

高等学校文科英语泛读教材

Charles
Darwin



查尔斯·达尔文

外语教学与研究出版社

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山东大学公共外语教研室文科组 注释



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前 言

本书简述英国博物学家，进化论的奠基人查尔斯·达尔文(Charles Robert Darwin, 1809—1882)的生平。

达尔文曾以博物学家的身份乘海军勘探船“贝格尔号”(Beagle)作历时五年(1831—1836)的环球旅行，在动植物和地质等方面进行了大量的观察和采集，经过综合探讨，形成了生物进化的概念。于1859年出版了震动当时学术界的《物种起源》一书，提出以自然选择为基础的进化学说。本书主要描述了达尔文乘“贝格尔号”在南美洲旅行的过程，内容生动有趣，文字浅明易懂。

这个注释本是针对我国英语学习者的需要而编辑出版的，可以用作高等学校文科英语泛读教材，也可以供其他学英语的人阅读。

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Childhood and School Days

“Charles!¹ Come here this minute!² Let me see what you’re bringing into the house this time!”

Charles Darwin, a slender, fair-haired boy of ten,³ moved slowly towards his sister, Caroline,⁴ who was nine years older than he. Their mother had died two years before, and Caroline had become the family’s “little mother”.

Dr. Robert Darwin,⁵ their father, was a very successful physician. He and his children—two boys, Erasmus⁶ and Charles, and three girls, Caroline, Susan,⁷ and Catherine⁸—lived in a large, comfortable red-brick house in Shrewsbury,⁹ a small town in England. Caroline was a very good housekeeper, and she carried a heavy burden for a teenage girl.

“Show me what you have in your pockets,” Caroline demanded.

Charles hesitated for a long moment, then pulled out

1. Charles [tʃɑ:lz]: 查尔斯 (或译查理)。 2. Come here this minute! 快来! 3. a slender, fair-haired boy of ten: 一个十岁的细高个儿金发男孩。 4. Caroline ['kærəlain]: 卡罗琳。 5. Robert Darwin ['rɒbət 'dɑ:win]: 罗伯特·达尔文。 6. Erasmus [i'ræzməs]: 伊拉斯莫。 7. Susan ['su:zn]: 苏珊。 8. Catherine ['kæθərɪn]: 凯瑟琳。 9. Shrewsbury ['ʃru:zbəri]: 希鲁兹伯里 (英格兰西部城市)。

a small frog, two beetles, some odd pebbles, and a butterfly.

“How can I keep this house clean when you are always messing it up with creatures?” Caroline said with a sigh.¹

Charles hung his head and looked so sad that Caroline could not bear to ask him to give up his treasures.² He took them to his room and added them to his growing collection.

Charles Darwin was born in Shrewsbury, England, on February 12, 1809 (the same day that Abraham Lincoln³ was born in Kentucky⁴). He attended the Shrewsbury Grammar School,⁵ a very old and highly respected private school for boys. Its headmaster, Dr. Samuel Butler,⁶ believed in teaching large amounts of Latin and Greek, which the students had to memorize. Charles hated Latin and Greek. He could not keep his mind on his studies. He was happy only when he was outdoors on long walks, looking for strange bugs and other forms of natural life. He also enjoyed riding horseback and going bird-shooting as often as possible.

Charles' father was a kind man at heart but, like most fathers of that time, he was very strict with⁷ his

1. How can I keep...with a sigh. “你总弄些动物来把屋子搞得乱七八糟,我怎么能使屋子保持干净呢?”卡罗琳叹息道。 2. Charles hung his head...his treasures. 查尔斯低下了头,显得那么伤心,以致使卡罗琳不忍心要他丢弃他的那些宝贝。 3. Abraham Lincoln ['eibrəhæm 'lɪŋkən]: 亚伯拉罕·林肯(1809—1865),美国第十六位总统(1861—65)。在美国南北战争中,颁布《解放黑奴宣言》,战争结束时于1865年4月14日被暗杀。 4. Kentucky [ken'tʌki]: 肯塔基(美国州名)。 5. Grammar School: (创始于十六世纪以拉丁语等为主课的)中等学校。 6. Samuel Butler ['sæmjʊəl 'bʌtlə]: 塞缪尔·巴特勒。 7. to be strict with: 对……严格。

children. He demanded that they obey him at all times. Nothing could be done without his permission. Doctor Darwin was a very large man, over six feet tall, and weighed more than three hundred pounds. He often scolded his son for his easygoing ways.¹ As he stood towering over Charles, he seemed like a huge ogre.² Once, when his father was especially annoyed with him, the doctor said: "You care for nothing but shooting, dogs, and rat-catching.³ You will be a disgrace to yourself and your family!"

Charles was about eleven years old at that time, and it made him very unhappy that he could not please his father. He promised to try harder.

Still Charles was often glad to get away from⁴ the severe discipline of his father and the well-meant scoldings of his sister, Caroline. Happily, he could go to visit his uncle Josiah Wedgwood,⁵ who was the owner of the famous Wedgwood pottery factory. Uncle Josiah and his gay family of eight children lived on a large estate called Maer,⁶ about twenty miles from Shrewsbury. Charles would ride there on horseback for weekends or vacations. His pretty cousin Emma⁷ Wedgwood, who was about Charles' age, planned many lively parties, picnics, boatrikes and horseback rides.

1. easygoing ways: 懒散作风。 2. As he stood...a huge ogre. 他高大的个子站在查尔斯面前简直象一个巨大的妖魔。 towering ['tauəriŋ] a. 高耸的。 3. You care for nothing but...rat-catching. 你除了打鸟、玩狗、捉老鼠之外什么也不关心。 but: prep. 除……以外。 4. to get away from: 逃避。 5. Josiah Wedgwood [dʒəʊ'saɪə 'wedʒwud]: 乔西阿·韦奇伍德。 6. Maer [meə]: 梅尔(庄园名)。 7. Emma ['emə]: 埃玛(女子名)。

Uncle Josiah was very fond of Charles and gave him the warmth and understanding which was missing at Shrewsbury.

Charles Goes to College

When Charles was sixteen years old, his father sat him down and had a talk with him. The doctor told Charles: "Even though I am a rich man, I do not intend to support you in a life of leisure.¹ I want you to go to Edinburgh² and study to become a doctor. You can then follow in the footsteps of³ your father and your grandfather." Dr. Erasmus Darwin, Charles' grandfather, had been a very famous physician and naturalist.

As usual, Charles was afraid to talk back to⁴ his father, but he managed to mumble: "But I never wanted to be a doctor."

"No? Then what do you want to be?"

Charles could not answer. Actually, he did not want to be anything in particular.⁵ He knew he loved nature, but he could not think how to make a life's work out of that.⁶ So, as it was the custom then for a son to obey his father, he went off to Edinburgh University in Scotland to

1. a life of leisure: 悠闲的生活。 2. Edinburgh ['edinbərə]: 爱丁堡 (英国城市, 苏格兰首府)。 3. follow in the footsteps of sb.: 继承某人的事业。 4. talk back to sb.: 和某人顶嘴; 反驳某人。 5. Actually, he...in particular. 事实上他不想从事某项特定的职业。 6. but he could not think... out of that: 但他想不出他怎么能够以此作为自己的终生职业。

study medicine.

What dreary days and weeks and months young Darwin spent trying to become a doctor!¹ He could hardly keep from falling asleep during the dull lectures. The sight of blood made him ill. When he watched an operation he almost fainted.



After two years at Edinburgh, Charles Darwin knew he could never be a doctor, much as he would have liked to please his father.² Dr. Robert Darwin realized that this dream was hopeless, but now he had another idea: Charles would become a minister.³ At that time, the ministry⁴ was one of the few jobs considered respectable for a young man

1. What dreary days...to become a doctor! 年轻的达尔文为了要当一个医生度过了多少枯燥乏味的岁月啊! 2. much as...to please his father: 尽管他很想使他父亲高兴。much as...: 虽然很……。 3. minister: 牧师, 教士。
4. ministry: 牧师的职位。

from a good family.

Once more, Charles was not happy about his father's choice. But again he obeyed him.

In January 1828, Charles Darwin entered Cambridge University¹ in England to study for the ministry. As he had suspected, he found that he had no more interest in becoming a clergyman than in becoming a doctor. During his free time, he became an avid collector of all kinds of beetles. He even had his college friends collecting specimens for him.² Charles became an expert in noticing even the tiniest difference between various types of beetles. This talent was very important in his later work.

The most important part of Charles' life at Cambridge was the friendship he developed with John Stevens Henslow,³ a brilliant young botany teacher. Henslow had some new ideas about science and especially about geology, the study of how the earth's crust is formed. He took his students on field trips and then invited them to his home to talk over⁴ what they had seen.

At that time most people, including scientists, believed that the earth was only a few thousand years old. It was thought that every so often a great earthquake or flood would take place⁵ and then the whole surface of the earth

1. Cambridge University: 剑桥大学。 2. He even had his college friends collecting specimens for him. 他甚至让学院的朋友们为他收集标本。 3. John Stevens Henslow: ['dʒɒn 'sti:vnz 'henzləu]: 约翰·史蒂文斯·亨斯罗。 4. to talk over: 讨论;商讨。 5. It was thought...would take place: 人们认为每隔一段时间会发生一次大地震或大水灾。 every so often: 时常,不时。

would suddenly change. At such times mountains might pop up from the seas; islands might appear overnight, or disappear just as quickly.

But a young geologist named Charles Lyell¹ had different ideas. He wrote a book about them called *Principles of Geology*.² The earth, according to Lyell,³ was not merely thousands of years old, it was millions of years old. As to the common belief that changes in the earth's surface happen suddenly, due to a single earthquake or flood, he said that this might happen once in a while⁴ but usually these changes took place very slowly. He believed that the surface of the earth had been changing from the beginning of time. The changes, he said, were caused by the longtime action of the winds and seas, and by forces such as volcanos erupting beneath the earth's surface. Once in a great while, he thought, a mountain might become visible for the first time after an earthquake. But usually mountains would rise slowly and steadily.

Professor Henslow was interested in Lyell's ideas but he did not actually believe them. Charles Darwin could not make up his mind about them.⁵ But they set him thinking along lines which would later change the beliefs of thought-

1. Charles Lyell ['laiəl]: 查尔斯·莱尔 (1797—1875), 英国地质学家。

2. *Principles of Geology*: «地质学原理»(书名)。 3. according to Lyell: 根据莱尔的见解(或观点)。 4. As to the common belief...once in a while: 对于一般人认为由一次地震或水灾引起的地球表面突然变化的看法, 他说这种情况只是偶尔发生。 once in a while: 偶尔, 间或。 5. could not make up his mind about them: 对莱尔的观点不能作出确定的评价。

ful people all over the world.¹

At Cambridge, Charles studied just enough to pass the examinations, and received his college degree² in 1831. During this time, he had become more and more interested in geology. At the end of the school year, he went to North Wales³ with one of his teachers to examine the rock formations and to search for fossils. Fossils are the remains of ancient living things. They are usually found imbedded in rocks in the earth's crust. Fossils may be of animals,⁴ such as mammals, reptiles, fish, shellfish, insects, birds, or humans. They may also be of plants, from tiny leaves to huge trees.

When a living creature dies, it usually decays or is eaten by animals. However, if it sinks into a muddy river-bed or is quickly covered by the blowing sands of a desert storm, the bones become preserved in the earth. Over many years the soft inner parts of a bone disappear, leaving the inside hollow. Water containing minerals seeps into the hollows. Slowly the minerals harden and make the bones hard and heavy, like stone.

At the time Charles Darwin went to North Wales to search for fossils, only a few specimens had been found in various places on earth. But how had they come to be there? Were the strange fossils related in any way to the animals

1. But they set him...all over the world. 但莱尔的观点引起了他的深思, 他所思考的这些方面后来改变了全世界善于思考的人们的信念. 2. college degree: 大学学位. 3. North Wales ['weilz]: 北威尔士. 4. Fossils may be of animals: 化石可能是动物的化石. of animals 前省掉了 fossils.

or plants which exist on earth in modern times?¹ No one could give any scientific answers to these questions.

The idea that animals and plants have existed on earth for millions of years and have been slowly changing their forms had been mentioned by Aristotle,² the Greek philosopher, as far back as 350 B.C.³ This slow process of change which makes animals better suited to survive in their environment is known as evolution.

Through the years a few scholars had thought about this idea, but no one could offer any evidence to show that evolution actually does take place.⁴ Charles' grandfather, Dr. Erasmus Darwin, had written a book called *Zoonomia*,⁵ in which he expressed thoughts about evolution. But he, like the others, could offer no scientific support⁶ for his ideas.

Almost everyone, in Darwin's time, believed wholly in the Biblical story of creation.⁷ Had not God created all the animals and plants of the earth at one time? Anyone who thought otherwise was looked upon as an enemy of the church.

1. Were the strange fossils...in modern times? 这些奇异的化石与现在大地上生存的动、植物是不是有什么关系呢? 2. Aristotle ['æristɒtl]: 亚里士多德(公元前 384——前 322), 古希腊哲学家、科学家, 当时最博学的人物。 3. as far back as 350 B. C.: 远在公元前 350 年。 4. does take place: 确实发生。 does 起强调作用。 5. *Zoonomia*: [ˌzəʊnɒmiə] 动物生理学。 6. scientific support: 科学的论证。 7. the Biblical story of creation: 圣经中关于创世的故事。 Biblical ['biblikəl]: 圣经的。

Exciting News Arrives

Charles shortened his trip in North Wales in order to return home for the opening¹ of the partridge-shooting season. He could not miss that for anything!

But when he arrived home at Shrewsbury, a letter awaited him from his friend and teacher, Professor John Stevens Henslow. The letter told Charles that Henslow had been offered the position of naturalist on a government expedition sailing on the H.M.S.² Beagle.³ But he was unable to accept the post himself. He went on to say:

I have stated that I consider you to be the best qualified person that I know of... amply qualified for collecting, observing, and noting anything worthy to be noted... I think you are the very man they are in search of.⁴

Charles could hardly believe it was true! Here he was a young man, twenty-two years old, with no experience as a naturalist. True, he loved living things. But could he

1. opening: 开始, 开端。 2. the H.M.S.: 英国海军舰艇(是His (Her) Majesty's Ship 的缩写)。 3. Beagle ['bi:gl]: 贝格尔号(船名)。 4. I think you...in search of. 我认为你正是他们要找的人。very 是形容词, 用来强调后面的名词 man。 in search of: 寻找, 寻求。

really do what was expected of him?¹ And yet, Professor Henslow had said, “I think you are the very man!”

Charles found out that the Beagle would be sailing under Captain Robert Fitzroy,² who had been second in command³ on an earlier trip around the world on the same ship. The main object of this voyage was to make new maps of coastlines and to take soundings of the depths of the seas.⁴ The ship would sail across the Atlantic to the east coast of South America, then around Cape Horn⁵ and up the west coast of South America. It would then cross to the islands of the South Pacific and to Australia and return by sailing through the Indian Ocean and around the Cape of Good Hope⁶ to the Atlantic Ocean. Finally it would return to England. The journey was planned to take at least two years.

There would be no pay for the naturalist's job. The man chosen would have to pay for his own food and other expenses. His job would be to gather specimens of animals and plants which he found in the areas visited.

The thought of traveling to many strange places was most exciting to Charles Darwin. He would have accepted at once.⁷ But what would his father say? He soon found

1. But could he do him? 但是, 他能真正做到人们对他所期望的吗? 2. under Captain Robert Fitzroy ['rɒbət fɪts'rɔɪ]: 在罗伯特·菲茨罗伊船长率领下。 3. second in command: 副指挥官。 4. to take soundings of the depths of the seas: 测量海洋深度。 5. Cape Horn: ['keɪp 'hɒn] 合恩角(智利南端)。 6. the Cape of Good Hope: 好望角(非洲南端)。 7. He would have accepted at once. 他本想马上接受(句中 would 表示虚拟)。