

READING COMPREHENSION

高中英语阅读教程 II

主编 汤惠民 沈启智



湖北教育出版社

高中英语阅读教程 II

主编 汤惠民 沈启智
编者 高慧英 孟连英
蒙燕玉 刘燕

湖北教育出版社

(鄂)新登字 02 号

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

高中英语阅读教程 (Ⅰ)/汤惠民,沈启智编著.
—武汉:湖北教育出版社,1996
ISBN 7-5351-1993-X

I. 高… II. ①汤… ②沈… III. 英语课-阅读教学-
高中-教材 IV. G634.411

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(96)第 13798 号

出 版	汉口解放大道新育村 33 号
发 行:湖北教育出版社	邮编:430022 电话:5830435

经 销:新华书店	
印 刷:湖北教育出版社印刷厂	(433100·潜江市环城路 62 号)
开 本:787mm×1092mm 1/32	5 印张
版 次:1996 年 9 月第 1 版	1996 年 9 月第 1 次印刷
字 数:103 千字	印数:1—5 000

ISBN 7-5351-1993-X/G·1613	定价:4.50 元
---------------------------	-----------

如印刷、装订影响阅读,承印厂为你调换

编写说明

根据国家教委所颁发的“全日制中学英语教学大纲”以及近年来国家教委考试中心“高考英语科说明(NMET)”中的有关要求,高中阶段的英语教学应把重点放在培养学生的英语阅读能力上。为此我们选编了《高中英语教程阅读》,共两册,分别供高一和高二年级课内外使用;也可作为高三年级总复习的强化训练材料。

本书为第二册,共收入阅读短文60篇,出处可靠,选材新颖,难易得当,并遵循“NMET 阅读理解”题的选材原则,做到“题材新颖多样;体裁避免单一”,包括日常生活、传说、人物、社会、文化、史地、科技和新闻等。所选篇目长短搭配,按照现行高中教材的进度控制词汇范围,并适当补充考纲词汇表中课本上没有出现的单词。少量生词(一般不超过全文词汇量的3%)配以英文释意,既可扩大学生的阅读面,又可初步培养一点使用英文字典的能力。每篇短文后附有按照“NMET 阅读理解”命题原则精心编写的练习3—7题。

书中的短文及练习绝大多数由编者自行选编,其中一部分曾在不同场合分散使用过,效果及反映较好,此次又经校订方选入;为能更好地与读者一同把握好“NMET 阅读理解”的命题特征与标准,我们还精选了少量近年全国高考试卷中的短文穿插其中。

1996年5月

目 录

编写说明 ST	1
Passage 1—60	1—149
Keys	150

Passage 1

Eight-year-old Anna Spears, from the United States, is now teaching at the Shanghai International **Bilingual** School (SIBLS). "My students are 11, 12 and 13 years old," said Anna. "They are nice **kids**."

Anna is a **pretty** girl with brown hair and starry eyes. A pair of glasses makes her look like a scholar. In August this year, she and her little brother came to Shanghai with their mother, a foreign teacher in Shanghai International Studies University, and she was invited to teach once a week in SIBLS, a school **sponsored** by Shanghai International Studies University.

"Yesterday I had my first class," Anna said, "At first I was **scared**. But when in class I was not scared any more."

When she teaches, an English teacher will act as an **interpreter** when the students can't understand her. It seemed that she was very proud of her work. "Most eight-year-old American children do not teach, especially in China."

"Next week I will teach them to play some games," the little girl said seriously.

When asked what she liked most about China, she answered, "I don't know." Then she added **diplomatically**. "I mean I like everything."

Having been in China for over six weeks, Anna misses her friends most. "Here I have no friends at my age speaking English. They could only say 'How do you do', then no

more. "And she could only say "Nihao,Zaijian" in Chinese.

bilingual *adj.* of two languages;able to speak two languages equally well

kid *n.* child

pretty *adj.* beautiful

sponsor *v.* support by paying a certain amount of money

scared *adj.* frightened;full of fear

interpreter *n.* person who immediately translates words spoken in another language

diplomatically *adv.* being clever enough to say or do things without hurting others' feeling

1. What do we know about Anna Spears?
 - A. She's an English teacher in a university.
 - B. She's a student of Chinese in Shanghai.
 - C. She's a nice little American girl.
 - D. She speaks Chinese quite well.
2. Who came to China together with Mrs Spears?
 - A. Her husband.
 - B. Her son.
 - C. Her daughter.
 - D. Her children.
3. Why does Anna need an interpreter in class?
 - A. Because her students can't understand her.
 - B. Because her teachers can't understand her.
 - C. Because she can't understand her students.
 - D. Because she can't understand her teachers.

4. What is Anna Spears most proud of?
- A. Her friends in China.
 - B. Her school in China.
 - C. Her job in China.
 - D. Her friends at home.
5. The underlined word scholar perhaps means: _____.
- A. a person with great knowledge
 - B. a person with great courage
 - C. a person with great power
 - D. a person with great skill
6. Choose a best title for this story: _____.
- A. A Good English Teacher
 - B. A Little English Teacher
 - C. A Good American Teacher
 - D. A Scared Little American Girl

Passage 2

Our village **carpenter**, Alf Winn, came one day and made a kitchen **cupboard** for my wife. He made it just the right size to fill the useless space between the **cooker** and the door. When I got home that evening, Alf was drinking a cup of tea and making out his bill for the job.

My wife said to me, quietly, "That's his ninth cup of tea today." But she said, loudly, "It's a beautiful cupboard, dear, isn't it?"

"I'll decide about that when I see the bill," I said.

Alf laughed and gave me his **account** for the work. I read:

One kitchen cupboard,	10 Nov. 1985
Cost of materials(wood)	£17. 00
Paint and fittings	1. 50
Work, 8 hours (£1. 00 an hour)	8. 00
Total	£36. 50

I took out my cheque book and my pen. I looked at the bill. Alf said, "It's been a lovely day, hasn't it? Quite sunny. "

"Yes," I said. "I'm glad it's only the 10th of November. "

"Me, too," said Alf. "You wait—it'll be a lot colder by the end of the month. "

"Yes. Colder—and dearer! Kitchen cupboards will be £20 dearer on November 30th, won't they, Alf?"

Alf looked hard at me for half a minute. Was there a little smile in his two blue eyes? I gave his account back to him.

"If it isn't too much trouble, Alf," I said, "Please add it up again. You can forget the date....."

I wrote him a cheque for £26. 50. He was happy to accept it.

carpenter *n.* one who makes things from wood

cupboard *n.* piece of furniture with space inside for storing things

cooker *n.* stove; metal or brick container which is heated and used

for cooking or heating

account *n.* written list of money received or spent

1. When the husband got home that evening the carpenter was _____.
 - A. drinking a cup of tea
 - B. writing out a cheque for £36. 50
 - C. writing out his bill for the work
 - D. A and C
2. From the passage we can infer that the couple were glad _____.
 - A. to have a useful cupboard in that empty space
 - B. to fill the useless space between the cooker and the door
 - C. to have a right size cupboard in the empty kitchen
 - D. to have a used cupboard to fill that empty space
3. The sentence I'll decide about that when I see the bill. suggests that the husband wanted to _____ first.
 - A. take out his cheque book and his pen
 - B. decide whether he liked the cupboard
 - C. see the account
 - D. give the carpenter's account back to him
4. The husband paid the carpenter £26. 50, which was _____.
 - A. £20 less than what he should have paid
 - B. £10 more than the right account
 - C. exactly the right account

D. £10 less than what he should have paid

Passage 3

Last month we bought our two-year-old daughter a little dog. There are not many children of her age in our neighbourhood, and we thought a dog would make her less lonely. We were right. They play together happily all day. Our daughter now smiles and laughs a lot more than she used to. In a way it is like having two children in the house. Both of them are very dirty, and they cry when they do not get what they want. But the dog is easier to look after than my daughter, for he always eats up all his food and we don't have to wash a lot of dirty clothes for him. My wife is also happy because I have given up smoking, for the dog does not like the smell.

1. From the passage we know that _____.
 - A. there are few children in the neighbourhood
 - B. there are many dogs in the neighbourhood
 - C. a child likes to play with children of its own age
 - D. each family in the neighbourhood has a dog
2. The daughter felt lonely because _____.
 - A. her parents had to work all day
 - B. she did not have many small children to play with
 - C. she was left alone in her own room
 - D. the dog refused to play with her

3. What did the parents do to make their daughter less lonely?
- A. They bought a dog for her.
 - B. They decided to send her to school.
 - C. They stayed at home to look after her.
 - D. They played together with her happily.
4. The dog does not like the smell, so _____.
- A. they wash him several times a day
 - B. they wash his clothes every day
 - C. the father gives up smoking
 - D. the mother smokes a lot
5. Which of the following is true?
- A. The daughter used to smile and laugh a lot.
 - B. The parents regrets buying a dog for their daughter.
 - C. The wife is proud of the dog they bought.
 - D. The wife is happy because their dog has got rid of a bad habit.
6. Which of the following is NOT true?
- A. The daughter always eats up all her food.
 - B. The daughter is the only child of the family.
 - C. The daughter cries if she cannot get what she wants.
 - D. They don't have to wash a lot of dirty clothes for the dog.



Mr. Enderby, the headmaster, stopped Anna one day at

school gate. "Now," he said, "I want you to tell me the truth, my dear." "Naturally," said Anna shortly, fearing something terrible had happened.

"I have had a most serious **accusation** made against you by Mrs. Bond."

"Mrs. Bond?" said Anna, not understanding. Janet Bond was a quiet little mouse of a child. As far as Anna could remember she had never had cause to speak an angry word to the girl.

"Mrs. Bond," went on Mr. Enderby, "tells me that you **scolded** her daughter yesterday afternoon."

"Scolded?" cried Anna. "I don't scold. At least not in school," she added honestly.

"Mrs. Bond's story is that Janet was a little late back to school in the afternoon. She said that the child had to spend some time in the bathroom, which meant she set out from home a little late."

"Just a minute," said Anna, beginning to understand. "She did come late, very late. I had marked her absent, of course. Then she wandered in, when we'd started our paper-cutting, and I believe I said she was a **nuisance**. She didn't appear to hear, and was certainly quite cheerful."

"Ah, a nuisance." Mr. Enderby jumped on the word. "You're sure you only said nuisance?"

"I may not even have said that," Anna replied. "It was no more than slight displeasure that I felt—and I certainly

didn't scold."

"Mrs. Bond said that you called her child a 'blasted nuisance'. Is that true?"

"Indeed it isn't," said Anna. "The child—or the other—had made it up!"

Mr. Enderby was satisfied with Ann's explanation.

"Just as I thought, my dear, but of course I had to make sure."

accusation *n.* (statement) charging someone of doing wrong or breaking the law

scold *v.* speak angrily to someone who has done something wrong

nuisance *n.* person or thing that is troublesome

blasted *adj.* very annoying

1. When Mr. Enderby stopped Anna at the school gate, he

- _____
- A. made her feel worried at first
 - B. thought she had done something wrong
 - C. had made up his mind to scold her
 - D. wanted to tell her a true story

2. During this meeting, Anna _____.

- A. did not understand Mrs. Bond
- B. heard Mrs. Bond's story
- C. apologized for having scolded Mrs. Bond's child
- D. said that she respected Mrs. Bond

3. Mr. Enderby thought that _____.

- A. Janet had scolded Anna
 - B. Anna had scolded Janet
 - C. Mrs. Bond had not told the truth
 - D. Anna would not tell the truth
4. To call a child a nuisance is _____.
- A. not considered serious by the teacher
 - B. considered a serious accusation
 - C. obviously upsetting for the child
 - D. a sign of great anger
5. Mr. Enderby considered Anna a _____ teacher.
- A. careless
 - B. cruel
 - C. bad
 - D. trusted

Passage 5

I would like to conclude today's geography lecture with this bit of information. Have you ever wondered why some highways in the US have names like Mohawk Trail? These highways are no longer **trails** but they started out as such. Animals made paths to and from watering places and feeding grounds. Later prehistoric Indian hunters followed the animals and widened the trails. Early settlers then used the same paths, first on foot, later on horseback. Next, **wagons** were taken over the same trail and widened them even more. Then railroad engineers found that all of these wagon roads made the best routes for the railroads. Finally when car roads were needed, engineers often made use of some of the

ways the Indians had first discovered so long ago. For this reason, many highways now have Indian names, besides their state or national **designations**.

trail n. track followed in hunting; path through rough country

wagon n. four-wheeled vehicle for carrying goods


designation n. name, title or description

1. What is the main topic of the talk?
 - A. Today's geography lecture.
 - B. Highway names.
 - C. Indian settlers.
 - D. Railroads.
2. When did animals first make the paths?
 - A. When they were searching for food and water.
 - B. When they were followed by the Indian hunters.
 - C. When they were being hunted by Indians.
 - D. When they were pulling wagons.
3. The persons who first widened the trails were _____.
 - A. railroad engineers
 - B. newcomers from Europe
 - C. Indian hunters
 - D. highway engineers
4. What did the railroad engineers discover?
 - A. Indian names given to highways.
 - B. A native labour force.
 - C. Railroads built by native laborers.

D. Suitable existing routes.

5. The talk might be between _____.

- A. a geography teacher and his students
- B. a history professor and his students
- C. an Indian story teller and some villagers
- D. an engineer and some geography teachers



Since the earliest time, trees have always been very useful and important to man who made use of them in different ways for his daily life. Even today trees continue to serve man in so many useful ways.

They provide man with food, and building materials in the form of wood. Without trees it would be impossible to build houses, boats and even bridges. **Furniture** such as tables, chairs and beds is also made from wood.

In the **tropics** where it is very warm throughout the year, trees protect man from the heat of the sun. They are also useful in preventing good and rich top of soil from being washed away during heavy rains which are so common in the tropics.

If there are no trees or grasses of some sort to hold back the soil with their roots, heavy rain would wash away the rich surface soil so important for agriculture. The result is that the land becomes useless and unproductive.

There are many desert areas in the world. A long time