

<<美国语文（套装共6册）>>

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内容概要

《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。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！

此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，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。

此套书为在原版本基础上重新修订精装版，后两册字号较之前有所放大，并且修正了原有的错误之处，以方便学生阅读。

This series of schoolbooks teaching reading and moral precepts, originally prepared by William Holmes who was a professor at Miami University McGuffey, had a profound influence on public education in the United States. The eclectic readers, meaning that the selections were chosen from a number of sources, were considered remarkably literary works and probably exerted a greater influence upon literary tastes in the United States more than any other book, excluding the Bible.

It is estimated that at least 120 million copies of McGuffey's Readers were sold between 1836 and 1960, placing its sales in a category with the Bible and Webster's Dictionary. Since 1961 they have continued to sell at a rate of some 30,000 copies a year. No other textbook bearing a single person's name has come close to that mark. McGuffey's Readers are still in use today in some school systems, and by parents for home schooling purposes.

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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。

早在19世纪初期，麦加菲就意识到，应该给那些孤独的垦荒者和欧洲移民的后代提供普遍的教育，于是他利用自己作为演讲家与教育工作者的天赋，开始为孩子们编写系列教材。
这套教材共7册，从学龄前至第6年级。
他前后花费了20多年的时间才完成全套教材的编写。
这套教材面世后就被美国很多学校选为课本。
在75年间销量高达1.22亿，直到今天仍以各种版本流行于西方，被美国《出版周刊》评为“人类出版史上第三大畅销书”，对美国青年的心灵塑造与道德培养产生了史无前例的影响。

<<美国语文 (套装共6册) >>

书籍目录

LESSON 1 THE SHEPHERD BOY
LESSON 2 JOHNNY ' S FIRST SNOWSTORM
LESSON 3 LET IT RAIN
LESSON 4 CASTLE-BUILDING
LESSON 5 CASTLE-BUILDING
LESSON 6 LEND A HAND
LESSON 7 THE TRUANT
LESSON 8 THE WHITE KITTEN
LESSON 9 THE BEAVER
LESSON 10 THE YOUNG TEACHER
LESSON 11 THE BLACKSMITH
LESSON 12 A WALK IN THE GARDEN
LESSON 13 THE WOLF
LESSON 14 THE LITTLE BIRD ' S SONG
LESSON 15 HARRY AND ANNIE
LESSON 16 BIRD FRIENDS
LESSON 17 WHAT THE MINUTES SAY
LESSON 18 THE WIDOW AND THE MERCHANT
LESSON 19 THE BIRDS SET FREE
LESSON 20 A MOMENT TOO LATE
LESSON 21 HUMMING BIRDS
LESSON 22 THE WIND AND THE SUN
LESSON 23 SUNSET
LESSON 24 BEAUTIFUL HANDS
LESSON 25 THINGS TO REMEMBER
LESSON 26 THREE LITTLE MICE
LESSON 27 THE NEW YEAR
LESSON 28 THE CLOCK AND THE SUNDIAL
LESSON 29 REMEMBER
LESSON 30 COURAGE AND COWARDICE
LESSON 31 WEIGHING AN ELEPHANT
LESSON 32 THE SOLDIER
LESSON 33 THE ECHO
LESSON 34 GEORGE ' S FEAST
LESSON 35 THE LORD ' S PRAYER
LESSON 36 FINDING THE OWNER
LESSON 37 BATS
LESSON 38 A SUMMER DAY
LESSON 39 I WILL THINK OF IT
LESSON 40 CHARLIE AND ROB
LESSON 41 RAY AND HIS KITE
LESSON 42 BEWARE OF THE FIRST DRINK
LESSON 43 SPEAK GENTLY
LESSON 44 THE SEVEN STICKS
LESSON 45 THE MOUNTAIN SISTER

<<美国语文 (套装共6册) >>

LESSON 46 HARRY AND THE GUIDEPOST
LESSON 47 THE MONEY AMY DID NOT EARN
LESSON 48 WHO MADE THE STARS?
LESSON 49 DEEDS OF KINDNESS
LESSON 50 THE ALARM CLOCK
LESSON 51 SPRING
LESSON 52 TRUE COURAGE
LESSON 53 THE OLD CLOCK
LESSON 54 THE WAVES
LESSON 55 DON ' T KILL THE BIRDS
LESSON 56 WHEN TO SAY NO
LESSON 57 WHICH LOVED BEST?
LESSON 58 JOHN CARPENTER
LESSON 59 PERSEVERE
LESSON 60 THE CONTENTED BOY
LESSON 61 LITTLE GUSTAVA
LESSON 62 THE INSOLENT BOY
LESSON 63 WE ARE SEVEN
LESSON 64 MARY ' S DIME
LESSON 65 MARY DOW
LESSON 66 THE LITTLE LOAF
LESSON 67 SUSIE AND ROVER
LESSON 68 THE VIOLET
LESSON 69 NO CROWN FOR ME
LESSON 70 YOUNG SOLDIERS
LESSON 71 HOW WILLIE GOT OUT OF THE SHAFT
LESSON 72 THE PERT CHICKEN
LESSON 73 INDIAN CORN
LESSON 74 THE SNOWBIRD ' S SONG
LESSON 75 MOUNTAINS
LESSON 76 A CHILD ' S HYMN
LESSON 77 HOLDING THE FORT
LESSON 78 THE LITTLE PEOPLE
LESSON 79 GOOD NIGHT

章节摘录

插图：LESSON 2 JOHNNY'S FIRST SNOWSTORM1. Johnny Reed was a little boy who never had seen a snowstorm till he was six years old. Before this, he had lived in a warm country, where the sun shines down on beautiful orange groves, and fields always sweet with flowers.2. But now he had come to visit his grandmother, who lived where the snow falls in winter. Johnny was standing at the window when the snow came down.3. "O mamma!

" he cried, joyfully, " do come quick, and see these little white birds flying down from heaven. " 4. " They are not birds, Johnny, " said mamma, smiling. 5. " Then maybe the little angels are losing their feathers!

Oh!

do tell me what it is; is it sugar?

Let me taste it, " said Johnny. But when he tasted it, he gave a little jump-it was so cold. 6. " That is only snow, Johnny, " said his mother. 7. " What is snow, mother?

" 8. " The snowflakes, Johnny, are little drops of water that fall from the clouds. But the air through which they pass is so cold it freezes them, and they come down turned into snow. " 9. As she said this, she brought out an old black hat from the closet. " See, Johnny!

I have caught a snowflake on this hat. Look quick through this glass, and you will see how beautiful it is. " 10. Johnny looked through the glass. There lay the pure, feathery snowflake like a lovely little star. 11. " Twinkle, twinkle, little star!

" he cried in delight. " Oh!

please show me more snow-flakes, mother. " 12. So his mother caught several more, and they were all beautiful. 13. The next day Johnny had a fine play in the snow, and when he came in, he said, " I love snow; and I think snowballs are a great deal prettier than oranges. " LESSON 5 REVIEWThe cat and the rat ran. Ann sat, and Nat ran. A rat ran at Nat. Can Ann fan the lad?

The man and the lad. The man has a cap. The lad has a fan. Has Ann a hat?

Ann has a hat and a fan. LESSON 6 Nat's cap a fat dog Has the lad a dog?

The lad has a fat dog. The dog has Nat's cap. Nat and Rab ran. Rab ran at a cat. LESSON 30 REVIEW There is ice on the pond, and the mill wheel can not go round. The boys are all out on the ice with their skates. I will let you and Tom try to skate; but do not fall, for you will be hurt. Look!

here come the cars. John and Nat try to skate as fast as the cars go, but they can not. John has had a fall. The girls are not on the pond; but some of them have skates which roll on the floor. LESSON 1 ANECDOTE OF THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE A laughable story was circulated during the administration of the old Duke of Newcastle, and retailed to the public in various forms. This nobleman, with many good points, was remarkable for being profuse of his promises on all occasions, and valued himself particularly on being able to anticipate the words or the wants of the various persons who attended his levees, before they uttered a word. This sometimes led him into ridiculous embarrassments; and it was this proneness to lavish promises, which gave occasion for the following anecdote: At the election of a certain borough in Cornwall, where the opposite interests were almost equally poised, a single vote was of the highest importance. This object the Duke, by well applied argument and personal application, at length attained; and the gentleman he recommended, gained the election. In the warmth of gratitude, his grace poured forth acknowledgments and promises without ceasing, on the fortunate possessor of the casting vote; called him his best and dearest friend; protested, that he should consider himself as forever indebted to him; and that he would serve him by night or by day. The Cornish voter, who was an honest fellow, and would not have thought himself entitled to any reward, but for such a torrent of acknowledgments, thanked the Duke for his kindness, and told him the supervisor of excise was old and infirm, and, if he would have the goodness to recommend his son-in-law to the commissioners, in case of the old man's death, he should think himself and his family bound to render his grace every assistance in their power,

on any future occasion. " My dear friend , why do you ask for such a trifling employment ?

" exclaimed his grace ; " your relative shall have it the moment the place is vacant , if you will but call my attention to it . " " But how shall I get admitted to you , my lord ?

For in London , I understand , it is a very difficult business to get a sight of you great folks , though you are so kind and complaisant to us in the country . " " The instant the man dies , " replied the Duke , " set out posthaste for London ; drive directly to my house , and , be it by night or by day , thunder at the door ; I will leave word with my porter to show you upstairs directly ; and the employment shall be disposed of according to your wishes . " The parties separated ; the Duke drove to a friend's house in the neighborhood , without a wish or desire to see his new acquaintance till that day seven years ; but the memory of the Cornish elector , not being burdened with such a variety of objects , was more retentive . The supervisor died a few months after , and the Duke's humble friend , relying on the word of a peer , was conveyed to London posthaste , and ascended with alacrity the steps of that nobleman's palace . The reader should be informed , that just at this time , no less a person than the King of Spain was expected hourly to depart this life , -an event in which the minister of Great Britain was particularly concerned ; and the Duke of Newcastle , on the very night that the proprietor of the decisive vote arrived at his door , had sat up anxiously expecting dispatches from Madrid . Wearied by official business and agitated spirits , he retired to rest , having previously given particular instructions to his porter not to go to bed , as he expected every minute a messenger with advices of the greatest importance , and desired that he might be shown upstairs , the moment of his arrival . His grace was sound asleep ; and the porter , settled for the night in his armchair , had already commenced a sonorous nap , when the vigorous arm of the Cornish voter roused him from his slumbers . To his first question , " Is the Duke at home ?

" the porter replied , " Yes , and in bed ; but has left particular orders that , come when you will , you are to go up to him directly . " " Bless him , for a worthy and honest gentleman , " cried our applicant for the vacant post , smiling and nodding with approbation at the prime minister's kindness , " how punctual his grace is ; I knew he would not deceive me ; let me hear no more of lords and dukes not keeping their words ; I verily believe they are as honest , and mean as well as any other folks . " Having ascended the stairs as he was speaking , he was ushered into the Duke's bedchamber . " Is he dead ?

" exclaimed his grace , rubbing his eyes , and scarcely awakened from dreaming of the King of Spain , " Is he dead ?

" " Yes , my lord , " replied the eager expectant , delighted to find the election promise , with all its circumstances , so fresh in the nobleman's memory . " When did he die ?

" " The day before yesterday , exactly at half past one o'clock , after being confined three weeks to his bed , and taking a power of doctor's stuff ; and I hope your grace will be as good as your word , and let my son-in-law succeed him . " The Duke , by this time perfectly awake , was staggered at the impossibility of receiving intelligence from Madrid in so short a space of time ; and perplexed at the absurdity of a king's messenger applying for his son-in-law to succeed the King of Spain : " Is the man drunk , or mad ?

Where are your dispatches ?

" exclaimed his grace , hastily drawing back his curtain ; where , instead of a royal courier , he recognized at the bedside , the fat , good-humored countenance of his friend from Cornwall , making low bows , with hat in hand , and " hoping my lord would not forget the gracious promise he was so good as to make , in favor of his son-in-law , at the last election . " Vexed at so untimely a disturbance , and disappointed of news from Spain , the Duke frowned for a moment ; but chagrin soon gave way to mirth , at so singular and ridiculous a combination of circumstances , and , yielding to the impulse , he sunk upon the bed in a violent fit of laughter , which was communicated in a moment to the attendants . The relater of this little narrative , concludes , with observing , " Although the Duke of Newcastle could not place the relative of his old acquaintance on the throne of His Catholic Majesty , he advanced him to a post not less honorable - he made him an exciseman .

" -Blackwood's Magazine.

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媒体关注与评论

这套书不仅影响了美国的教育事业，也影响了美国的伦理道德。诚如历史学家孔玛格所言：“它们为美国儿童提供了当今明显缺乏的东西，即普遍的引喻知识、普遍的经验 and 自制意识。

”——选自《大美百科全书》

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