

Philosophical Stories

哲理故事

韵味不绝的人生哲理

编译 杨丽丽 钱虹



英语美文
欣赏系列

● 英汉对照 ●

English-Chinese

青岛出版社

哲理故事

Philosophical Stories

杨丽丽 钱 虹 编译

青 岛 出 版 社

书 名 哲理故事
编 译 杨丽丽 钱 虹
出版发行 青岛出版社
社 址 青岛市徐州路 77 号(266071)
本社网址 <http://www.qdpub.com>
邮购电话 13335059110 (0532)85840228 传真(0532)85814750
责任编辑 曹永毅 E-mail:cyyx2001@sohu.com
封面设计 陈晓雪
印 刷 青岛星球印刷有限公司
出版日期 2006 年 1 月第 1 版,2006 年 1 月第 1 次印刷
开 本 32 开(787mm×960mm)
印 张 8.75
字 数 130 千
书 号 ISBN 7-5436-3554-2
定 价 16.00 元

盗版举报电话 (0532)85814926

青岛版图书售出后如发现印装质量问题,请寄回承印公司调换。

地址:胶南市珠山路120号 电话:0532-88183519 邮编:266400



前 言

随着中国加入 WTO、申奥、申博的成功,英语学习日益受到人们的高度重视。然而,当今时代,人们的生活节奏大大加快,有心学习英语,又不可能投入太多的时间和精力;有心学习英语,又倦于传统的学习方式,希望愉快阅读,轻松掌握。故此,我们编译了这套《英语美文欣赏系列》,旨在为具有中学英语水平的广大学生和在职人员,提供一条学习英语的便捷可行的崭新途径。

英语学习,阅读能力的培养至为重要。因为,阅读是获取信息的主要手段,是听、说、写水平提高的基础。一般而言,阅读能力的培养大约有两种图式:一是自下而上的知识性阅读;二是自上而下的交际性阅读。然而,长期以来,我们的英语教学采取的是前者,即,按照“词—句—篇”的顺序,侧重于识别和辨认词句和语法等表层结构,但对于语篇的理解却显得支离破碎,影响了言语交际能力的获得。这里,我们一反以往的做法,充分发挥从语篇的整体出发的交际性阅读的优势,便于读者在茶余饭后、旅行途中、课余时间,或随意翻翻、或细细品



味,以达到解乏去闷、轻松记忆、在愉快的阅读中提高英语应用和交际的能力。

《英语美文欣赏系列》共分6本:《浪漫短诗》、《抒情散文》、《励志小品》、《人间喜剧》、《童话世界》、《哲理故事》。编选的材料散见于各大英语报章书刊,内容丰富,生动有趣,新颖别致,题材多样。各书编排均采用英汉对照的形式,以便读者对照学习和欣赏。该丛书既便于帮助读者咀嚼原汁原味的英语原文,又为只想通过汉语欣赏英语散文的读者提供了方便。

尽管本书参考了一些专家的相关成果,编选不当甚至失误之处在所难免,渴望得到读者、专家的指正。

青鸟图书工作室



目 录

- 前言 (1)
1. Bob's Gift *Thomas Pucci* (1)
 鲍勃的礼物 托马斯·朴茨
2. Broken Promises *Lorraine M. Gregoire* (9)
 不守诺言 罗琳·M·格历高里
3. Mother's Love *Nora M. Mulligan* (19)
 母爱 诺拉·M·慕丽葛
4. Momma Says It's for You *Phyllis Caldwell*... (27)
 妈妈说这是给你买的 菲力斯·科德威
5. Love Lives Forever *Peter Dow* (38)
 永恒的爱 彼德·杜
6. The Father and the Son *Anonymous* (48)
 父子俩 佚名
7. Mrs. Thompson's Love *Anonymous* (56)
 汤普逊夫人的爱心 佚名
8. The Chain of Love *Anonymous* (65)
 爱之链 佚名
9. The Rich Man and the Poor Man *Stanley Bubien*
 (73)
 富人和穷人 斯坦利·波宾



10. Look in Your Heart *Anonymous* (83)
 心灵深处 佚名
11. The Adopted Son *Anonymous* (86)
 养子 佚名
12. White Horse Winner *Thomas Sennett* (104)
 白马城获奖者 托马斯·塞内特
13. Merope's Reward *Anonymous* (114)
 梅洛普的奖励 佚名
14. Common Man's Daydream *Amir Saleem* ... (123)
 普通人的梦想 亚默·萨力
15. A Woman and a Fork *Anonymous* (140)
 女人与叉子 佚名
16. The Doll and a White Rose *Anonymous* (147)
 玩具娃娃和白色玫瑰 佚名
17. Robby's Piano Lessons *Mildred Hondorf* (154)
 罗比的钢琴课 米尔德里·杭多芙
18. The Model Millionaire *Anonymous* (163)
 百万富翁当模特 佚名
19. Angels Don't Have Wings *Robert Mothersell* (182)
 天使没有翅膀 罗伯特·马塞尔
20. What Was in Jeremy's Egg? *Ida Mae Kempel* (196)
 杰瑞米的鸡蛋 伊达·米·坎佩尔
21. An Incident at War *Turnip Smith* (205)
 战争轶事 特尼普·史密斯
22. The Son *Anonymous* (216)
 儿子 佚名



23. A Room with a View *Anonymous* (223)
看得见风景的房间 佚名
24. The Story of Big Rocks *Anonymous* (228)
大石块的故事 佚名
25. It's Never Too Late for Success *Charles D. Rice*
..... (233)
获得成功永远不会为时过晚 查尔斯·D·赖斯
26. Unreality of TV *Art Ruchwald* (243)
电视中的虚假世界 阿尔特·布赫瓦尔德
27. Why the Geese Shrieked *I. B. Singer* (251)
鹅为什么尖叫 I·B·辛格
28. A Lesson for Living *Anonymous* (267)
生活的教训 佚名



1 Bob's Gift

Thomas Pucci

Bobby was getting cold sitting out in his back yard in the snow. Bobby didn't wear boots; he didn't like them and anyway he didn't own any. The thin sneakers he wore had a few holes in them and they did a poor job of keeping out the cold.

Bobby had been in his backyard for about an hour already. And, try as he might, he could not come up with an idea for his mother's Christmas gift. He shook his head as he thought, "This is useless, even if I do come up with an idea, I don't have any money to spend."

Ever since his father had passed away three years ago, the family of five had struggled. It wasn't because his mother didn't care, or try, there just never seemed to be enough. She worked nights at the hospital, but the small wage that she was earning could only be stretched so far.



What the family lacked in money and material things, they more than made up for in love and family unity. Bobby had two older and one younger sister, who ran the household in their mother's absence.

All three of his sisters had already made beautiful gifts for their mother. Somehow, it just wasn't fair. Here it was Christmas Eve already, and he had nothing.

Wiping a tear from his eye, Bobby kicked the snow and started to walk down to the street where the shops and stores were. It wasn't easy being six without a father, especially when he needed a man to talk to.

Bobby walked from shop to shop, looking into each decorated window. Everything seemed so beautiful and so out of reach. It was starting to get dark and Bobby reluctantly turned to walk home when suddenly his eyes caught the glimmer of the setting sun's rays reflecting off of something along the road. He reached down and discovered a shiny dime.

Never before has anyone felt so wealthy as Bobby felt at that moment. As he held his newly found treasure, a warmth spread throughout his entire body and he walked into the first store he saw. His excitement quickly turned cold when



salesperson after salesperson told him that he could not buy anything with only a dime.

He saw a flower shop and went inside to wait in line. When the shop owner asked if he could help him, Bobby presented the dime and asked if he could buy one flower for his mother's Christmas gift. The shop owner looked at Bobby and his ten cents offering. Then he put his hand on Bobby's shoulder and said to him, "You just wait here and I'll see what I can do for you."

As Bobby waited, he looked at the beautiful flowers and even though he was a boy, he could see why mothers and girls liked flowers.

The sound of the door closing as the last customer left jolted Bobby back to reality. All alone in the shop, Bobby began to feel alone and afraid.

Suddenly the shop owner came out and moved to the counter. There, before Bobby's eyes, lay twelve long stem, red roses, with leaves of green and tiny white flowers all tied together with a big silver bow. Bobby's heart sank as the owner picked them up and placed them gently into a long white box.

"That will be ten cents, young man." the shop owner said reaching out his hand for the dime. Slowly, Bobby moved his hand to give



the man his dime. Could this be true? No one else would give him a thing for his dime! Sensing the boy's reluctance, the shop owner added, "I just happened to have some roses on sale for ten cents a dozen. Would you like them?"

This time Bobby did not hesitate, and when the man placed the long box into his hands, he knew it was true. Walking out the door that the owner was holding for Bobby, he heard the shop keeper say, "Merry Christmas, son."

As he returned inside, the shop keeper's wife walked out. "Who were you talking to be there and where are the roses you were fixing?"

Staring out the window, and blinking the tears from his own eyes, he replied, "A strange thing happened to me this morning. While I was setting up things to open the shop, I thought I heard a voice telling me to set aside a dozen of my best roses for a special gift. I wasn't sure at the time whether I had lost my mind or what, but I set them aside anyway. Then just a few minutes ago, a little boy came into the shop and wanted to buy a flower for his mother with one small dime. When I looked at him, I saw myself, many years ago. I too was a poor boy with nothing to buy my mother a Christmas gift. A beard-



ed man, whom I never knew, stopped me on the street and told me that he wanted to give me ten dollars. When I saw that little boy tonight, I knew who that voice was, and I put together a dozen of my very best roses. ”

The shop owner and his wife hugged each other tightly, and as they stepped out into the bitter cold air, they somehow didn't feel cold at all.

1 鲍勃的礼物

托马斯·朴茨

外面下着雪，鲍勃站在后院感觉越来越冷。鲍勃没有穿靴子，他不喜欢穿，况且，他也没有靴子可穿。他脚上的那双薄薄的运动鞋已经磨出了好几个洞，根本抵挡不了冬天的严寒。

鲍勃在后院差不多待了一个钟头了。他要送给母亲一件圣诞礼物，可是，他怎么也想不出送什么样的礼物好。他一边想，一边摇着头：“这是没有用的，即使我能想出什么好的办法，我也没有钱来买。”

自从他父亲三年前去世后，这个五口之家便一直在为生活而挣扎。倒不是因为母亲花的心血少，或者没有尽力而为，只是赚



来的那点儿可怜的钱永远不够用。她在医院值夜班，但是那一点点薪水只够维持现状。

尽管这个家缺钱用，生活用品也是紧巴巴的，他们互相关爱、亲密无间。鲍勃有两个姐姐和一个妹妹，母亲不在时，她们把家里料理得井井有条。

三个姐妹都已经为母亲准备好了礼物。这可有点不公平，都已经是圣诞节了，鲍勃却什么也拿不出来。

抹掉眼中的泪水，鲍勃踏着积雪，向街上的商店走去。没有父亲，对一个六岁的孩子来说着实不容易，特别是他有心里话要和父亲说的时候。

鲍勃走过一个又一个商店，从每一个装饰精美的窗户往里看。里面所有的东西都美极了，可都是他想都不敢想的。天渐渐暗了下来，鲍勃很不情愿地往回走。突然，在夕阳的映照下，他在路边看到一个闪闪发光的东西，他走过去，蹲下来一看，发现一枚亮晶晶的一角硬币。

此刻鲍勃感觉自己一下子成了一个富翁，他拿着新发现的财宝，顿觉一股暖流穿过全身。他来到就近的第一家商店，可店里的每一个营业员都告诉他说一角钱买不到什么东西，他的兴奋感一下子消失殆尽。

他看到一家鲜花店，进去排队等候。店



主问他要买什么时，鲍勃递上一角硬币，问这钱能否买一朵鲜花，他要作为圣诞礼物送给妈妈。店主看了看鲍勃以及他手上的一角硬币，拍着他的肩膀跟他说：“你稍等一会儿，我看看能帮上什么忙。”

就在鲍勃在那里等候的时候，他看到商店里一束束美丽的鲜花。即使他还只是一个孩子，他也能体会到母亲们、女孩子们喜欢鲜花的原因所在了。

最后一位顾客离开了，商店的关门声一下子把鲍勃拉回到现实世界中来。独自一个人站在店里，孤独感油然而生，他不禁担心起来。

突然，店主出来了，他来到柜台前。鲍勃看到了由十二朵玫瑰扎成的一束鲜花，长长的根茎上是青翠的叶子，玫瑰花的周围是些小白花，所有这些花，由一根宽宽的银色丝带扎成一束。看着店主将这束花轻轻地放进一个白色的长方形盒子里，鲍勃的心一下子沉了下去。

“这束花一角钱，年轻人。”店主说话的时候伸手来拿一角钱。鲍勃把钱慢慢地递给了他。这是真的吗？没有人会愿意给他一样东西而只收他一角钱的！看到孩子迟疑不决的样子，店主说：“我正好有些玫瑰花是一角钱一打的，你要吗？”

这次鲍勃没有犹豫。当店主把那长方



形的盒子放在他手上时，他知道这是真的。鲍勃向门外走去，店主为他拉开店门，并对他说：“孩子，圣诞快乐！”

正当店主回到店里时，他的妻子走了出来，问他：“你在那儿跟谁讲话呀？你扎好的那束玫瑰花呢？”

看着窗外，店主的眼里闪出了晶莹的泪花，他回答道：“今天早上发生了一件奇怪的事。我整理好店铺，打开店门时，听到一个声音对我说，准备十几枝最好的玫瑰作为一份特殊的礼物。我还以为脑子出了问题呢，但我还是这样做了。几分钟前，一个小男孩来到店里，用一角钱要买礼物送给母亲。我看到他时，想起了多年前的自己。那时，我也是一个穷孩子，没有钱为母亲买礼物，路上一个素不相识的留胡子的男子拦住了我，给了我十元钱。我今晚看到那个孩子时，就明白了早上那个声音是谁说的，我扎了十二枝最好的玫瑰给了他。”

店主和他的妻子紧紧地拥抱在一起，他们走了出去，外面凛冽的寒风扑面而来，而他们的心里暖洋洋的，一点都感觉不到这逼人的寒意。



2 Broken Promises

Lorraine M. Gregoire

“Give me a few points for self control!” I snapped at my cranky husband. I wanted to stop at a sporting goods store “Going Out of Business” sale we passed in the mall. “There’s nothing we need,” his usual grumpy male comment. “It’s all overpriced junk. If they had anything good they wouldn’t be going out of business.”

“But, it’s sporting goods,” I wheedled. “Could be some good deals for the grandkids. And, you like boats and fishing stuff. I’ve put up with that photo of your ‘dream-canoe’ stuck on the bathroom mirror for years now. Maybe you’d enjoy just looking around?”

“Are you crazy?” his eyes got funny and he said something like. “The boat I want is the Supremo Numero-Uno blah-blah. Soon as I finish saving up 6,000 bucks for that baby I’m going to order right from the manufacturer. Custom. In