

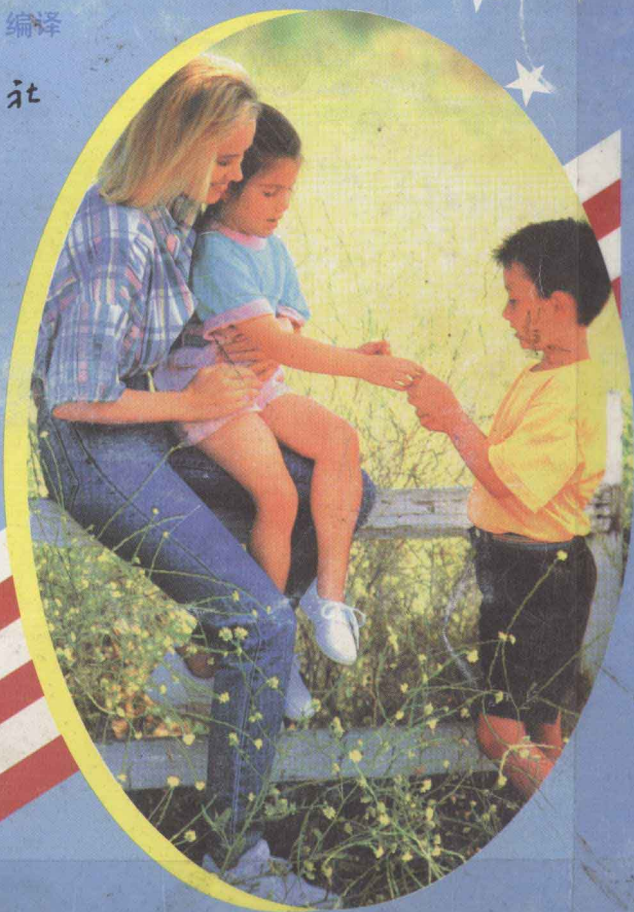
英汉对照

美国生活小品118篇

Sketches of
Life in America

黎秀石 汪克柔 编译

中山大学出版社



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前 言

本书编写对象是学校内外对美国生活小品有兴趣的读者。对于英语水平高的读者，本书可作为闲时消遣的读物和了解美国生活百态的资料。对学习英语不久的，本书是内容有趣、容易看懂的辅助读本。每篇原文之后，附有编者注释和译文，有助于初学者理解原文的含义。

美国生活小品，文字简洁，结构紧凑，中心思想突出，写作手法多种多样，是学习英语写作的好范本。生活小品用语通俗，多以对话形式表达中心思想，多读几遍可以提高英语口语表达能力。读后试行复述、模仿，效果显著。

生活包罗万象，但主要内容不外是家庭生活、夫妻生活、学校生活、各行各业的活动、邻里关系、文化生活、陌生人中的关系、精神生活、政治生活、军中生活、体育活动、退休生活等方面。本书收集美国生活小品 118 篇，按其内容分辑在 12 个单元。作者都不是著名的文学家，而是社会上平常的人物，把他们耳闻目睹的写下来，在报刊上发表。他们的作品的特点有三：一是真实性，绝少是虚构的。例如，我们阅读第一单元（在家庭中）的十多篇，有如置身其中，听见他们的悄悄话，看见他们的悲喜剧，可以获得多少对美国家庭生活的感性认识。二是口语化，不是书面英语，有助于我们熟识当代美国一般人在生活中的句法和用语。三是短小精悍，不少是寓意深远、耐人寻味的小品。例

如第2单元夫妻之间的几篇。

本书每篇英文后面附有译文。英语生活小品用词通俗，理解其大意译成中文不难，但要把原文的意境在译文中完全表达出来，把字里行间“妙在不言中”的妙处透露出来，却往往使编者感到力不从心。例如，在第117篇，瞥见陆地和“不要许愿”有什么关系呢？此中妙处原文也没有直接说出来，我们只有就文中意境猜想其含义。这有助于我们提高理解寓意深远的文学作品的能力。

1996年于中山大学蒲园

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第1单元 在家庭中

家庭是养育国家社会下一代的基地。儿女的家庭教育和夫妻关系这两者是家庭盛衰的决定因素。

家庭也是社会凝聚力之所在。世界各国家庭生活不断的变化中。从其变化的趋向，可以预见一国社会发展的前景。

有人统计过，美国报刊杂志所登载的生活小品，过半是关于父母子女之间的关系。本单元所收集的是以反映家庭教育为主的生活小品。

当今我国青年父母无不多方设法使儿女考上好一点的学校，节衣缩食为他们筹学杂费，但是对他们在家庭中自幼的教育是否抓得一样紧？美国一些父母的得失或可为借鉴。

1. Sell the Cow

The year was 1939, the time of the San Francisco Treasure Island World's Fair. Very few people in our Yakima Valley, Washington, town of 2000 made the trip. For most

folks, it was simply out of reach.

The Adams family rented a little house on the edge of town for \$15 a month. Odd jobs were not plentiful, but with the help of neighbors, Mr. Adams was able to keep food on the table for his wife and three kids. He had an old trap of a car to get around in and a cow to provide milk for his children.

Then came the Fair, 750 miles away. One morning a neighbor spotted the Adams family loaded in the car, with an assortment of luggage strapped to the running board. "Where are you headed, John?" he asked.

"To the Fair!" Mr. Adams replied.

The neighbor was dumbfounded. Later, he learned that Mr. Adams had sold the cow to pay for the trip. Folks almost exploded—amazed at such irresponsibility.

Many times since then, my wife and I have recalled the incident. But strangely, we have come to view it in a different light. I am sure the Adams children never forgot the years of austerity, but above all those memories will be: "We went to the Fair!"

Not long ago, my wife and I were reconsidering a trip that we often had wished we could take. Each time, we had dismissed the idea because we couldn't afford it. But this time I said, "Honey, let's just sell the cow and go."

And we did.

—S. Edward Tesh in *The Lookout*

注释

in our Yakima Valley, Washington, town of 2000: 在华盛顿州我们的亚基马山谷中有居民 2000 人的镇里。

odd jobs: 散工。

he had an old trap of a car to get around in : 他有一辆老车可到附近各处。

the Adams family loaded in the car, with an assortment of luggage strapped to the running board: 亚当斯一家坐在车上, 车旁盖板捆着各种各样的行李。

was dumbfounded: 傻了眼。

Folks almost exploded—amazed at such irresponsibility: 老乡们几乎气炸了, 对这样不负责任的行为感到不能理解。

the years of austerity: 经济困难的年月。

we had dismissed the idea because we couldn't afford it: 我们放弃了那个(出外旅游的)念头, 因为我们没有能力做到。

And we did: 我们于是卖了母牛(指不惜拿老本去旅行)。

译文

卖掉母牛

那是 1939 年, 在旧金山(三藩市)举行金银岛世界博览会的时候。在华盛顿州我们的亚基马山谷中有二千居民的

小镇里，很少人旅行到那边去参观博览会，因为对极大多数的老乡来说，那是他们根本办不到的事儿。

亚当斯一家在镇旁租了一座小房子，每月 15 元。干零活儿的机会不多，但亚当斯得到邻居的帮助，总算能挣到钱让饭桌上有食物给他的妻子和三个儿子吃。他有一辆老车，可到附近各处干活。他还有一头母牛，靠它有牛奶给三个孩子喝。

不久，博览会开幕了，离我们镇 750 哩。一天早晨，一个邻居看见亚当斯全家都坐在车上，车旁盖板捆着各种各样的行李。“约翰，你们要上哪儿去啊？”邻居问。亚当斯回答说，“到博览会去！”

那个邻居傻了眼。后来他知道亚当斯把母牛卖了，用来支付旅费。老乡们几乎气炸了，对这样不负责任的行为感到不能理解。

自此以后，我和我妻子多次回忆起这件事。奇怪得很，我们近来变得从另一方面看这件事。我敢肯定，亚当斯的孩子永远都不会忘记那些经济困难的年月，但是他们最不会忘记的是：“我们参观了博览会！”

不久以前，我们夫妻二人再次考虑能否作一次我们曾多次想要去的旅行。我们过去每次都放弃了这个念头，因为我们花不起。这次我说，“宝贝，咱们把母牛卖了然后去吧。”

我们果真卖了母牛去了。

——S·爱德华·铁希，《瞭望》

2. Cooling Down

Dad always enjoyed a good argument. So did his children. After supper, we'd have fun sparring until tempers grew heated. Then Dad would smile and say, "Come outside and tell me that," and we knew it was time to stop.

The pattern was so ingrained that when my 15-year-old sister, Nora, went to visit our cousins in Kansas, she jumped headfirst into an argument with teenage cousin Clement. When their discussion seemed to be getting out of hand, she said, "Come outside and tell me that." He went.

Nora bent over and drew a line in the dust. Pointing to it, she said, "See that line?"

Clement nodded.

"Step over it," Nora challenged.

He did and she hugged him, saying, "Now you are on my side."

——Frieda Dupont Elliston

注释

we'd have fun sparring until tempers grew heated: 我们纵情从辩论中取乐, 直至要发脾气了。

Come outside and tell me that: 走到外面去，告诉我你的看法。

This pattern was so ingrained that...: 这个模式那么深入我们生活，习以为常，以致……。ingrained: deeply fixed (of habits).

jumped headfirst into an argument: 一头栽进辩论中。

their discussion seemed to be getting out of hand: 他们的讨论看来要出轨了。

Nora challenged: 诺拉（向对方）提出挑战。

She hugged him: 她拥抱他。

译文

冷静下来

爸爸喜欢进行一场有意义的辩论。他的儿女也好辩论。每次晚饭后，我们纵情从辩论中取乐，直至快要发脾气了。这时，爸会边笑边说，“到外面来，告诉我你的看法。”到此，我们懂得该停止了。

这个模式那么深入我们生活，习以为常，以致我那个15岁的妹妹诺拉去堪萨斯州探望我们的老表时，一头栽进与十多岁的表弟克莱门特进行的一场辩论中。当他们的讨论看来要出轨了，诺拉说，“到外面来，告诉我你的看法。”他走出去了。

诺拉弯下腰，在地上画一条线。她指着那条线说：“看见那条线了吗？”