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Reading Level: ★ Low ★★ Medium ★★★ High

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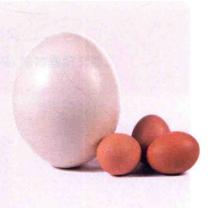
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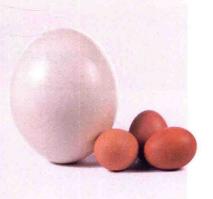
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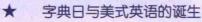
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The Young Detectives

Technology to the Rescue

By Tony and Pam



Max and Wendy were walking to a nature park. They saw a boy flying a **drone** in a field.

"That must be fun," said Max to the boy.

"Yes," the boy replied. "I am helping my father. He is a farmer, and this is our land. I use the drone to find out how well our **crops** are growing. You get a better idea from the air than you do on the ground.* And it means I don't have so far to walk."

The friends said goodbye to the boy and walked through a wood to the nature park.

There they met Jane, the manager. She was very **upset**.

"A pair of **swans** has made a **nest** on the far side of the lake." she said.

"Their eggs hatched last month, and they have seven baby swans. I have watched them get bigger and counted them every day. There is always a danger that baby swans will be eaten by other birds or by fish in the lake.* But, so far, all seven are still alive. This morning, however, I cannot find any of them. The parent swans are swimming



detective /di tektiv/

n. 侦探

rescue / reskju:/

n. 营救

drone /dragn/

n. 无人机

crop /krpp/

n. 庄稼

upset / \np 'set/

adj. 沮丧的

swan /swon/

n. 天鹅

nest /nest/

n. 窝

hatch /hæt [/

v. 孵化, 破壳

so far

到目前为止



- 1. You get a better idea from the air than you do on the ground. 从天上看比在地上看得清楚。
- 2. There is always a danger that baby swans will be eaten by other birds or by fish in the lake. 天鹅宝宝经常会有被其他鸟类或者湖里的鱼吃掉的危险。



around looking for them. They are in great danger on their own. I have been looking for them in my small boat, but I cannot reach every part of the nature park."

Wendy raised her hand.

"I have an idea," she said. "Shall we ask the farmer's son if he can help us with his drone?"

Max and Wendy set out for the farm where they met the boy.* They explained what had happened and he agreed to come back with them.

Back at the nature park, Jane pointed out to the boy where she had been unable to search. He flew the drone over the area. Suddenly, he asked Jane to look at his camera.

"I think I can see the swans." he said. Jane looked closely at the camera.



Words

unable /nn 'eibl/

adj. 无法

trap /træp/

v. 困住

pond /pond/

n. 池塘

slip /slip/

v. 滑

shallow / ' [æləʊ/

adj. 浅的

set off

出发, 动身

"Yes," she agreed. "They seem to be **trapped** in a little **pond**. I can see them trying to get out, but they keep **slipping** back. I cannot get there by boat because the water is too **shallow**. But I can put on my rubber boots and walk through the water. Max and Wendy, can you help me?"

Jane gave the two children long rubber boots and nets to pick up the baby swans. They **set off** walking round the far side of the nature park. At last, they reached the little pond where the baby swans were trapped.* They were easy to rescue because they

could not fly.





- 3. Max and Wendy set out for the farm where they met the boy. 麦克斯和温迪动身前往他们遇到那个男孩的农场。
- 4. At last, they reached the little pond where the baby swans were trapped. 最终,他们到达了困住天鹅宝宝的那个小池塘。



Jane was very **grateful**. She told the farmer's son that he could have a job working in the park if he wanted to. And she told the children that she would name two of the baby swans after them.

"You must come back to visit your swans," she said. "You are welcome any time."



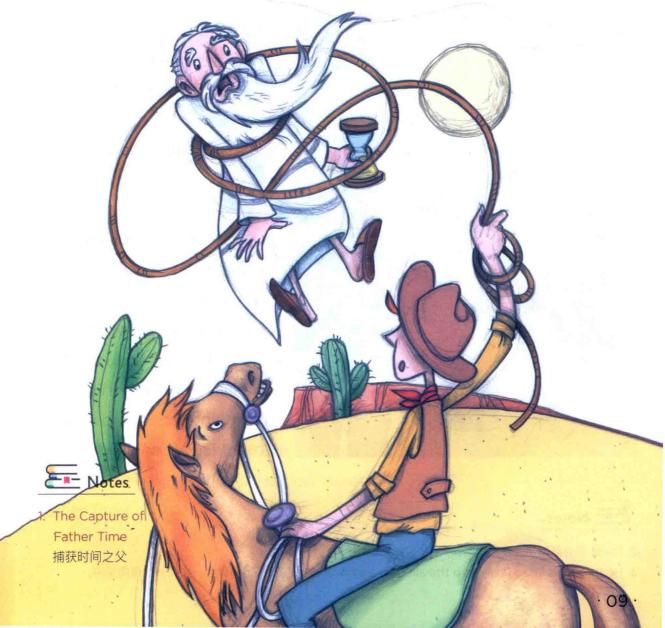


grateful / ˈgreɪtfl/ adj. 感激的

American Fairy Tales

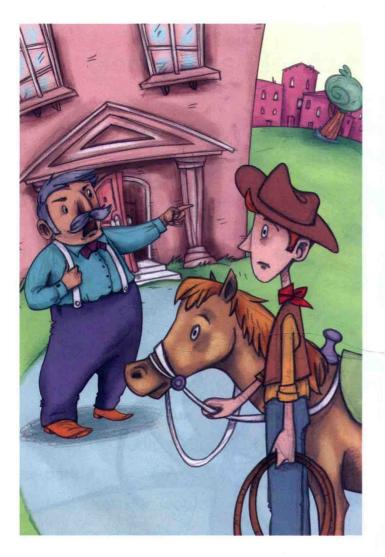
The Capture of Father Time*

Rewritten by Michael Bartolomei



Literature & Stories 文学与故事

Jim was a cowboy. His father was a cowboy. And his grandfather was a cowboy too. They lived on a **ranch** in Texas*. Jim's favourite things to do were to ride his horse and throw his **lasso**. Jim would throw his lasso around anything: rocks, cans, even his little sister.



Jim loved the living on a ranch. But his father thought he should learn about the big city too. So, Jim went to live with his uncle for the summer. His uncle lived in a **fancy** apartment. Jim brought his horse and his lasso.

His uncle said, "You can't have a horse in the big city!

Get that thing out of here!"

"Where can I keep it?" Jim asked.

"Ride out to the **desert**," his uncle said.

Jim rode his horse through the city and out into the desert. He threw his lasso lazily into the air, over and over.* Then, his lasso stopped!



^{2.} Texas 得克萨斯州, 是美国第二大州。

^{3.} He threw his lasso lazily into the air, over and over. 他无精打采地将套索一次又一次甩向空中。

It was **hovering** in mid-air! He had caught something **invisible**!

Jim **poked** his finger at the invisible thing. And an old man **appeared**. He was wearing a long white **robe**. And he had a long white beard. He was holding an **hourglass**.

"Who are you?" Jim asked.

"I'm Father Time!" the man said. "Let me go! Time has stopped everywhere in the world. And it's your fault!"

"Why should I believe you?" Jim asked.

"Can you hear the wind blowing? Can you see the clouds moving?" Father Time asked.

It was awfully quiet. But Jim wanted to be sure. He put Father Time on his horse and rode into the big city.

The big city was **motionless**. Everything was **frozen** in place. It was true! He had lassoed Father Time!



capture / kæptʃə/

n. 捕获

ranch /ra:nt[/

n. 牧场

lasso / læsəʊ/

n. 套索; v. 用套索套捕

fancy / fænsi/

adj. 昂贵的,奢华的

apartment /ə 'pa:tmənt/

n. 公寓

desert / dezət/

n. 沙漠

hover / hove/

v. 盘旋

invisible /In 'vızəbl/

adj. 隐形的

poke /pauk/

V. 程划

appear /ə pɪə/

v. 出现

robe /raub/

n. 袍子

hourglass / avagla:s/

n. 沙漏

motionless / məʊ∫nləs/

adj. 静止的

frozen /frəʊzn/

adj. 冻住的,封冻的

