

<<美国语文读本4>>

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作者：威廉·H·麦加菲

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前言

序言 呈现于读者面前的这套《美国语文读本》，亦名《麦加菲读本》，其编者威廉·H·

麦加菲曾先后任美国迈阿密大学语言学教授和俄亥俄大学校长。

考虑到“麦加菲”的英文名称在美国已被注册为商标，加之它是一套影响深远而广泛的语文课本，我们在中国首次原版出版这套著名教材时，便将书名定为《美国语文读本》。

这套书既有教材功能，又可当作提高英语水平的有效读物。

《美国语文读本》从19世纪中期至20世纪中叶，一直被广泛用作美国学校的语文教材，据称有10000多所美国学校拿它当作教材。

美国著名汽车制造商亨利·

福特称赞这套书是他儿童时代最有兴趣的读物，后来他自费大量印刷这套书，分发给很多学校。

到了21世纪，西方一些私立学校（Private School）和家庭学校（Homeschool）仍用它作为教材，足见这套书的价值与影响力。

据估计，这套书从问世至1960年，至少发行了1.22亿册；1961年后，在西方每年销量仍达30000册以上。

应该说，没有哪一套个人主编的教材能超过此发行量了！

这套读本的英文原版共分七级，包括启蒙读本和第1-6级。

考虑到启蒙读本与第一级篇幅都较少，难易程度也很接近，于是我们将之合并为第1册，其余2-6级与英文原版相同。

这样国内出版的这套读本共包括6册。

第1册从字母表开始，主要侧重于字母的发音与书写、简单的单词与句型，同时强调英文书写，课文后面附有不少书法练习，让孩子们不仅将英语说得像外国人，而且写得也跟外文书法一样，这是国内英语教学所缺少的一个环节。

从第2册开始，均是比较正式的课文了，每一课包括词汇和课文，对一些生词有英文解释，让学生学会通过简单英文理解生词，养成用英语理解和思维的习惯。

第4册还附有课后思考练习，这些练习可以帮助学生更好理解文章，引发孩子们的思考。

第5册和第6册的课文前增加了作者简介与相关背景知识，内容丰富而有一定深度。

从所选课文的英文难易程度来看，大致而言，这套读本的第1-3册跟国内小学毕业程度相近，那么第4级则适用于初中生阅读使用，第5、6册可供高中及以上程度学习者阅读。

从文体方面我们可以看出，除了常见的记叙、散文体以外，这套读本对诗歌、戏剧、论说文等文体也很重视，书中选取了不少名家的名作名篇。

这对国内孩子们真正感受英语这一西方语言的魄力是大有帮助的。

人类文化的瑰宝不仅源远流长，而且具有很大共通性，在全社会不断呼吁教育改革的今天，我们将这套优秀的美国读本引进到国内，应该具有一定的借鉴意义。

它也有益于中国孩子在学习英语的同时，了解西方的文学与文化历史，通过英语这门语言工具，开阔自己的视野，打开通往世界的心灵之窗。

这也我们出版此套书的内心所愿！

作为此书的出版者，我们最后恳请读者原谅并给予帮助的是，由于此套书出版过程中扫描和编排校对的工作量较大，或许会出现一些错误与不当之处，恳请读者谅解并指正，以帮助我们更加完善此套读本。

出版者

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内容概要

这套读本的英文原版共分七级，包括启蒙读本和第1-6级。

考虑到启蒙读本与第一级篇幅都较少，难易程度也很接近，于是将之合并为第1册，其余2-6级与英文原版相同。

这样国内出版的这套读本共包括6册。

本书介绍了一些优美的文学作品，包括诗歌和《圣经》的节选。

主要讨论了拿破仑?波拿巴、清教徒先祖、妇女、上帝、宗教信仰和哲学等话题。

课后还附有一些思考练习，这些练习可以帮助学生更好地理解文章，引发孩子们的思考。

本书更适合高年级学生阅读

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作者简介

威廉·H·麦加菲 美国著名教育家。

1800年出生于宾夕法尼亚州，1826年毕业于华盛顿大学杰斐逊学院。

在数十年教育生涯中，他曾担任过迈阿密大学语言学教授，俄亥俄大学校长。

自1845年开始任弗吉尼亚大学道德哲学教授。

他还帮助组建了俄亥俄州公立学校体系。

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LESSON 1 PERSEVERANCE

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 fl at 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 entangled¹ 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; and having disengaged 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, 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 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 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 ought not to discourage 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 glee¹, saying that it was not at all hurt, and that it had behaved very well. "Shall we come out to-morrow, 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, 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 motto³ be, -try again."

EXERCISES. -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? ……

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