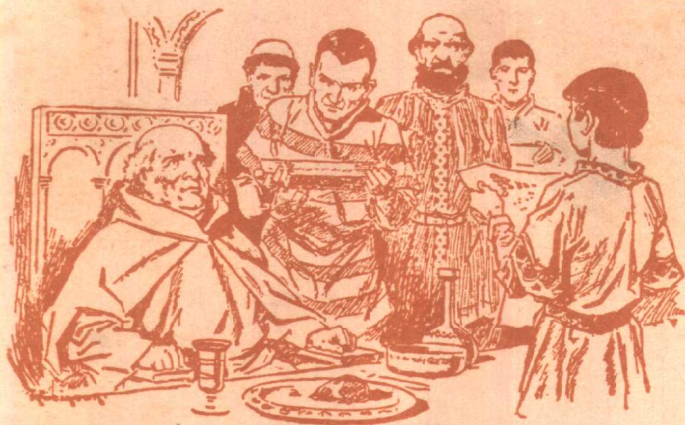
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編註：王 渝 安

福西特

700 WORD LEVEL

700 常用字範圍



遠東圖書公司

INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH SIDE READERS

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STORIES FROM
ENGLISH HISTORY

Told by

L. W. and M. G M FAUCETT

700 WORD LEVEL

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編輯要旨

1. 本叢書共選出日常用字1500字，均屬說話、書寫、閱讀及兒童讀物中出現率（word frequency）極高之基本字彙。
2. 本叢書分爲十五冊，第一冊以日常用字100字爲度，第二冊以200字爲度，以此類推至第十五冊，日常用字即達1500字。
3. 本叢書內容包括童話、寓言、故事、戲劇、文學名著等，各種文體俱備。
4. 本叢書每冊皆附有生字表及成語註釋，以便查閱。
5. 本叢書每冊後均附有練習，以供讀者自修。
6. 凡注有星號（*）之字爲超出1500字範圍以外者，書中均以插圖或文字解釋。

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This book is a Side Reader to be read with any series. It is written in simple but idiomatic language suitable for reading during the *third* year of learning English or thereafter.

Words outside the 700 WORD LEVEL are starred (*), and illustrated or explained in the text.

MASTER THE 700 WORD LEVEL.

THEN READ THE STORIES QUICKLY WITHOUT TRANSLATION TILL YOU ARE READING EASILY.

THEN GO ON TO THE 800 WORD LEVEL.



KING ALFRED AND THE BEGGAR

1. *Fighting against the Danes*

At the time when King Alfred was ruling England, a king had to be a *soldier¹ quite as much as a ruler.

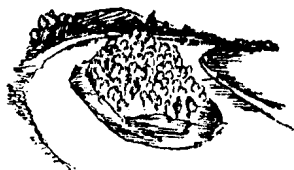
The Danes, a brave and strong people, had come from Denmark, over the *sea,² and were fighting against the English. They had so many soldiers and they were such great fighters that they drove the English back. When the English, after long and hard fighting, were driven back, each man had to save himself in the best way he could.

Even King Alfred had to hide from the Danes in a forest nearby. There the King had to beg for food and a place to sleep.

After several days the King and the few soldiers

1 See p. 6. 2 See p. 9. for a picture.

who were with him came to a *river in which there was a small *island. They went over to this island and lay hidden there for a long time, living on any food they could find, or catch and kill.



2. A Beggar comes to the Island

One day, when his men were away catching fish, King Alfred was sitting sadly by his door. A poor beggar came to the house, asking for food. The King received him kindly, called one of his soldiers, and asked him how much food there was. The man went into the house and soon came back, saying that a small piece of bread and some milk were all that they had.

Then said King Alfred, 'Give half the bread and half the milk to this poor old man. His need is greater than ours.' When the beggar heard the King say this, he took the bread and milk, and thanked the King from the bottom of his heart. Then he sat down silently on the ground by the door to eat this simple meal.

3. King Alfred talks with the Beggar

Alfred's mind was very heavy and sad because he had not been able to save his people. Thinking that the beggar might have seen something of the Danes, he began asking him questions. He asked how the Danes were treating the poor English people. He spoke of his true soldiers and friends, and told how they had followed him through the

forests to this little island.' 'When the time comes,' he said, 'I shall call all my men together, and we shall go out and drive the Danes into the sea.'

The old beggar sat silently, hearing all that King Alfred had to say. Then he stood up, thanked the King again, and went on his way.

When the men who had been fishing arrived back, they had caught more fish than on any other day since they came to the island; and so they and the King were more cheerful and hopeful than they were before the beggar had come.

4. *King Alfred's Dream*

That night, when King Alfred lay down on his bed, he couldn't sleep, because in his troubled mind he kept thinking of the old beggar and things the old beggar had told him. At last he thought he saw a strange light, almost as bright as the sun. He was surprised, and lay there looking at it. There, in the light, he saw an old man standing, holding an open book in his hand.

Of course the King must have gone to sleep and imagined this in a dream; yet it seemed real enough to the King.

Alfred was not afraid, but looked at the old man, and said, 'Who are you?'

'I'm the poor beggar to whom you gave half your bread and milk today,' answered the old man in the light.

'What do you want?' asked Alfred.

'I've come to help you as you helped me. Remember well all I'm going to tell you. Tomorrow,

as soon as the sun is up, call your men together and tell them what you have seen and heard to-night. Then go across the river and blow your *horn so loudly that the Danes will hear you. By the time that the morning is past, you will have



hundreds of your soldiers at your side, ready for you to lead them against the Danes. Go into the fight bravely. Within seven days the Danes will be driven out of England and the country will be yours once more.'

As the old man finished speaking, the light went out, and Alfred saw it no more.

5. The Attack against the Danes

The next day, before the sun was up, Alfred was out of bed and dressed, ready to do as the old man had told him. He called his soldiers to him to tell them of his dream. The soldiers, when they

heard the words of the old man, became cheerful once more, and ran to prepare themselves. In their hearts was a new hope. They believed that they were going to free their country and make Alfred ruler of all England.

Going across the river, King Alfred and his men came once more into the forest. There he took out his horn and blew it three times. Soon the news spread and soldiers were seen, arriving from all sides, leaving their hiding-places to come to their king. By nine o'clock, Alfred had more than five hundred men behind him. When they were all gathered together there, he told them of his dream.

Then he blew his horn again and led the way through the forest toward the Danes. As he went, other followers came until by twelve o'clock the King believed that he had enough men to attack the Danes.

When the Danes heard the noise of the horn blowing in the forest and saw the English soldiers coming against them, they were filled with fear. Since they had fought the English, they had done no hard work, but had passed their time eating and drinking, forgetting that they might have to fight again.

The English went bravely forward. After a hard fight, they drove the Danes back. Within a short time they had driven all of them out of England.

After the Danes had gone back to their own country, King Alfred once more ruled over England, and there was peace everywhere for many years.

KING CANUTE AND THE SEA

(*The King is walking by the seaside, talking with some of his friends and followers.*)

1st Friend. O King, England has never had so great a king as you!

2nd Friend. You know our hearts so well. There is not a man in all England who would not lay down his life for you.

1st Friend. You are not only a king but a leader. In time of war and in time of peace you are a leader of men greater than we have ever had before.

2nd Friend. The whole world honors you and is ready to follow you because you are so brave and strong.

1st Friend. In the past there has never been so great a king. Your words make the sun shine and the winds blow. If you spoke, even the sea would have to stop to listen. It would not dare to disobey.

Canute. Men, you say these things only because you think I'll be pleased and give you a higher place or a gift of land. Have you no shame?

1st Friend. No, O King. We say these things because they are true.

Canute. Is it really true that I am the greatest ruler in the world?

2nd Friend. It is perfectly true!

Canute. Is it also the truth that men in every

part of the world honor me as a great leader?

1st Friend. The whole world honors you and calls you King!

Canute. Will the wild sea obey my voice and stop driving against the land if I order it to stand still?



2nd Friend. It will, O King.

Canute. Then I'll stand where I am and order it to go back. I'm tired of your talk. I'll soon prove whether your sweet words are true or not. O Sea, I order that you come no nearer me. I am King Canute! My men tell me that the sun and the wind and the wild sea will obey my voice. It is my wish that your waters shall not wet my feet.

(The sea keeps moving toward the dry land. The waters run ever nearer and nearer the King and wet his feet.)

Stop, O waters of the sea, stop! Do you dare disobey me. Don't you hear the voice of King Canute ordering that you come no nearer?

(The waters continue to move toward the King, hurrying over and covering his feet. The followers of the King run back in anxiety and fear.)

Men, see how the sea comes on! Am I the ruler of the sea?



*(He takes off his *crown and throws it into the waters.)*

I shall never wear that crown again. This is a lesson to me, my men, and you should be ashamed. It proves I'm only a man, and no man may rule the sea. There is only one King over all of us. He is God, who rules the wild sea, the sun, and the wind. Night and day come and go by His laws. We should call Him King.



WILLIAM I AND HIS THREE SONS

1. *King William and the Two Wise Men*

(King William of England is seen sitting by an open fire, thinking; near him are two old men, whom he likes to have by him because they are known to be wise.)

1st Old Man. What is troubling you, O King? What makes your face so full of sadness?

King William. I'm thinking about my three sons.

2nd Old Man. You have nothing to be troubled about in those fine sons. They are all strong and brave.

King William. I know that's true. But will they stay strong after my death? When I die, if they are not strong and brave rulers, they'll never be able to keep peace in these wide lands, which I

have won. This is my chief anxiety.

1st Old Man. Which of your sons do you wish to be king after you?

King William. I can't tell you that now, because I don't know which of them would be the best king.

2nd Old Man. I know one way of learning what kind of men they are. Shall I tell you my plan?

King William. If you're certain it's a way of deciding which of my sons shall rule England after my death, by all means tell me the plan.

2nd Old Man. It is this. If we can discover what things each one especially cares for, we can then easily decide which will be the best ruler.

King William. Your plan is a good one, my wise friend. I'll send for my sons to appear before us, one at a time, and you shall question them, to find out what each cares most for.

2. *The Same Place. A Short Time Afterward*

King William. You shall first question my son Robert. He's tall and proud, and rather likes to do things in his own way. Here he comes. (*Robert arrives before them.*) Robert, we have a question to ask you.

Prince Robert. I'll answer any questions you ask, Father.

King William. Now, my wise friend, what's your question?

Old Man. *Prince¹ Robert, this is my question. If, instead of a boy, it pleased God to make you a bird, what bird would you rather be?

Prince Robert. Let me think before I answer you. Ah, I know. I would choose to be a *hawk rather than any other bird that flies.

Old Man. A hawk, you say. And why do you say a hawk?

Prince Robert. Because a hawk is strong and brave, and because it makes me think of gentlemen and ladies and of fighting.



King William. Is that the only question you wish to ask my son Robert?

Old Man. Yes, it is. I am satisfied.

King William. Go now, Robert, and send in to me your brother William.

3. The Old Man and Prince William

King William. Ah, William, come here and stand by me. I wish you to answer a question which my wise old friend will ask.

Prince William. Certainly, father, what is it?

King William. Ask him your question, my friend.

Old Man. Prince William, this question which I'm going to ask you may seem an easy one, but I hope you will think it over very carefully before answering it.

Prince William. I will, sir.

Old Man. Fair young sir, if it pleased God by

1 Prince = the son of a King.

chance to make you a bird instead of a boy, which bird would you choose to be?

Prince William. Let me think. A bird, you say? Well, that's easily answered.

King William. Think carefully, my son, before you decide. This is a matter of great importance.

Prince William. But I can answer that at once, Father. I'd rather be an *eagle than any other bird that flies.



Old Man. An eagle! Why do you say an eagle?

Prince William. Because it is a strong bird which is feared by other birds. Isn't it the King of all things that fly?

King William. Is that all you wish to ask him, my wise friend?

Old Man. That's all. I have learned what I wished to learn. I am satisfied.

King William. Now go, my son, and send in your brother Henry.

4. The Old Man and Prince Henry

Prince Henry. Good evening, Father. My brother William tells me that you wish to see me.

King William. Yes, my son. We wish to ask you a question. Answer it truthfully and carefully, because much can be won or lost by your answer.

Prince Henry. I will do as you say, Father.

King William. My wise friend here will ask the question.