

世界经典故事系列

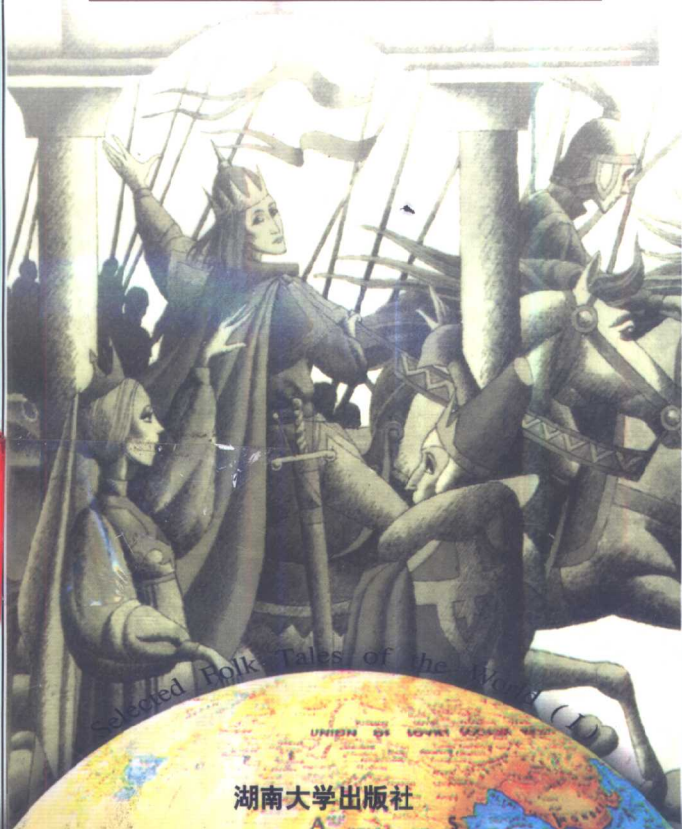
主编 章晋新 肖云南

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

世界经典故事系列

—英语有声读物—

世界民间故事精选(一)

Selected Folk Tales of the World (I)

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世界民间故事精选(一)

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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 5 000 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头表达能力。

《世界民间故事精选》(一)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。参加第一分册编写工作的还有(以姓氏笔画为序)王湘玲、刘敏娟、杨常倩、杨艳、黄晓燕、廖冀湘。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. E. 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 Scarface

(America)

Once upon a time, there was a rich merchant who had a daughter. She was a very beautiful and smart young girl. Many young men wanted to marry her. Although some of them were rich, handsome, and brave, the girl didn't want to marry any of them. "Must I marry already?" she asked her parents. "I'm young and I have a rich father and mother. I'm used to our home. Why do you worry about me?"

One night, the young men held a dance around the campfire. They dressed carefully in their best animal skins, and each one tried to dance better than the others. After dancing, some of them asked the girl to marry them, but she refused all of them. Her father felt doubtful. "Why do you say no? All the best young men have asked you."

"Father! Please don't be angry with me. I shall tell you the truth. The Sun told me that I mustn't marry. The Sun said that I must do what he tells me to do."

Her father said, "We must always obey the Sun." From then on, they talked no more about it.

There was also a young man who was very poor. His father, mother and all of his relatives had gone to



Heaven. He had no tent to live in, and no wife to make his clothes. Although he was handsome, he had a long ugly scar(1. n. 伤疤) on his face, and his clothes were always old and poor. The people called him Scarface.

After the young men had danced, some of them met Scarface. They laughed at him. "Have you asked the beautiful girl to marry you because you are so rich and handsome?" they asked, smiling.

Scarface said seriously, "I shall do it. I shall go and ask her." All the other young men laughed and laughed.

Scarface went down to the river. He waited there until the girl came to get water. "Please," he said, "wait. I want to speak to you. You look so beautiful as you stand there in the sun."She looked at him carefully. "I heard that you don't want to marry one of those who are handsome and rich and brave. I have no tent, no food, no nice clothes. Although I'm poor, and I have an ugly scar on my face, I still must ask you this question. Will you be my wife?"

The girl thought and soon said, "True, I do not want to marry one of those rich and handsome young men. Now a poor one has asked me, and I am glad. You are poor because you have no family. My family is very large. My father can give you dogs. My mother can sew skins together to make us a tent. My people can give us clothes."

The young man was so happy in his heart that he

wanted to kiss her, but she said, "Wait. The Sun has said to me that I may not marry yet. So you must go to the Sun to tell him that you want me for your wife and ask him to take the scar from your face so that I will know you have seen him. You must find him by yourself." And then she left him.

Scarface sat down and covered his head with his hands while he thought about what to do. Then, with a great hope, he got up and left the camp of his people. For many days he traveled along rivers, and over mountains. He ate only berries and roots.

One day, he found a beautiful bow and some arrows on his path, but he didn't touch them. He walked carefully around them and traveled farther. Then he met a strange young man. The stranger asked, "Did you see my bow and arrows on the path?"

"Yes," said Scarface, "I saw them but I didn't take them because I thought someone had left them there."

The young man said, "That is good. You are not a thief. What's your name?"

"Scarface."

"Where are you going?"

"To visit the Sun."

"My name is Morning Star, and the Sun is my father. Come with me. I'll take you to our tent."

Soon they came to the Sun's tent. It was very large, and there were many beautiful pictures of strange animals on it. Morning Star said, "Do not be

afraid, my friend."

They went in. Someone was sitting inside the tent. It was the Moon, Morning Star's mother. She gave Scarface something to eat. Then the Sun returned home. At the doorway he stopped and said, "I smell a person."

"Yes, Father," said Morning Star, "A good young man has come to see you. I know he is good because he found my beautiful bow and arrows on the path and did not touch them."

The Sun came in and sat down. "Tell me now, what can I do for you?" he asked.

"I'm here to *ask you for the hand of* (2. phrase 向...求婚) the most beautiful girl in the land," said Scarface, "Please help me. I asked her to marry me, and she almost nodded her head, but she told me that she belongs to you."

"Then I'll give her to you. Now she is yours," said the Sun, "I know that she's a good woman, and the Sun helps all good women. They and their husbands and children will live a long time."

Then the Sun put a strong medicine on the young man's face, and the scar disappeared.

Before Scarface returned home, the Moon gave him some fine clothes. She cried and kissed him, and called him, "My son." Morning Star showed him a short path to take to his home.

The rich and handsome young men were rather

surprised when Scarface returned to the camp. He was clothed in fine skins and carried a wonderful bow and some arrows from Morning Star. Some of these young men shouted, "Scarface is here again. But he is not poor now. " All the excited people ran out of their tents to see him. "Where did you go?" they asked, "Where did you get those beautiful things?" He did not answer them.

In the crowd stood the beautiful young woman. He said to her, "The path was very long, but I finally found the Sun. " She saw that the ugly scar was gone away from his face. "The Sun said that you may be my wife and he would help good women and their husbands and children," he said.

And so they were married, and the Sun gave them a long life. They were never sick. When they were very old, one morning their children came to call them, "Wake up. Get up and eat. " But they didn't answer. In the night their souls had quietly gone to Heaven.

Exercises

I . Comprehension Questions :

1. Why did the rich merchant worry about his daughter?
2. What reason did the beautiful girl give to his father?
3. Why did people call the young man Scarface?
4. What was Scarface's life like?

5. When Scarface asked the beautiful girl to be his wife, what were her terms for their marriage?
6. How many family members did the Sun have? Who were they?
7. Why did Morning Star introduce Scarface to the Sun?
8. What presents did the Suns give to Scarface?

I . Translation from English into Chinese :

1. "Must I marry already?" she asked her parents.
"I'm young and I have a rich father and mother. I'm used to our home. Why do you worry about me?"
2. "Please," he said, "wait. I want to speak to you. You look so beautiful as you stand there in the sun. "
3. Then the Sun returned home. At the doorway he stopped and said, "I smell a person. "
4. Morning Star showed him a short path to take to his home.

II . Discussion Topics :

1. What can you conclude about Scarface's character? Give some examples to support your answer.
2. What are the most important factors in a marriage according to your own opinion?

Key to the exercises

I . Comprehension Questions :

1. Because the rich merchant's daughter, the beautiful girl, didn't want to marry any of the rich, handsome, and brave young men.
2. She told her father that she must not marry and she must do what the Sun told her to do , because she belongs to the Sun.
3. Because on the young man's face there was an ugly long scar.
4. He was very poor. He had no tent, no food, no clothes and no relatives.
5. She asked Scarface to get the Sun's permission for their marriage and request the Sun to take the scar from his face.
6. Three. They were the Sun, Moon and Morning Star.
7. Because Morning Star regarded Scarface as a good man for he didn't touch his beautiful bow and arrows on the path.
8. The Sun gave a wife to Scarface and took the scar from his face; the Moon gave him some fine clothes; Morning Star gave him a wonderful bow and some arrows.

I . Translation from English into Chinese :

1. “难道我已经到了非出嫁不可的年纪了?”她问。
“我还年轻呐。我有个有钱的爸爸和妈妈。我在自

- 己家里住惯了，你们干吗拿这种事来折腾我呢？”
2. “请等一下。”他说，“我有话要跟你说，你站在阳光下可真美啊！”
 3. 这时候，太阳神回家了。太阳神走到帐篷口突然站住身子说，“我闻到了有生人的气味。”
 4. 晨星指给他一条回家去的近路。

2 The Happy Prince

(England)

There was once a prince who had everything he wanted, so he was never sad, and he never cried. Because of this, he was called the Happy Prince. But, one day he died. His people made a statue of him, which stood on the top of a tall pillar in the middle of the city. The statue was made of *lead* (1. n. 铅), and was covered all over with thin leaves of gold. For the eyes it had two bright blue jewels, and there was a large red jewel on the *hilt* (2. n. 柄) of its sword. It was very beautiful and looked just like the Happy Prince.

Now in that country, the winters were very cold, and every autumn the swallows flew away to a warmer place where the sun shone. This year, one night a little swallow flew over the city. All the other swallows had flown to warmer places on their long wings but he had stayed behind. He arrived at the city at night. "Where can I stay?" he said. "I hope there is some place where I can stay tonight."

Then he saw the statue.

"I'll stay there," he said. "It's high up, with plenty of fresh air." He came down just between the feet of the Happy Prince.

"What a golden bedroom I have!" he said, as he