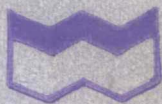


PASSAGES FROM CLASSICS

文学名著选读

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中学生英语阅读丛书

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(简写)

周令仪 选编

上海译文出版社

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(简写本)

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编写说明

阅读是打好英语基础，提高英语水平的一条必不可少的途径。根据不同的目的，阅读可以分为精读、详读和略读。编者一直想为中学生提供一本可作详读的阅读材料。考虑到世界文学名著都是文学巨匠的精品，不独具有进步的社会意义，而且具有重要的文学价值，应该介绍给我们的中学生读一读。当然，中学生还看不懂大师们的原著，但不少简写本仍很好地传达了原著的精神，仍不失为学习的好材料。编者挑选了十一位英美作家共十二部作品（简写本）的片段，其中包括英国的乔叟、莎士比亚、斯威夫特、狄更斯、盖斯凯尔夫人、夏洛蒂·勃朗特、艾略特、哈代，美国的马克·吐温、斯托夫人、海明威等，根据高中二年级以上学生的水平作了少量删节，收在这个本子里。希望中学生在读了这本书之后，对英美的文学作品有一个最初的接触，对他们今后阅读更多的简写本，甚至阅读原著起一点小小的帮助作用。今后还将选编更多的作家和作品。

为了弥补节选片段之不足，编者在每篇选段之前，用学生能接受的文字，增加了作家的简介，并在选段的前后简要地勾勒了故事情节的来龙去脉。这样，一方面使读者对有关作家的风格特点有所了解，一方面对故事的全貌也能知道一个大概，进而引起他们涉猎全书的兴趣。/

对文学作品的欣赏要求不同于一般快速阅读的要求，因此，所配的练习与快速阅读的理解测试题也大有区别。编写这些练习的意图和具体形式是：

1. 理解 这是最起码的要求。由于选编这本书的意图就是把它作为中学生的详读材料，再加上目前中学生缺少练习写英文句子的锻炼机会，本书采用了回答问题这一练习形式，一能测试理解，二能让学生练写句子。其中有些篇目还配有确定单词、词组、句子含义的练习和完形填空题。

2. 学习词汇短语 让学生从阅读中学语言，提高选词用词能力。这项练习大多采用翻译形式。通过翻译，读者可以把这些词语的搭配和用法学到手。只有理解透，才能译得准；如果还能译得雅，那就更好了。这项练习也可以说是对中学生的文字修养和表达能力的一种测定吧。

3. 讨论题 也可以看成是思考题。读完全篇后，思考一下人物的性格和气质，分析一下他们的情感和内心活动，思索一下作者要表达的意愿和哲理，这有助于对作品的深层理解。

4. 写提纲 这是用来锻炼、测定学生的概括能力的。

总起来说，编者希望中学生在初步接触英美文学作品的同时，学习一些语言知识，提高理解、欣赏和表达能力。从这个意义上讲，这本书可以作为详读材料，供高中二年级以上学生或同等程度的英语自学者使用。

对于书中的不当和错误之处，欢迎读者批评指正。

编者

1985年11月于上海

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Three Young Men, Death and a Bag of Gold

Geoffrey Chaucer¹ and *The Canterbury Tales*²

Geoffrey Chaucer (1340?—1400) is regarded as Father of English Poetry. His best-known work, *The Canterbury Tales*, was written in the last 14 years of the poet's life. It consists of a general Prologue³ and twenty-four tales, of which two are left unfinished. It tells how a poet, preparing to go on a pilgrimage to Canterbury⁴, met at the Tabard Inn⁵ in a London suburb twenty-nine other pilgrims. The innkeeper suggested to them to entertain themselves on the way to and from Canterbury by telling stories to one another, and the suggestion was accepted by all. The innkeeper also went with them. One of the tales is about three young men, Death and a bag of gold.



Three young men were in an inn drinking wine.

Suddenly they heard a noise outside. The innkeeper told them that Death had taken a young man. When they learned of the name of the dead man, they were very much surprised because it was the name of their friend. They got so angry with Death for killing their friend that they decided to go and kill Death.

They left the inn and went along the road. Soon they met a very old man. They asked him, "Do you know where we can find Death?"

"Oh, yes," replied the old man, "it is not difficult to find Death. Do you see that wood? Go there and you will find him under an old oak."

The young men thanked the old man and went into the wood. Soon they saw a very large oak. Under it was a bag full of gold. They were so glad that they forgot all about Death.

They decided to stay there till night. At night, when it was dark and people were asleep, nobody would see them and it would be safe for them to take the gold home and divide it.

As it was a long time to wait and soon they felt hungry, the youngest of them went to town to

get some wine and food.

While the other two remained under the oak with the gold, one of them said, "Look here, I don't want to divide this gold into three parts. Can't we divide it into two parts, between you and me?"

"Why not?" said the other. "But how can we do it?"

"Oh, it's very simple. Two are stronger than one. When he comes back, we can easily kill him."

The two young men liked the plan very much.

And what was their friend thinking about at that time? About the gold, of course. He wished to have all of the gold. He thought and thought, and at last he had an idea. "I shall poison them," he said to himself.

He bought some poison, then he went and bought some bread and meat, and three bottles of wine. Outside the town, he put the poison into two of the bottles of wine and hurried back to the old oak to join his friends.

When he reached the oak, the other two killed him at once. They were very glad. They opened

the bottles and drank all the wine. Soon they were dead, too.

This is how the three young men found Death.

NOTES

1. Geoffrey Chaucer ['dʒefri'tʃɔ:sə] 杰弗里·乔叟(英国诗人)
2. *The Canterbury Tales* 《坎特伯雷故事集》(小说名)
3. Prologue ['prəʊləʒ] 此指乔叟所著《坎特伯雷故事》前的楔子
4. Canterbury ['kæntəbəri] 坎特伯雷(英格兰东南部肯特郡中一城市)
5. Tabard Inn ['tæbəd'in] 泰巴旅店

NEW WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS

- pilgrimage ['pilgrimɪdʒ] *n.* journey of a pilgrim 朝圣
pilgrim ['pilgrim] *n.* a person who travels to a holy place
to show devotion to God 香客, 朝拜圣地者
oak [əʊk] *n.* 橡树

EXERCISES

I. Comprehension

A. Answer the following questions.

1. What news did the three young men hear when they were drinking in an inn? How did they feel at the news?
2. What did they decide to do?

3. What did they find under an old oak in the wood?
4. Why didn't they take the bag and leave the wood right away?
5. The youngest was sent to get some wine and food. But after he left, the other two planned something evil. Now, what was their plan?
6. Was the youngest an honest man? What was he going to do to his friends?
7. What was the ending of the story?

B. Arrange the following in the order of time.

- () a. The discovery of a bag of gold under an old oak.
- () b. The news about the death of a young friend.
- () c. The decision of the three young men to kill Death.
- () d. Their decision to divide the gold among themselves at night.
- () e. The secret plan of the two friends.
- () f. The youngest sent to buy wine and food.
- () g. The death of the three young men.
- () h. The plan of the youngest.

C. Fill in the blanks, try not to look back at the story.

The news that Death had taken their (1) _____ made

the three young men (2) _____ to go and kill Death.

(3) _____ their way, an old man told them that they could (4) _____ Death under an old (5) _____ in the wood. The three young men actually found a bag of (6) _____, which made them wild with (7) _____ and (8) _____ all about Death.

They planned to divide the gold at (9) _____. As they had to (10) _____ a long time and they felt (11) _____, the youngest went to town for food.

In order (12) _____ more gold, the two friends planned (13) _____ the youngest. But at the (14) _____ time, the youngest had put poison into two bottles of wine to get (15) _____ of his friends.

The youngest was killed as (16) _____ as he got back to the wood. The two friends drank all the (17) _____ to celebrate their victory. Soon they (18) _____, too. So all of them found (19) _____.

II. Words and Expressions to Learn

Put the following into Chinese.

1. Death had taken a young man.
2. ... forgot all about Death.
3. Can't we divide it (the gold) into two parts, between you and me?
4. Two are stronger than one.
5. He thought and thought ...

6. ... and hurried back to the old oak to join his friends.

III. Questions for Discussion

1. What do you think of the old man's directions? Did the old man know there was a bag full of gold under the tree? Was he right in saying that they would find Death under the oak tree? Why did he say so? Why did he equal the bag of gold to Death?
2. Did the three men find Death? Why were they killed by Death instead of killing Death?
3. What do you think of the friendship between the three young men? Were they so bad in the first place? What made them change then?
4. What lesson can you learn from the story?
5. What would you do if you found a bag of gold?

2. The Merchant of Venice¹

William Shakespeare²

Stratford-on-Avon³ is not a large English town, but the whole world knows it, because it is the birth-place of William Shakespeare (1564—1616). When Shakespeare was a young man, there were no theatres



in England. Groups of actors travelled from town to town and performed in different places, usually out-of-doors. Sometimes actors came to Stratford. Young William went to see all their shows and liked them very much. He wanted to become an actor. Sometimes he wrote little plays himself and staged them with his friends.

Life in Stratford-on-Avon was hard, and when Shakespeare was twenty-one years old, he went to London, where he joined a group of actors. At first he only helped the actors. But later he also acted. And he began to write plays for the thea-

tre. By the closing years of the 16th century Shakespeare had become a successful writer of both tragedies and comedies. *The Merchant of Venice* is one of his outstanding comedies.

At the time when the city of Venice was at the height of her name and prosperity, one of her most important citizens was a merchant named Antonio⁴. He was well known for his kindness, and had many friends, the chief being a young noble named Bassanio⁵. Though of noble birth and high rank, Bassanio was poor. But Antonio was very fond of him, and lent or gave him money whenever he was in need of it. For the merchant of Venice was a rich man, owning a fleet of valuable ships which brought him wealth by trading with foreign countries.

Now it happened that Bassanio loved a lady named Portia⁶. So well known was she for her wealth, her beauty, and her gifts of mind, that many young noblemen wished to marry her. But Bassanio, being poor, was afraid that this lady might look down upon him for his poverty and refuse his offer of marriage. So he went to Antonio and told him of his difficulty. He asked Antonio if he could lend him