



杰克·福翠尔

总顾问·陈琳

The Problem

十三号死刑牢房 of Cell 13



华东师范大学出版社

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6 Level

The Problem of Cell 13

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序

一套供青少年和英语爱好者阅读的丛书，应满足三个要求：

Read for pleasure;

Read for information;

Read for language improvement.

《Black Cat 有声名著阶梯阅读》满足了以上要求而有余。

首先，这是一套同时供听觉享受的书。一部作品，当它由专业演员朗读时，就能以其优美的声音、抑扬顿挫的语调、加上传神的表达，使读者和听者真正身临其境，最充分地领会作品中的情、境、思。而这一效果，就不是只有白纸黑字的书面材料所能提供的了。加之这套书图文并茂，更使视、听两种感官得以完美地结合。

其次，这套书为读、听者提供了有益的背景资料，包括作家生平、时代背景、人文知识等，有助于培养青少年的跨文化意识。书中许多传世名画，更给人充分的艺术享受。

再者，虽是读物，却兼具教科书的功能。每本书都编入为数不少的练习，涉及阅读理解、词汇辨析以及语法结构等，为课堂的语言教学提供了有效的补充。

在教育部颁布的国家英语课程标准中指出了泛读的重要性，明确规定了学生每学期的课外阅读量。学习任何外语，只有课内的精读，没有课外大量的泛读，是不可能学好的，更不用说获得语感。《Black Cat 有声名著阶梯阅读》丛书的编印出版，为广大青少年和英语爱好者提供了一个学习英语的新天地——我为你们庆幸。

教育部《英语课程标准》
专家组成员 陈琳

二〇〇三年冬为第一版而作

二〇〇九年夏为第二版修订

使用说明

1 应该怎样选书？

按阅读兴趣选书

《Black Cat 有声名著阶梯阅读》精选世界经典作品，也包括富于创意的现代作品；既有脍炙人口的小说、戏剧，又有非小说类的文化知识读物，品种丰富，内容多样，适合口味不同的读者挑选自己感兴趣的书籍，享受阅读的乐趣。

按英语程度选书

《Black Cat 有声名著阶梯阅读》现设 Level 1 至 Level 6，由浅入深，涵盖初、中级英语程度。读物分级采用了国际上通用的划分标准，主要以词汇 (vocabulary) 和结构 (structures) 划分。

Level 1 至 Level 3 出现的词汇较浅显，相对深的核心词汇均配上中文解释，节省读者查找词典的时间，以专心理解正文内容。在注释的帮助下，读者若能流畅地阅读正文内容，就不用担心这一本书程度过深。

Level 1 至 Level 3 出现的动词时态形式和句子结构比较简单。动词时态形式以一般现在时 (present simple)、现在进行时 (present continuous)、一般过去时 (past simple) 为主，句子结构大部分是简单句 (simple sentences)。此外，还包括比较级和最高级 (comparative and superlative forms)、可数和不可数名词 (countable and uncountable nouns) 以及冠词 (articles) 等语法知识点。

Level 4 至 Level 6 出现的动词时态形式，以现在完成时 (present perfect)、现在完成进行时 (present perfect continuous)、过去完成进行时 (past perfect continuous) 为主，句子结构大部分是复合句 (compound sentences)、条件从句 (1st and 2nd conditional sentences) 等。此外，还包括情态动词 (modal verbs)、被动形式 (passive forms)、动名词 (gerunds)、短语动词 (phrasal verbs) 等语法知识点。

根据上述的语法范围，读者可按自己实际的英语水平，如词汇量、语法知识、理解能力、阅读能力等自主选择，不再受制于学校年级划分或学历高低约束，完全根据个人需要选择合适的读物。

2 怎样提高阅读效果？

阅读的方法主要有两种：一是泛读，二是精读。两者各有功能，适当地结合使用，相辅相成，有事半功倍之效。

泛读，指阅读大量适合自己程度（可稍浅，但不能过深），不同内容、风格、体裁的读物，但求明白内容大意，不用花费太多时间钻研细节，主要作用是多接触英语，减轻对它的生疏感，巩固以前所学过的英语，让脑子在潜意识中吸收词汇用法、语法结构等。

精读，指小心认真地阅读内容精彩、组织有条理、遣词造句又正确的作品，着重点在于理解“准确”及“深入”，欣赏其精彩独到之处。精读时，可充分利用书中精心设计的练习，学习掌握有用的英语词汇和语法知识。精读后，可再花十分钟朗读其中一小段有趣的文字，边念边细心领会文字的结构和意思。

《Black Cat 有声名著阶梯阅读》中的作品均值得精读，如时间有限，不妨尝试每两个星期泛读一本，辅以每星期挑选书中一章精彩的文字精读。要学好英语，持之以恒地泛读和精读英文是最有效的方法。

3 如何充分利用本系列 CD？

本系列每本书均配有 CD，提供作品朗读，朗读者都是专业演员，英国作品由英国演员录音，美国作品由美国演员录音，务求增加聆听的真实感和感染力。多聆听英式和美式英语两种发音，可让读者熟悉二者的差异，逐渐培养分辨英美发音的能力，提高聆听理解的准确度。

聆听与阅读的安排可随读者喜爱，先读后听，先听后读，边听边读或交替进行。读者亦可以本系列的 CD 为核心，着重提高听的能力，此时应选择

程度稍浅的品种。

若将 CD 随身携带，反复聆听、诵读，日积月累，对英语理解能力和表达能力的提高必有显著成效。

4 本系列的练习与测试有何功能？

《Black Cat 有声名著阶梯阅读》特别注重练习的设计，为读者考虑周到，切合实用需求，学习功能强。每章后均配有训练听、说、读、写四项技能的练习，分量、难度恰到好处。

听力练习分两类，一是重听故事回答问题，二是聆听主角对话、书信朗读或模拟记者访问后写出答案，旨在以生活化的练习形式逐步提高听力。

模仿录音朗读故事或模仿主人翁在戏剧中的对白，则是训练口语能力的好方法。

阅读理解练习形式多样化，有纵横字谜、配对、填空、字句重组等等，注重训练读者的理解、推敲和联想等多种阅读技能。

写作练习尤具新意，教读者使用网式图示（spidergrams）记录重点，采用问答、书信、电报、记者采访等多样化形式，鼓励读者动手写作。

书后更设有升级测试（Exit Test）及答案，供读者检查学习效果。

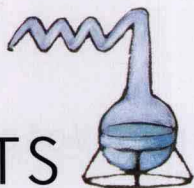
充分利用书中的练习和测试，可全面提升听、说、读、写四项技能。

5 本系列还能提供什么帮助？

《Black Cat 有声名著阶梯阅读》提倡丰富多元的现代阅读，巧用书中提供的资讯，有助于提升英语理解力，拓展视野。

每本书都设有专章介绍相关的历史文化知识，经典名著更有作者生平、社会背景等资讯。书内富有表现力的彩色插图、绘图和照片，使阅读充满趣味，部分加上如何解读古典名画的指导，增长见识。有些剧作包含舞台演出台本，可供戏剧爱好者一显身手。有的书还提供一些与主题相关的网址，比如关于不同国家的节庆源流的网址，让读者多利用网上资源增进知识。

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练习答案和测试答案

This story is recorded in full on the CD. 故事全文录音



These symbols indicate the beginning and end of the extracts linked to the listening activities.

听力练习开始和结束的标记



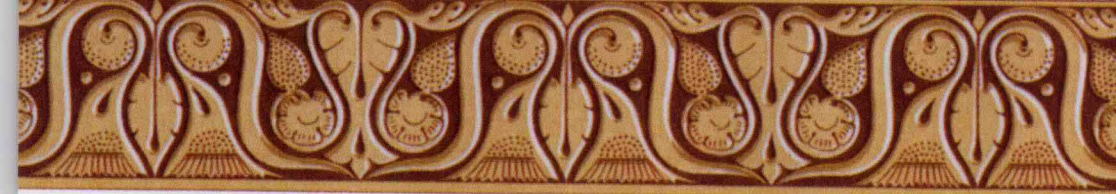
Some Information about Jacques Futrelle's Life

*J*acques Futrelle was born in Georgia in 1875 and died in 1912 at the age of 37, one of the unfortunate victims of the sinking of the *Titanic*. Futrelle was working as a journalist¹ on the editorial staff of the *Boston American* – now the *Boston Herald* – when the publication of *The Problem of Cell 13* in 1905 brought him fame. *Cell 13* was the first of a series of stories to feature² the scientific detective, Augustus S.F.X. Van Dusen, more commonly known as The Thinking Machine, a character who combines elements of Edgar Allan Poe's Auguste Dupin (note the similarity between the two first names) and Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes. Like Dupin and Holmes, Van Dusen was an example of the gentleman amateur³ detective, men of independent means for whom solving crimes was more a hobby than a profession.

1. **journalist** : a person who writes news stories.

2. **feature** : give an important part to.

3. **amateur** : taking part in an activity just for pleasure, not as their job.



The Problem of Cell 13, like the other Thinking Machine stories, was first published in the newspaper where Futrelle worked, challenging the reader to find the solution.

When Futrelle went down with the *Titanic*, the world lost a fine journalist and a great master of the short story.

The Story: The Problem of Cell 13

The Thinking Machine, a remarkable, though somewhat eccentric¹ scientist who spends all his time in the lab inventing brilliant and outrageous² theories, decides one day to have a bet with two friends. He bets that a prisoner can escape from a cell using just his mind, and to prove it to his companions he decides to volunteer for the experiment himself. Locked in Cell 13 of Chisholm Prison and with no help from outside he must try to escape. But the prison is absolutely secure, its walls impossible to climb, the cell impossible to escape from and infested with rats. Will he manage to win his bet? How?

1. **eccentric** : strange, unusual.

2. **outrageous** : shocking.

Before you read



- 1** Fill in the text below using the adjectives in the box. Then listen to the CD and check if you were right.

strange famous thin bizarre
 mental little small blue large
 profound pale unusual thick
 yellow brilliant

Professor Augustus S. F. X. Van Dusen's appearance was as ¹..... as his name. He was ²..... with the thin shoulders of a student and his face was extremely ³..... . His eyes were the eyes of a man who studies ⁴..... things. They were always half-closed in concentration. Although he wore ⁵..... glasses you could see that his eyes were ⁶..... . But his strangest feature was his abnormally ⁷..... forehead, on top of which sat a crown of ⁸..... hair. Together all these things gave him a ⁹....., almost grotesque personality.


Professor Van Dusen's family came from Germany. Many of his ancestors had been ¹⁰..... scientists; he was the logical result, the master mind. And logic was his passion. He believed that two and two always equal four, except in ¹¹..... cases, when they may equal three or five. He believed that all things that start must go somewhere and he was able to concentrate all the ¹²..... force of his ancestors to solve any problem.

The public knew Van Dusen as The Thinking Machine and perhaps this phrase described him best of all. He spent all his time in his ¹³..... laboratory where he invented ¹⁴..... theories that shocked scientists and had a ¹⁵..... effect on the world.



CHAPTER ONE

The Bet

 **P**rofessor Augustus S. F. X. Van Dusen's appearance was as strange as his name. He was thin with the thin shoulders of a student and his face was extremely pale. His eyes were the eyes of a man who studies little things. They were always half-closed in concentration. Although he wore thick glasses you could see that his eyes were blue. But his strangest feature¹ was his abnormally large forehead, on top of which sat a crown of yellow hair. Together all these things gave him a bizarre,² almost grotesque³ personality.

Professor Van Dusen's family came from Germany. Many of his ancestors had been famous scientists; he was the logical result, the mastermind.⁴ And logic was his passion. He believed that two

-
1. **feature** : characteristic.
 2. **bizarre** : very strange and unusual.
 3. **grotesque** : strange and unpleasant.
 4. **mastermind** : genius.

The Bet



and two always equal four, except in unusual cases, when they may equal three or five. He believed that all things that start must go somewhere, and he was able to concentrate all the mental force of his ancestors to solve any problem.

The public knew Van Dusen as The Thinking Machine and perhaps this phrase described him best of all. He spent all his time in his small laboratory



where he invented brilliant¹ theories that shocked scientists and had a profound² effect on the world.

END

The Thinking Machine didn't have many visitors. When people did come to see him they were usually scientists. Two of these men, Dr Charles Ransome and Alfred Fielding visited him one evening to discuss some theory (what it was exactly is of no importance).

"That is impossible," said Dr Ransome.

"Nothing is impossible," said The Thinking Machine. "The mind is master of all things. When science understands this, it will be a great day."

"What about the airship?"³ asked Dr Ransome.

"That's not impossible at all," said The Thinking Machine. "It will be invented soon. I would do it myself, but unfortunately I'm too busy."

1. **brilliant** : highly skilled.

2. **profound** : deep or far-reaching.

3. **airship** : aircraft that consists of a large balloon filled with gas with a compartment for passengers.

The Problem of Cell 13

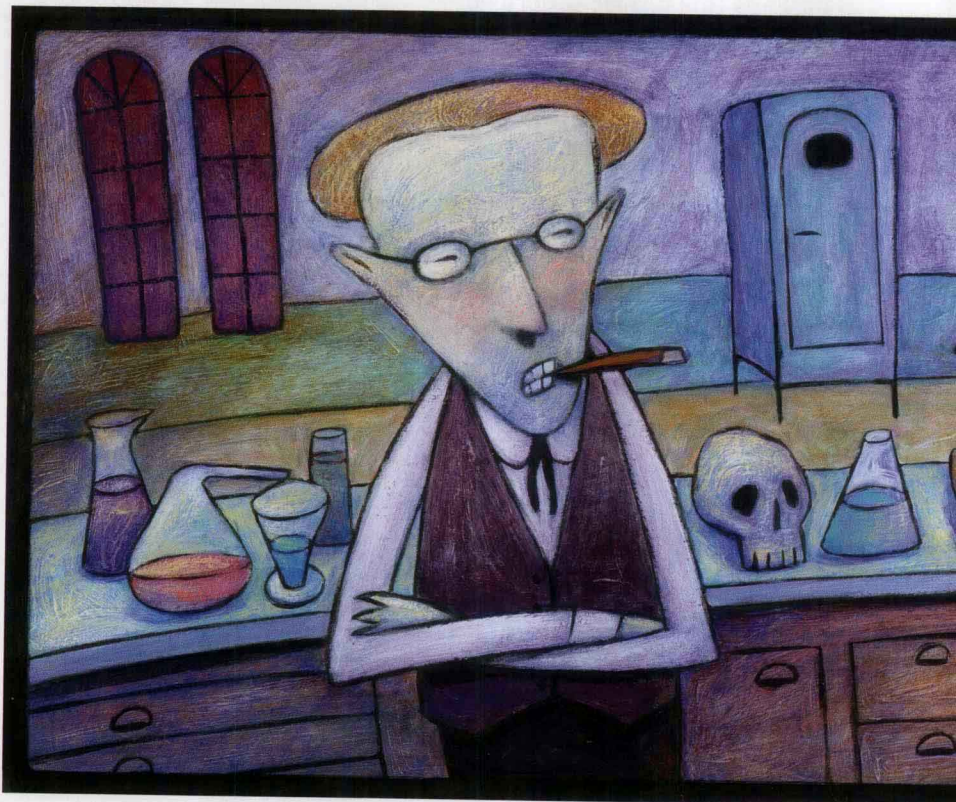


Dr Ransome laughed.

"I've heard you say things like that before," he said. "But they mean nothing. The mind may be master of the material world, but there are some problems that cannot be solved by thought alone."

"Give me an example," demanded The Thinking Machine.

Dr Ransome thought for a moment as he smoked. "Well, what about the walls of a prison?" he replied. "No man can escape from a cell just by thinking about it. If he could, there would be no



The Bet



prisoners.” He continued. “Let’s imagine a case. A cell for prisoners who are condemned to death.¹ These men will do anything to try to escape. Imagine you were in that cell. Could you escape?”

“Certainly,” said The Thinking Machine.

“Of course,” said Mr Fielding, “you could destroy the cell with an explosive, but if you are a prisoner inside the cell you can’t have that.”



1. **condemned to death** : punished with death penalty.

The Problem of Cell 13



"I don't need an explosive," said The Thinking Machine. "I would be just like any other prisoner and I would still be able to leave the cell."

"You could escape only if you entered it with tools," said Dr Ransome.

The Thinking Machine was visibly irritated.¹

"Lock me in any cell in any prison anywhere at any time, wearing only normal clothes, and I'll escape in a week," he declared.



Dr Ransome was interested. Mr Fielding lit a new cigar.

"You're saying that you could escape from the cell just by thinking about it?" Ransome asked.

"I could get out."

"Are you serious?"

"Certainly, I'm serious."

Dr Ransome and Mr Fielding were silent for a long time.

"Would you like to try it?" asked Mr Fielding finally.

"Certainly," said Professor Van Dusen and added ironically, "I have done more ridiculous things than that to convince men of less important facts."

Of course it was an absurd thing but they decided it at that moment.

"To begin now," said Dr Ransome.

"I'd prefer tomorrow," said The Thinking Machine, "because ..."

"No, now!" said Mr Fielding. "You will be locked in a cell

1. **irritated** : annoyed.