

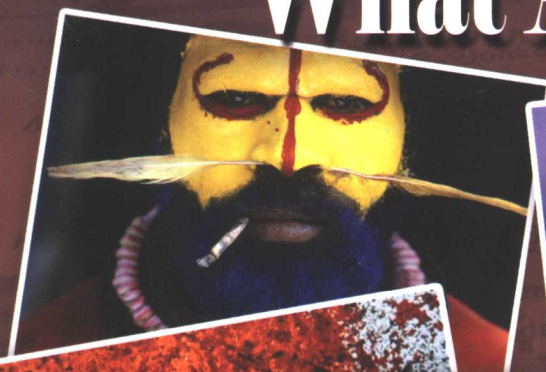


名家英语阅读大讲堂

总主编 杨 枫

朗文神奇世界英语

What A World 3



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吉林出版集团有限责任公司
培生教育出版集团

Milada Broukal

提进名家英语阅读大讲堂

朗文神奇世界英语

What A World

3

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What A World 3

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总 序

凡是学过或正在学习英语的人,书架上总会有几套教材,捷进国际英语学校丛书就推出了《捷进聪明宝贝英语教程》、《朗文大赢家小学英语教程》、《朗文新发现初中英语教程》、《朗文放眼世界英语教程》、《朗文畅通英语教程》等编写理念先进、教学策略实用的国际化、权威化优秀教材。然而,只凭一套或几套教材是学不好英语的,英语学习必须依靠广泛、系统、长期、大量的阅读。基于此,我们推出了这套“捷进名家英语阅读大讲堂”系列,第一辑包括《朗文文化交际英语》、《朗文精读美国名篇故事》、《朗文讲透美国经典名著》、《朗文神奇世界英语》、《朗文精彩人生英语》、《朗文中学英语智趣故事集》、《捷进万象英语》。该系列丛书从语言知识、语言技能、文化意识和学习策略等方面保证了阅读材料的系统性和组织性;从篇幅、内容、对象的控制和选择上保证了阅读材料的连续性和广泛性;从而丰富了课堂英语教学的内容和形式,特别是为社会各类英语培训机构的阅读课堂提供了广阔的天地,此外读者也可以通过个体阅读来激发兴趣、开阔视野、提升英语水平。

“捷进名家英语阅读大讲堂”系列丛书的编写特色还在于:

- 1. 原汁榨出,原味呈现。**全部材料由国际著名英语教育机构如培生教育集团、麦克劳希尔公司、安德鲁纳博格等公司提供的国外经典英语阅读类图书版权,由国内英语教育专家杨枫博士联袂龚亚夫、刘道义、程晓堂、张连仲等权威教授共同策划、设计和解读。
- 2. 主题广泛,视野宽阔。**丛书题材广泛,包括人间万象、神奇世界、精彩人生、名著经典、文化交际、智趣幽默、政治经济、教育科学无所不包,充分体现了知识性、信息性、趣味性、经典性和时代性,让读者在英语学习中始终与世界同步,与时代并行。

3. 练习丰富,测试科学。在设计练习栏目时,充分考虑到激发学生阅读兴趣和提高阅读技巧的需要,并且测试形式与各级各类主流英语阅读考试接轨,充分体现应用与应试的和谐统一。

4. 英汉对照,无师自通。阅读与翻译既是英语学习的重要技能,也是许多考试的测试项目,基于读者的需要与利益,我们对材料进行了准确翻译,方便大家学习与参考。

5. 快捷学习,精进人生。吉林出版集团外语教育中心拥有中国英语教育界的权威作者,并以“快捷学习,精进人生”为目标,以“一本书一个世界”为理念,整合了世界英语教育资源和中国英语教学策略。捷进英语教育品牌,既是世界的,更是中国的,“捷进”永远代表着进步、超越和成功。

我们希望读者能用英语去探求新知,去拓展视野,实现学以致用;我们希望读者能用英语汲取信息、品味文化,去享受丰盈人生;我们希望读者能用英语纵览云飞,感受万象,去开启世界之门。

吉林出版集团外语教育中心

前言

英国思想家培根说过,“阅读使人深刻”,而阅读在外语学习中的重要性更是不言而喻。只是长期以来中国英语教学中的功利主义思想使学习者无法真正利用这一工具,更谈不上体味其中的乐趣了,学生只会感到沉重的 Pressure。

通过阅读来提高英语水平归根结底有三个问题要解决,为什么读,怎么读和读什么。阅读的真正目的绝非是为了做豆腐块文章后面几道枯燥的练习,而是获取信息,增长知识,开拓视野和陶冶情操。从语言学习角度来说方法有精读和泛读之分:精读强调纵向挖掘,要一丝不苟地吃透文章,包括词汇用法和语法知识;而泛读则强调横向拓宽,要“不求甚解”地大量阅读,以此来培养语感,锻炼英语的应用和思维能力。至于读什么,当面对市场上汗牛充栋的英语图书时,许多学习者都踌躇难断。

神奇的世界,古老的历史,悠远的文化,幻变的人生,里面蕴含了多少弥足珍贵的遗产等待我们去挖掘,去品味。而语言,这一人类文明进化的产物此时便恰如其分地起到负载并传承这份遗产的作用。作为语言学习者,阅读历史,感受文化,品味人生,不仅意味着语言能力本身的提高,更是对情感世界的极大丰富。正是在这一思路的引导下,我们与世界著名的教育图书出版机构培生教育集团合作,推出这套《朗文神奇世界英语》及其姊妹篇《朗文精彩人生英语》,二者相映成趣。

本套书中所包含的内容似乎很难用常规的领域范围来加以界定,从自然环境到社会现象,从风俗传统到神话传说,从历史事件到名人轶事,可谓包罗万象。它可以告诉我们亚瑟王的传说为什么会如此风靡西方,南极洲的生活是什么样的一番景象, J.K. 罗琳,这位哈利波特之母一些不为人知的故事,以及新兴的安全卫士——网络天使究竟是怎么回事。其知识性和趣味性远非常见的阅读材料可比,堪称一部精华浓缩

版的世界文明史。

除了阅读故事的精彩之外,文章后面的练习题也是本书的亮点所在。非传统形式的题目趣味性强,做起来毫不枯燥。多采用启发式、拓展性的问题,鼓励学生积极思考,真正起到检验阅读效果和巩固知识的作用。

VOCABULARY: 除了鼓励学生利用上下文猜测词义的习题之外,还配有以应用为目的的口语练习,使学生抓住短暂记忆,循环利用,加深印象。

COMPREHENSION: 从理解大意和把握细节两方面入手,锻炼学生的阅读技能,并巧妙地促使学生回视课文,进一步增进理解。还有复述故事和听写等项目,鼓励学生组对进行口头练习。

DISCUSSION: 让学生对与阅读内容相关联的话题展开联想,表达自己独立的见解,并探讨不同文化之间的差异。

WRITING: “读书必须过笔”是古今中外学人的共同体会。只有经过笔头练习,才能真正将阅读到的知识内化为自身的技能。

本书的姊妹篇《朗文精彩人生英语》内容同样精彩,值得一读。

To some people reading maybe is a pressure, but we will make it a real Pleasure!

编 者

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UNIT 1

What Is the Legend of King Arthur?



BEFORE YOU READ

Answer these questions.

1. What is a legend?
2. What famous legends do you know?
3. What are some movies which are based on legends? Why are they popular?

What Is the Legend of King Arthur?

1 The legend of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table makes us think of an age of heroism and romance. For a thousand years, stories about them have been **passed down from** generation to generation, across Europe and the rest of the world. We even **encounter** them today in books, on television, and in the movies. In all these stories, King Arthur and his knights fight bravely for justice and truth. Of course, they always win.

2 The legendary King Arthur was **known as** the greatest king that ever lived. His magnificent castle was called Camelot, and his wife, Guinevere, was the most beautiful woman in history. Arthur had the greatest knights at his court. They were all equal and sat at a round table to show that no one had a higher rank than the other. The most famous knights were Sir Gawain and Sir Lancelot. The knights did many **good deeds** and went on adventures. They saved young women **in trouble** and searched for a **precious** cup called the Holy Grail. They were all heroes, although they had faults like all people do.

3 In the legend, Arthur is the perfect king. He has a wizard by the name of Merlin who helps him defeat his enemies. He also has flashing swords and wears a fine suit of shining armor. Arthur has two magic swords. At the beginning of his reign, he pulls one from a block of stone, proving that he is the true king. The other sword appears in the middle of a lake and has powers that make Arthur immortal. At the end of his reign, Arthur returns to the lake and disappears into the **mist**.

4 Are these stories true? Did King Arthur really exist? Was his wife, Guinevere, real? Did Camelot exist? How true to fact are some of these stories? Historians don't know. For the last few hundred years, people thought that the legend about Arthur had been invented. However, historians have realized recently that Arthur really may have existed. Most historians believe that he probably did. They think that he was a king or a great leader somewhere in Great Britain. Most believe that Arthur lived around the end of the fifth and beginning of the sixth century. They also believe that he led an army against the Saxons who invaded Britain a very long time ago, that he won this great battle, and that he was the character who **inspired** hundreds of stories.

5 The stories about Arthur may have some truths in them, but they also have a lot of exaggerations. It seems difficult to separate fact from fiction. Some people question how a man could win so many battles and sword fights without getting wounded or killed. And some of the things that Arthur's adviser Merlin says and does are too fantastic to be real. For example, he **made predictions** of strange and amazing things that would happen in the future, and many stories claim that he could change himself into different objects and animals. He could change into a boy or a deer, for example, and he could change the appearance of others and even make them invisible. However, there are other parts of the stories we accept more easily, such as the magnificent castle of Camelot with its many towers.

6 There have been various **theories** about where Camelot was located and whether it even existed. In the late 1960s, historians dug at a **site** in southeastern England (Cadbury Castle) where Camelot could have been located, but they found nothing. Some historians say that big stone castles didn't exist in the time of Arthur. Castles during his time were made of dirt and stone, and they were nothing like the castle described in the stories.

7 Still, the idea of Camelot as a wonderful, perfect place continues. In the 1960s, there was a popular musical show called *Camelot* that said that life was perfect in Arthur's castle. Today in the English language, the word *Camelot* has come to mean an ideal place. It is often associated with President John F. Kennedy's White House years, because his presidency started a new "golden age" of **prosperity** in the United States.

8 Most of the stories about King Arthur were written in the ninth century and later. The stories tell us about the people and values of these times. Most of them talk about a code of honor, or chivalry. King Arthur and his knights were all chivalrous. They respected others. A chivalrous person did not kill his enemy after the enemy surrendered. Arthur and his knights were expected to show respect for the church and pity for the poor, as well as bravery and courtesy.

9 The most famous version of King Arthur's legend, a book called *Morte d'Arthur* (*Death of Arthur*), was written by Sir Thomas Malory in the fifteenth

century. In his work, Malory creates a story of extraordinary bravery and emphasizes the triumph of good over evil. This work inspired kings all over Europe. King Henry VIII of England saw himself as the new Arthur reuniting the country after civil war, and even naming his eldest son Arthur.

10 King Arthur's popularity is ongoing. In 1986, it was estimated that 13,500 books, articles, and reviews had been written about him. The success of recent movies and books shows that the popularity of the legend of King Arthur is still strong today. Why is this? The story of Arthur is an adventure story. There are sword fights and wars that make the story exciting. There is also romance, and the setting is far away and **exotic**. The themes in the stories are **universal**: the fight between good and evil, the **conflict** between love and duty. Another theme in the stories shows that although Arthur is a king, he makes mistakes and, like all people, he is not perfect. He is, in fact, like us in many ways. Maybe it is this **combination** of greatness and humanness that has made King Arthur a popular figure around the world and **throughout history**.



WORD STUDY

inspire: *v.* to give someone the idea for something, especially a story, painting, poem
etc 鼓舞, 激发, 使产生灵感

make prediction: a statement about what you think is going to happen, or the act
of making this statement 做出预言

site: *n.* a place where something important or interesting happened 地点, 场所

prosperity: *n.* when people have money and everything that is needed for a good
life 繁荣, 昌盛

exotic: *adj.* something that is exotic seems unusual and interesting because it is
related to a foreign country 异国情调的, 外来的, 奇异的

combination of: two or more different things that exist together or are used or put
together 联合, 结合

Circle the letter of the answer that is closest in meaning to the underlined word.

- What Is the Legend of King Arthur? 5

- a. agreement b. understanding
- c. struggle d. change
- 9. His presidency started a new "golden age" of prosperity.
 - a. peace b. happiness
 - c. pleasure d. wealth
- 10. The themes in the stories are universal.
 - a. different in every country
 - b. common to a few areas
 - c. the same everywhere
 - d. unlike anything else



WORDS THAT GO TOGETHER

A. Find words in the reading that go together with the words below to make phrases.

- 1. _____ predictions
- 2. combination _____
- 3. known _____
- 4. _____ history
- 5. _____ deeds
- 6. passed _____ from
- 7. _____ trouble

B. Complete the sentences with the phrases from Part A.

- 1. If you knew someone who _____, she could tell you what is going to happen in the future.
- 2. Important items and stories that are given by elders to the children in a family are _____ one generation to another.
- 3. If you take two or more things and put them together, you have a _____ those things.
- 4. If something is _____ having a certain quality or being a certain way, it means that many people are aware of that fact or characteristic.
- 5. When something is a certain way over many, many years, it is that way _____.