

University Reader

大学生读书计划



# 沈从文小说选

## Selected Stories by Shen Congwen

English-Chinese • Gems of Chinese Literature • *Modern*

英汉对照 • 中国文学宝库 • 现代文学系列

沈从文 著  
Shen Congwen

中国文学出版社  
Chinese Literature Press

外语教学与研究出版社  
Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press

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## 大学生读书计划

——中国文学宝库出版呼吁

在即将开机印刷这第一批 50 本名为中国文学宝库的英汉对照读本时，我们的心情竟然忧多于喜。因为我们只能以保守的 5000 册印数，去面对全国 400 万在校大学生。

虽然我们并非市场经济的局外者，若仅为印数（销售量）计，大可奋起而去生产诸如 TOFEL 应试指南，或者英语四六级模拟试题集一类的教辅图书，但我们还是决定宁可冒着债台高筑的风险，也有责任对大学生同胞发出一声亲切的呼唤：请亲近我们的中国文学。

身为向世界译介中国文学和向国内出版外语读物的，具有双重责任的出版社，我们得知目前大学生往往仅注重外语的学习而偏废了母语的提高，以及忽视了中国文学的阅读，放弃了人文知识的训练。有统计表明，某理工院校 57% 的同学不曾读过《红楼梦》等四大名著，以致校园内外流行着“样子像研究生，说话像大学生，作文像中学生，写字像小学生”的幽默。还有一副这样的对联，说大学生的文章是“无错不成文，病句错句破残句，句句不堪入目；有误方为篇，别字错字自造学，字字触目惊心”，横批“斯文扫地”。作为未来社会中坚和整个社会发展关键力量的大学生，这种“文弃”现象的流行，势必导致一场人文精神危机的爆发。对照以科学与人文精神追求为主题的五四新文化运动，八十年的历程告诉我们，以上提醒绝非危言耸听。

我们已经迈入知识经济时代，在追求科学知识的同时，创新精神已成为关键；而创新的源泉其实有赖于多学科多领域知识的交融，依靠的是新型的复合型人才，所以，文学对于新一代

的大学生来说绝非装点,而是沟通自然科学与人文科学的桥梁,使我们在汲取知识的同时更能获得智慧,于创造物质的同时还进一步丰富和完善着精神;无怪乎爱因斯坦认为自己受影响最大的竟是陀思妥耶夫斯基。由此证明,一个真正的科学家应该拥有丰富的文学和文化知识以及完整的人格。十年前,七十五位诺贝尔奖得主聚会巴黎,当时他们所发表的宣言开篇就是,“如果人类要在 21 世纪生存下去,必须回首 2500 年去吸收孔子的智慧。”确实,十年的时间让我们有目共睹,现代经济科技的飞速发展何尝不是一柄双刃的剑?只有文化的力量才能抵消随之而来的负面后果。可见,知识的获取与技能的训练对于大学生来说固然重要,但文化与修养却尤需关切。正因为大学生代表着社会先知先觉的知识力量,置身当前的文化现实,就应有一分责任感与使命感,力求对知识技能以外许多带有根本性质的精神追求形成明确的意识,从而具备一种对生命意义进行探索与追问的精神,一种以人文精神为背景的生存勇气和人格力量。那么,能够引导我们探索前行的一盏明灯,不就是闪烁着理想光芒的不朽的文学名著吗?

一个人乃至一个民族,从其对文学的亲疏态度,可以衡量出其文化素质的程度。文学应是从人类文化中升华出的理想的结晶,她“使人的心灵变得高尚,使人的勇气、荣誉感、希望、尊严、同情心、怜悯心和牺牲精神复活起来”(威廉·福克纳);无疑,只有文学才能从更高的层次上提升人的文化素质和整体素质,充实人的内心世界,焕发人的精神风貌,带给人们真善美。而亲近文学,特别是热爱祖国灿烂的文学以及文化,正是当代中国大学生加强文化修养,弘扬人文精神的有力脚步。

“越是民族的,就越是世界的”,中国文学属于中国,也属于世界。和平是人类的共同愿望,交流与共享则是新世纪的潮流。

中国当代大学生的血液里流动着数千年的文化积淀,没有理由在让世界了解中国大学生聪明才智的同时,却无缘分享我们的骄傲——中国大学生不但能够读懂英语的莎士比亚,而且能让世界感动于中国文学的伟大。

这是我们作为出版者的理想。我们原有一个世纪礼物的构想,是同大学生一起做一个“读书计划”。这一次将中国文学的最新荟萃配设高水平的英语译文,是其中推荐给新世纪大学生的第一批读物。盼望着您——我们无数知音中的 5000 名先来者,给我们鼓励,也给我们意见和批评。

**编者**

一九九九年五月三十日

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只有文学才能从更高的层次上提升人的文化素质和整体素质,充实人的内心世界,焕发人的精神风貌,带给人们真善美。而亲近文学,特别是热爱祖国灿烂的文学以及文化,正是当代中国大学生加强文化修养,弘扬人文精神的有力脚步。

## The Border Town

### 1

The highway running east from Sichuan to Hunan comes, just west of the border, to Chatong, a small town in the hills. Nearby a stream flows past a small pagoda, at the foot of which lives a solitary household: an old man, a girl and a dog.

The stream winds down three *li* or so through the rocks to join the big river at Chatong, and once you cross the water it is only one *li* over the hills to the town. Since the channel curves like a bow, the path through the hills, like a bowstring, is slightly shorter. The stream bed, some twenty feet wide, is made up of boulders. In places the quiet waters are too deep for a pole to reach the bottom, yet so clear that you can count the fish swimming there. The water level fluctuates considerably, and while there is no money to build a bridge a ferry has been provided, a barge which holds about twenty men and horses — more than that and it has to make a second trip. A movable iron hoop is attached to a bamboo post in the bow while a hawser spans the stream. To cross, all you need do is slip the hoop over the hawser and pull yourself slowly to the other side. As the boat nears the bank, the ferryman with a shout of "Steady, now!" leaps ashore holding the hoop; then passengers

# 边 城

由四川过湖南去，靠东有一条官路。这官路将近湘西边境到了一个地方名为“茶峒”的小山城时，有一小溪，溪边有座白色小塔，塔下住了一户单独的人家。这人只一个老人，一个女孩子，一只黄狗。

小溪流下去，绕山岨流，约三里便汇入茶峒的大河。人若过溪越小山走去，则只一里路就到了茶峒城边。溪流如弓背，山路如弓弦，故远近有了小小差异。小溪宽约二十丈，河床为大片石头作成。静静的水即或深到一篙不能落底，却依然清澈透明，河中游鱼来去皆可以计数。小溪既为川湘来往孔道，水常有涨落，限于财力不能搭桥，就安排了一只方头渡船。这渡船一次连人带马，约可以载二十位搭客过河，人数多时则反复来去。渡船头竖了一枝小小竹竿，挂着一个可以活动的铁环，溪岸两端水槽牵了一段废缆，有人过渡时，把铁环挂在废缆上，船上人就引手攀缘那条缆索，慢慢的牵船过对岸去。船将拢岸了，管理这渡船的，一面口中嚷着“慢点慢点”，自己霍的跃上了岸，拉着铁环，

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and horses disembark to disappear over the hills. Since this ferry is public property, no toll is paid. If some well-meaning passenger tosses down a few coins, the ferryman picks them up one by one and thrusts them back into his hand, protesting almost truculently: "I'm paid for this job — three pecks of rice and seven hundred coins! I don't want your money!"

Some insist on paying, however, unable to look on with an easy conscience while hard work goes unrewarded. This upsets the ferryman, who, to ease his own conscience, gets someone to buy tea or tobacco leaves in town and keeps bundles of Chatong's best tobacco hanging from his girdle to offer cheerfully to all and sundry. When he senses a traveller's interest in this tobacco, he sticks a few leaves in his baggage-roll, saying, "Care for a smoke, brother? This is first-rate. Doesn't look like much, with leaves as broad as the palm of your hand, but it has a mighty fine flavour. Makes a good present too!" The tea he brews in summer in a large pitcher for any thirsty passerby.

This ferryman is the old fellow who lives just below the pagoda. Seventy now, he has stayed since the age of twenty beside this stream, ferrying countless passengers over fifty years. It is high time the sturdy old man retired, but evidently fate has willed otherwise: no throwing in his hand for him. Without reflecting what this job means, he carries on quietly and faithfully. Fate, in his case, is the girl at his side who makes him feel the lure of life at sunrise and stops him from brooding about death at sunset. His sole companions are the ferry-boat and Brownie, the dog; his sole relation this girl.

于是人货牛马全上了岸，翻过小山不见了。渡头为公家所有，故过渡人不必出钱。有人心中不安，抓了一把钱掷到船板上时，管渡船的必为——拾起，依然塞到那人手心里去，俨然吵嘴时的认真神气：“我有了口量，三斗米，七百钱，够了。谁要这个！”

但不成，凡事求个心安理得，出气力不受酬谁好意思，不管如何还是有人把钱的。管船人却情不过，也为了心安起见，便把这些钱托人到茶峒去买茶叶和草烟，将茶峒出产的上等草烟，一扎一扎挂在自己腰带边，过渡的谁需要这东东西必慷慨奉赠。有时从神气上估计那远路人对于身边草烟引起了相当的注意时，便把一小束草烟扎到那人包袱上去，一面说，“不吸这个吗，这好的，这妙的，味道蛮好，送人也合适！”茶叶则在六月里放进大缸里去，用开水泡好，给过路人解渴。

管理这渡船的，就是住在塔下的那个老人。活了七十年，从二十岁起便守在这小溪边，五十年来不知把船来去渡了若干人。年纪虽那么老了，本来应当休息了，但天不许他休息，他仿佛便不能够同这一分生活离开。他从不思索自己的职务对于本人的意义，只是静静的很忠实的在那里活下去。代替了天，使他在日头升起时，感到生活的力量，当日头落下时，又不至于思量与日头同时死去的，是那个伴在他身旁的女孩子。他唯一的朋友为一只渡船与一只黄狗，唯一的亲人便只那个女孩子。

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The girl's mother, his only daughter, seventeen years ago had a love affair behind her father's back with a soldier at Chatong who serenaded her. He put her in the family way, but could only marry her if they eloped. For him that would have meant deserting his post, for her leaving her father all alone. Her lover knew that she dreaded the thought of eloping and shrank from spoiling his own record as a soldier; there seemed no way for them to live together, but nothing to prevent their dying together . . . and indeed a severe bout of illness carried him off. His sweetheart hesitated to follow him because of her unborn child. When this came to the knowledge of the ferryman, he uttered not a word of reproach but carried on quietly as if he knew nothing of the matter. Shame and pity kept the girl at her father's side. But as soon as her child was born she killed herself by drinking too much cold stream water. Miraculously the orphan survived; she is now a girl of fifteen. Because their home is among bamboos and hills of a glorious emerald green, the old boatman gave the poor mite the name Emerald.

Wind and sun have tanned the growing girl's skin, her eyes resting on green hills are as clear as crystal. Nature is her mother and teacher, making her innocent, lively and untamed as some small wild creature. She has the gentleness of a fawn and seems not to know the meaning of cruelty, anxiety or anger. Should a stranger on the ferry stare at her, she fixes her brilliant eyes on him as if ready to fly any instant to the mountains; but once she knows no harm is meant, she finishes her task calmly.

Rain or shine, the old man stays at his post. When passengers come he grasps the hawser and, straining forward, hauls the ferry

女孩子的母亲，老船夫的独生女，十五年前同一个茶峒军人，很秘密的背着那忠厚爸爸发生了暧昧关系。有了小孩子后，这屯戍军士便想约了她一同向下游逃去。但从逃走的行为上看来，一个违悖了军人的责任，一个却必得离开孤独的父亲。经过一番考虑后，军人见她无远走勇气，自己也不便毁去作军人的名誉，就心想：一同去生既无法聚首，一同去死当无人可以阻拦，首先服了毒。女的却关心腹中的一块肉，不忍心，拿不出主张。事情业已为作渡船主的父亲知道，父亲却不加上一个有分量的字眼儿，只作为并不听到过这事情一样，仍然把日子很平静的过下去。女儿一面怀了羞惭一面却怀了怜悯，仍守在父亲身边，待到腹中小孩生下后，却到溪边吃了许多冷水死去了。在一种近于奇迹中，这遗孤居然已长大成人，一转眼间便十三岁了。为了住处两山多篁竹，翠色逼人而来，老船夫随便为这可怜的孤雏拾取了一个近身的名字，叫作“翠翠”。

翠翠在风日里长养着，把皮肤变得黑黑的，触目为青山绿水，一对眸子清明如水晶。自然既长养她且教育她，为人天真活泼，处处俨然如一只小兽物。人又那么乖，如山头黄麂一样，从不想到残忍事情，从不发愁，从不动气。平时在渡船上遇陌生人对她有所注意时，便把光光的眼睛瞅着那陌生人，作成随时皆可举步逃入深山的神气，但明白了人无机心后，就又从从容容的在水边玩耍了。

老船夫不论晴雨，必守在船头。有人过渡时，便略弯着腰，两手缘引了竹缆，把船横渡过

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across. Tired out, he lies down to sleep on a rock nearby; and if someone hails them from the further shore Emerald will not let her grandfather get up but jumps aboard to take his place as nimbly as one could wish. Sometimes she and Brownie accompany him and she hauls on the hawser with him. As the ferry nears the bank and her grandfather calls, "Steady, now!" the dog bounds ashore with the rope in his mouth to tug the ferry in, proud of the part he is playing. The old man and his granddaughter are familiar figures to the villagers round Chatong, and Brownie is a favourite with them too.

On a fine day when no one comes by to disturb them, the old man and Emerald may sit sunning themselves on a boulder in front of the door, or throw a stick from the cliff into the water to watch Brownie plunge in to retrieve it. Sometimes Emerald and the dog listen intently to her grandfather's tales of fighting in the town in years long past, or he and his granddaughter play a wedding tune on their bamboo flutes. The arrival of a traveller makes the old man lay aside his flute and hurry down to ferry the stranger across. Then from the cliff the girl calls:

"I'll play, Grandad, and you sing!"

The old man in midstream breaks into a cheerful song, his hoarse voice mingling with the strains of the flute to float out into the stillness and bring new life to the stream. Indeed, the echoing music accentuates the stillness.

From east Sichuan sometimes come calves, flocks of sheep or a decorated bridal sedan-chair. Then Emerald insists on taking charge and, standing in the stern, pulls lazily on the hawser while



小溪。有时疲倦了，躺在临溪大石上睡着了，人在隔岸招手喊过渡，翠翠不让祖父起身，就跳下船去，很敏捷的替祖父把路人渡过溪，一切皆溜刷在行，从不误事。有时又和祖父黄狗一同在船上，过渡时和祖父一同动手，船将近岸边，祖父正向客人招呼：“慢点，慢点”时，那只黄狗便口衔绳子，最先一跃而上，且俨然懂得如何方为尽职似的，把船绳紧衔着拖船拢岸。

风日清和的天气，无人过渡，镇日长闲，祖父同翠翠便坐在门前大岩石上晒太阳。或把一段木头从高处向水中抛去，嗾使身边黄狗自岩石高处跃下，把木头衔回来。或翠翠与黄狗皆张着耳朵，听祖父说些城中多年以前的战争故事。或祖父同翠翠两人，各把小竹作成的竖笛，逗在嘴边吹着迎亲送女的曲子。过渡人来了，老船夫放下了竹管，独自跟到船边去，横溪渡人，在岩上的一个，见船开动时，于是锐声喊着：

“爷爷，爷爷，你听我吹，你唱！”

爷爷到溪中央便很快乐的唱起来，哑哑的声音同竹管声振荡在寂静空气里，溪中仿佛也热闹了一些。（实则歌声的来复，反而使一切更寂静一些了。）

有时过渡的是从川东过茶峒的小牛，是羊群，是新娘子的花轿，翠翠必争着作渡船夫，站在船头，懒懒的攀引缆索，让船缓缓的过去。牛

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