

美国英语教学文库

美国英语系列阶梯读物

马克·吐温 自传

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF MARK TWAIN

马克·吐温 著
露丝·默里 改编



AMERICAN LITERARY CLASSICS



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TWAIN**

A Ladder Edition at the
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Adapted by Ruth B. Murray

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主 编	胡云富	杨志渊		
副主编	曹瑞珍			
编 委	李音祚	杨志渊	易 新	
	胡云富	曹瑞珍		

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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。

本书属于第三阶梯,即由 3 000 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。

THE LADDER SERIES

The Ladder Series books are special editions of popular American books, prepared at easier-to-read vocabulary levels than the American editions for the enjoyment of readers for whom English is a second language.

The "Ladder" is made up of vocabularies of 1 000 words and up, with a number of books at each level, thus forming a ladder to English understanding while making available the same good books Americans are reading.

This book has been prepared on the 3 000-word level. But because the subject of the book needs certain special words, some words in the book are beyond this level. The reader will find such words printed in **bold face** and explained in the back of the book.

This is a shorter edition than the complete book, which the publisher hopes the reader will want to read and enjoy as his English ability increases through the Ladder Series.

美国英语系列阶梯读物

《 马克·吐温自传 》

本书是美国英语系列阶梯读物之一。是用了3000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。作者马克·吐温是美国著名幽默讽刺作家。本书是他晚年写的自传。作者以幽默、真实的笔触记述了自己的生活以及一个不谙世事的孩童直到功成名就的伟大作家的奋斗历程,对目前正在孜孜以求发展的青年人有很大的启迪作用。

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 dark ink, appearing to read "Joseph Duffey". The script is cursive and somewhat stylized, with the first name "Joseph" written in a larger, more prominent hand than the last name "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.)

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF MARK TWAIN

Mark Twain is one of the most popular and beloved of American writers. No one wrote with more skill and feeling of a youthful America still in the process of growing up, and *Tom Sawyer* and *Huckleberry Finn* are two of the greatest boys' books ever written. *The Autobiography of Mark Twain* is the story of his own life as he himself wrote it, including a marvelous account of his life as a boy along the shores of the mighty Mississippi River. It is a book of beauty and value both as literature and as entertainment.

FROM THE PREFACE: *In this **Autobiography**, I shall keep in mind the fact that I am speaking from the grave. . . . I shall be dead when the book issues from the press. . . . It seemed to me that I could be as frank and free as in a love letter if I knew that what I was writing would be exposed to no eye until I was dead, and unaware, and indifferent.*

MARK TWAIN

CHAPTER 1

I was born the 30th of November, 1835, in the almost invisible village of Florida, Missouri. My parents removed to Missouri in the early thirties; I do not remember just when, for I was not born then and cared nothing for such things. The village contained a hundred people and I increased the population by one per cent. It is more than many of the best men in history could have done for a town. There is no record of a person doing as much——not even Shakespeare. But I did it for Florida.

Recently someone in Missouri has sent me a picture of the house I was born in. Heretofore I have always stated that it was a palace but I shall be more careful now.

The village has two streets, each a couple of hundred yards long, covered with stiff black mud in wet times, deep dust in dry. Most of the houses were of logs. There were none of brick and none of stone. There was a log church, which was a schoolhouse on week days. There were two stores