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中学生浅易英汉对照读物⑧

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English and Welsh Fairy Tales



英格兰和威尔士童话集

外语教学与研究出版社

中学生浅易英汉对照 期 表

English and Welsh Fairy Tales

英格兰和威尔士童话集

Hermione Oram, Michael West 合著

金传豪 郑建德 范明贤 译注

外语教学与研究出版社

中学生浅易英汉对照读物

为满足中学生学习英语、增长知识的要求，本社将陆续编辑出版“中学生浅易英汉对照读物”若干种，在内容、文字与编排等方面，均努力适应青少年读者的需要和特点。除中学生外，中小学教师、初学英语者都可以阅读，或用作教学辅助材料。

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金传豪等 译注

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1. THE FISH AND THE RING

There was once a man, named Jasper[ˈdʒæspə]. He was very rich, and he was a magician. He had a son named Hugh[hjuː]. Hugh was five years old.

Jasper looked after his people and his great house and his fields and gardens all day; but at night when his son was asleep, he went up to the top of his house, and worked at his magic.

Jasper wanted to find, from his magic books, what girl his son Hugh would marry when he grew up¹. He wanted him to marry a very rich girl². He said, "Rich people are the best people. A lot of money makes people happy. I hope that he will marry a rich princess."

One night Jasper worked at his magic books. He worked all night. The sun came up.

He said sadly, "My magic books tell me that Hugh's wife will not be rich. She will not be a princess. She will be very poor."

He could not go to bed now: the sun was in the

sky. He got on his horse and went to the city. Then he saw a very poor old man sitting at the side of the street⁸. The old man looked very sad

"Why do you look so sad?" asked Jasper

"I have five young children," said the man, "and now my wife has had a sixth child, a new little girl. We have not got food for our other children. How can we feed another⁴ child? We are very poor, I cannot do more work than⁵ I am doing now, so how shall we find any more money?"

The magic inside Jasper told him, "This is the child who will grow up into the girl who will marry my son⁶. I will do anything so that my son Hugh shall not marry such a poor girl⁷."

"Old man," he said, "I can see that with your five children you do not want this new little girl⁸. Give her to me: I have a lot of money, and I will take her home⁹ to my big house. My kind servants shall look after her. Go and talk to your wife. I will come back here at the same time tomorrow, and you can tell me if you will give me the child."

The old man went home to his wife, and they talked about it for a long time. The poor mother was very unhappy. At last, she said, "Yes, it will be best for our child. Here with us she will never have



Inside the clothes he found a child

enough to eat. She might die. Yes, we will take her to the rich man in the city tomorrow."

The next morning, the father and mother gave up their little girl to Jasper. They cried very much as they went home; but they said, "We are being kind to her in giving her to the rich man¹⁰."

Jasper rode away very quickly, holding the child. Soon, he came to a river. He threw the poor little girl into the river. "That is the end of you!" he said, as he went back to his great house, and to his little son, Hugh.

But the child was not killed. Her clothes held her up in the water and she was carried along to where a poor fisherman was sitting by the side of the river¹¹.

The fisherman was sad; no fish had come into his net all day.

"I will go home," he said. "I see that I shall not catch any fish today."

As he got up to go, he looked up the river¹². He saw some clothes coming down towards him¹³, in the water. He took up the clothes out of the water. Inside them he found a little child; He took her up in his arms, and carried her home to his wife. She was a very kind woman, and he was a kind man. They were always very sad because they had had¹⁴ no children of their own.

"She shall be our very own child¹⁵; She shall be

ours," said his wife. They were both very glad. They made her a little bed for her to sleep in, and the fisherman's wife made her some more clothes. They saw the name Margaret[*'mɑ:ɡərɪt*] on the clothes which came out of the river. So they called her Margaret.

Sixteen years went by. Margaret was a beautiful girl, as kind and good as she was beautiful.

Jasper's only son, Hugh, was also a beautiful young man now. He often rode away from home on his black horse. Sometimes he went to see his father's brother, John, who lived near the sea. But his father stayed at home, working at his magic books.

One day, Jasper thought, "I am tired of sitting reading¹⁶ in my house. I will go for a long ride. I will find some friends to ride along with me."

The men rode for a long time, talking as they rode¹⁷, they did not look where they were going, and at last they found that they had lost their way. The day was very hot; they wanted a drink.

They came to the fisherman's little hut. Margaret was sitting at the door of the hut. She was helping her mother to make the food ready for them all to eat when her father came home.

Jasper and his friends got down from their horses.

"Good morning," said Jasper. "Please, will you give us some water to drink? We have come a long

way, and it is very hot.*

Margaret brought them some nice cold water, and some brown bread which her mother had just made. Her mother, too, came out of the hut and they all talked in a friendly way.

"That is a very beautiful girl," said one of Jasper's friends. "I wonder whom she will marry. Are you going to marry anyone?" he asked Margaret.

"No!" she answered. "I have no time to think of being married!¹⁸ Here, I can help my father and mother. I am happy as I am; and no one would want to marry a girl who is as poor as I am!¹⁹"

"If I had a son," said another of Jasper's friends, "I should be glad if he married anyone so beautiful as this girl." He looked at Jasper and said, "You can read magic. Can you see whom this girl will marry?²⁰,"

All at once, Jasper was afraid.

"No," he said, "I cannot. Now it is time for us to ride home again."

"You know that you could tell us if you wanted to!" said his friends. "We will not go home with you until you answer us!"

So Jasper began to do as they asked him. He, too, wanted to find out the answer now! First, he had to find out how old Margaret was. He asked her mother:

"How old is your child?"

"She is not our own child," said the woman. "Margaret came to my husband on the river, one day when he was fishing. He brought her home to me."

The fisherman came home. Jasper asked him, "In which river were you fishing when you found the child?"

The fisherman said, "In this river, near my home."

"How old was she when you found her?"

"She was two or three days old."

Then Jasper knew that this was the little girl whom he had tried to kill, sixteen years ago.

He was very angry, but no one could see what he was thinking.

Jasper asked for pen and paper, and he wrote to his brother John who lived near the sea. He shut up what he had written, and he gave the paper to Margaret.

He said, "Because I like you and would be happy to see you do very well²¹, I have written to my brother John[dʒɒn]. He is a rich and great man. Take this paper to him. He will look after you and help you. When you have become very rich, come back to your father and mother again, and you will be able

to help them too "

"Thank you for being so kind to us²²," said Margaret and her father and mother

Jasper rode away

The next day, Margaret set out to find Jasper's brother John. The journey was too long for her to be able to get there in one day. So she went for the night to a house where people could eat and sleep.

At that house, that night, there were two thieves, men who lived by stealing from others. When Margaret was asleep, they went into her room, with a little lamp, to see if she had any jewels or money which they could steal. They found no money, but they found Jasper's paper which he had written to his brother

They opened it, it said:

"My dear Brother John,

Take the girl who brings you this paper, and kill her at once. If you do not do this, my magic tells me that she will do very bad things to our country

Your loving brother,

Jasper "

The two thieves were very angry that anyone could write such bad things about such a good and beautiful girl²³. So they took more paper, and wrote

some other things on it and put it back where the first paper had been, in Margaret's little bag

Next day, Margaret came to John's house. She gave John the paper from his brother. He opened it and read:

"My dear Brother John,

Take this girl who has come to you and marry her to my son who is now staying with you. She is a very beautiful and very good girl

Your loving brother,
Jasper "

John said to himself, "My brother is a very good magician. He can see what will happen in many years' time. If he tells me to do this thing, I must do it."

Below his window, he saw Hugh and Margaret walking side by side. Hugh was looking at Margaret's beautiful face, very happily; and she was looking up at him.

"It will be all right," he thought. "They will want to be married."

Before long, all the people in his great house were making everything ready for Hugh and Margaret to marry.

John wrote to Jasper:

"Dear Brother Jasper,

I am doing what you asked me to do, and Hugh and Margaret will be married next Wednesday morning.

Please come here and stay with all of us.

Your loving brother,

John."

Jasper was very angry when he read this. As quickly as he could, Jasper rode to John's house. He came at sunrise. As he came inside the city walls, he could see that some great thing was happening. People were all in their best clothes; some were putting lovely food and drink on the tables everywhere; everyone looked pleased and happy.

He came to the house. He called out, "Where is the girl who is going to marry my son?"

Margaret, in her beautiful dress, came to him.

He hid his anger, and put on a happy face. He said to his brother and Hugh, "I should like to talk to Margaret before she marries Hugh." Then he led her away from the house, over a big field, and on²⁴ until they came to a hill-top far above the sea.

Poor Margaret could now see how very angry he was. She did not know what she had done, to make him look like that²⁵. She could see he was going to kill her. She fell down at his feet.

"Please, please," she said, "do not throw me over into the sea. Let me go. If you do not want me to marry Hugh, I will never go near him again, or ever see him again. I have done nothing bad to you. Why do you want to kill me?"

Jasper saw that she would do what she told him, she would not see Hugh again.

"I have saved my son!" he thought.

He saw a gold ring on her hand. Once, it had been his ring. "My son must have given it to this girl!" he thought. He took it off her hand.

"Girl!" he said, "You have told me that you will never see my son again. Say it in the name of God. Say 'I will never see Hugh again'. Say this and I will let you go."

So Margaret said, "I will never see Hugh again."

"You are not good enough for him. He shall marry a princess. If I ever see you again, I shall kill you."

He threw the ring far out into the sea. Then he said, "If you can show me that ring again, you can have my son and marry him."

Jasper went back to his brother's house.

"You must not think of Margaret any more," he told John and Hugh. "She has run away from you."

She is a bad girl! You must send all these people home again."

He thought, "Hugh will soon find a nice rich princess to marry!"

Poor Margaret cried for a very long time on the hill-top above the sea. She had not wanted to die; but now she had lost Hugh, whom she loved very much.

Then she thought, "I must go away quickly. I must find work. I like cooking. I am a good cook. That is what I will do! Then, after some time, I can go and see my father and mother and take them some money."

She thought sadly of the fisherman's hut, far away, where she had always been so happy²⁶.

She found work in a rich man's house. She helped to cook the food for him and his many friends who came to stay with him.

At last she felt better, and a little happier. Work which you like doing is a very good thing! One day, some fishermen caught the biggest fish that anyone had ever seen. The rich man's cook bought it and Margaret was cleaning the fish and making it ready for the rich man and his friends to eat that night. Through the window, Margaret could see the road which came up to the big house where she was now

living and working.

She saw many people on horses coming along this road. There, with them, were Jasper and Hugh. They all came up to the house. She saw the great doors standing open for them to come in.

She worked very hard to make the fish look beautiful when it came to the table. "I am cooking Hugh's food for him," she thought.

As she spoke, she saw something gold inside the fish. It was the ring. The great fish must have eaten it in the sea. She took it out of the fish and washed it.

When she had done her work, she washed her hands and put the ring on her hand where Hugh had put it. That night, all the rich man's friends sat down and ate the nice food which Margaret had helped to make. They were happy. Jasper too was happy, because he had found someone for Hugh to marry. She was a rich princess. But Hugh did not love her, and she did not love him.

Jasper said, "This fish is very good. And it is very nicely cooked. Who has cooked this beautiful fish so well? Please bring the cook to us. Let me see the cook and say 'Thank you for cooking this fish so nicely'."