

PRISMS



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V. F. 艾伦

英语阅读文选

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第 七 册

【美】 V.F. 艾伦 编著

徐铁城 注释

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前 言

本注释本原书是美国坦普尔大学弗·弗·艾伦博士专为外国人学习英语而编写的一套系列阅读丛书（一九七四年至一九七八年出齐），适合用作我国高中，大学一、二年级学生及水平相当的同志学习英语的读物，该丛书自八十年代初期起在四川省内外大专院校广泛使用，反映良好。

全书共八册，分初、中、高三级。第一、二、三册为初级，初中毕业即可阅读；第四、五、六册为中级；第七、八册为高级。总词汇范围以三千词为基础。《丛书》材料精心编纂，词汇语法严格筛选，课文题材广泛，文体丰富多彩，语言生动活泼；每课课文后还附有词汇、语法等练习，书后附有练习答案和词汇表。这套书的趣味性、知识性与科学性融为一体，做到了循序渐进，引人入胜。读者既可培养阅读能力，扩大词汇量，又可较全面地学习语法，逐步提高使用英语的技能。

为了适应中国人学习英语的特点，本注释本对课文、插图说明及练习中出现的生词、习语、重要的人名地名等专有名词，特别是疑难句和重点语法现象，均一一作了适当的注释。

本丛书第七册由徐铁城注释，由于时间仓促，加之本人水平有限，书中可能有错漏之处，希望读者提出宝贵意见，俾于今后改进。

注释者

一九八七年一月

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READING 1

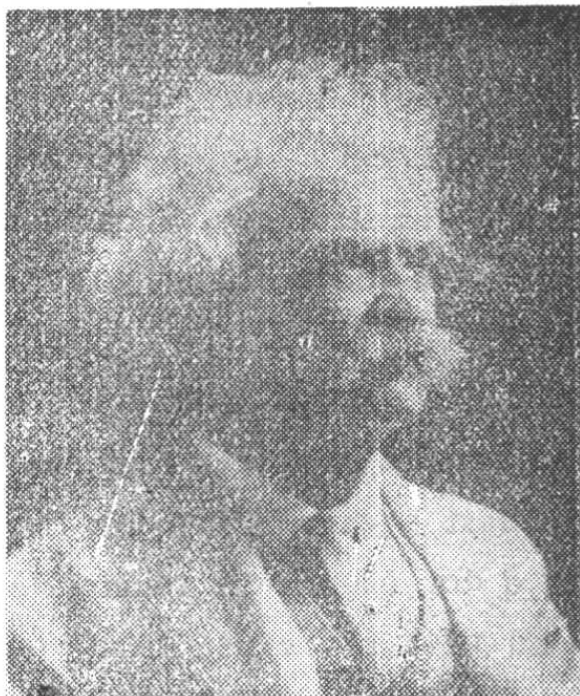
A Matter of Honor¹

[1] Samuel Langhorne Clemens², whose pen name was Mark Twain, is known around the world for his novels about Tom Sawyer³ and Huckleberry Finn⁴. Written in the 1880s, those novels and other writings of the period are said to have marked the beginning of modern American literature⁵.

[2] Twain's humor and his gift for storytelling are seen in the following tale, an accou-

nt of⁶ something that happened before he became rich and famous. He wrote about the experience in his autobiography, which was published after his death.

[3] I remember a time when a shortage occurred⁷, my friend Swinton⁸ and I had to have three dollars⁹, and we had to have it before the close of the day¹⁰. I don't know now how we happened to want all that money at one time; I only know we had to have it. Swinton told me to go out and find it, and he said he would also go out and see what he could do. Being a man of strong religious faith¹¹, he didn't seem to have any



Samuel Langhorne Clemens
(1835-1910)

doubt that we would succeed but I hadn't the same confidence. I had no idea where to turn to raise all that money¹², and I said so¹³.

[4] I think Swinton was ashamed of me¹⁴, privately, because of my weak faith. He told me to give myself no uneasiness, no concern, and he said in a simple, confident, unquestioning way, "The Lord will provide¹⁵." I saw that he fully believed the Lord would provide, but it seemed to me that if he had had my experience—but never mind that¹⁶. Before he was done with me¹⁷, his strong faith had had its influence, and I went forth from the place almost convinced that the Lord really would provide.

[5] I wandered around the streets for an hour trying to think up some way to get that money, but nothing suggested itself¹⁸. At last, I walked into the Ebbitt Hotel¹⁹ and sat down. Presently a dog came over to me. He paused, glanced up at me, and said with his eyes, "Are you friendly?" I answered with my eyes that I was. He waved his tail happily and came forward and rested his head on my knee and lifted his brown eyes to my face in a loving way. He was a charming creature, as beautiful as a girl, and he was all made of silk and velvet. I stroked his smooth brown head, and we were a pair of lovers right away.

[6] Pretty soon²⁰, General Miles²¹, the hero of the nation, came walking by in his blue and gold uniform with everyone's admiring gaze upon him²². He saw the dog and stopped, and there was a light in his eyes which showed that he had a warm place in his heart for this handsome creature²³. The General then came forward and stroked the dog and said, "He is very fine. He is a wonder. Would you sell him?"

[7] I was greatly moved, it seemed a marvelous thing to me, the way Swinton's faith had worked out²⁴.

[8] I said, "Yes."

[9] The General said, "How much do you ask for him? "

[10] "Three dollars, " I replied.

[11] The General was obviously surprised. He said, "Three dollars? Only three dollars? Why, that dog is a most uncommon dog. He can't possibly be worth less than fifty. If he were mine, I wouldn't take²⁵ less than a hundred for him. I am afraid you are not aware of his value. Reconsider your price if you wish. I would not like to cheat you."

[12] But I replied, "No. Three dollars. That is his price."

[13] "Very well, since you insist upon it," said the General, and he gave me the three dollars and led the dog away, disappearing upstairs²⁶.

[14] In about ten minutes a gentle-faced, middle-aged gentleman came along and began to look around, here and there, under tables and everywhere. I said to him, "Is it a dog you are looking for? "

[15] His face had been worried before, and troubled, but it lighted up gladly now²⁷, and he answered, "Yes. Have you seen him? "

[16] "Yes, " I said. "He was here a minute ago, and I saw him follow a gentleman away. I think I could find him for you if you would like me to try."

[17] I have seldom seen a person look so grateful. He said that he would like me to try. I assured him I would do it with great pleasure, but that²⁸ as it might take a little time, I hoped he would not mind paying me for my trouble. He replied that he would do it most gladly—repeating that phrase, "most glad—

ly"—and asked me how much.

[18] I said, "Three dollars."

[19] He looked surprised and exclaimed, "Dear me, it is nothing! I will pay you ten quite willingly."

[20] But I said, "No, three is the price," and I started for the stairs without waiting for further argument. Swinton had said ~~tha~~ three dollars was the amount the Lord would provide, and it seemed to me that it would be wrong to take a penny more than was promised²⁹.

[21] I got the number of the General's room from the clerk at the front desk of the hotel³⁰, and when I reached the room, I found the General there, stroking his dog and quite happy³¹. I said, "I am sorry, but I have to take the dog back."

[22] He seemed astonished and said, "Take him back? Why, he is my dog, you sold him to me, and at your own price."

[23] "Yes," I said, "that's true. But I have to have him because the man wants him back."

[24] "What man? "

[25] "The man that owns him. He wasn't my dog."

[26] The General looked even more astonished than before, and for a moment, he couldn't seem to find his voice³². Then he said, "Do you mean to tell me that you were selling another man's dog—and knew it? "

[27] "Yes, I knew it wasn't my dog."

[28] "Then why did you sell him? "

[29] I said, "well, that is a strange question to ask. I sold him because you wanted him. You offered to buy the dog; you can't deny that. I was not anxious to sell him. I had not advertised him. I had not even thought of selling him, but it seemed to me that—"

[30] He broke me off in the middle of my sentence³³ and said, "It is the strangest thing I have ever heard of. The idea of your selling a dog that didn't belong to you—"

[31] I interrupted him there and said, "You said yourself that the dog was probably worth a hundred dollars. I only asked you for three. Was there anything unfair about that? You offered to pay more, you know you did. I only asked you for three, you can't deny it."

[32] "Oh, what in the world³⁴ does that have to do with it? The truth of the matter is that you didn't own the dog—can't you see that? You seem to think if you sell it cheap. Now then³⁵—"

[33] I said, "Please don't argue any more about it. You can't get around³⁶ the fact that the price was perfectly fair, perfectly reasonable—considering that I didn't own the dog—and so arguing about it is only a waste of words³⁷. I have to have him back because the man wants him. Don't you see that I have no choice in the matter? Put yourself in my place³⁸. Suppose you had sold a dog that didn't belong to you. Suppose you—"

[34] "Oh," he said, sighing, "don't mix me up any more with your crazy reasoning³⁹! Take him along and give me a rest."

[35] So I paid him back the three dollars and led the dog downstairs and passed him over to his owner and collected three for my trouble.

[36] I went away feeling quite satisfied with the whole matter because I had acted honorably. I could never have used the three dollars that I had sold the dog for⁴⁰ because it was not rightly my own. But the three I got for returning him to his owner was rightly and properly mine because I had earned it.

That man might never have gotten his dog back at all if it hadn't been for me⁴¹. My principles have remained to this day⁴² what they were then. I was always honest; I know that I can never be otherwise. It is as I have always said: I was never able to use money which I had acquired in questionable ways.⁴³
[37] Now then, that is the tale. Some of it is true.

Notes

1. A Matter of Honor 荣誉问题
2. Samuel Langhorne Clemens [ˈsæmjʊəl ˈlæŋhɔ:n ˈklemənz] 塞缪尔·兰霍恩·克莱门斯 (1835—1910), 即美国作家马克·吐温
3. Tom Sawyer [tɒm ˈsɔ:jə] 汤姆·索亚。马克·吐温的小说《汤姆·索亚历险记》中的主人公。
4. Huckleberry Finn [ˈhʌklɪbəri fin] 哈克贝利·芬。马克·吐温另一部小说《哈克贝利·芬历险记》中的主人公。
5. to have marked...literature 标志着美国现代文学的开端
6. an account of (一段) 关于...的描述 (或报道)
7. when a shortage occurred 手头拮据时 (此为定语从句, 修饰time)
8. Swinton [ˈswintən] n. 斯温顿 (男子名)
9. had to have three dollars 必须弄到三美元。have 在此处相当于get: 获得

Approximately 1,445 words

10. before the close of the day 当天之内（即这一天结束前）
11. Being a man of strong religious faith 作为一个有坚定宗教信仰的人（该结构为现在分词短语，作状语修饰后面主句，相当于状语从句：As he was a man of strong religious faith）。
12. where to turn to raise all that money 到哪儿去筹措那么多钱（此结构为idea的同位语，相当于名词性从句where I should turn to raise all that money）。
13. so pron. 代表前面 I had no idea...，作said的宾语。
14. swinton was ashamed of me 斯温顿为我感到羞耻。
15. he said...provide 他以朴实、充满信心而不容置疑的口吻说，“上帝会赐与的”。
16. but never mind that 别提它了（=don't worry about that）。
17. Before he was done with me 未等他跟我讲完。
18. but nothing suggested itself 但是没有想出任何办法。（sth.） suggest itself（某事）浮现在……心中；想起
19. the Ebbitt ['ebit] Hotel 埃彼特旅馆
20. pretty soo 很快
21. General Miles [moilz] 麦尔斯将军（1839—1925）
22. with everyone's admiring gaze upon him 大家都以崇敬的眼光注视着他；gaze在此处为名词。
23. he had...handsome creature 他十分钟爱这只可爱的动物。
24. the way...worked out 斯温顿的信念竟这样应验

了。

25. take 要价
26. disappearing upstairs 上楼上去了。upstairs *adv.* 到楼上，在楼上。
27. but it...now 但是现在他喜气洋洋。it代指前面his face; light up表示“容光焕发，有喜色”。
28. but that 只是，要不是 (=except the fact that)
29. it would...promised 比(上帝)允诺的多拿一便士是不应该的。
30. the front desk of the hotel 旅馆大门处的服务台(处)
31. stroking his dog and quite happy 抚弄着他的狗，显得很愉快。由现在分词短语和形容词短语组成，作the General的定语。
32. to find his voice 开口，说话
33. He broke me off in the middle of my sentence. 他打断我的话。break off *vt. + adv.* 突然中断、打断(讲话)
34. in the world 究竟，到底(常用于疑问词之后，起加重语气作用；类似词组还有on earth, under the sun等。
35. Now then 好了；喂。通常用于句首，引起注意。
36. get around *vi. + prep.* 避开 (=avoid)。
37. and so arguing...words 因此争论下去只是空费口舌。
arguing about it 为动名词短语，作全句主语。
38. Put yourself in my place. 你设身处地替我想想。
39. don't mix...reasoning 别再用你那些稀奇古怪的理由来使我糊涂了。

40. the three dolbars...for 我卖狗得来的三块美元。
41. if it hadn't been for me 要不是因为我（给他找回狗）。该句为虚拟条件句。
42. to this day 迄今，直到现在
43. in a questionable way 用不正当的手段

Exercises

A. Discussion questions

1. From this story, what ideas do you get concerning the author's personality, his attitude toward religion, and his business methods?
2. In your opinion, how "honorable" was the business deal described in the story?
3. When someone tries to produce a humorous effect by saying exactly the opposite of what he really means, he is using a form of expression called *irony*. One example of irony in this story is the sentence, "I had no idea where to turn to raise all that money." (Here Twain seems to be saying he considered three dollars a very large amount of money, yet we know he did not really think so.) Find several other examples of irony in the story and explain what the author really meant.

B. Change the following from indirect speech to direct speech.

Example: Swinton told me to go out and find it.

Swinton said: "Go out and find it."

1. Swinton told me to give myself no uneasiness, no concern.
2. Swinton told me he would also go out and see what he

could do.

3. The gentleman told me that he would like me to try.
 4. I told him I hoped he would not mind paying me for my trouble.
 5. The General told me to reconsider my price if I wished.
- C. Change the following from direct speech to indirect speech.

Example, Swinton said to me, "The Lord will provide."

Swinton told me (that) the Lord would provide.

1. The General said to me, "You have a very fine dog."
 2. The General asked me, "How much do you want for him? "
 3. I asked the gentleman, "Have you lost a dog? "
 4. The gentleman asked me, "Have you seen my dog? "
 5. I said to the gentleman, "I think I can find your dog for you."
- D. Imagine that you are General Miles, telling a friend about your experience with the dog in this story. Write the story from the General's point of view.

READING 2

How Jazz Began

- [1] When Negro slaves arrived in America, they brought with them the music of their African homeland. They preserved this music in the songs they used as a means of communication¹ while they worked in the fields.
- [2] More openly, the African rhythms were preserved in "Congo Square,"² a place in the city of New Orleans where slaves who had a half-holiday on Sundays³ met to dance and sing.
- [3] After slavery was abolished in 1863⁴, those former slaves who were in and near New Orleans⁵ found themselves surrounded by many different kinds of music. New Orleans at the end of the nineteenth century was quite unlike other American cities. Its way of life was influenced by France, Spain, England and Africa, with religious elements from each of these.
- [4] Music was everywhere. Formal European music poured out of the French Opera House⁶ in New Orleans. European dance music was commonly heard along with the hymns of Protestant churches⁷. Above all⁸, there was the loud music of marching bands.
- [5] Among the freed slaves, two very different types of music developed from the African rhythms that had formed the basis for the Negroes' work songs. One line of musical development led to the creation of religious songs,

which were called spirituals. The other produced songs that were not religious, but worldly; these songs were called blues.

[6] In the years following the end of the Civil War in 1865, a whole new musical world opened up to⁹ the freed Negroes. They had had musical instruments when they were slaves, but these were mostly stringed instruments. Now they were able to use professionally-made wind instruments. Many of these were horns that had been left behind by soldiers¹⁰ in the northern and southern armies. The freed slaves taught themselves to play these wind instruments, inventing their own methods of relating horn sounds to the sounds made by human voices¹¹. At first, they played the hymns and marches familiar to them¹². But these musicians were basically *singers*, and when they blew on the horns they tried to produce what they could hear "singing" in their minds. Through these "singing horns," the marches and hymns developed a rhythm they had never had before. The horns also gave the players the addition of two "blue" notes—a flattened third and a flattened seventh¹³. This was characteristic of Negro singing that became a basic characteristic of jazz¹⁴.

[7] There was still another element contributing to the development of jazz¹⁵. This was a kind of piano music which was called ragtime. In ragtime, the piano player keeps a steady beat with his left hand while his right hand changes the beat in unexpected ways. This produces an effect called syncopation—another characteristic of jazz.

[8] The first important jazz band was a group led by Buddy Bolden¹⁶, a barber. In 1895 and 1896 Bolden was known