

朗文

讲透美国经典名著

GREAT AMERICAN STORIES

2

C.G. Draper



吉林出版集团有限责任公司
培生教育出版集团

捷进名家英语阅读大讲堂

朗文讲透美国经典名著

Great American Stories

2

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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:

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- 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。

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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。

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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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1 UNIT

THE ROMANCE OF A BUSY BROKER



Adapted from the story by
O. HENRY

O. Henry was born in Greensboro, North Carolina, in 1862. His real name was William Sydney Porter. He left school at the age of fifteen and worked at different times in a drugstore, a business office, a building designer's office, and finally a bank. When he was caught taking money from his own bank, he was arrested and put in prison for three years. He had begun writing, and while he was in prison he published a book of adventure stories called *Cabbages and Kings*. He moved to New York in 1902, and it was there that he became famous for his short stories with surprise endings. He wrote hundreds of stories about the ordinary people of New York City. His most famous books include *The Four Million* and *The Voice of the 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 notice about his work experience? What would you expect the characters in his stories to be like?

B The Picture

Several of the key words introduced on page 3 are shown in the picture on page 6. The **stockbroker** is reading stock prices from the **ticker tape** that was produced by the small machine on his desk. This **ticker tape machine** was in use a hundred years ago. What sort of machine would you expect to find in a stockbroker's office today? What else in the picture shows us that the story is a hundred years old?

C Thinking about the World of Business

What do you like, or dislike, about the world of business? Why? Which of the following words or phrases best describe the business world to you: *peaceful, exciting, pressure—filled, beautiful, interesting, dangerous, busy, slow, loving, restful, fast*. Are you a businessman or a businesswoman? Would you like to be one? Why or why not?



D Scanning for Information

Reading quickly to find small pieces of information is called scanning. Read the questions below. The answer to each question can be found in the paragraph about O. Henry on page 1. As you read the paragraph, look for the piece of information that will answer the question. You do not need to understand everything in the paragraph. But you must read carefully enough to find the answer to each question. Try to answer each question in thirty seconds or less.

1. In what state was O. Henry born?
2. Who was William Sydney Porter?
3. In what year did he leave school?
4. Where did he work before he began writing?
5. Where was O. Henry when he published his first book?
6. What kind of book was it?
7. What kind of stories is O. Henry most famous for?
8. What kinds of people usually appear in his stories?



KEY WORDS

A *romance* is a type of story that contains unusual or surprising events and is often about love. This romance by O. Henry is about a *broker*, or *stockbroker*—a person who buys and sells parts of businesses called *stocks* or *shares*. Years ago, brokers followed the daily buying and selling of stocks with the help of a *ticker tape machine*. This machine received the changing prices of stocks and then printed them out on thin paper (*ticker tape*).



THE ROMANCE OF A BUSY BROKER

I

- 1 Pitcher had worked for many years in the office of Harvey Maxwell, the stockbroker. Pitcher was a quiet man. He didn't usually let his face show his feelings. But this morning he looked surprised—and very interested. Harvey Maxwell had arrived energetically as usual at 9:30. But this morning, the young lady who was his secretary had arrived with him. Pitcher watched them with interest. Harvey Maxwell didn't pay attention to Pitcher. He said only a quick "Good morning," and ran to his desk. He dug energetically into the mountain of letters and telegrams that waited for him. The stockbroker's day had begun.
- 2 Miss Leslie, the young lady, had been Maxwell's secretary for a year. She was beautiful, and she dressed simply. Unlike some secretaries, she never wore cheap glass jewelry. Her dress was gray and plain, but it fitted her body nicely. With it she wore a small black hat with a green-gold flower at the side. This morning her face shone with happiness. Her eyes were bright, her face a soft pink.
- 3 Pitcher, still interested, noticed that she acted differently this morning. Usually she walked straight inside to her own desk. But this morning she stayed in the outside office. She walked over near Maxwell's desk. Maxwell didn't seem to be a man anymore. He had changed into a busy New York stockbroker. He'd become a machine of many moving parts.
- 4 "Well—what is it? Is anything wrong?" Maxwell asked his secretary. He wasn't looking at her. His eyes were on his mail. Letters and telegrams lay on his desk like snow.
- 5 "It's nothing," she said softly. She moved away with a little smile. "Mr. Pitcher," she said, coming over to him, "did Mr. Maxwell ask you to hire





another secretary yesterday?"

6 "Yes, he did," answered Pitcher. "He told me to get another one. I asked the secretarial school to send over a few this morning. But it's 9:45, and no one has come yet."

7 "I will do the work as usual, then," said the young lady, "until someone comes to fill the place." And she went to her desk at once. She hung up the black hat with the green-gold flower in its usual place.

8 Harvey Maxwell was always a busy stockbroker, but today he was even busier than usual. The ticker tape machine began to throw out tape. The desk telephone began to ring. Men crowded into the office, buying and selling, crying and yelling. Boys ran in and out with telegrams. Even Pitcher's face looked more alive. Maxwell pushed his chair against the wall. He ran energetically from ticker tape to telephone, jumping like a dancer.

9 In the middle of all this action and yelling, the stockbroker realized that someone new had arrived. He first saw a high mountain of golden hair under a large round hat. Then he noticed some large glass jewelry. Underneath all this was a young lady. Pitcher saw that Maxwell didn't know who she was. He came forward to explain. "Here is the lady from the secretarial school," Pitcher said to Maxwell. "She came for the job."

10 Maxwell turned around with his hands full of papers and ticker tape. "What job?" he yelled. His face looked angry.

11 "The secretarial job," Pitcher said quietly. "You told me yesterday to call the school. I asked them to send one over this morning."

12 "You're losing your mind, Pitcher! Why would I tell you a thing like that? Miss Leslie has worked well for a whole year here. The job is hers while she wants to stay. There is no job here, Madam! Tell the secretarial school, Pitcher. Don't bring any more of them in here! "





- 13 The lady turned to leave. Her hat almost hit Pitcher in the eye as she angrily walked past him out of the office. Pitcher thought to himself that Maxwell was getting more forgetful every day.

II

- 14 The office became busier and busier. Orders to buy and sell came and went like birds flying. Maxwell was worried about his own stocks, too, and worked faster and harder. This was the stock market, the world of money. There was no room in it for the world of human feelings or the world of nature.

- 15 Near lunchtime, everything quieted down. Maxwell stood by his desk with his hands full of telegrams. His pen was behind his ear. His hair stood up on his head. Suddenly through the open window came a smell of flowers, like the thin breath of spring. Maxwell stood still. This was Miss Leslie's smell, her own and only hers. The smell seemed to bring her before him. The world of the stock market disappeared. And Miss Leslie was in the next room—only twenty steps away.

- 16 "I'll do it now," said Maxwell softly. "I'll ask her now. Why didn't I do it long ago?"

- 17 He ran into her office. He jumped towards her desk. She looked up at him with a smile. Her face turned a soft pink. Her eyes were kind. Maxwell put his hands on her desk. They were still full of papers.

- 18 "Miss Leslie," he said, hurrying, "I only have a moment to talk. I want to say something important in that moment: Will you be my wife? I haven't had time to show you, but I really do love you. Speak quickly please—there's the telephone."

- 19 "Why—what are you talking about?" cried the young lady. She stood up and looked at him strangely.

- 20 "Don't you understand?" Maxwell asked quickly, looking back at the

phone on his desk. "I want you to marry me. I've stolen this moment to ask you, now, while things have quieted down a little. Take the telephone, Pitcher!" he yelled. "Will you, Miss Leslie?" he added softly.

21 The secretary acted very strange. At first she seemed surprised. Then she began to cry. But then she smiled through her tears like the sun through rain. She put her arm around the stockbroker's neck.

22 "I know now," she said. "It's this business that put it out of your head. I was afraid, at first. But don't you remember, Harvey? We were married last evening at 8:00, in the little church around the corner."





AFTER YOU READ THE STORY



A Understanding the Plot

Answer these questions with complete sentences.

1. What is Maxwell's business?
2. Who works with him, and what do they do? In the picture on page 6, which man is Pitcher and which is Maxwell?
3. Why is Pitcher so interested in Maxwell this morning?
4. What telephone call did Pitcher make for Maxwell yesterday? Why?
5. What question does Maxwell ask Miss Leslie?
6. Why is she so surprised?

B Close Reading

Below are some statements about Part I of "The Romance of a Busy Broker." If the statement is true, write T beside it. If it is not true, write F for false, and then on a separate piece of paper rewrite the sentence to make it true.

- _____ 1. Pitcher was an energetic man, and his feelings could always be seen in his face.
- _____ 2. Harvey Maxwell was a man who put great energy into his work.
- _____ 3. The young lady with Maxwell seemed unhappy, and she dressed badly.
- _____ 4. The young lady asked Pitcher if Maxwell had asked him to get another secretary.
- _____ 5. The young lady went to her desk because no one from the secretarial school had arrived.
- _____ 6. The office was quiet and peaceful after Maxwell and the young lady