

William H. McGuffey  
[美] W. H. 麦加菲

# 美国语文 读本精选

*McGuffey's Eclectic Readers*

中级版

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·北京·

图书在版编目 ( CIP ) 数据

美国语文读本精选 ( 中级版 ) / [美] 麦加菲 ( McGuffey, W. H. ) 编.  
—北京: 化学工业出版社, 2014.1  
ISBN 978-7-122-17961-6

I. ①美… II. ①麦… III. ①英语-阅读教学-中小学-美国-课外读物  
IV. ①G634.413

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字 ( 2013 ) 第161311号

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责任编辑: 刘亚军 张 赛  
责任校对: 宋 夏

装帧设计: 水长流文化

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出版发行: 化学工业出版社 ( 北京市东城区青年湖南街 13 号 邮政编码 100011 )  
印 装: 大厂聚鑫印刷有限责任公司  
660mm × 940mm 1 / 16 印张10 字数135千字 2014年1月北京第1版第1次印刷

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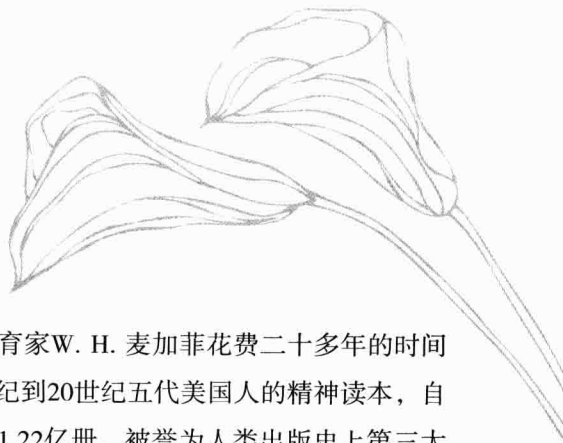
购书咨询: 010-64518888 ( 传真: 010-64519686 ) 售后服务: 010-64518899  
网 址: <http://www.cip.com.cn>  
凡购买本书, 如有缺损质量问题, 本社销售中心负责调换。

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定 价: 18.00元

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## 编者的话



《麦加菲美德读本》是美国教育家W. H. 麦加菲花费二十多年的时间编写的一套“语文”教材，是19世纪到20世纪五代美国人的精神读本，自1836年出版到1960年累计销量高达1.22亿册，被誉为人类出版史上第三大畅销书。当时，几乎每个学校都以《麦加菲美德读本》为课本，每一个美国家庭都至少拥有一套《麦加菲美德读本》。作为一本教材，《麦加菲美德读本》内容设计十分合理，前半部分为少儿设计，寓教于乐，让儿童在轻松阅读小故事的同时学会英语发音、语法，并增加词汇量；后半部分则选编自西方的名家名篇，如莎士比亚、狄更斯、华盛顿·欧文、爱默生等人的著作，这些作品本身具有很高的文学价值，可以快速让学生熟悉和认知西方文化。

《麦加菲美德读本》大受欢迎的另一原因是此书融语言学习、文学修养与道德教育于一体，让读者在欣赏这些文学名作的同时，感受美德的力量。《麦加菲美德读本》完美地诠释了社会推崇的优秀美德和精神，是向孩子进行美德教育的优秀范本。撰写《汤姆叔叔的小屋》、影响美国历史的比彻·斯托夫人认为，《麦加菲美德读本》是每个儿童必读的教材。创建百年传奇的福特汽车创始人亨利·福特认为，自己的成功得益于《麦加菲美德读本》在儿童时代赋予自己的价值观。

时过境迁，这套几乎两百年之前完稿的作品已有诸多过时之处。但正如莎士比亚的作品一样，《麦加菲美德读本》中的美文和其所提倡的美德是永恒的，书中宣传的“严于律己，宽以待人”、“勤奋工作、不畏辛劳”等精神更是放之四海而皆准。直至今日，《麦加菲美德读本》中的许多文章和教育方法依然被许多教育家使用和推崇，《麦加菲美德读本》仍被很多美国学校选为最佳课外读物。

这套读本的英文原版共分7级，包括启蒙本和第1~6级。基于《麦加菲美德读本》本身的特色，我们对其进行精选和调整，浓缩为初级、中级

和高级版三本，删除了部分过于陈旧的内容，保留了《麦加菲美德读本》最为精髓的文章和精神，以帮助这套读本与时俱进，并在中国落地。书中的英语很地道，由简入难，循序渐进，虽然是美国人的小学课本，但对英文的掌握程度要求并不低，其中的很多文章都可以做为英文作文的范文，高级版中不乏世界著名作家的名篇节选。为了让那些高年级的学生欣赏文学的优美，除了真、善、美，也没有回避生活中的艰难与困苦，更是突出了困境之下个人的坚守与成长。在图片方面，我们对《麦加菲美德读本》中的图片进行了再创作，并尽可能地保留原汁原味。经过这些努力，我们相信现在呈现在读者面前的是一部在21世纪依然会影响人类教育和道德的作品，一部能够帮助孩子学习英文、领会优秀价值观的传世作品。

书里面的故事非常多样化，有记叙、评论、说明文，还有诗歌和散文。内容写得也很日常，让孩子们从身边的事情中就能受到教育，不会感觉和自己很遥远。书中的每一个小故事都浸透着美德。比如说母鸡因为小鸡不愿意练习弹跳而感到伤心。其他的小鸡觉得无论自己怎么努力也无济于事，只有奇普明知自己跳不高还在努力尝试。回到家中，母鸡会怎么对待自己的孩子们呢？

“毁坏的玩偶”里，玛丽是个粗心的小姑娘。一天，她发现自己最心爱的玩偶被狗狗咬坏了。她非常生气，但妈妈告诉她，是她把玩偶丢在狗狗能够找到的地方的……

“山姆和哈利”里，当山姆看到一名眼盲的乞丐后，他发现自己的钱都用在了买书上。此时，哈利走了过来，用力把钱币扔到距离乞丐很远的地方，然后扬长而去。看到这一幕，山姆放下书，花了很长的时间，默默捡起了所有的钱币。乞丐到底会感谢给钱的哈利，还是帮忙捡钱的山姆呢……每一个故事是如此的生动形象。

最纯正美语学习和最纯粹的美德教育是爸爸妈妈们送给孩子的礼物，除此之外，书中很多内容也曾是现在的爸爸妈妈们儿时最美好的经历，在精选和编辑过程中，我们对书中的很多故事产生了共鸣，那些故事和图画唤起了我们内心的美好童年回忆，和孩子一起阅读并分享自己的童年故事和成长经历，对于爸爸妈妈和孩子来说，更是别有一番意义吧！



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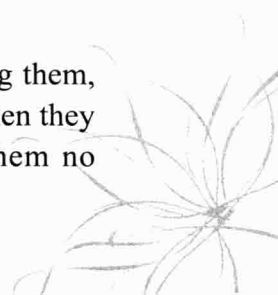


## LESSON 1

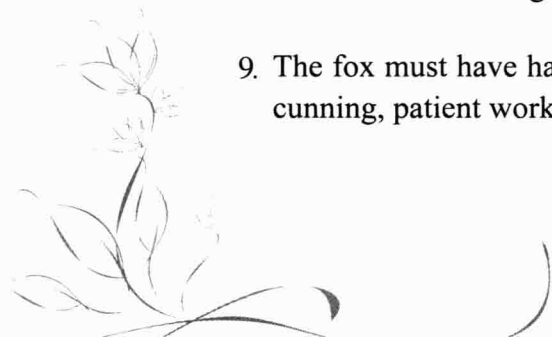


### THE FOX AND THE DUCKS

1. On a summer day, a man sitting on the bank of a river, in the shade of some bushes, watched a flock of ducks on the stream.
2. Soon a branch with leaves came drifting among them, and they all took wing. After circling in the air for a little time, they settled down again on their feeding ground.
3. Soon another branch came drifting down among them, and again they took flight from the river; but when they found the branch had drifted by and done them no harm, they flew down to the water as before.



4. After four or five branches had drifted by in this way, the ducks gave little heed to them. At length, they hardly tried to fly out of their way, even when the branches nearly touched them.
5. The man who had been watching all this, now began to wonder who had set these branches adrift. He looked up the stream, and spied a fox slyly watching the ducks. "What will he do next?" thought the man.
6. When the fox saw that the ducks were no longer afraid of the branches, he took a much larger branch than any he had yet used, and stretched himself upon it so as to be almost hidden. Then he set it afloat as he had the others.
7. Right among the flock drifted the sly old fox, and, making quick snaps to right and left, he seized two fine young ducks, and floated off with them.
8. The rest of the flock flew away in fright, and did not come back for a long time.
9. The fox must have had a fine dinner to pay him for his cunning, patient work.



## LESSON 2



### PRETTY IS THAT PRETTY DOES

1. The spider wears a plain brown dress,  
And she is a steady spinner;  
To see her, quiet as a mouse,  
Going about her silver house,  
You would never, never, never guess  
The way she gets her dinner.
2. She looks as if no thought of ill  
In all her life had stirred her;  
But while she moves with careful tread, And  
while she spins her silken thread,  
She is planning, planning, planning still  
The way to do some murder.

3. My child, who reads this simple lay,  
With eyes down-dropt and tender, Remember  
the old proverb says  
That pretty is which pretty does,  
And that worth does not go nor stay  
For poverty nor splendor.
4. 'Tis not the house, and not the dress,  
That makes the saint or sinner.  
To see the spider sit and spin,  
Shut with her walls of silver in,  
You would never, never, never guess  
The way she gets her dinner.

*Alice Cary.*

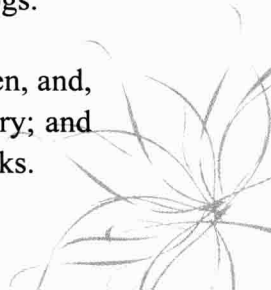


## LESSON 3



### THE STORY-TELLER

1. Peter Pindar was a great storyteller. One day, as he was going by the school, the children gathered around him.
2. They said, "Please tell us a story we have never heard." Ned said, "Tell us something about boys and dogs."
3. "Well," said Peter, "I love to please good children, and, as you all appear civil, I will tell you a new story; and it shall be about a boy and some dogs, as Ned asks."



4. “But before we begin, let us sit down in a cool, shady place. And now, John, you must be as still as a little mouse. Mary, you must not let Towser bark or make a noise.
5. “A long way from this place, there is a land where it is very cold, and much snow falls.
6. “The hills are very high there, and travelers are often lost among them. There are men there who keep large dogs. These are taught to hunt for people lost in the snow.
7. “The dogs have so fine a scent, that they can find persons by that alone.
8. “Sometimes it is so dark, that they can not see anything. Those who are lost often lie hid in the snowdrifts.”

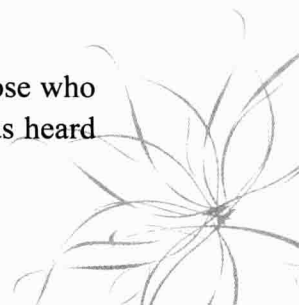


## LESSON 4



### THE STORY-TELLER (CONCLUDED)

1. "One cold, bleak night, the snow fell fast, and the wind blew loud and shrill. It was quite dark. Not a star was to be seen in the sky.
2. "These good men sent out a dog, to hunt for those who might want help. In an hour or two, the dog was heard coming back.





3. “On looking out, they saw him with a boy on his back. The poor child was stiff with cold. He could but just hold on to the dog’s back.
4. “He had lain for a long time in the snow, and was too weak to walk.
5. “He felt something pull him by the coat, and heard the bark of a dog. He put out his hand, and felt the dog. The dog gave him another pull.
6. “This gave the poor boy some hope, and he took hold of the dog. He drew himself out of the snow, but he could not stand or walk.
7. “He got on the dog’s back, and put his arms round the dog’s neck, and held on. He felt sure that the dog did not mean to do him any harm.
8. “Thus he rode all the way to the good men’s house.
9. “They took care of him, till the snow was gone. Then they sent him to his home.”



## LESSON 5



### THE OWL

1. "Where did you get that owl, Harry?"
2. "Fred and I found him in the old, hollow oak."