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English Library for High School Students

American Culture Stories

美国文化小故事

Dennis Hagen 陈辉岳 编著

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These stories were written in response to a request by Mr. Chen Huiyue , Special Grade English teacher from Wuhan. Mrs. Jan Bell , secretary to the Fine Arts Department at George Fox University was the principal typist. She also wrote the story , *Train Trip to Grandparents* .

Finally , the book is dedicated to my children who are described in the section on the family. The support of my wife Janet who has taught with me in China since 1990 has been inspiring. Together , we wish to acknowledge the Chinese who accept challenge of learning English. We dedicate this book to their dedication to learning.

Foreword

There are sixty-one stories in this book about an American family and American culture. In many stories, American subjects are compared to Chinese subjects which will give you as a Chinese student some familiar words though they are in English or Pinyin.

The study of a language needs to include the culture where the words are used. There are many ways to describe American culture and simple stories of real people should bring an intimate knowledge of seeing the culture through the eyes of an American professor and his family.

The words used in the book will stretch your vocabulary. They are all common English words which you will see in other English texts. It is my hope that as I have come to appreciate Chinese culture by teaching in Wuhan, Hubei Province, for ten years, you will appreciate American culture by reading simple short stories.

Should you wish to write to me about the book,

send me a letter and I will gladly answer you.

Sincerely ,
Dr. Dennis Hagen
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Preface

In the summer of 1997, I was on a lecture tour in the United States, speaking to a group of American students in Newberg, Oregon, on China's educational system and cultural activities. In the process, I hit on the idea that the Chinese students would, like their American counterparts, be interested too to know more about the life, traditions and culture of the American people. In October of the same year, I was in Jinan, Shandong Province, attending a symposium on English teaching. It presented me an opportunity to exchange my views with Dr Dennis Hagen, who was invited to the symposium as an American expert. He approved of my idea of writing on the topics, which we worked out together later. He said he would begin with an American family, an epitome of the American society. Naturally, Dr Hagen's family is an ordinary typical American family. It is chosen to play this role. Dr Hagen and his wife have in the past ten years made great contributions to educational exchanges between China and America.

This book is composed of eight topics each containing several articles to describe various aspects of American culture. To test your comprehension , two or three questions are given following each article for you to choose a best answer. By “ best answer ” , we mean that the answer is not only the best suited , but also it conforms to what is stated in the article. A key to the comprehension test can be found at the end of the book.

A few words and expressions are listed following each article for readers of different English levels to refer to , where necessary

Chen Huiyue
Wuhan , China

致读者

经过近一年的努力，“美国文化小故事”(American Culture Stories)一书终于出版了。在此，我们要感谢支持和帮助本书及音带出版的有关人士及出版单位。

我们根据自身的体验，深感中美两国在文化上虽然存在着很大的差异，但也有很强的互补性。为此，近年来我们积极从事中美两国人民间的文化与教育交流工作。同时我们认为要学好英语，学习者必须对英语国家的文化背景有一定的了解，因而在上海外语教育出版社的支持和策划下我们着手编写“中学生英语文库系列丛书”(English Library for High School Students)。现在已完成了其中的第一本。我们谨以此书献给爱好学习英语的青年朋友们，希望你们通过听、读本书，不但能提高英语水平，而且能对美国人民的生活状况、风俗习惯，美国的人文地理能有初步的了解。

本书题材多样，它从八个方面对美国文化进行描述。每个方面有几篇短文组成，多角度地对该方面的各个话题具体地加以介绍。为了检查你对短文的理解，每篇短文下面附有2至3个理解题。请你选择一个最佳答案，所谓“最佳答案”是指该答案不仅是正确的，而且也应是最符合短文内容的。书后附有理解题

的全部参考答案。

本书语言地道,是地道的美式英语,并尽量使之口语化,通俗化。在用词上我们尽可能控制在“99年高考英语(2200个)词汇表”以内。使本书定位于面向高中生及大学低年级学生。凡超过此词汇表的单词,我们均在短文后列出,用中文注释,并用国际音标注音。在书后还附有总词汇表,因为这些词汇都是日常生活中常用的,我们希望你借助总词汇尽量掌握这些词汇,并注意在生活中实践运用。本书的录音带由哈根博士夫妇在美国录制。

本书的编写是我们在一个新的领域的首次尝试。由于经验不足,成书时间也较仓促,本书难免有粗糙之处。对此我们热忱欢迎广大读者提出宝贵意见,帮助我们改进今后的编写、出版工作。

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CONTENTS

Families	1
g. An American Family	3
l. The Father Dennis , a University Professor ...	6
3. The Father Dennis and His Hobbies	9
D. The Mother Janet , a Music Teacher	12
N. Eric , the First Son	15
x. Pam , the Daughter	18
B. Tim , the Second Son	21
F. Jon , the Third Son	24
An American Home	27
9. An American House	29
10. What is in the Garage ?	32
11. Transportation	36
12. Flowers , Grass and Gardens	39
13. Income and Daily Expense	42
14. Vans and Motor Homes	46
15. The Table Setting and Table Placers	49
16. A Common Evening Meal	52

Values	55
17. Discipline	57
18. Tolerance / Respect	60
19. Honesty	63
20. Love of Country	66
21. Confidence	70
National Subjects	73
22. American Holidays and Special Days :Part E	75
23. American Holidays and Special Days :Part n	79
24. The Turkey and Thanksgiving Dinner	83
25. Christmas	86
26. National Monuments , Statues and Buildings	89
27. The National Anthem	92
28. The Flag	96
29. Birds and Symbols	99
30. National Parks	102
31. Large Rivers , Lakes and Waterfalls	105
32. Mountains	108
33. Mount Saint Helens Volcano	111
Student Challenges	115
34. Student's Daily Life	117
35. Pocket Money	121
36. Smoking	124
37. Drug Awareness	127
38. Alcohol Makes Me M. A. D. D. or S. A. D. D.	130

39. An Answer to Pollution	133
Entertainment	137
40. Professional Sports	139
41. Music	142
42. Movies	145
43. Titanic	148
44. Broadway Musicals	151
45. Pin1 Pon1	155
Activities	159
46. Restaurants	161
47. The Shopping Mall	164
48. Plastic Money	167
49. Potluck	170
50. The Church	173
51. Hospitals , Doctors and Nurses	176
52. Elections	180
53. Technology	183
54. Newspapers	186
55. Train Tri_a to Grand_aarents	189
People	193
56. The Melting Pot	195
57. Black Americans	198
58. Hispanic Americans	201
59. American Indians	204
60. American Weddings : Part E	207
61. American Weddings : Part n	210
Answer Key	213
Vocabulary	215

FAMILY



Jon, Denise; Debbie, Eric; Pam, Ricky, Gayle;
Andrew, Stephanie, Nicole; Dennis, Janet; Tim, Xander
Elizabeth, Anna
Kelli

The family in these stories is a real American Family. There is a father , Dennis , and a mother , Janet. They have four married children. You will meet the first son , Eric , his wife , Debbie , and their three children : a girl , Stephanie , agg 8 , a boy , Andrew , agg 7 , and a girl , Nicole , agg 9.

The daughter , Pam , married Gayle Beebe , and their three children include a girl , Anna , agg 6 , a girl , Elizabeth , agg 5 , and a boy , Ricky , agg x months.

The second son , Tim is married to Kelli. Their baby son is named Xander. The third son , Jon is married to Denise.

1. An American Family

The way to learn about a country is to read about its people. To make it interesting , it is best to meet people who are part of a family. Each reader of this book is a son or daughter with a mother and a father. As you read about someone in another country who lives in a family like you do , then you will understand the families are alike in many ways but different in other ways. As you compare your family to an American family , you will compare Chinese families to American families. In this way , you will understand what another country is like by meeting Americans in a family u

In about 1900 , four families came to America from two northern European countries , two from Sweden and two from Norway. The Swedish were named Anderson and the Norwegians were named Hagen. The grandchildren of these families were named Janet Anderson and Dennis Hagen. These two young people fell in love and married in 1960. They will be the parents in this story. They became

teachers in the United States and they also were teachers in China for ten years from 1990 to 1999.

They had four children , Eric , Pam , Tim , and Jon. When Eric was a child , he liked to read and add numbers. In high school , he played tennis and made music with a trombone in the band and with his singing voice in the chorus.

Pam was a very loving daughter. She enjoyed her dolls just like a young mother. In high school , she also played tennis and made music with an oboe in the band.

Tim was always reading as a boy. He liked to make up stories about people in ancient times who fought battles for the king. Tim liked to jump very high over things and play basketball. He played the viola in the orchestra.

Jon watched his older brothers play sports so he learned to play basketball very well. He joined the school orchestra by playing the cello. He also played soccer and American football.

This is a very active American Family who love to play sports and make music. You will meet each one in the following stories. The father Dennis , the mother Janet , the daughter Pam , and the sons Eric , Tim , and Jon.

Comprehension Check

1. What is the best way to understand another country ?
 - A. It is to read about its people.
 - B. It is to meet people who are part of a family.
 - C. It is to compare your family with one in that coun-

try.

- D. It is to study the different ways people in that country do things.
2. When did the four families come to America from two northern European countries?
- A. In the nineteenth century.
B. In 1960s.
C. About 100 years ago.
D. From 1990 to 1999.
3. Which of the four children was a girl?
- A. Pam B. Jon C. Tim D. Eric

Words and Phrases

alike [ə'laɪk] *pred. a* 相同 相像

Norway [nɔːrweɪ] *n.* 挪威

Norwegian [ɔː'wɪkəʒɪn] *a.* 挪威的 *n.* 挪威人 ;挪威语

Sweden [ə'swɪdn] *n.* 瑞典

Swedish ['swɪdɪʃ] *a.* 瑞典的 *n.* 瑞典语 ;the Swedish 瑞典人

trombone [trɪ ,ætlun] *n.* 长号

band [bænd] *n.* 乐队(尤指管乐队)

chorus [aː'ɪəls] *n.* 合唱队

doll [əɪl] *n.* 洋娃娃

oboe ['əʊblu] *n.* 双簧管

viola [vi'əʊlə] *n.* 中提琴

orchestra ['ɔːkɪstrə] *n.* 管弦乐队

cello [əʃ'elɪu] *n.* 大提琴

soccer [əʃiːə] *n.* 英式足球