



Best Selected
English Readings

名家精选读本

散文卷

朱振武 / 主编

为什么读经典？

——卡尔维诺

经典是人类的精神财富，阅读是拥有它的唯一方式。

阅读改变了我的人生，让我从中获益良多，现在我想把这份乐趣传递出去，大家可以由此出发，让阅读进入你们的人生，施展它的魔力。

——朱振武

朱振武教授

著名翻译家，主持翻译了《达·芬奇密码》、《天使与魔鬼》、《数字城堡》、《骗局》等丹·布朗系列小说。



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名家精选读本

散文卷



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阅读改变人生

小的时候，我喜欢读各种各样的中文书。后来这种兴趣转到了英语阅读上，发现同样有无穷的乐趣，而且一发不可收拾。现在想起来也的确是受益无穷。从我在文科上的学习经历来看，谁的阅读量大，谁的水平就高，谁的综合能力和整体素质就强。阅读可以改变一个人的人生。以《达·芬奇密码》、《天使与魔鬼》、《数字城堡》和《骗局》等著名小说称道于世的美国当红作家丹·布朗就认为他的成功秘诀是建立在大量的阅读基础之上的。

一般的本科毕业生乃至研究生至少都有十年左右的英语学习经历，但他们的英语大都没有形成起码的或较好的应用能力。其实，粗通一门外语，根本用不了十多年的时光。语言不同于数、理、化等学科，语言重在培养感觉和灵性。我经常对我的学生讲：“英语是用会的，不是学会的。”对于一个生活在非英语环境中的中国学生，怎样做到在使用中学习英语呢？一个最有效的办法就是坚持大量阅读。阅读可以提高多方面的素养，提高听、说、读、写、译等多方面的能力，可以学习多方面的知识，可以非常有效地复习、巩固所学语言知识点。阅读在给你带来快感的同时，从根本上也提高了你的语言感受力。

这是一套六卷本的分类精选的英语阅读提高丛书，主要特点如下：

(1) 经典性：本丛书所选小说、诗歌、散文等作品大都为历久弥新的经典作品，多出自名家之手，经典作品是人生的精神宝藏，阅读这些作品会使人们更觉受益匪浅。

(2) 知识性：本丛书包含了各种文体和多方面内容，包括文化、历史、地理、科普、议论、记叙、散文、传记、演讲、寓言等，让读者领略到实际应用中的英语，而不是试题中的支离破碎的英语。

(3) 趣味性：本丛书所选文章力除呆板的说教类型，让读者在轻松愉悦的氛围中获取语言学习的乐趣。

(4) 可诵性：选文均短小精悍、流畅上口，且含蓄凝练，很适合背诵，读者可以有侧重地或选择自己偏爱的内容反复吟诵，培养英语思维。

每本书在编排上依文章难度不同划分为三部分：千里之行，始于足下；山重水复，柳暗花明；面向大海，春暖花开。希望这种渐进式学习能帮你逐步体验到阅读的不同层次。

此外，我们在注释中有意识地加入了单词及短语的用法描述，希望能像梳辫子似地为你理清头绪，能够按图索骥，顺藤摸瓜，避免学用词法和句法知识时常见的“描述语法”所带来的模棱两可现象和“规定语法”带来的生硬刻板现象，也避免了读罢一篇文章或无所适从，或囫圇吞枣，或只见树木不见森林的现象。总之，希望本丛书能够从思维角度帮助你提高英语水平，这也是本丛书的编写初衷。

阅读改变了我的人生，让我从中获益良多，现在我想把这份乐趣传递出去，大家可以由此出发，让阅读进入你们的人生，施展它的魔力。

朱振武

2009年仲夏于上海

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“千里之行 始于足下”

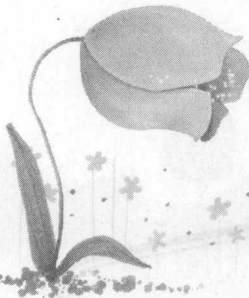
TO BEGIN YOUR JOURNEY

During my junior high school days, I was a student who was not very active in class. One day, my English teacher handed each student a list of thoughts or statements written by other students, then gave us a creative writing assignment based on one of those thoughts. At 17, I was beginning to wonder about many things, so I chose the statement, "I wonder why things are the way they are?"

That night I wrote down in the form of a story all the questions that puzzled me about life. I realized that many of them were hard to answer, and perhaps others could not be answered at all. When I turned in my paper, I was afraid that I might fail the assignment because I had not answered the question, "I wonder why things are the way they are?" I had no answer. I had only written questions.

The next day Mr. Reynolds called me to the front of the class and asked me to read my story. At the time, I was sitting in the back of the room. The class





这是一篇领略生活的小品文。作者罗列了人生不同阶段面临的诸多问题，但对这些问题文中却并未予以明确回答，而是留给读者去思考。每个人在成长的过程中，都会有类似的困惑。有的困惑会伴随着年龄的增长迎刃而解，而有的困惑我们一辈子也找不到答案。这就是生活，其中包含酸甜苦辣种种滋味，明白或者不甚明白的“为什么”，只有靠我们自己去回味。愿大家永远保留一颗对生活的好奇心，去细细地感悟生活吧。



I Wonder Why Things Are the Way They Are 为何世事皆如此

Christy Carter Koski 克里斯蒂·卡特·科斯基

During my junior year in high school, Mr. Reynolds, my English teacher, handed each student a list of thoughts or **statements**¹ written by other students, then gave us a creative writing assignment based on one of those thoughts. At 17, I was beginning to wonder about many things, so I chose the statement, “I wonder why things are the way they are?”

That night, I wrote down in the form of a story all the questions that puzzled me about life. I realized that many of them were hard to answer, and perhaps others could not be answered at all. When I **turned in**² my paper, I was afraid that I might fail the assignment because I had not answered the question, “I wonder why things are the way they are?” I had no answers. I had only written questions.

The next day Mr. Reynolds called me to the front of the class and asked me to read my story for the other students. He handed me the paper and sat down in the back of the room. The class became quiet as I began to read my story:

Mommie, Daddy³...Why?

Mommie, why are the roses red? Mommie, why is the grass green and the sky blue? Why does a spider have a web and not a house? Daddy, why can't I play in your **toolbox**⁴? Teacher, why do I have to read?

Mother, why can't I wear **lipstick**⁵ to the dance? Daddy, why can't I stay out until 12:00? The other kids are. Mother, why do you hate me? Daddy, **why don't the boys like me**⁶? Why do I have to be so **skinny**⁷? Why do I have to have braces and wear glasses?

当我上中学三年级的时候，英语老师雷诺兹先生曾给了每个同学一张单子，上面写着同学们各自想说的话和一些想法。他别出心裁地让我们根据其中的一条写出一篇文章来。那年我17岁，已开始感觉到有太多的事在困扰着我。于是，我选取了其中这样一句话：“为何世事皆如此。”

那天晚上，我用故事的形式将我所经历的困惑全部写了下来。此刻，我只觉得有太多的困惑都难以找到答案，而还有一些，或许根本就没有答案可寻。当我把作文交上去之后，很担心它会不合格。因为对于“为何世事皆如此”这个问题，我根本就没有做出回答，而我写下来的，也只有我的困惑。

第二天，雷诺兹先生把我叫到教室前面，让我把故事读给班里的同学听。他把文章交给了我，自己坐到了教室的后排。整个教室安静了下来，我开始念道：

爸爸、妈妈……为什么？

妈妈，为什么玫瑰花是红的呢？妈妈，为什么草是绿的，天是蓝的呢？为什么蜘蛛要待在网上，不待在房子里呢？爸爸，我为什么不能到你的工具棚里玩呢？老师，我为什么非得念书呢？

妈，我为什么不能抹上口红去参加舞会呢？爸，我为什么不能在外面待到12点以后才回家呢？别的孩子都可以啊！妈，你为什么不喜欢我呢？爸，男孩子们为什么也不喜欢我呢？我为什么如此瘦骨嶙峋，还非得戴上牙齿矫正器和眼

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1. **statement** (a written or spoken declaration, esp. of a formal kind), *n.* 陈述，声明
2. **turn in** 上交 Please turn in your assignment. 请把作业交上来。
3. **Mommie, Daddy** 都是小儿用语，分别指妈妈和爸爸。
4. **toolbox** *n.* 工具棚
5. **lipstick** *n.* 口红，唇膏
6. 从上下文看，笔者当时正风华正茂，故有此疑问。
7. **skinny** ((esp. of people) thin; without much flesh), *adj.* 瘦削的，皮包骨的

Why do I have to be 16?

Mom, why do I have to graduate? Dad, why do I have to grow up? Mom, Dad, why do I have to leave?

Mom, Why don't you write more often? Dad, why do I miss my old friends? Dad, why do you love me so much? Dad, why do you spoil me? Your little girl is growing up. Mom, why don't you visit? Mom, why is it hard to make new friends? Dad, why do I miss being at home?

Dad, why does my heart skip a beat when he looks in my eyes? Mom, why do my legs tremble when I hear his voice? Mother, why is being "in love" the greatest feeling in the world?

Daddy, why don't you like to be called "**Gramps**"⁸? Mother, why do my baby's tiny fingers **cling so tightly to**⁹ mine?

Mother, why do they have to grow up? Daddy, why do they have to leave? Why do I have to be called "Grannie"?

Mommie, Daddy, why did you have to leave me? I need you.

Why did my youth slip past me¹⁰? Why does my face show every smile that I have ever given to a friend or a stranger? **Why does my hair glisten a shiny silver**¹¹?

Why do my hands quiver when I bend to pick a flower?

Why, God, are the roses red?

At the conclusion of my story, my eyes **locked**¹² with Mr. Reynolds's eyes, and I saw a tear slowly sliding down his cheek. It was then that I realized that life is not always based on the answers we receive, but also on the questions that we ask.

8. **Gramps** *n.* (口语) 外公; 下文中的Grannie就是指外婆。

9. **cling to** 抓紧, 坚持 *Little children always cling to their mothers.* 小孩子总是紧依着母亲。

10. 此句感叹青春的一去不复返。 **slip** (*to go somewhere quickly and quietly, especially without being noticed*), *vi.* 滑走, 溜走

11. 该句形容一头银发, 步入暮年。 **glisten** (*to shine from or as if from a wet surface*), *v.* 闪烁, 闪耀

12. **lock** *v.* 锁住, 此处指眼睛紧紧地盯着。

镜？那为什么还要将16岁赐予我呢？

妈，我为什么非得毕业？爸，我为什么非得长大？爸，妈，我为什么非得离开？

妈，你难道不可以给我多写几封信吗？爸，我为什么会那么想念过去的
朋友？你为什么会那样地宠我，那样地爱我？你的女儿已经长大了呀！
妈，你为什么不来看我呢？妈，为什么交上一个新朋友会如此得难？爸，
我好想待在家里，为什么啊？

爸，为什么我见了他会砰然心跳？妈，为什么我听到他的声音会两腿发
颤？妈，人们说“坠入爱河”是世上最妙不可言的感觉，真的吗？

爸爸，你为什么不喜欢有人叫你“爷爷”呢？妈妈，为什么我宝贝的小手
会把我的手抓得紧紧的？

妈，我的孩子也会长大，是吗？爸，我的孩子也会离我而去，是吗？总有
一天，也会有人叫我“奶奶”，是这样的吗？

爸爸、妈妈，为什么你们非得离开我呢？可我离不开你们啊！
为什么青春会从我的身旁溜走？为什么我曾经给予朋友和陌生人的微
笑还在，而我的头发却变得花白了？

为什么当我俯身采摘花朵的时候，我的手在颤抖？
上帝啊，为什么玫瑰花是红色的呢？

念到结尾的时候，我一直盯着雷诺兹先生的双眼，只见一颗泪珠顺着他的面
颊缓缓地滑落下来。至此，我明白了：并不只有已知的答案才叫做生活，那些无
法明白的“为什么”也是我们生活的一部分。



Enlarge your vocabulary

20 puzzle 使迷惑，使为难

puzzle out 苦苦思索出（答案、解决办法等）→**puzzle over** 为……大费脑筋 *He had puzzled over the figures for hours without making head or tail of them.* 这些数字他苦苦算了好几个小时，仍然摸不着头脑。→**crossword puzzle** 纵横填字游戏→**jigsaw puzzle** 拼图游戏

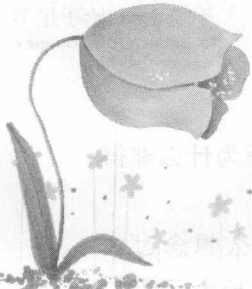
21 web 网

weave a web of lies 编造出一套谎话→**a complex web of relationships** 复杂的关系网→**world wide web** 万维网→**network** 网状物；网状系统→**a spy network** 间谍网→**a network of falsehood** 谎话连篇

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故事发生在圣诞节前夕，一个小男孩渴望送给身体残疾的弟弟一辆汽车作为圣诞礼物，言行中体现了兄弟间浓厚的情意。小男孩美好的愿望体现了一种高尚的品质，用结尾处引《圣经》中的一句话来说就是，“施比受更有福”。小男孩一心想着付出，其行为深深打动了陌生人保罗，于是主动提出帮助小男孩兄弟满足他们小小的愿望。故事最后，三人共同沐浴在人间的温情之中，度过了一个难忘的平安夜。

2

A Brother like That 哥哥的心愿

■ Dan Clark 丹·克拉克



A friend of mine named Paul received an automobile from his brother as a Christmas present. On **Christmas Eve**¹ when Paul came out of his office, a street **urchin**² was walking around the shiny new car, admiring it. “Is this your car, Mister?” he asked.

Paul nodded. “My brother gave it to me for Christmas.” The boy was astounded. “You mean your brother gave it to you and **it didn’t cost you nothing**³? **Boy**⁴, I wish...” He **hesitated**⁵.

Of course Paul knew what he was going to wish for. He was going to wish he had a brother like that. But what the lad said jarred Paul all the way down to his heels.

“I wish,” the boy went on, “that I could be a brother like that.”

Paul looked at the boy in astonishment, then impulsively he added, “Would you like to take a ride in my automobile?”

“Oh yes, I’d love that.”

After a short ride, the boy turned and with his eyes aglow, said, “Mister, would you mind driving in front of my house?”

Paul smiled a little. He thought he knew what the lad wanted. He wanted to show his neighbors that he could ride home in a big automobile. But Paul was wrong again. “Will you stop where those two steps are?” the boy asked.

He ran up the steps. Then in a little while Paul heard him coming back, but he was not coming fast. He was carrying his little crippled brother. He sat him down on the bottom

我的朋友保罗从他哥哥那里得到一辆轿车，那是他哥哥送给他的圣诞礼物。圣诞节的前一天，当保罗走出办公室的时候，一个小家伙正绕着他的车转来转去，还赞叹不已。“先生，这是您的车吗？”他问道。

保罗点了点头。“是我哥哥给我的圣诞礼物。”那个小孩大吃了一惊，“你是说你哥哥送给你了，而你一分钱也没有花？乖乖，要是……”他没有接着说下去。

保罗当然明白他接下去会说些什么，他是希望自己也有一个那样的哥哥。然而，那个小孩接下来的话却让保罗全身都为之一震。

“我想啊，”那小孩接着说，“要是我能当一个那样的哥哥就好啦。”

保罗惊讶地看着他，蓦然冒出一个念头来。“想坐上来兜兜风吗？”他问道。

“哦，是的。那太好了。”

坐着车转悠了一小会儿，那小孩扭过头去，两眼闪闪发亮。他对保罗说：“先生，您能送我到家门口吗？”

保罗微微一笑，以为自己明白这小孩的心思。他是想向邻居炫耀，让大家知道自己是坐着一辆大轿车回来的。然而，保罗又一次错了。“您能把车停在那个有两级台阶的地方吗？”那小孩问道。

他下车跑上了台阶。不多一会儿，保罗就听见他又走了回来。走得不是太快，原来他还搀扶着他那有残疾的弟弟。接着，他扶着弟弟在第一步台阶

散文

卷



1. Christmas Eve. 圣诞节前夕(12月24日)

2. urchin n. 顽童，小孩

3. “It didn’t cost you nothing”表示否定，意思是“一分钱也没有花”。这种用法在口语中经常出现，起加强语气的作用。

4. boy int. [美国俚语] 好家伙（表示惊讶、热心等的感叹词）

5. hesitate (pause in or before an action), v. 犹豫

step, then sort of **squeezed up**⁶ against him and pointed to the car.

“There she is, Buddy, just like I told you upstairs. His brother gave it to him for Christmas and it didn’t cost him a cent. And some day I’m **gonna**⁷ give you one just like it... then you can see for yourself all the pretty things in the Christmas windows that I’ve been trying to tell you about.” Paul got out and lifted the lad to the front seat of his car. The shining-eyed older brother climbed in beside him and the three of them began a **memorable**⁸ holiday ride.

That Christmas Eve, Paul learned what **Jesus**⁹ meant when he had said, “**It is more blessed to give**¹⁰...”

散文

卷



6. **squeeze** 是挤压的意思，这里很形象地说明小男孩紧紧抱着跛脚的弟弟，怕他摔倒。

7. **gonna** [美国俚语] = **going to**

8. **memorable** (*which is worth remembering*), *adj.* 值得纪念的

9. **Jesus** *n.* 耶稣(基督教信奉的救世主)

10. 此处出自《圣经·使徒行传》第20章第35节, “**It is more blessed to give than to receive**”; **bless** *v.* 祝福

上坐了下来，紧紧地搂着他，用手指着保罗的轿车。

“你看，那就是我刚才在楼上对你说的那辆新车。那是他哥哥送给他的圣诞礼物，他自己一分钱都没有花。以后我也要送你一辆那样的车……到那时候，你就可以自己去看看过圣诞节时挂在橱窗里的那些漂亮饰品了。那些东西我都已经跟你讲过啦。”保罗走下车来，把他弟弟抱到了车的前排。当哥哥也跟着上了车，和弟弟坐在一块儿，他兴奋得两眼放出了光芒。于是，三人开始了一段难忘的节日驾车旅行。

在那个平安夜上，保罗才真正明白了耶稣曾经说过的话：“施比受更有福……”

散文

卷



Enlarge your vocabulary

20 take a ride 乘车兜风

take sb. for a ride 欺骗某人 → **a smooth/rough ride** 顺利/艰难的进程 → **thumb a ride** (竖起大拇指向过路汽车作手势) 要求免费搭车 → **ride a hobby to death** 沉溺在业余的嗜好中(不可自拔), 反复说[做]自己喜欢做的事(以致令人生厌) → **ride off on a side issue** 专谈枝节问题(用以规避主要问题)

20 point to 指向

point to the door 下逐客令 → **point out** 指出 → **point at** 指向 → **make a point of** 重视, 强调 → **make a point of doing** 重视做某事 *You make a point of forgetting everything I have said.* 你总是存心忘记我所说的任何话。