

William H. McGuffey
[美] W. H. 麦加菲

美国语文 读本精选

McGuffey's Eclectic Readers

高级版



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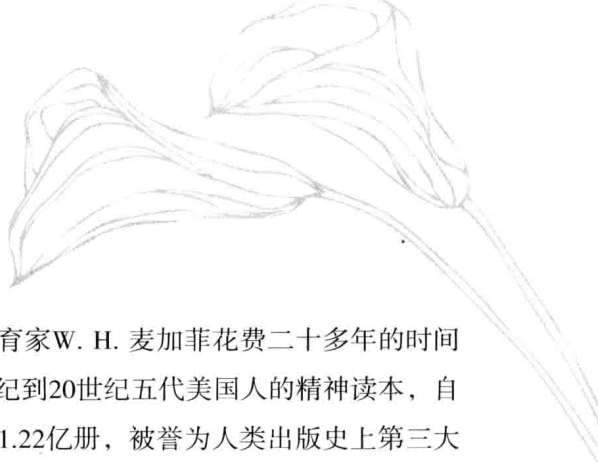
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编者的话



《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，可以快速地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

PERSEVERANCE

前美国总统卡尔文·柯立芝曾说：“在这个世界中坚持不懈是无可替代的”。在这个世界上，坚持是成功的最关键因素。发明家爱迪生告诉我们：“成功是百分之一的灵感，百分之九十九的汗水。”当面对挫折时，本文所强调的“Try Again”精神是必不可少的。

1. “Will you give my kite a lift?” said my little nephew to his sister, after trying in vain to make it fly by dragging it along the ground. Lucy very kindly took it up and threw it into the air, but, her brother neglecting to run off at the same moment, the kite fell down again.
2. “Ah! now, how awkward you are!” said the little fellow. “It was your fault entirely,” answered his sister. “Try again, children,” said I.
3. Lucy once more took up the kite. But now John was in too great a hurry; he ran off so suddenly that he twitched the kite out of her hand, and it fell flat as before. “Well, who is to blame now?” asked Lucy. “Try again,” said I.



4. They did, and with more care; but a side wind coming suddenly, as Lucy let go the kite, it was blown against some shrubs, and the tail became **entangled**¹ in a moment, leaving the poor kite hanging with its head downward.
5. “There, there!” exclaimed John, “that comes of your throwing it all to one side.” “As if I could make the wind blow straight,” said Lucy. In the meantime, I went to the kite’s **assistance**²; and having **disengaged**³ the long tail, I rolled it up, saying, “Come, children, there are too many trees here; let us find a more open space, and then try again.”
6. We presently found a nice **grassplot**⁴, at one side of which I took my stand; and all things being prepared, I tossed the kite up just as little John ran off. It rose with all the **dignity**⁵ of a balloon, and promised a lofty flight; but John, delighted to find it pulling so hard at the string, stopped short to look upward and admire. The string slackened, the kite wavered, and, the wind not being very favorable, down came the kite to the

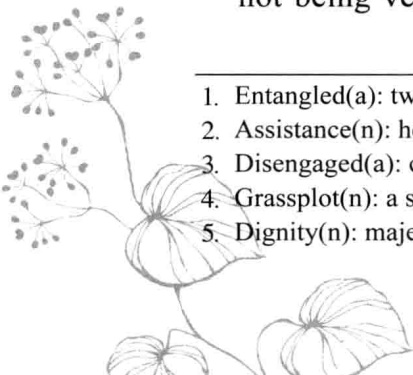
1. Entangled(a): twisted in, disordered.

2. Assistance(n): help, aid.

3. Disengaged(a): cleared, set free.

4. Grassplot(n): a space covered with grass.

5. Dignity(n): majestic manner.



grass. "O John, you should not have stopped," said I. "However, try again."

7. "I won't try any more," replied he, rather sullenly. "It is of no use, you see. The kite won't fly, and I don't want to be plagued with it any longer." "Oh, fie, my little man! would you give up the sport, after all the pains we have taken both to make and to fly the kite? A few **disappointments**¹ ought not to **discourage**² us. Come, I have wound up your string, and now try again."
8. And he did try, and succeeded, for the kite was carried upward on the breeze as lightly as a feather; and when the string was all out, John stood in great delight, holding fast the stick and gazing on the kite, which now seemed like a little white speck in the blue sky. "Look, look, aunt, how high it flies! and it pulls like a team of horses, so that I can hardly hold it. I wish I had a mile of string: I am sure it would go to the end of it."
9. After enjoying the sight as long as he pleased, little John proceeded to roll up the string slowly; and when the kite fell, he took it up with great **glee**³, saying that it

1. Disappointments(n): failures or defeats of expectation.

2. Discourage(vt): take away courage.

3. Glee(n): joy.



was not at all hurt, and that it had behaved very well. “Shall we come out tomorrow, aunt, after lessons, and try again?”

10. “I have no objection, my dear, if the weather is fine. And now, as we walk home, tell me what you have learned from your morning’s sport.” “I have learned to fly my kite properly.” “You may thank aunt for it, brother,” said Lucy, “for you would have given it up long ago, if she had not persuaded you to try again.”

11. “Yes, dear children, I wish to teach you the value of **perseverance**¹, even when nothing more depends upon it than the flying of a kite. Whenever you fail in your attempts to do any good thing, let your **motto**² be,—try again.”

• Practice •

What is the subject of this lesson? Why was John discouraged in his attempts to fly his kite? What did his aunt say to him? What may we learn from this? What should be our motto if we expect to be successful?

1. Perseverance(n): continuance in anything once begun.

2. Motto(n): a short sentence or a word full of meaning.

LESSON 2

WHY THE SEA IS SALT: A FAIRY TALE

玛丽·霍维特 (Mary Howitt) 是19世纪英国著名的儿童文学作家。除了原创作品之外，霍维特还翻译了许多瑞典、丹麦和德国的作家。本文既是霍维特翻译的诸多童话中较为知名的一个。

1. There were, in very ancient times, two brothers, one of whom was rich, and the other poor. Christmas was approaching, but the poor man had nothing in the house for a Christmas dinner; so he went to his brother and asked him for a **trifling**¹ gift.
2. The rich man was ill-natured, and when he heard his brother's request he looked very surly. But as Christmas is a time when even the worst people give gifts, he took a fine ham down from the chimney, where it was hanging to smoke, threw it at his brother, and bade him begone and never to let him see his face again.
3. The poor man thanked his brother for the ham, put it under his arm, and went his way. He had to pass through a great forest on his way home. When he had reached the thickest part of it, he saw an old man, with

1. Trifling(a): matter of small value.

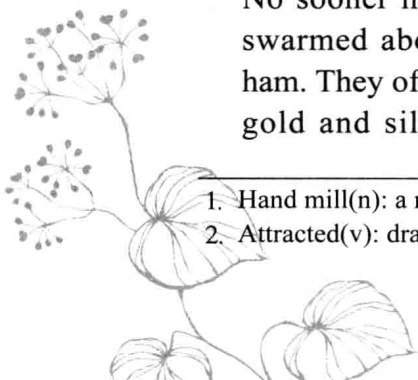


a long, white beard, hewing timber. “Good evening,” said he to him.

4. “Good evening,” returned the old man, raising himself up from his work, and looking at him. “That is a fine ham you are carrying.” On this, the poor man told him all about it.
5. “It is lucky for you,” said the old man, “that you have met with me. If you will take that ham into the land of the dwarfs, the entrance to which lies just under the roots of this tree, you can make a capital bargain with it; for the dwarfs are very fond of ham, and rarely get any. But mind what I say: you must not sell it for money, but demand for it the ‘old **hand mill**¹ which stands behind the door.’ When you come back, I’ll show you how to use it.”
6. The poor man thanked his new friend, who showed him the door under a stone below the roots of the tree, and by this door he entered into the land of the dwarfs. No sooner had he set his foot in it, than the dwarfs swarmed about him, **attracted**² by the smell of the ham. They offered him queer, old-fashioned money and gold and silver ore for it; but he refused all their

1. Hand mill(n): a mill turned by hand.

2. Attracted(v): drawn to, allured.



tempting offers, and said that he would sell it only for the old hand mill behind the door.

7. At this, the dwarfs held up their little old hands, and looked quite **perplexed**¹. "We can not make a bargain, it seems," said the poor man, "so I'll bid you all a good day."
8. The **fragrance**² of the ham had by this time reached the remote parts of dwarf land. The dwarfs came flocking around in little troops, leaving their work of digging out precious ores, eager for the ham.
9. "Let him have the old mill," said some of the newcomers; "it is quite out of order, and he don't know how to use it. Let him have it, and we will have the ham."
10. So the bargain was made. The poor man took the old hand mill, which was a little thing not half so large as the ham, and went back to the woods. Here the old man showed him how to use it. All this had taken up a great deal of time, and it was midnight before he reached home.

1. Perplexed(a): puzzled.

2. Fragrance(n): sweetness of smell.



11. “Where in the world have you been?” said his wife.
“Here I have been waiting and waiting, and we have no wood to make a fire, nor anything to put into the porridge pot for our Christmas supper.”
12. The house was dark and cold; but the poor man bade his wife wait and see what would happen. He placed the little hand mill on the table, and began to turn the crank. First, out there came some grand, lighted wax candles, and a fire on the hearth, and a porridge pot boiling over it, because in his mind he said they should come first. Then he ground out a tablecloth, and dishes, and spoons, and knives and forks.
13. He was himself astonished at his good luck, as you may believe; and his wife was almost beside herself with joy and astonishment. Well, they had a capital supper; and after it was eaten, they ground out of the mill every possible thing to make their house and themselves warm and comfortable. So they had a merry Christmas eve and morning.

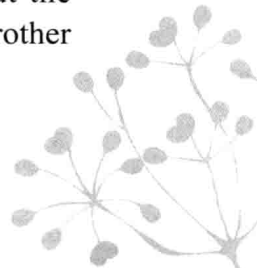


LESSON 3

WHY THE SEA IS SALT (CONCLUDED)

1. When the people went by the house to church, the next day, they could hardly believe their eyes. There was glass in the windows instead of a wooden shutter, and the poor man and his wife, dressed in nice new clothes, were seen **devoutly**¹ kneeling in the church.
2. "There is something very strange in all this," said everyone. "Something very strange indeed," said the rich man, when three days afterwards he received an invitation from his once poor brother to a grand feast. And what a feast it was! The table was covered with a cloth as white as snow, and the dishes were all of silver or gold. The rich man could not, in his great house, and with all his wealth, set out such a table.
3. "Where did you get all these things?" exclaimed he. His brother told him all about the bargain he had made with the dwarfs, and putting the mill on the table, ground out boots and shoes, coats and cloaks, stockings, gowns, and blankets, and bade his wife give them to the poor people that had gathered about the house to get a sight of the grand feast the poor brother had made for the rich one.

1. Devoutly(a): in a reverent manner.



4. The rich man, was very envious of his brother's good fortune, and wanted to borrow the mill, intending—for he was not an honest man—never to return it again. His brother would not lend it, for the old man with the white beard had told him never to sell or lend it to anyone.
5. Some years went on, and, at last, the possessor of the mill built himself a grand castle on a rock by the sea, facing the west. Its windows, **reflecting**¹ the golden sunset, could be seen far out from the shore. It became a noted **landmark**² for sailors. Strangers from foreign parts often came to see this castle and the wonderful mill of which the most **extraordinary**³ tales were told.
6. At length, a great foreign merchant came, and when he had seen the mill, inquired whether it would grind salt. Being told that it would, he wanted to buy it; for he traded in salt, and thought that if he owned it he could supply all his customers without taking long and dangerous voyages.
7. The man would not sell it, of course. He was so rich now that he did not want to use it for himself; but every

1. Reflecting(a): throwing back light, heat, etc., as a mirror.

2. Landmark(n): an object on land serving as a guide to seamen.

3. Extraordinary(a): wonderful.