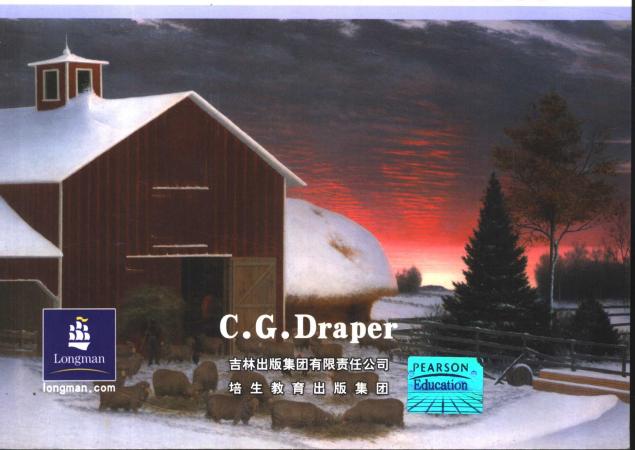


精读美国名篇故事 AMERICAN STORIES



捷进名家英语阅读大讲堂

朗文精读美国名篇故事

AMERICAN (2) STORIES (2)

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古林出版集团有限责任公司培 生 教 育 出 版 集 团

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

朗文精读美国名篇故事 (2)/杨 枫/(美)德雷伯(C. G. Draper.)主编.

长春: 吉林出版集团有限责任公司 2005

书名原文: All American Stories

ISBN 7-80720-402-8

I. 朗... II. ①杨...②德... III. 英语一对照读物一英、汉 IV. H319.4:I

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2005)第 131145 号

吉・版权合同登记图字 07-2005-1453

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English Reprint edition published by Pearson Education Asia Ltd. and Jilin Publishing Group ? Copyright © 2006

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发行电话:0431-5618714

总 主编:杨 枫

责任编辑:胡亚红

版式设计: 李 娜

Ш 版: 吉林出版集团有限责任公司

地 址:长春市人民大街 4646 号

印 张: 11.5

版 次:2006年2月第1版

2006年2月第1次印刷

封面设计:宋宇航

责任印制:王 冰

发 行:吉林出版集团捷进可一图书经营有限公司

开 本:720 毫米×960 毫米 1/16

字 数:232 千字

价:18.00 元

ISBN 7-80720-402-8

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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连续性和广泛性;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。
- 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

学习语言不读文学就如隔靴搔痒,因为文学中的语言是最丰富、最灵活、最具表现力的,同时文学中的情节、故事引人入胜,可以充分调动读者的阅读兴趣,培养读者文学修养,语言的学习才会水到渠成。

《朗文精读美国名篇故事》(1-3)荟萃美国著名作家马克·吐温、欧·亨利、艾德加·艾伦·坡、欧内思特·海明威、杰克·伦敦、凯特·肖邦的经典作品,教你在领略文学之美的同时学习英语,在学习英语中欣赏文学。

- 一、本套书的**创新**之处在于将英语说、读、写、译的能力结合起来,每章附有作者简介,选文配有阅读理解题、讨论题、扩展活动及相关的写作练习,以利于培养读者英文阅读思维和文学鉴赏能力。
- 二、本套书的**科学性**在于难度循序渐进,词汇、语法及内部结构的难度从首篇至末篇逐渐增加,对结构、词汇和句子长度的控制贯穿始终。语法结构按着英语教学梯度进阶安排,超出中心词表的词汇均出现在使其意义明显的语境之中,方便读者的阅读。
- 三、本套书的**目的**在于提高广大读者的英语阅读理解和写作技能,同时小说本身向读者展现了美国的历史、文化和人民生活的历史画卷。其丰富的人物性格、清晰的情节和矛盾冲突以及出人意料的结局引人入胜。

四、本套书的形式采用英汉对照,既保留了教科书的功用,又照顾到读者自学的方便,对提高读者文学欣赏水平和英语运用能力大有裨益。

本套书既可以作为各类英语学校或培训机构开设英语名著阅读课的 教材,也可以作为英语学习的通俗读物,我们希望通过这套书,将那些曾 感动过世界,并将深刻影响着我们生命历程的精彩文学名著奉献给读者, 引导读者走向进步和成功!

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The Romance of a Busy Broker

Adapted from the story by O. Henry

About the Author

O. Henry was born in Greensboro, North Carolina, in 1862. His real name was William Sydney Porter. At the age of fifteen, he left school. He found work 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, O. Henry was arrested and put in prison for three years. While in prison, he published a book of adventure stories called Cabbages and Kings. In 1902, he moved to New York. 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

1 About "The Romance of a Busy Broker"

Characters

Harvey Maxwell, a stockbroker; Pitcher, a man who works for Harvey Maxwell; Miss Leslie, Harvey Maxwell's secretary

Plot

Maxwell is so busy that he doesn't remember having hired a new secretary the day before. And he doesn't remember another important event that happened.

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Setting

Time: early 1900s

Place: stockbroker's office in New York City

Theme

Some people let their work life become too important.

2 Build Background

A Stockbroker's Life

Stockbrokers help people buy and sell stocks, or parts of a company. When a company needs money, it sells stocks. The people who buy stocks are buying a part of the company. The company gets the money it needs. The people get a sheet of paper showing that they now own a part of the company. Stockbrokers do not use ticker tape machines anymore. Instead, they use telephones and computers.

Successful stockbrokers often make a lot of money. But working as a stockbroker can be very stressful. Do you think you would you like to be a stockbroker? Why or why not?

3 Key Words

Read these sentences. Try to understand each word in dark type by looking at the other words in the sentence. Use a dictionary to check your ideas. Write each word and its meaning in your notebook.

romance stockbroker stocks ticker tape machine

broker

- **1.** Harvey Maxwell was a **broker** who was always busy buying and selling stocks.
- 2. A romance is a kind of story that is usually about love.
- 3. A stockbroker helps people buy or sell stocks.
- 4. This morning, Maxwell sold many stocks, or parts of a company.
- 5. Years ago, stockbrokers followed the buying and selling of stocks on a ticker tape machine. Today they use phones and computers.

4 Reading Strategy

Predict

As you read a story, you can predict, or guess, what will happen next. As you read, follow these steps:

- O From time to time, stop reading to ask yourself, "What will happen next?"
- Look for clues in the story and the pictures.
- Think about what you already know about how people act.
- Think about your own experiences.
- Continue reading to see whether your prediction is correct.

The Romance of a Busy Broker

Adapted from the story by O. Henry

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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.

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.

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.

"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.

"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?"

"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."

"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.

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.

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."

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

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

"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!"

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.

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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.

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.

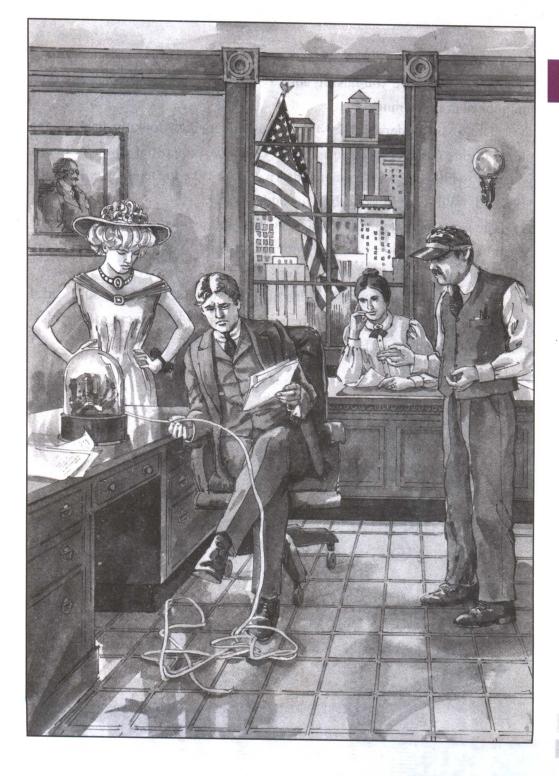
"I'll do it now,"said Maxwell softly."I'll ask her now.Why didn't I do it ling ago?"

He ran into her office. He jumped toward 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.

"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

-

O. Henry





telephone."

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

"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.

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.

"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

1 Understand the Story

Answer these questions in your notebook. Write complete sentences.

- 1. What time did Harvey Maxwell arrive at the office?
- 2. How long had Miss Leslie been Maxwell's secretary?
- 3. How long had Pitcher worked for Maxwell?
- 4. What telephone call had Pitcher made for Maxwell the day before?
- 5. What question did Maxwell ask Miss Leslie?
- 6. Why was Miss Leslie so surprised?

2 Elements of Literature

Surprise Ending

Read the last paragraph of the story, reprinted below. Then answer the questions that follow.

"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."

What surprising fact do you learn in the story's final paragraph? Explain what is surprising about this fact. Do you think the **surprise ending** is important to the story? Why or why not?