

21ST CENTURY COLLEGE ENGLISH

21 世纪 大学英语 泛读 4

Extensive Reading 4

● 冯 奇 主编
毛忠明 主审



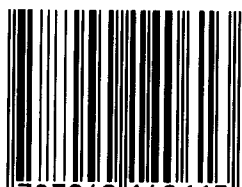
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内容提要

《21世纪大学英语泛读》是对现行主修教材阅读量的拓展和补充,旨在帮助学生扩大阅读面,提高阅读理解水平,巩固所学过的知识和加强语言综合能力的培养。文章均选自因特网和最近几年出版的英美书报、杂志。本教材分1至4册,每册含10个单元,共30篇文章。

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冯奇教授领衔编写的《21世纪大学英语泛读》系列教材即将问世,这是一件可喜可贺的事。它向英语学习者们提供了一条学好英语的有效途径:泛读。“泛”者,广泛之谓也。学好英语非多读、泛读不可。现在,我们十分强调学习外语的目的在于培养跨文化交际的能力。人们对交际能力的模式有不同的理解,但语言能力是任何一种交际能力模式中最基本的范畴,它包括由语法、词汇和语音组成的语言知识以及由听、说、读、写组成的语言技能。其中,读的技能尤为重要,而这种技能只有通过大量阅读才能获得;再则,多读与培养写的技能密不可分,这一点自不待言;即便听、说,也与读不无内在联系。

每一篇文章、每一部书籍都是地道的“英语老师”,是不出国门就已创造好的英语环境。诚然,阅读是一个复杂的心理过程,是认知和言语交际的过程,是篇章意义“构思”的过程,它是通过并用自下而上(bottom-up)和自上而下(top-down)的方法得以实现的。这种心理语言学上的论断可以留给学者们去研究,但阅读给学习者带来的收获确实是显而易见的。通过阅读,可以全面提高英语技能,增加英语国家文化背景知识,以达到准确理解和运用英语的目的;可以学会篇章分析的方法,了解各种衔接手段,进而提高阅读的质量和写作的能力;可以学会运用语用知识,凭借语境(context)弄清文字的言外之意,明了作者思路的来龙去脉;可以学会区分不同的文体,保证语言使用的適切性。此外,大量阅读也是巩固和扩大词汇量的好方法。词汇是语言的基本素材,掌握词汇是听、说、读、写的前提,也是基础。在

某种意义上,词汇量的大小决定着语言能力和交际能力的高低。通过阅读,可以根据上下文认识新的词语,对自己言语库中的语汇不断温故知新,进一步扩大词汇量。

凡此种种无非是在说明阅读,尤其是大量阅读的重要性,也是在说明《21世纪大学英语泛读》值得称道的原因。它给学习者们提供了大量名篇佳作,语言纯正,题材鲜活,富有时代气息,可读性强。倘若再能多兼顾一些体裁,除了选用说明文之外,再收进一些散文、小说、戏剧,乃至诗歌,读起来或许会更有兴味。

徐 钟

2004年1月

郑 重 声 明

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Unit One



TEXT A

Task A-1

Look at the title of this text and try to answer the following questions.

1. Who do you think won the contest 400 years ago?
2. If you were to make a choice, whom would you choose?

Task A-2

The following words can help you understand this text. Are you familiar with them? Match the words with the definitions following them.

merit nominee genuine evacuate distinct
alliance guarantee quotation patriot triumph

1. real _____
2. to move (a person) away from a place in order to protect them from danger _____
3. someone who loves and is willing to defend his country _____
4. a good quality _____

TEXT A

TEXT B

TEXT C

5. a close agreement or connection made between countries, groups, families, etc. for a shared purpose or for the protection of their interests _____
6. a person who has been nominated _____
7. a complete victory or success _____
8. clearly different or separate _____
9. to promise (that something will certainly be so) _____
10. a sentence or phrase taken from a work of literature or other piece of writing and repeated, esp. in order to prove a point or support an argument _____

Task**A-3**

Read the following text carefully. As you read, think about why the author thinks the contest was won four centuries ago.

This Contest Was Won Four Centuries Ago

- 1 As the November evenings draw in, it will become increasingly important to remember that the BBC's search for the greatest Briton has little to do with real interest in the rival merits of the candidates. If something serious were intended, Anne Robinson would not be presenting the series, William Ewart Gladstone, George Eliot and John Milton would have been included in the slate of nominees from which the viewing public made its initial choice, and Diana, Princess of Wales would not be on the final shortlist.
- 2 To be fair to the BBC, once somebody had the bright idea of stimulating weak-minded interest by pretending that there was a competition, a sensible programme was impossible. The genuine contest was over before it began.
- 3 The title was won four centuries ago and has been retained ever since by the man who makes Britain in general, and England in particular,

different from the rest of the world. Whatever our other failures and failings, we remain special and superior because we have William Shakespeare. His champion status cannot be changed by the sort of vote that the BBC organises to determine the sports personality of the year.

- 4 Shakespeare would walk away with the title if he were no more than the greatest poet and dramatist the world has ever known. But that is only the beginning of his claim to be England's Englishman. What he wrote defines what we are. England made him but he, in turn, helped to make the England of our imagination. On the day after British troops were evacuated from Dunkirk, the pupils of my primary school all chanted in unison: "Come the four corners of the world in arms and we shall shock them."
- 5 Our notion of national identity — distinct from the culture and customs of our continental cousins — is enshrined in Shakespeare's histories. Henry V, proposing to Princess Katherine, typifies our relationship with France 403 years after the scene was written. Affection combines with self-interest to encourage a closer alliance. But the language is a problem.
- 6 The poet of England always exhibits an admirable English realism about his native land. He searched for Arcadia in the Forest of Arden. And, to guarantee the continued support of his royal patrons, he chronicled the reigns of successive Henrys and Richards in a way that owes more to Tudor prejudices and propaganda than to objective history. But Shakespeare avoids the mawkish sentimentality that characterises so many self-styled patriots.
- 7 Shakespeare has become part of our language. Some of the aphorisms are so vivid that they have turned into cliches. But few of us pass a day without using or hearing a dozen phrases which we would find in a book of Shakespearean quotations. Years ago I asked Senator Pat Moynihan — a

surviving member of John F. Kennedy's New Frontier — if he had really responded to the news of the president's death with an expression of fear that he would never feel young again. Not quite, he told me. But something like it. His first thought was: "Our revels now are ended."

- 8 No other dramatist has possessed Shakespeare's ability to analyse the fundamental human emotions. The world's greatest plays about love, ambition, jealousy and grief were all written by him. Each one of them — Hamlet, Macbeth, Othello and King Lear — teaches perceptive readers something new about themselves. Add to that the political lessons inherent in Coriolanus and Julius Caesar, and it is easy to forget Shakespeare's real purpose. Shakespeare was meant to make us glad. Last summer, I saw Pericles at Stratford, a play that some critics think not good enough to be the Bard's own work. It was pure delight and I staggered out of the theatre thinking that if this is the worst he ever did, the best must be a series of miracles.
- 9 What Shakespeare has to say about love and hate, hope and despair, triumph and failure means as much now as it did when it was written. Enobarbus exaggerated the splendour of Cleopatra's progress along the river Cydnus because he wanted to be associated with a sensation. Which of us has not done something similar in the hope of impressing our friends? Shakespeare speaks for us all at our worst and best. That is why Ben Jonson called him "Not of an age, but for all time". BBC please note.

(728 words)

Task A-4

Read the following words carefully and try your best to remember them.

merit	n.	优点, 价值
slate	n.	候选人名单, 提名名单