

Collins

柯林斯名人故事集

AMAZING  
PEOPLE  
worldwide

# 了不起的作家

*Amazing Writers*

〔英〕Anne Collins 编

3级

英语注释



商務印書館  
The Commercial Press

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## 出版前言

商务印书馆自创立以来，始终以“昌明教育，开启民智”为己任，致力于翻译西学、沟通中外，坚持以高质量的出版物促进文化交流，以传播先进思想推动社会进步。近年来更是加大了外语学习读物的出版，如推出“莎翁戏剧经典”丛书、“阿加莎·克里斯蒂经典侦探作品集”系列等，此次引进“柯林斯名人故事集”系列是我馆开发英语学习读物的又一成果。

本系列丛书的英文原书由英国柯林斯出版社按照柯林斯 COBUILD 分级标准，邀请英国语言和文学专家改编而成，每一级均对照欧洲语言教学大纲（CEF）相应级别，是适合初级至中级水平英语学习者的英语读物。

本系列丛书分为四级，每级 5 册，共 20 册，每册集中介绍一个领域的 5—6 个著名人物。正文部分用简明清晰的英文以第一人称讲述人物生平故事，并以脚注形式提供重点词汇的词性和释义；文后附英汉对照的人物生平大事记；书后附英文词汇表，供读者了解本书重点词汇详细的英文释义。

此外，每本书均提供点读笔和二维码音频下载功能。

希望这套“柯林斯名人故事集”丛书能够帮助读者在学习英语的同时了解人类历史上各个领域最杰出、最有影响力的人物，在提高英语能力的同时，走出一条成功的人生之路。

商务印书馆编辑部

2016年9月

# Introduction

## 引 言

“柯林斯名人故事集”包含一系列简短的故事，每册介绍五至六个著名人物的生平，这些人的一生及他们的成就深刻地影响了今天的世界。所有故事都精心分级，以确保读者既可以享受阅读，又能从中受益。

你可以从头至尾阅读本书，也可以直接翻看自己喜欢的人物故事，每一个故事都是完全独立的。

每个故事后面都附有一个简短的年表，集中介绍该人物一生中最重要的事件，年表可以有效地帮助你复习刚才看过的内容。

超过本册阅读水平的单词第一次在每个故事中出现时都标有下画线，该书末尾的词汇表列出了所有画线单词的释义。第1级和第2级的释义来自 *Collins COBUILD Essential English Dictionary*，第3级和第4级的释义来自 *Collins COBUILD Advanced English Dictionary*。

为了给老师和学习者提供支持，以下网站提供了更多资料：[www.collinselt.com/readers](http://www.collinselt.com/readers)。

## The Amazing People Worldwide

“柯林斯名人故事集”根据 The Amazing People Worldwide 出版的原始文本改编而成。The Amazing People Worldwide 是一个教育出版机构，于 2006 年由教育心理学家、管理学家查尔斯·马杰里森博士成立，出版纸质书、电子书、音频书、iBook 图书和视频内容，让读者可以“面对面”接触全世界各领域，如艺术、科学、音乐、政治、医学和商业等领域最鼓舞人心、最有影响力的人。

# The Grading Scheme

## 分级标准

柯林斯 COBUILD 分级标准是根据当下最新语言使用信息设置而成，每一级都有全新的语法和词汇综合框架，确保本系列完全符合读者的英文水平。

		欧洲语言教学大纲 (CEF) 级别	页数	词汇量
第 1 级	初级	A2	64	约 700
第 2 级	中级初阶	A2-B1	80	约 900
第 3 级	中级	B1	96	约 1,100
第 4 级	中级进阶	B2	112	约 1,700

欲知柯林斯 COBUILD 分级标准（包括每一级的完整语法结构）的更多信息，请参见：[www.collinselt.com/readers/gradingscheme](http://www.collinselt.com/readers/gradingscheme)。

在线资料还包括：通过在线测试英语水平，了解自己的分级，测试网站：[www.collinselt.com/readers/levelcheck](http://www.collinselt.com/readers/levelcheck)。



# 目 录

## *Introduction*

引言 ..... 1

## *The Grading Scheme*

分级标准 ..... 3

## *Geoffrey Chaucer*

杰弗里·乔叟 ..... 1

## *William Shakespeare*

威廉·莎士比亚 ..... 15

## *Charles Dickens*

查尔斯·狄更斯 ..... 29

## *Victor Hugo*

维克多·雨果 ..... 45

## *Leo Tolstoy*

列夫·托尔斯泰 ..... 61

## *Rudyard Kipling*

拉迪亚德·吉卜林 ..... 75

## *Glossary*

词汇表 ..... 91

# Geoffrey Chaucer

杰弗里·乔叟



约 1330/1340—1400

the man who wrote the first great works of  
English Literature

第一位用英语书写伟大作品的人



本节朗读音频





I could tell wonderful stories, and I was very good at describing people. I wrote some romantic poems, but I also wrote about people in ordinary English society. My greatest work is an entertaining record of life in medieval<sup>①</sup> England.



My name was Geoffrey Chaucer and I was born in London. During the centuries before my birth, different groups of people had attacked England, including the Romans, the Anglo-Saxons, the Vikings and the Normans. England had become the permanent<sup>②</sup> home of each of these groups. And they had tried to make the English people speak their language and live in the same way as them. As a result, people with a high social<sup>③</sup> position

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① medieval *adj.* 中世纪的 ② permanent *adj.* 永久的

③ social *adj.* 社会（地位）的

no longer communicated with each other in English. Kings and queens, nobles<sup>①</sup> and people who held important jobs in Court – the place where the King and Queen lived – usually spoke and wrote in French.

But as I walked the streets of London, what language did I hear? Not French, or Latin, or Scandinavian. People in the streets and at the markets were speaking English in their daily lives. Of course, English had taken in some words from other languages too. There was ‘justice’ which came from Latin, ‘speech’ from Anglo-Saxon, ‘outlaw’ from the Vikings and ‘parliament’<sup>②</sup> from French. But ordinary people were using English to communicate. They were a free people, who shared their hopes and problems in their own language. As I listened, I decided that I was going to use English to write stories about the daily lives of English people.

There was a huge difference between the lives of rich people and poor people in England. The poor had to work very hard, and their lives were very difficult. If you became ill or were injured<sup>③</sup>, you had to depend on your family or friends to help you. In addition, people were afraid of becoming sick from the plague<sup>④</sup>, or other terrible illnesses. There were no good doctors, and people didn’t understand much about medicine. I was very lucky because my family was quite wealthy<sup>⑤</sup>. My father and grandfather were in the business of making wine, although it was said that my family had been makers of shoes in France. The French for ‘shoemaker’ is ‘chausseur’ and in England, this became changed to ‘Chaucer’. So my name is a perfect example of how language develops!

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① noble *n.* 贵族    ② parliament *n.* 议会    ③ injured *adj.* 受伤的

④ plague *n.* 瘟疫    ⑤ wealthy *adj.* 富有的



My father had excellent connections in society – in other words he knew a lot of important people. So he made sure that I got a good education in law. In 1357, I became a page, a young boy working for the wife of King Edward III's son, Lionel. Two years later, in 1359, I became a soldier, and served<sup>①</sup> in the English Army in their fight against the French in the Hundred Years' War. However, by bad luck, I was taken prisoner by the French at the Siege<sup>②</sup> of Reims. In March 1360, King Edward paid sixteen pounds to the French so that I could leave prison.

After my return to England, I entered the King's service<sup>③</sup>, working in the royal<sup>④</sup> household<sup>⑤</sup>. While I was working at Court, I met a beautiful girl called Philippa Roet. Philippa was a lady-in-waiting to the Queen, a lady whose duties were to go everywhere with the Queen and help her. Philippa and I fell in love and married in 1366. In 1367, our first son, Thomas, was born. This was a very happy time for me, especially as my job was going well too. The King was pleased with my work, and he wanted to give me a reward to thank me for my past and future services. So on 10<sup>th</sup> June 1367 he granted me a pension of 20 marks – an amount of money which I would receive every year.

Although my job at Court kept me busy, I still found time to write. In 1367, I began a translation of a French poem called *The Romaunt of the Rose*. In 1368, after the death of the Duchess of Lancaster, a noble<sup>⑥</sup> lady, I wrote a poem called the *Book of*

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① serve *v.* 为……工作 ② siege *n.* 围攻 ③ service *n.* 工作, 服务

④ royal *adj.* 皇家的, 王室的 ⑤ household *n.* 家庭 ⑥ noble *adj.* 高贵的

*the Duchess* in her memory. During the next few years, I often travelled abroad in the King's service. I also served for a second time in the English Army. During my travels, I learned many new things and met some interesting people. The great Italian poets, Dante, Boccaccio and Petrarch, and the French writer, Froissart, all inspired<sup>①</sup> me to develop my interest in writing.



In 1374, I was given a very important new job. I became the Comptroller of Customs for the Port of London. Many boats were arriving in London, and they had to pay taxes to the King of England. As the Comptroller, I was in charge of collecting these taxes, and I also had to make sure that the correct amounts of tax were paid. I did this job for the next 12 years, and sometimes I made trips abroad for the King too. He was very pleased with me, and granted me an amount of wine every day for the rest of my life. But this was changed into a money grant after King Edward died in 1377. The new King, Richard II, was only ten years old when he came to the throne<sup>②</sup>. King Edward had been very good to me, and I wondered what King Richard would be like.

It didn't take long for Richard to make the poor people of England very angry. In 1380, he introduced a new tax, called the Poll Tax. Whenever the kings of England needed money, they used to tax the poor peasants<sup>③</sup>, who worked on the farms of the noble landowners<sup>④</sup>. But the peasants received very little money in wages, and they couldn't afford to pay another tax to the king.

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① inspire *v.* 激励, 启发 ② throne *n.* 王位, 王权 ③ peasant *n.* 农民

④ landowner *n.* 地主

They were very angry about the new Poll Tax, and they refused to pay it. In 1381, an army of peasants marched<sup>①</sup> to London in an uprising<sup>②</sup> called the Peasants' Revolt. But the uprising wasn't successful, and many of the peasant leaders were executed<sup>③</sup>. In addition, people who had supported<sup>④</sup> the peasants were killed, and I watched the executions<sup>⑤</sup> of several of my friends.

From 1379 to 1382 I wrote two poems: *The House of Fame* and the *Parlement of Foules*. I also began work on a long romantic poem about two tragic<sup>⑥</sup> lovers, *Troilus and Criseyde*. My second son, Lewis, was born in 1380, and a few years later, I went to live in Kent and became Justice of the Peace<sup>⑦</sup>. In 1386, I left my job as Comptroller of Customs, and became Member of Parliament for Kent. I was pleased because now I had more time for writing, and during the next two years, I wrote another poem, *The Legend of Good Women*.



Many things happened in the years between 1387 and 1394. In 1387, sadly, my dear wife Philippa died. Two years later, in 1389, I was given a new job as Clerk<sup>⑧</sup> of the King's Works. I was responsible for taking care of important buildings belonging to the King, such as the Tower of London and Windsor Castle. But this job didn't last very long, so in 1390, I took a new job, looking after the Royal Forest in Somerset. My young son, Lewis, was interested in science, and I wrote an essay for him about how

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① march *v.* 游行, 行进 ② uprising *n.* 起义 ③ execute *v.* 处决, 处死 ④ support *v.* 支持 ⑤ execution *n.* 处决 ⑥ tragic *adj.* 悲惨的, 悲剧的 ⑦ Justice of the Peace 治安法官 ⑧ clerk *n.* 职员



to use a scientific instrument called an astrolabe. In 1394, I was granted an annual pension of 20 pounds by King Richard for the rest of my life. Later, in 1399, Henry IV became King and he increased my pension to 40 pounds.

I wrote my most famous work, *The Canterbury Tales*, in the years between 1388 and 1398. This is a collection of stories, told by a group of pilgrims, people travelling on a religious<sup>①</sup> journey, from London to Canterbury. The owner of the Tabard Inn in Southwark, London, suggests that each pilgrim tells two stories on the way. He promises to give the person who tells the best story a free meal at the Tabard Inn on his return. The pilgrims come from all levels of society, and each of them is a very entertaining character. Some are rich, some are poor, some are religious and some just want to enjoy themselves and have a good time. There's a knight, a man of noble birth, but there's also a cook, a clerk, a merchant<sup>②</sup> and many others. There's also the famous Wife of Bath, a woman who had five husbands! Each pilgrim's story is very different. Some are funny, some are sad and some are serious.

Some noble people at Court didn't like *The Canterbury Tales*. They wanted stories about kings and queens, or nobles like themselves. But my reason for writing *The Canterbury Tales* wasn't to please rich people with high social positions. I wanted to write about the daily lives and hopes and dreams of ordinary English people. But, most important of all, I didn't want to write in French or Latin, but in English – the beautiful language which I loved. *The Canterbury Tales* was one of the first great works of literature to be written in English, and I was very proud of

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① religious *adj.* 宗教的 ② merchant *n.* 商人