

**A ride in a time machine with fascinating
stories about Chinese idioms.**

Emma's Adventures Through Chinese Idioms

爱玛穿越中国·成语篇

李娜 李锦青 孙兰 编著



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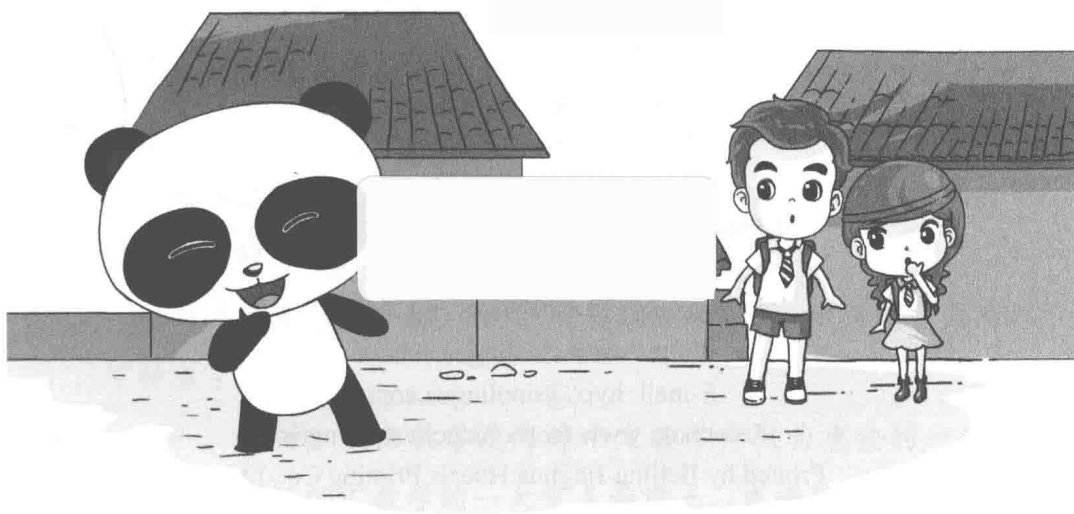
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前言

《爱玛穿越中国·成语篇》是《爱玛穿越中国》的姐妹篇，如果说《爱玛穿越中国》是为初级中文水平的学习者量身定制的，那么《爱玛穿越中国·成语篇》就是给汉语中级水平学生准备的文化宝典。

《爱玛穿越中国·成语篇》是对《爱玛穿越中国》的延续。换言之，故事形式没变，本书继续通过“穿越”的形式讲述美国女孩爱玛学中文的趣事。通过爱玛和她的朋友们的一次次穿越，把不同时期不同内容的成语故事有机地连在一起。在语言的深度和广度上，本书增加了挑战性。对于顺利读完上一册书的学生而言，故事的延续性和穿越形式能让他们很快进入本书的全中文语境，有情有景，情景交融。学生能在身临其境的语言环境下学习和了解中文成语背后的故事和哲学意义，为进一步了解中华文明打下较为坚实的基础。

与《爱玛穿越中国》相比，《爱玛穿越中国·成语篇》具有以下特点：

一、选材。成语教学是海外中文教学中极为重要的一部分，也是对外汉语词汇教学的一大重点和难点。成语故事背后深刻的哲学道理，增加了外国学生理解成语、使用成语的难度。为此我们选取了14个既简单常用又通俗易懂的成语故事，在“穿越”的大环境下，将其深刻的内容和哲学意义通过爱玛的亲身体验显

示出来。让爱玛的穿越经历顺理成章，逐步深入。虽然每个故事的背景和内容不同，但主人公爱玛的所见所闻，却能将整本书合理有机地连在一起，以点带面，让每个故事既独立成章，又各有不同。整本书在内容上深入浅出，让学生有身临其境之感。爱玛学到的每一个成语故事，又都关联到其他成语，读者可以在阅读中同主人公一起经历文化和历史的穿越，亲身感受汉语成语的魅力。

二、词汇。由于美国的很多高中和大学采用《中文听说读写》作为教科书，中文 AP 考试也基本上是以《中文听说读写》的前三本为基础的（level I part I and part II, level II part I），所以在词汇的选择上，我们基本以《中文听说读写》为基础，并进行了适当扩展。当然，读懂成语解释还是有些难度的，但这是高年级学生所需要面临的挑战，也是拓宽他们知识面的一个路径。

三、读者群。一般而言，美国高中学过三年以上中文的学生的中文词汇在 1000 词左右，本书的读者群是美国高中中文 AP 班、中文 4 和中文 5（after AP）的学生、海外周末中文学校的中高年级学生和学过一年以上中文的大学生。

四、形式。《爱玛穿越中国·成语篇》仍然采用章节小说的形式。对很多外国学生来说，成语故事虽然内容陌生、语言难懂，但章节小说的形式却能很快把他们带入有情有景、生动有趣的故事中。爱玛一次次的“穿越”，不断带来的惊喜和挑战，拉近了当代学生与古代人物的距离，缩短了时空上的差距。

五、词汇注释和成语注释。《爱玛穿越中国》为读者提供了丰富的词汇、短语注释和帮助理解的思考题。在此基础上，《爱

玛穿越中国·成语篇》还提供了成语注释。我们对一些虽然没有独立成篇却出现在故事中、人们又耳熟能详的成语进行了注释，以拓宽学生的知识面。

总之，身为中文教师的我们希望这本书能作为启迪学生学习中国文化的“钥匙”，在趣味性和知识性上给学生打开一扇新的大门，在帮助学生了解中国文化的同时，提高他们对汉语文字的理解程度，使汉语阅读和词汇学习不仅不再枯燥，而且变得丰富多彩。

我们衷心地盼望各位读者能愉快地读完这本书，和我们的主人公一起经历一次神奇的中国成语、典故之旅。祝大家在中文成语阅读和词汇学习这条路上越走越快、越走越稳，直至踏入坦途！

Preface

Emma's Adventures Through Chinese Idioms is the second book of the Series: *Emma's Adventures Through Chinese*. Book One is intended for beginner-level Chinese learners while Book Two can be considered a cultural treasure trove for intermediate-level learners.

Emma's Adventures Through Chinese Idioms is an extension and expansion of Book One. It continues to use funny stories about how Emma learns Chinese, with each story focusing on one idiom that originates from a certain historical period. The stories are linked together through Emma and her friend's traveling across time and space. Although the language in this book is more challenging, students who have finished reading Book One will soon immerse themselves in the Chinese context as the story develops. Students can learn the related stories and deep meanings behind these idioms in their real context, which will help them lay a solid foundation for a deeper understanding of the Chinese culture.

Emma's Adventures Through Chinese Idioms has the following distinctive features compared to *Emma's Adventures Through Chinese*:

1. Material selection

Learning idioms and set phrases — an important part of more advanced Chinese vocabulary, has always been a daunting task for international students. The deep philosophical meaning in the stories

behind the idioms adds to the difficulty in its understanding and usage. In order to ease the difficulty, we have selected 14 simple but popular idiom-related stories. By traveling across time and space, Emma illustrates the deep meaning behind the idioms through her own experience. Despite the differences in background and content for each story, Emma's experiences throughout the book connect the stories in a full and engaging narrative. And apart from this, every chapter in the book can also function as a stand-alone story, each with its own distinctive and interesting features. All the stories are clear in style but deep in meaning. Students will find it easy to immerse themselves in the context. Each story that Emma learns also contains some other idioms. While reading, students can travel across culture and history together with Emma and appreciate the charm of Chinese idioms.

2. Vocabulary

Many colleges and high schools in the US have selected *Integrated Chinese* as their textbook. The AP test of Chinese is designed based on the first three volumes of this series (level I part I and part II, level II part I). The vocabulary of this book is also based on these books. Frankly speaking, it is rather difficult to explain Chinese idioms and set phrases in easy Chinese. Learning idioms is a big challenge that students of Chinese in higher grades need to face as it is a good way to expand Chinese vocabulary and broaden their horizons.

3. Readership

Generally speaking, senior high students in the US who have learned Chinese for three years or more should have mastered

approximately 1,000 Chinese words. *Emma's Adventures Through Chinese Idioms* is tailored for students who attend AP class in high school or level-4 to level-5 Chinese classes (after AP), the mid- and senior-grade students from weekend Chinese schools, as well as college students who have learned Chinese for more than one year.

4. Style

This book continues a chapter-by-chapter style. The stories included will not be familiar to students and their language is not simple, but the chapter-by-chapter style will easily guide students into the vivid and interesting plots and situations. Emma's adventures bring excitement and challenges, and shorten the distance between students and ancient figures, bridging the gap across time and space.

5. Annotation to the vocabulary and set phrases

Apart from the explanations provided for vocabulary and questions for comprehension, this book provides annotations for the commonly-used idioms or set phrases that appear in the stories even though they are not the focus of the stories. This will help to broaden the scope of students' knowledge of Chinese culture.

As Chinese teachers, we hope that this book can shed light on Chinese culture for learners of Chinese, serving as a gateway for them to acquire knowledge while having fun. This book is aimed at facilitating students' understanding of Chinese culture and improving their ability to comprehend the Chinese language while enriching their experience of vocabulary learning and reading in Chinese.

We sincerely hope that readers enjoy the marvelous journey that learning Chinese idioms provides and achieve steady improvement in Chinese reading and vocabulary building through this book.

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引 子

爱玛是波士顿一所高中的九年级学生。她是个地道^①的“中国迷”，不但喜欢写中国字，说中国话，而且喜欢交中国朋友，游览^②中国名胜；她还喜欢喝中国茶，吃中国美食。总之，她对中国的一切都充满^③了好奇。

爱玛家的对面住着她最好的中国朋友——大海。坐着大海发明的时空穿梭机，爱玛经历^④了一场如真似幻^⑤的时空穿越。在那场穿越中，她经历了北京奥运会，游历了故宫，登上了古老的长城；她与苏东坡谈过词，与孔子论过道，与庄子讨论过哲学；她还品尝^⑥了无数中国的美味佳肴^⑦……

可是，这一切的一切，是一场真实的经历，还只是一场“美梦”呢？一觉醒来的爱玛困惑^⑧了。她急着想找大海问个明白。

① 地道【dìdao】pure, typical

② 游览【yóulǎn】go sightseeing

③ 充满【chōngmǎn】be full of, be filled with

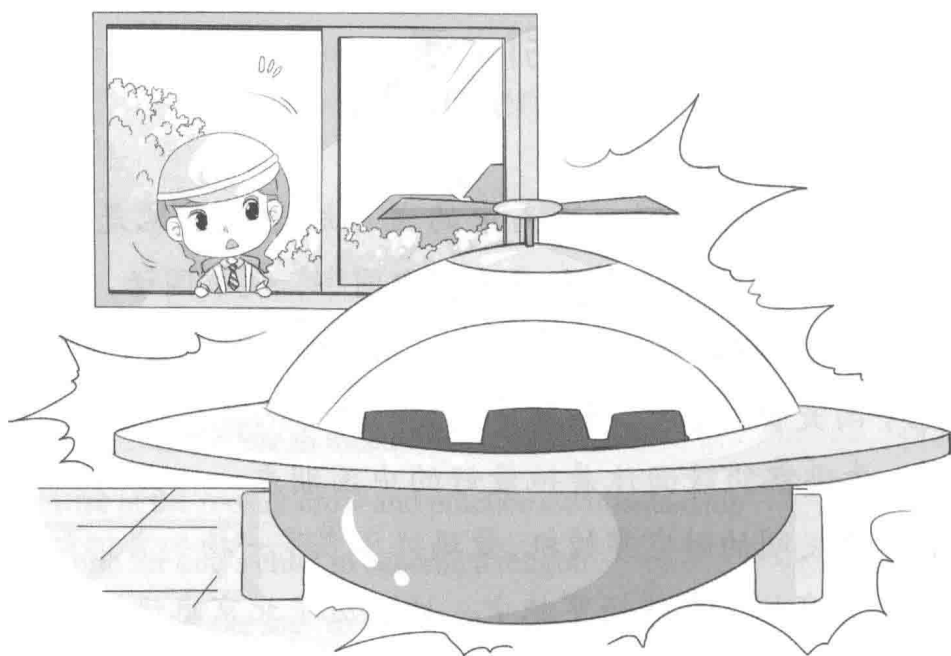
④ 经历【jīnglì】to experience, to undergo

⑤ 如真似幻【rúzhēn-sìhuàn】too fantastic to be true

⑥ 品尝【pǐncháng】to savor, to taste

⑦ 美味佳肴【měiwèi-jīyáo】dainty dish

⑧ 困惑【kùnhuò】be puzzled



她急不可待^①地跑到了大海家,轻手轻脚^②地绕过大海家的前门,来到了后院。她本想去敲大海的窗户,却发现窗户是开着的,而大海不在屋里!

这么早,他会去哪儿呢?爱玛一边自言自语^③,一边透过^④窗户向大海的屋里看。只见大海做的时空穿梭机还在房间的中央,看上去好像已经造好了,可爱玛总觉得有什么地方不对!

① 急不可待【jíbùkědài】extremely anxious; be too impatient to wait

② 轻手轻脚【qīngshǒu-qīngjiǎo】(move) gently, softly

③ 自言自语【zìyán-zìyǔ】talk to oneself

④ 透过【tòuguò】through

什么地方不对呢？难道^①大海的机器还没有完全造好吗？既然时空穿梭机还没造好，那我是怎么去的中国呢？难道我看到的故宫、长城，还有可爱的熊猫宝宝，都是我自己“梦”出来的吗？爱玛越想越糊涂了……

算了，还是回家好好想想吧。这到底是怎么回事呀！爱玛一边想着，一边准备回家去。就在她要转身回家的时候，她突然看见大海桌上有几张写着字的纸。爱玛好奇地拿过来一看，不禁哑然失笑^②：“大海啊，你都多大了，还在玩 word puzzle 呢！”

可是，爱玛再仔细一看，又发现这个 word puzzle 和她以前玩过的不一样，是中文的！爱玛的兴趣一下子就上来了。她看看大海填^③进去的内容，有些字她都学过——“塞翁失马（焉知非福）”^④，就是坏事可以变成好事，好事也可能变成坏事的意思；“马”下面是“马马虎虎”，就是英文的 so-so；“虎”后面又是“虎头蛇尾”^⑤，这四个字爱玛也都认识，但意思就完全不明白了……哈，这些就是老师说过的“成语”吧？再看 puzzle 的 title，

① 难道【nándào】really

② 哑然失笑【yǎrán-shīxiào】be unable to stifle a laugh; can't help laughing

③ 填【tián】fill in

④ 塞翁失马，焉知非福【Sàiwēng shī mǎ, yān zhī fēi fú】an old man lost his horse but ended up with a blessing; a blessing in disguise

⑤ 虎头蛇尾【hǔtóu-shéwěi】top-heavy; fine start and poor ending



果然写着“成语接龙”^①几个字。

爱玛更加兴奋了。她知道什么是成语，它相当于英文的 idiom，可是“接龙”是什

么意思呢？

爱玛仔细地把那个 word puzzle 看了几遍之后，恍然大悟^②，原来“接龙”就是下一个成语的第一个字接上一个成语的最后一个字，一个一个地接起来，玩

法跟英文的 word puzzle 一样！

看见大海还有很多空没有填完，爱玛想趁大海不在，偷偷^③帮他填好，给大海一个惊喜。

可是刚填了几个，爱玛就自信全无了，别说继续填新的成语了，就是很多大海已经填好的成语，爱玛也是连听都没听说过。看似有趣的“成语接龙”对爱玛来说

① 成语接龙【chéngyǔ jiēlóng】Chinese idiom puzzle

② 恍然大悟【huǎngrán-dàwù】suddenly realize; become suddenly aware of

③ 偷偷【tōutōu】stealthily, secretly

简直就是个迷宫^①，既没入口，也没出口。爱玛只能呆呆地看着几个似曾相识^②的字发愣^③！

唉，算了，算了，不玩了，还是回家去吧！

在回家的路上，爱玛一边走一边想：本以为经过一趟中国之行，自己已经成了一个中国通^④了，没想到这只是“美梦”一场！对那些看似简单的成语，自己知道得竟然那么少！

但是，爱玛并不是一个轻易放弃^⑤的人，她已经暗暗下定决心^⑥——一定要学好中国的成语！



一、回答下列问题。

Answer the following questions.

1. 爱玛去大海家发现了大海的什么秘密？

What's the secret Emma found in Daihai's home?

① 迷宫【mígōng】labyrinth, maze

② 似曾相识【sìcéngxiāngshí】seem to have met before

③ 发愣【fālèng】in a daze

④ 中国通【Zhōngguótōng】old China hand

⑤ 轻易放弃【qīngyì fàngqì】give up easily

⑥ 下定决心【xiàdìng juéxīn】make up one's mind

2. 什么是成语接龙?

What is a Chinese idiom puzzle?

二、用下列词语造句。

Form sentences using the following expressions.

1. 轻手轻脚

2. 自言自语