

经典英文枕边书  
每天读点英语散文

朱子熹 编著

*Good friends, good books, and a sleepy  
conscience: this is the ideal life.*

— Mark Twain



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# Preface

## 前言

英语文学浩如烟海，语言的难度也非常大。你或许会因为课堂上的名著节选赏析，而对英语名著产生兴趣；或许会因为电影中主角的低吟的诗歌，而对英语诗集情有独钟；也或许会因为中文译本的精彩，想要尝试读英语小说。但是不管是阅读名著、诗歌还是小说，要想领略其中所蕴含的美和独特的韵味，绝非易事。

那么，就任由这满腔的学习热情随风而逝吗？不，这本书就为你提供更好的选择。

岁月流转，经典永存。针对英语学习者的需要，编者精心选取了32篇难易适中的英语经典美文，有讲述感情之难能可贵的《你生活中的人们》《论友谊》《爱的疤痕》等，也有感慨时间稍纵即逝的《如果我能再活一次》《积极思考每一天》等，还有描写书籍是人类之友的《充实你的思想》《改变一生的邂逅》……

全书均采用英文和中文对照的形式，便于读者阅读理解。每篇美文后都附有单词解析、语法知识点、经典名句和人名名言四大板块，让你在欣赏完一篇美文后，还能扩充单词量、巩固语法知识、斟酌文中好句，并感悟人生。32篇不同题材风格的英语美文，你总能找到引起心灵共鸣的一篇。

最后，我们也节选了一小段英语美文为这篇前言作结，衷心地希望本书能给你带来妙不可言的阅读体验。

Starting a new book is a risk, just like falling in love. You have to commit to it. You open the pages, knowing a little bit about it maybe, from the back or from a blurb on the front. But who knows, right? Those bits and pieces aren't always right.

Sometimes people advertise themselves as one thing, and then when you get deep into it, you realize that they're something completely different. Either there was some good marketing attached to a terrible book, or the story was only explained in a superficial way and once you reach the middle of the book, you realize there's so much more to this book than anyone could have ever told you.

读一本新书恰似坠入爱河，是场冒险，你得全身心投入进去。翻开书页之时，从序言简介直至封底你或许都知之甚少。但谁又不是呢？字里行间的只言片语不总是正确的。

有时候你会发现，人们自我推销时是一种形象，等你再深入了解后，他们就完全变样了。有时拙作却配有出色的市场营销；有时故事的叙述流于表面，但阅读过半后，你却发觉这本书真是出乎意料地妙不可言，而这种感受只能自己去感悟！

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# 01 你生活中的人们

## A Reason, Season and Lifetime

### Bryan. A

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People come into your life for a reason, a season, or a lifetime. When you figure out which one it is, you will know what to do for each person.

When someone is in your life for a REASON, it is usually to meet a need you have expressed. They have come to assist you through a difficulty, to provide you with guidance and support, to aid you physically, emotionally, or spiritually. They are there for the reason you need them to be. Then, without any wrongdoing on your part, or at an inconvenient time, this person will say or do something to bring the relationship to an end. Sometimes they walk away. Sometimes they act up and force you to take a stand. Sometimes they die. What we must realize is that our need has been met. Our desire fulfilled, their work is done. Your need has been answered, and now it is time to move on.

When people come into your life for a SEASON, it is because your turn

### 布莱

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人们走进你的生活，或许是为了一个原因，或许是一段时间的停留，或许是一生相随。一旦明晓其中究竟，你将知道如何对待他们。

当某人因为一个原因出现在你的生命中时，通常他们满足了你的需要——帮你渡过难关，引导和支持你，在物质上、情感上、精神上帮助你。他们的出现是因为你的需要。然后毫无缘由的或很不合时宜的，这人说了什么或者做了什么便中止了你们的情谊。有时候是他们离你而去，有时候是他们故意找茬逼得你奋起反抗，有时候则是因为他们离世。我们必须认识到，我们的需要已经被满足，我们的愿望已经实现，他们的工作也已经完成。你的需要得到了满足，现在是时候继续前行了。

有的人在你的生活中会停留一段时间，那是因为你到了

has come to share, grow, or learn. They bring you an experience of peace, or make you laugh. They may teach you something you have never done. They usually give you an unbelievable amount of joy. Believe it! It is real! But, only for a season.

LIFETIME relationships teach you lifetime lessons: things you must build upon in order to have a solid emotional foundation. Your job is to accept the lesson, love the person, and put what you have learned to use in all other relationships and areas of your life. It is said that love is blind but friendship is clairvoyant.

一个分享、成长或学习的阶段。他们让你体验平和，让你欢笑。他们可能会教给你一些你以前从没做过的事情。他们总能带给你多到难以置信的乐趣。相信这一点！这是真的！可这只能维持一段时间。

一生相随的感情教会你受益终生的道理：你必须做那些为了打造坚不可摧的感情基础而必须要做的事。你需要明白这个道理，对一生相随的人付出关爱，并将你所学到的应用到生命中的其他方面中去。爱情令人盲目，而友谊却能使你清醒。

### 单词解析 Word analysis

figure out 想出，理解，明白	<b>例句</b> I can't figure out why he quit his job. 我琢磨不透他为什么要辞掉工作。
express [ik'spres] <b>v.</b> 表示	<b>例句</b> Learning to express oneself well is an important part of education. 学会把意思表达清楚是教育的一个重要方面。
assist [ə'sist] <b>v./n.</b> 帮助，协助	<b>例句</b> He asked us to assist him in carrying through his plan. 他请求我们帮他实施他的计划。
spiritually ['spiritʃuəli] <b>adv.</b> 精神上	<b>例句</b> They were spiritually regenerated by his speech. 听了他的讲话后，他们在精神上获得了新生。

<b>wrongdoing</b> ['rɒŋ'du:ɪŋ] <b>n.</b> 坏事, 不道德行为, 不法行为	<b>例句</b> The company denies any wrongdoing. 公司否认有不法行为。
<b>inconvenient</b> [,ɪnkən'vi:niənt] <b>a.</b> 不方便的	<b>例句</b> This is extremely inconvenient. 这极不方便。
<b>desire</b> [di'zaɪə] <b>v.</b> 渴望; 要求, 请求 <b>n.</b> 愿望, 欲望	<b>例句</b> I am filled with desire to go back home. 我心中充满了回家的渴望。
<b>fulfill</b> [ful'fɪl] <b>v.</b> 履行, 实现, 完成; 满足, 使满意	<b>例句</b> You must fulfill your promise. 你必须履行诺言。
<b>unbelievable</b> [ˌʌnbɪ'li:vəbl] <b>adj.</b> 难以置信的	<b>例句</b> It is unbelievable how stupid he is. 他真是笨得令人难以置信。
<b>clairvoyant</b> [klɪə'vɔɪənt] <b>adj.</b> 千里眼的, 透视的, 有洞察力的 <b>n.</b> 法眼, 有洞察力的人	<b>例句</b> Nothing can escape the clairvoyant. 没有事能逃过法眼。

### 语法知识 **G**rammar points

When you figure out which one it is, you will know what to do for each person.

这一句话中包含了由when引导的时间状语从句, which引导的宾语从句, what 引导的宾语从句。下面我们依次讲解。

**时间状语从句** 用表示时间的连词连接一个句子做状语, 这样的主从复合句中的从句就是时间状语从句。

When you think you know nothing, then you begin to know something.  
 当你以为自己一无所知的时候, 你就是在开始知道一些事物了。

He was still smiling when his wife came in.  
 他正笑着的时候, 他妻子走了进来。

I was thinking of this when I heard my name called.  
 我正想着这件事时, 突然听到有人叫我的名字。

They were gossiping, when they should have been working.  
 他们本该工作, 却在那里说别人的闲话。

**宾语从句** 在句子中起宾语作用的从句叫做宾语从句。

which是一个连接代词，在宾语从句中可以充当主语、宾语或定语，意思是“哪一个”如：

I don't know which bike belongs to my father.

我不知道哪一辆自行车是爸爸的。

He asked me which I liked best.

他问我最喜欢哪一个。

He can't tell which method they will use for the experiment.

他不知道他们将使用哪种方法做这个实验。

Can you tell me which house is yours?

你能告诉我哪栋房子是你的吗？

I don't know which company he works in.

我不知道他在哪家公司工作。

what引导名词性从句，可在从句中作主语、宾语、表语。例如：

The book will show you what the best CEOs know.

这本书会告诉你最好的执行总裁该了解些什么。

I don't know what you did.

我不知道你做了什么。

二者区别：一般来说，what 没有范围，which 是在有范围之内的一种选择。

I want to know what book you like to read.

我想知道你想看哪本书。（没有指定范围，有许多许多书供你选。）

I want to know which book you like to read best of the three.

我想知道这三本书中你最想看哪本。（有范围，在范围中选择。）

### 经典名句 Famous classic

1. People come into your life for a reason, a season, or a lifetime. When you figure out which one it is, you will know what to do for each person.  
人们走进你的生活，或许是为了一个原因，或许是一段时间的停留，或许是一生相随。一旦明晓其中究竟，你将知道如何对待他们。
2. When someone is in your life for a REASON, it is usually to meet a need you have expressed.

当某人因为一个原因出现在你的生命中时，通常他们满足了你的需要。

3. When people come into your life for a SEASON, it is because your turn has come to share, grow, or learn.

有的人在你的生活中会停留一段时间，那是因为你到了一个分享、成长或学习的阶段。

4. LIFETIME relationships teach you lifetime lessons: things you must build upon in order to have a solid emotional foundation. Your job is to accept the lesson, love the person, and put what you have learned to use in all other relationships and areas of your life. It is said that love is blind but friendship is clairvoyant.

一生相随的感情教会你受益终生的道理：那些为了打造坚不可摧的感情基础而必须要做的事。你需要明白这个道理，对一生相随的人付出关爱，并将你所学到的应用到感情和生命中的其他方面中去。爱情令人盲目，而友谊却让你清醒。

#### 名人名言 Quotations From Famous People

If a man does not make new acquaintance as he advances through life, he will soon find himself left alone. A man, Sir, should keep his friendship in constant repair.

—Samuel Johnson: *James Boswell Life of Samuel Johnson*

如果一个人在生活中不能认识新的朋友，他很快就会发现自已孤身一人。一个人应该不断地维护修理与朋友的友谊。

——塞缪尔·约翰森，出自《詹姆士·包斯威尔传》

One friend in a lifetime is much, two are many, three are hardly possible. Friendship needs a certain parallelism of life, a community of thought, a rivalry of aim.

—Henry Adams

一生中有一个好友已经足够，两个就算很多，三个几乎不可能。友谊需要两人之间的平等，思想上的统一，以及实现共同目标的竞争。

——亨利·亚当斯

## | 02 哨子 A Whistle

### Anonymous

---

When I was a child of seven years old, my friends, on a holiday, filled my pocket with coppers. I went at once to a shop where they sold toys for children. Being charmed with the sound of a whistle that I had seen by the way, in the hands of another boy, I handed over all my money for one. I then came home, and went whistling all over the house, much pleased with my whistle, but disturbing all the family. My brothers and sisters and cousins, when I told of the bargain I had made, said I had given four times as much as the whistle was worth. They put me in mind of what good things I might have bought with the rest of the money, and laughed at me so much for my folly that I cried with vexation. Thinking about the matter gave me more chagrin than the whistle gave me pleasure.

This, however, was afterwards of use to me, for the impression continued on my mind, so that often, when I was

### 佚名

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在我七岁那年的一个假日，我的朋友在我的口袋里塞满了铜币。我便立刻去了一家儿童玩具专卖店。走在路上时，我被一个男孩手中所拿的哨子的声音吸引，于是倾尽口袋里的钱买了一支。然后我就回到家中，走到哪吹到哪。我对哨子非常满意，但是哨音却吵得全家不得安宁。当我向自己的兄弟姐妹和堂兄妹们讲起买哨子这笔交易时，他们都说我付了哨子本身价值的四倍的价钱。他们还提醒我，那些多付的钱可以用来买些什么好东西，并且嘲笑我是多么愚蠢，这使我恼羞成怒，不禁哭了起来。一想到这件事，我就懊悔不已，并且这种懊悔远远超过了当初哨子给我带来的乐趣。

不过这件事后来让我受益匪浅。因为那支哨子频频在我脑海中浮现，所以当我被诱惑想买自己不需要的东西时，我便对自己说，“别为那只哨子花费太

tempted to buy something I did not need, I said to myself, "Don't give too much for the whistle," and I saved my money. As I grew up, came into the world, and observed the actions of men, I thought I met with many, very many, who "gave too much for the whistle".

If I knew a miser who gave up every kind of comfortable living, all the pleasure of doing good to others, all the esteem of his fellow citizens and the joys of friendship, for the sake of gathering and keeping wealth—"Poor man," said I, "you pay too dear for your whistle." When I met a man of pleasure, who did not try to improve his mind or his fortune but merely devoted himself to having a good time, perhaps neglecting his health, "Mistaken man," said I, "you are providing pain for yourself, instead of pleasure; you are paying too dear for your whistle." If I saw someone fond of appearance who had fine clothes, fine houses, fine furniture, fine earrings, all above his fortune, and for which he had run into debt, "Alas," said I, "he has paid dear, very dear, for his whistle." In short the miseries of mankind are largely due to their putting a false value on things—to giving "too much for their whistles".

多”，这样就把钱节省下来了。在我长大成人，走向社会，目睹了人们的所作所为后，我觉得我遇见过太多太多“为一支哨子花费过多”的人。

如果我结识了这样一个吝啬鬼——他一心只顾敛财、守财，却放弃了生活上的种种舒适，放弃了施善于他人带来的乐趣，放弃了作为一个同胞的所有尊严，放弃了友谊的欢乐，那么我就要说：“可怜的家伙，你为你的哨子付出的代价太大了。”当我遇到一个浪荡子，他既无意增长才智，也不想增加财富，而只是一味寻欢作乐，甚至糟蹋自己的健康，“迷途的人，”我要说，“你不是在为自己寻找乐趣，而是在自讨苦吃。你为你的哨子花费过多了。”如果我看到有人相貌姣好，穿华丽的衣服，住漂亮的房子，用精致的家具，戴好看的耳环，这一切花费都超过了他的财力，因此落得个债台高筑的境地，“唉，”我说，“他为他的哨子花费得太多、太多了！”总而言之，人类的不幸很大程度上是因为对事物做了错误的估价——换句话说，“为他们的哨子付出的代价太大了”。

<p><b>whistle</b> ['wɪsəl]  <b>vi.</b> 吹口哨, 鸣笛  <b>n.</b> 哨子; 口哨声, 汽笛声</p>	<p><b>例句</b> The wind whistled through a crack in the door.          风从门的裂缝中呼呼地刮了进来。</p>
<p><b>pocket</b> ['pɒkɪt]  <b>n.</b> 衣袋, 小袋; 钱 <b>vi.</b> 装入袋内  <b>a.</b> 袖珍的</p>	<p><b>例句</b> He paid for it out of his own pocket.          他是自己掏钱包的。</p>
<p><b>copper</b> ['kɒpə] <b>n.</b> 铜; 铜币</p>	<p><b>例句</b> Copper has less resistance than lead.          铜的电阻比铅的小。</p>
<p><b>toy</b> [tɔɪ]  <b>n.</b> 玩具  <b>vi.</b> (with) 漫不经心地考虑; 摆弄</p>	<p><b>例句</b> The child clutched his toy.          那个孩子紧抓着他的玩具不放。</p>
<p><b>charm</b> [tʃɑ:m]  <b>n.</b> 迷人的特性, 魅力; 符咒  <b>vi.</b> 迷住</p>	<p><b>例句</b> Her graciousness charmed everyone at the party.          她的风采倾倒了社交聚会上的每一个人。</p>
<p><b>disturbing</b> [di'stɜ:biŋ]  <b>adj.</b> 烦扰的, 担心的, 令人不安的</p>	<p><b>例句</b> I hate disturbing people while the show is going on.          演出进行的时候, 我最不喜欢打扰别人。</p>
<p><b>bargain</b> ['bɑ:ɡɪn]  <b>n.</b> 特价商品; 协议, 交易  <b>vi.</b> 讨价还价</p>	<p><b>例句</b> He bargained with the farmer for his vegetables.          他跟农民讨价还价买蔬菜。</p>
<p><b>folly</b> ['fɒli] <b>n.</b> 愚蠢</p>	<p><b>例句</b> Zeal without knowledge is the sister of folly.          [谚]无知的热情近乎愚蠢。</p>
<p><b>vexation</b> [vek'seɪʃən]  <b>n.</b> 困扰, 苦恼</p>	<p><b>例句</b> What can we do to lessen her vexation?          我们做些什么才能减轻她的烦恼呢?</p>
<p><b>chagrin</b> [ʃæɡrɪn]  <b>n.&amp; v.</b> 失望, 懊恼</p>	<p><b>例句</b> Much to his chagrin, he didn't win the race.          他没能赢那场比赛, 大为懊恼。</p>
<p><b>afterwards</b> [ɑ:ftəwədz]  <b>adv.</b> 以后, 后来, 然后</p>	<p><b>例句</b> Afterwards she relented and allowed the children to stay up late to watch TV.          后来她宽容了些, 让孩子们晚睡看电视。</p>
<p><b>devoted</b> [di'vəʊtɪd]  <b>adv.</b> 投入的, 深爱的, 全心全意的</p>	<p><b>例句</b> He devoted all his life to China's aviation.          他把一生都奉献给了中国的航空事业。</p>

neglect [ni'glekt]

**v.** 忽视, 忽略; 疏忽, 玩忽

**n.** 疏忽, 玩忽

**例句** The house has fallen into a state of neglect.

这所房屋已处于荒废的状态。

### 语法知识 **G**rammar points

I went at once to a shop where they sold toys for children.

where在这里引导的是定语从句。

1. where引导状语从句时, where是从属连词, where引导的从句修饰主句的谓语动词, where前面没有表示地点的先行词。例如:

Underline where you don't understand.

在不明白的地方加下划线。

2. where引导定语从句时, where是关系副词, 在从句中作地点状语, 其前面有表示地点的先行词, where引导的从句修饰先行词。例如:

The bookshop where I bought this book is not far from here.

我买这本书的那个书店离这里不远。

3. 有时, where引导的地点状语从句兼有抽象条件含义, 可放在主句的前面, 而where引导的定语从句则不能。例如:

Where there is a will, there is a way.

[ 谚语 ] 有志者事竟成。

4. 在有些情况下, where引导的定语从句可转换为where引导的地点状语从句。

She used to live in a place where it is warm. (= She used to live where it is warm.)

她以前住在温暖的地方。

### 经典名句 **F**amous classic

1. This, however, was afterwards of use to me, for the impression continued on my mind, so that often, when I was tempted to buy something I did not need, I said to myself, "Don't give too much for the whistle," and I saved my money.

不过这件事后来让我受益匪浅。因为那支哨子频频在我脑海中浮现,

所以当我被诱惑想买自己不需要的东西时，我便对自己说，“别为那只哨子花费太多”，这样就把钱节省下来了。

2. As I grew up, came into the world, and observed the actions of men, I thought I met with many, very many, who "gave too much for the whistle".

在我长大成人，走向社会，目睹了人们的所作所为后，我觉得我遇见过太多太多“为一支哨子花费过多”的人。

3. "Poor man," said I, "you pay too dear for your whistle."

“可怜的家伙，”我说，“你为你的哨子付出的代价太大了。”

4. In short the miseries of mankind are largely due to their putting a false value on things.

总而言之，人类的不幸很大程度上是因为对事物做了错误的估价。

#### 名人名言 Quotations From Famous People

One is never as unhappy as one thinks, or as happy as one hopes to be.

—La Rochefoucauld

一个人永远不会像自己想象的一样不幸，也永远不会像自己希望的一样幸福。

——罗仕福科德

In this world it is not what we take up, but what we give up, that makes us rich.

—Henry Ward Beecher

在这个世界上，让我们富有的不是我们所得到的，而是我们所放弃的。

——亨利·毕彻