

朗文

讲透美国经典名著

GREAT AMERICAN STORIES

1

C.G. Draper

PEARSON
Education



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捷进名家英语阅读大讲堂

朗文讲透美国经典名著

Great American Stories

1

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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》、《朗文必胜小学英语教程》、《朗文初中新探索英语教程》、《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》、《捷进万象英语》、《朗文中学英语智趣故事集》。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



美国小说选读与欣赏是高校英语专业的必修课,但在课程内容的选择、课程程度的控制、课程进度的把握上颇费踌躇和思量,而社会各类英语学校让教师和学生更不敢问津美国短篇小说阅读课的开设,基于此,我们编写了这套《朗文讲透美国经典名著》(1-3)。

全套书撷取美国文学史上最著名、最经典的诸如马克·吐温、欧·亨利、艾德加·艾伦·坡、欧内斯特·海明威、杰克·伦敦、凯特·肖邦等 25 位小说家的 26 篇脍炙人口、享誉世界的作品,完全按着专业课程需要及课堂教学情景组织材料、设计板块,充分体现实用性、有效性的文学阅读与欣赏的教学策略。

一、难易程度循序渐进

本套书所包含的词汇按初级、中级、高级水平科学排列,其语法、故事的内部结构及练习也是按照递进的梯度加以控制和安排,以满足不同程度作者的需求。

二、栏目设置精彩实用

Before You Read The Story 由作者生平、插图指南、快读提示及重点思考几部分组成,旨在激发学生阅读兴趣,提高学生阅读技巧。

After You Read The Story 由情节理解、阅读理解、词汇练习、讨论和写作几部分组成,既照顾到英语学习中语言知识的运用,又培养了学生的文学欣赏能力。

三、课堂活动丰富多彩

每册书按 12-14 周的课程设计,充分满足课堂上教师与学生、学生与学生、小组与小组之间互动讨论的需要,引领学生在学习语言、欣赏文学过程中了解美国历史、文化、政治和社会。

四、课外阅读无师自通

全书英汉对照,亦可从辅助性或消遣性角度阅读,以满足读者学习语言和爱好文学的需要。

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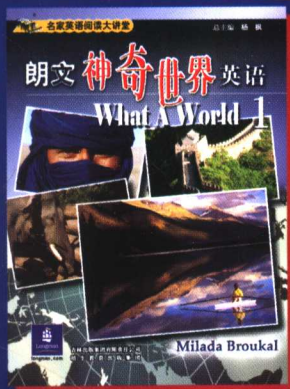
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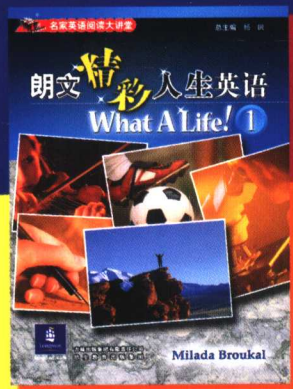
二十篇小文章组成，作者多是在美国生活的第二代移民，透过学生的视野，讨论了涉及节假日、风俗习惯、社会交往、餐饮忌讳、肢体语言等各种关于跨文化交际方面的话题。学生阅读之后，有助于培养国际意识和对其它文化的理解和尊重，并更好地与来自其它文化背景的人士进行交流。同时配有形式丰富的词汇与阅读技巧练习和互动式的口语讨论活动，实现阅读和口语能力的共同提高。



《朗文神奇世界英语》（共三册）描述了从古至今世界各地一些引人入胜的人物和故事，读者在阅读的过程中能开阔视野和增长知识。同时，还精心编排了词汇、阅读、写作等课后练习题，让读者在更好地理解文章的基础上大幅提高英语水平。

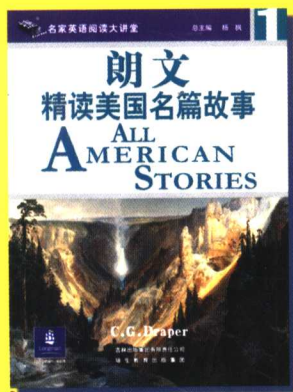
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传奇人物无与伦比的成就以及色彩纷呈的个性。读者在学习英语的同时亦能品味人生、分享成功！



《朗文精读美国名篇故事》（共三册）所选的故事是许多年前

最著名的美国作家如马克·吐温、欧·亨利、艾德加·艾伦·坡撰写的，对词汇和句子的精心改写使把英语作为第二语言来学习的学生更容易理解。读者不仅能了解美国历史及人民多年前的日常生活情况，还有助于提高读、说、写、译等多种英语语言技能。



1

UNIT

THE GIFT OF THE MAGI



Adapted from the story by
O. HENRY

O. Henry's real name was William Sydney Porter. He was born in Greensboro, North Carolina, in 1862. He left school at the age of fifteen and worked in many different places. He also spent three years in prison because he took money from a bank. He started to write stories while he was in prison. O. Henry is famous for his stories with surprise endings. "The Gift of the Magi" is his most famous story. It is from the book *The Four Million*, stories about the everyday people of New York City. O. Henry died in 1910.



BEFORE YOU READ THE STORY

A About the Author

Read the paragraph about O. Henry on page 1. What do you think is the most interesting thing about O. Henry's life?

B Scanning for Information

Reading quickly to find small pieces of information is called scanning. First read the questions below. The answer to each question is in the paragraph about O. Henry on page 1. Then read the paragraph quickly, looking only for the information that will answer each question. Try to find each answer in thirty seconds or less.

1. In what town was O. Henry born?
2. How old was he when he left school?
3. Why did he go to prison?
4. What is O. Henry famous for?
5. What is *The Four Million*?
6. How old was O. Henry when he died?

C The Pictures

1. Look at the pictures on page 5 and page 8. The same woman is in both pictures. Look at her face, her hair, and her clothes. What is the same? What is different?
2. Look at the picture of the three kings on page 6. Do you know who they were? Each king is carrying a gift. What do you think these gifts are?

D Thinking about It

"The Gift of the Magi" happens at Christmas (December 25). In many countries, people give gifts at this time of year. When do you give gifts? Why do you give gifts?



KEY WORDS

comb People usually **comb** their hair in the morning. If they don't have a **comb**, they might use their fingers. Women with long hair sometimes put special **combs** in their hair. The **combs** hold up their hair and add beauty.

Magi The word **Magi** (MAY-jai) means "wise men." The three kings on page 6 are the **Magi**. They are carrying gifts for the baby Jesus.

watch and chain A **watch** tells us the time. Usually, we wear a **watch** on our wrist (lower arm). Many years ago, men carried their **watches** in the pockets of their clothes. This kind of **watch** was often at the end of a special **chain** for **watches**. In the picture on page 8, the man is holding one of these **watch chains**.





THE GIFT OF THE MAGI

1 Della counted her money three times. She had only one dollar and eighty-seven cents. That was all. And tomorrow would be Christmas. What Christmas gift could she buy with only one dollar and eighty-seven cents? Della lay down on the old bed and cried and cried.

2 Let's leave Della alone for a while and look at her home. The chairs and tables were old and poor. Outside there was a mailbox without mail, and a door without a doorbell. The name on the door said MR. JAMES DILLINGHAM YOUNG—Della's dear husband, Jim.

3 Della knew that Jim would be home soon. She dried her eyes and stood up. She looked in the mirror. She began to comb her hair for Jim. She felt very sad. She wanted to buy Jim a Christmas gift—something good. But what could she do with one dollar and eighty-seven cents? She combed her hair in front of the mirror and thought. Suddenly she had an idea.

4 Now, Jim and Della had only two treasures. One was Jim's gold watch. The other was Della's hair. It was long and brown, and fell down her back. Della looked in the mirror a little longer. Her eyes were sad, but then she smiled. She put on her old brown coat and her hat. She ran out of the house and down the street. She stopped in front of a door which said, MME. SOPHRONIE. HAIR OF ALL KINDS. Madame Sophronie was fat and seemed too white. The store was dark.

5 "Will you buy my hair?" Della asked.

6 "I buy hair," said Madame. "Take off your hat. Let's see your hair."

7 Della took off her hat. Her hair fell down like water. Mme. Sophronie lifted Della's hair with a heavy hand. "Twenty dollars," she said.

8 "Give me the money now!" said Della.

9 Ah! The next two hours flew past like summer wind. Della shopped in





many stores for the right gift for Jim. Then she found it—a chain for his gold watch. It was a good chain, strong and expensive. Della knew the chain would make Jim happy. Jim had a cheap chain for his watch, but this chain was much better. It would look good with the gold watch. The chain cost twenty-one dollars. Della paid for the chain and ran home with eighty-seven cents.

- 10 At seven o'clock Della made coffee and started to cook dinner. Jim would be home soon. He was never late. Della heard Jim outside. She looked in the mirror again. "Oh! I hope Jim doesn't kill me!" Della smiled, but her eyes were wet. "But what could I do with only one dollar and eighty-seven cents?"





11 The door opened, and Jim came in and shut it. His face was thin and quiet. His coat was old, and he had no hat. He was only twenty-two. Jim stood still and looked at Della. He didn't speak. His eyes were strange. Della suddenly felt afraid. She did not understand him. She began to talk very fast. "Oh, Jim, dear, why do you look so strange? Don't look at me like that. I cut my hair and sold it. I wanted to buy you a Christmas gift. It will grow again—don't be angry. My hair grows very fast. Say 'Merry Christmas', dear, and let's be happy. You don't know what I've got for you—it's beautiful."

12 "You cut your hair?" Jim spoke slowly.

13 "I cut it and sold it," Della answered. "Don't you like me now? I'm still me, aren't I?"

14 "You say that your hair is gone?" Jim asked again.

15 "Don't look for it, it's gone," Della said. "Be good to me, because it's Christmas. Shall we have dinner now, Jim?"

16 Jim seemed to wake up. He smiled. He took Della in his arms.

17 Let's leave them together for a while. They are happy, rich or poor. Do you know about the Magi? The Magi were wise men who brought Christmas gifts to the baby Jesus. But they could not give gifts like Jim's and Della's. Perhaps you don't understand me now. But you will understand soon.

18 Jim took a small box out of his pocket. "I love your short hair, Della," he said. "I'm sorry I seemed strange. But if you open the box, you will understand." Della opened the box. First she smiled, then suddenly she began to cry. In the box were two beautiful combs. Combs like those were made to hold up long hair. Della could see that the combs came from an expensive store. She never thought she would ever have anything as beautiful! "Oh, Jim, they are lovely! And my hair grows fast, you know. But wait! You must see your gift." Della gave Jim the chain. The chain

