

English Readings
for
Junior Middle School
Students

5

初中英语阅读文选

上海教育出版社

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编者的话

中学英语教学大纲明确指出,“中学英语教学的目的是对学生进行听、说、读、写的基本训练,培养在口头上和书面上初步运用英语的能力,其中侧重培养阅读能力,为进一步学习和运用英语切实打好基础。”

阅读在整个外语教学中占有很重要的地位,培养阅读能力是中学外语教学中最基本的任务之一。为了帮助学生巩固和扩大词汇,帮助学生掌握和丰富语言知识,帮助学生提高运用语言的能力,特别是阅读能力,我们认为必须开展和加强阅读,增加学生的阅读量。为此,我们选编了这套《初中英语阅读文选》,共六辑,供初中各年级学生使用。

本书有短文三十二篇,可供一个学期使用。短文均选自国外教科书或其他图书。文字力求浅显,内容富有趣味,并配以插图。其中有些短文,如:《亚历山大大帝》和《拿破仑与莫斯科》,是以故事的形式介绍一些有关欧洲历史的知识;《香港》、《登山》和《雨点的故事》等介绍一些有关地理和自然界的知识。故事《点金术》、《吹喇叭的人儿》和《威尼斯商人》等都是英美社会中家喻户晓久经流传的故事,也是我国青少年所喜闻乐见的。本书在文字方面,力求照顾到初中英语课本第一册至第五册中出现过的词汇和句型。本书中出现的生词、新的语法现象和句型都加以注释,以帮助学生理解选文内容。

本书每篇短文后面除有帮理解短文内容的练习外,还配有结合初中教学内容的词汇、语法、语音和读音规则方面

的复习性练习。(各项练习附有参考答案。)本书另配有短文朗读录音磁带,可供教师对学生进行听力训练和听写训练之用。

书后附有词汇表,其中除初中英语第一册至第五册中的词汇不再列入外,本文选前四辑中新的词汇均予收录,便于读者查阅。

本书前四辑出版以后,承各地师生纷纷采用,并有许多同志来函垂询和关注。这是对我们莫大的支持和鼓励。谨此表示衷心的感谢!

由于我们编写时间仓促和水平有限,书中难免存在缺点和错误,仍请广大师生不吝赐教,批评指正。

一九八五年十一月

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HELP! HELP! 1

I

Yesterday afternoon we were walking along the road when we heard someone shout, "Help! Help!" He called several more times before we could find him. He was in a lake, about a hundred feet² from the shore³. There was a small boat nearby. We knew immediately what had happened. He had fallen from the boat and could not swim well enough to reach it or to get to shore. As we ran towards the lake I saw him sink, and I was certain⁴ that he had drowned⁵. But in a moment his head appeared⁶ again.

Quickly John took off his shoes, jumped into the water



and started swimming towards the drowning man. He reached him just as the man was going down again⁷. He was close enough to take hold of the man's clothes or his hair before he sank. But the man threw out his arms in fear⁸, caught John around the neck⁹ and began to draw him down under the water. John fought to keep his head above water and at the same time¹⁰ tried to swim towards the boat, pulling the man with him.

NOTES:

1. Help! Help! —— 救命啊! 救命啊!
2. feet —— 英尺 (foot 的复数形式)
3. shore [ʃɔ:] —— 岸, 河边
4. certain ['sɜ:tn] —— 确定的, 无疑的
5. drown [draʊn] —— 淹死
6. appear [ə'piə] —— 出现
7. he reached him just as the man was going down again
—— 正当那个人再次下沉的时候, 他游到了那个人的身旁
8. threw out his arms in fear —— 惊恐地伸出双臂
9. caught John around the neck —— 抱住约翰的脖子
10. at the same time —— 同时

FORMS OF VERBS

Fill in each blank with the correct form of the verb.

1. Yesterday afternoon we _____ (walk) along the road when we _____ (hear) someone _____ (shout), "Help! Help!"

2. He _____ (call) several times before we _____ (find) him.
3. As we _____ (run) towards the lake, I _____ (see) a man _____ (sink).
4. But in a moment his head _____ (appear) again.
5. John _____ (swim) quickly and _____ (reach) him just as the man _____ (go) down again.
6. John _____ (catch) hold of the man's clothes before he _____ (sink).

JOIN TOGETHER

Put the right number before the second part.

1. Yesterday afternoon we () just as he was going
were walking along the down again.
road () as we ran towards
the lake.
2. We knew immediately () when we heard
someone shouting.
3. We saw a man sink () just before he sank.
4. John reached the man () what had happened.
5. John caught hold of
the man's clothes

DIFFERENT WORD, DIFFERENT SOUND SOUND IT OUT

Read the words in pairs and pay attention to the difference in sound.

shout	—	shut	close	—	clothes
shore	—	sure	off	—	of
think	—	sink	boat	—	boot
drawn	—	drown	full	—	fool
reach	—	rich	aunt	—	ant

2

HELP ! HELP !

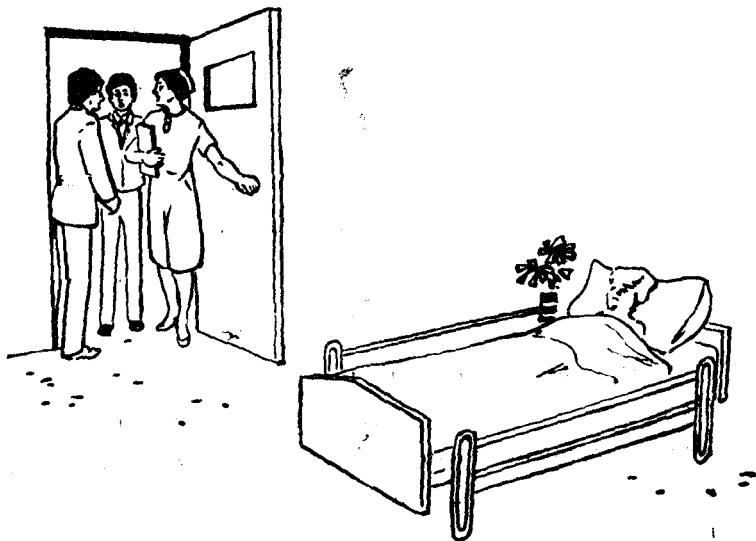
II

John had jumped into the water with no thought¹ for his own safety. I wasn't so brave. But I did follow him in a moment or two and swam to the boat. I couldn't get into it, so I began to push it towards John and the man.

When I reached them, John was very tired. He was so worn out² that both of them might have drowned if I hadn't arrived with the boat. Together we got the man to shore, holding to³ the boat with one hand and swimming with the other.

The man looked dead, but his heart was beating. We made him comfortable, and John did what he could for him⁴ while I ran to the nearest house to call a doctor. When I got back, the man had begun to come to life. He opened his eyes a little and began to move.

By the time the doctor came, the man was able to sit up, but he still looked pretty⁵ sick. The doctor took him to the hospital, and when we called last night to ask



about him, they told us that he would be all right in a day or two.

NOTES:

1. thought —— 思想

with no thought for his own safety——不顾自己的安危

2. worn out —— 精疲力尽

he was so worn out that both of them might have drowned if I hadn't arrived with the boat —— 他已经是精疲力尽，要不是我把船带到他那里，他们两人恐怕都淹死了

3. hold to —— 紧握，紧紧抓住

4. John did what he could for him — 约翰精心地照顾着他

5. pretty — 相当地; 颇

pretty sick — 健康状况很差; 身体很虚弱

WHAT IS MISSING?

Put in the missing words.

The man looked _____, but his heart _____. They made him _____. John _____ good care of him while the writer ran to call a _____. And before the doctor came, the man began to _____ to life. He opened his _____ a little and began to _____. By the time the doctor came, the man was able to _____ up, but he still looked very _____. The doctor took him to the _____.

TRUE OR NOT TRUE?

Put a ☒ before the right statement and a ☐ before the wrong one.

- () 1. John did not think that it was dangerous for him to save the man before he jumped into the water.
- () 2. The writer was as brave as John to jump into the water without thinking of his own safety.
- () 3. Neither John nor the writer got into the boat.
- () 4. John had not drowned for the writer arrived in time with the boat to help him.

DIFFERENT EXPRESSIONS express the SAME MEANING

Fill in each blank with a word or an expression to make sentence (b) similar to sentence (a) in meaning.

1. (a) When they heard the cry for help, they *knew at once* what had happened.
(b) When they heard the cry for help, they _____ knew what had happened.
2. (a) John was *so close* that he could take hold of the man's clothes.
(b) John was _____ to take hold of the man's clothes.
3. (a) John *did not think* of his own safety and jumped into the water.
(b) John had jumped into the water _____ for his own safety.
4. (a) John was *too tired* to keep on swimming.
(b) John was _____ that he could not keep on swimming.
5. (a) The man looked dead at first. And after some moments he *became* alive.
(b) The man looked dead at first. And after some moments he began to _____.

3

SEVENTEEN CAMELS

Once upon a time there was an old man who had three sons. He called them together and said, "Sons, my end is near. To my oldest son I give half of my camels, to my second one-third¹, and to my youngest one-ninth²." Soon afterwards³ he died.

Now, the old man had seventeen camels, and the three brothers did not know how to share⁴ them as their father had said. They thought a long time about the problem, and it seemed that they must either kill some of the camels and cut them into pieces or⁵ disobey⁶ their



father. At last they went to their father's old friend and asked his advice⁷. As soon as he heard their story, he said, "I will help you. I honoured⁸ your father. I am old. I have only one camel, but take it — it is yours."

Gratefully the three sons took the old man's camel. They found that it was now easy to divide⁹ the camels as their father had wished. The oldest took half, which was nine camels; the second took one-third, which was six; and the youngest took one-ninth, which was two.

Only when each had received his share of camels did they discover that there was a camel to spare¹⁰. So, out of gratitude¹¹ to their father's friend, they returned the camel.

NOTES:

1. one-third — 三分之一
2. one-ninth — 九分之一
3. afterwards ['ɑ:ftəwədz] — 以后, 后来
soon afterwards — 不久以后
4. share [ʃə] — 分摊, 份
5. either ... or conj. — 不...就得..., 或者...或者...
6. disobey [,disə'bei] — 违命, 不听从
they must either kill some of the camels and cut them into pieces or disobey their father — 他们如果不宰了几头骆驼把它切成块块来分, 就不能按照他们父亲的遗言去做
7. ask his advice — 征求他的意见