

美国英语教学文库

美国英语系列阶梯读物

# 形形色色 美国人

O'HENRY'S AMERICAN SCENES

欧·亨利 著

伊里诺·查伯莱恩 改编



AMERICAN LITERARY CLASSICS



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# 形形色色美国人

(欧·亨利短篇小说集)

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辛 宜 注释

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## 编者的话

这套美国英语系列阶梯读物所选书籍均为美国经典文学作品。为了帮助将英语作为第二语言的读者阅读,美国的一些语言专家在尽量尊重原著的基础上对它们进行了改编,使书中语言既简练易懂又符合现代美国英语特点。

本套丛书共分5个阶梯,分别用1 000—5 000个单词编写。

本书属于第一阶梯,即由1 000个英语单词编写。书中一些单词可能超出这一阶梯水平,我们将这些单词用黑体字标出,并在书后的词汇表中作了注解。

希望读者喜欢这套丛书,并通过阅读不同阶梯的书籍,逐步提高自己的英语水平,最终达到阅读原著的目的。

## 美国英语教学文库

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AMERICAN LITERARY CLASSICS

**O. HENRY'S  
AMERICAN  
SCENES**

A Ladder Edition at the  
1000-word Level

Adapted by Elinor Chamberlain

## THE LADDER SERIES

The Ladder Series of books are specially prepared editions of well-known American books. They have been made easier to read for the enjoyment of readers for whom English is a second language.

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This book uses 1 000 English words. Some words in the book are above this step and will be found written in **boldface** letters. They are explained in the glossary at the back.

The publisher hopes the reader will enjoy this series while going up the ladder to more difficult reading.

## 美国英语系列阶梯读物

### 《形形色色美国人》

本书是美国英语系列阶梯读物之一。是用 1000 个英语单词改写的美国经典文学作品，充分展现了现代美国英语的风格。作者欧·亨利是美国著名短篇小说家，《形形色色美国人》是其代表小说集，书中人物从小偷、流浪汉到银行家、经纪人形形色色，应有尽有；情节生动、构思巧妙，往往突然转折，来个出人意料的结局。书中选有《麦琪的礼物》、《警察与赞美诗》等名篇。



BEIJING NORMAL  
UNIVERSITY PRESS  
BEIJING, CHINA

On behalf of the United States Information Agency, I congratulate the Beijing Normal University Press on its decision to reprint the books that will constitute the series "A Treasury of English Teaching Materials."

Each of these titles, originally published by USIA, offers a student the opportunity to improve his or her knowledge of American English, and learn more about the culture, customs and history of the United States. Teachers will find this material a useful supplement to the English language curriculum in China's high schools and colleges.

USIA is committed to the improvement of understanding between the United States and the People's Republic of China. A key to better mutual understanding is for Chinese citizens to be able to communicate effectively in English, and for Americans to become proficient in the Chinese language.

This book and the others in this series will help prepare China's students for the competitive world of international commerce and cross-cultural contact for which a knowledge of English is essential.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph Duffey".

Joseph Duffey  
Director

# 序

我代表美国新闻总署祝贺北京师范大学出版社出版“英语教学文库”图书。

这些书原由美国新闻总署出版。每本书都为学生提供了提高英语知识水平、学习更多的美国文化、习俗和历史的机会。教师会发现这些书是中国中学和大学英语课程教学的有益补充材料。

美国新闻总署致力于中美两国人民之间的相互了解。中国人民能够有效地用英语交流、美国人民能够熟练地运用汉语是加深两国人民相互了解的关键。

本书以及这套丛书的其他书籍将帮助中国学生准备参与国际商业竞争和从事东西方文化交流,在这两种活动中英语知识是必不可少的。

美国新闻总署署长  
约瑟夫·达菲

# 序

许嘉璐

这套美国《英语教学文库》是美国新闻总署英语教学部编辑出版的,现在由北京师范大学出版社在中国出版发行。

这套书的内容丰富实用。书中有切合教与学的语法、词汇、听力、会话、写作和阅读的基本知识;其语言材料则注意选择当今美国最为广泛使用的简便精练的语言;其中的对话大都置于日常生活中最容易碰到的各种场合,并写进很多目前在美国最为流行的短语和短句;全套书风格是生动活泼的,不会让读者承受枯燥无味之苦。在这套书中有十二部美国著名小说的缩写本。缩写者的技巧是很高的,在保证原书内容完整的前提下,非常注意语言的通俗晓畅,凡掌握了 1000 到 3000 个单词的人都可以兴味盎然地阅读。这样,这套书就把适用的范围扩大了,这是很聪明的做法。全套书大多都配有原声录音带,边听边

读,更可以提高学习的兴趣和效率。

在中国出版这套丛书,是中国英语教学和英语普及工作中的一件很有意义的事。随着世界的“缩小”,学习母语之外的其它语言,特别是学习别国的语言,不仅仅是工作的需要,交流的需要(合起来就是一个国家生存、发展的需要),也将成为人们精神生活的需要,成为一个人文化教养高低的标志之一。在这样的形势下,学习用书的选择就成为至关重要的事。作为在中国有着重要影响,特别是在教学用书方面经验丰富、成绩卓著的北京师范大学出版社刊行这套丛书,是再合适不过的了,这也将是该社对我国外语教学所作的又一重要贡献,是奉献给选择学习用书的读者的一份厚礼,理应表示祝贺。

在我国,第二语言的教学还是一个比较年轻的学科,教材的编写、教学理论的研究都有待加强和提高。这套丛书的出版或许可以对这些方面起到“助威”的作用——从事第二语言教学 and 研究的,可以从中借鉴美国同行的一些经验;至今还没有认识到这一领域的重要的,应该从中看到这一工作的意义和难度。

这套丛书的出版同时也是中美文化交流

的产物。美国新闻总署在中美文化交流方面做过不少工作；北京师范大学也曾出版过不少介绍美国和适合美国人民学习汉语的读本——这次的合作是很自然的，也是对双方都有利的。我希望双方的真诚合作能够不断得到加强，为两国人民的友好交往再做出新的成绩。

(1994. 3. 1.)

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## THE GIFT OF THE MAGI

One dollar and eighty-seven cents. That was all. She had put it aside, one cent and then another and then another, in her careful buying of meat and other food. Della counted it three times. One dollar and eighty-seven cents. And the next day would be **Christmas**.

There was nothing to do but fall on the bed and cry. So Della did it.

While the lady of the home is slowly growing quieter, we can look at the home. **Furnished** rooms at a cost of \$ 8 a week. There is little more to say about it.

In the hall below was a letter-box too small to hold a letter. There was an electric bell, but it could not make a sound. Also there was a name beside the door: "Mr. James Dillingham Young."

When the name was placed there, Mr. James Dillingham Young was being paid \$ 30 a week. Now, when he was being paid only \$ 20 a week, the name seemed too long and important. It should perhaps have been "Mr. James D. Young." But



when Mr. James Dillingham Young entered the furnished rooms, his name became very short indeed. Mrs. James Dillingham Young put her arms warmly about him and called him "Jim." You have already met her. She is Della.

Della finished her crying and cleaned the marks of it from her face. She stood by the window and looked out with no interest. Tomorrow would be Christmas Day, and she had only \$1.87 with which to buy Jim a gift. She had put aside as much as she could for months, with this result. Twenty dollars a week is not much. Everything had cost more than she had expected. It always happened like that.

Only \$1.87 to buy a gift for Jim. Her Jim. She had had many happy hours planning something nice for him. Something nearly good enough. Something almost worth the honor of belonging to Jim.

There was a looking-glass between the windows of the room. Perhaps you have seen the kind of looking-glass that is placed in \$8 furnished rooms. It was very narrow. A person could see only a little of himself at a time. However, if he was very thin and moved very quickly, he might be able to get a good view of