

<<美国语文读本6>>

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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，第4册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。

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.

<<美国语文读本6>>

作者简介

(美国)威廉·H·麦加菲

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。

William Holmes McGuffey (September 23, 1800 – May 4, 1873) was an American professor and college president who is best known for writing the McGuffey Readers, one of the nation's first and most widely used series of textbooks. It is estimated that at least 122 million copies of McGuffey Readers were sold between 1836 and 1960, placing its sales in a category with the Bible and Webster's Dictionary.

He was born the son of Alexander and Anna (Holmes) McGuffey near Claysville in Washington County, Pennsylvania, which is 45 miles southwest of Pittsburgh. In 1802 the McGuffey family moved further out into the frontier at Tuscarawas County, Ohio. He attended country school, and after receiving special instruction at Youngstown, he attended Greer sburg Academy in Darlington, Pennsylvania. Afterwards, he attended and graduated from Pennsylvania's Washington College, where he became an instructor.

He was close friends with Washington College's President Andrew Wylie and lived in Wylie's house for a time; they often would walk the 3 miles to Washington College together.

McGuffey's house in Oxford McGuffey left Washington College in 1826 to become a professor at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. A year later in 1827, he was married to Harriet Spinning of Dayton, Ohio, with whom he had five children. In 1829, he was ordained at Bethel Chapel as a minister in the Presbyterian Church. It was in Oxford that he created the most important contribution of his life: The McGuffey Readers. His books sold over 122 million copies. He was very fond of teaching and children as he geared the books toward a younger audience.

In 1836, he left Miami to become president of Cincinnati College, where he also served as a distinguished teacher and lecturer. He

left Cincinnati in 1839 to become the 4th president of Ohio University, which he left in 1843 to become president of Woodward College (really a secondary school) in Cincinnati.

In 1845, McGuffey moved to Charlottesville, Virginia where he became Professor of Philosophy at the University of Virginia. A year after his first wife Harriet died in 1850, he married Miss Laura Howard, daughter of Dean Howard of the University of Virginia, in 1851. McGuffey is buried in the university burial ground, in Charlottesville, Virginia. The School of Education at Miami University is housed in McGuffey Hall which is named for him and his home in Oxford is a National Historic Landmark offering tours on weekdays.

书籍目录

LESSON 1 ANECDOTE OF THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE
LESSON 2 THE NEEDLE
LESSON 3 DAWN
LESSON 4 DESCRIPTION OF A STORM
LESSON 5 AFTER THE THUNDERSTORM
LESSON 6 HOUSE CLEANING
LESSON 7 SCHEMES OF LIFE OFTEN ILLUSORY
LESSON 8 THE BRAVE OLD OAK
LESSON 9 THE ARTIST SURPRISED
LESSON 10 PICTURES OF MEMORY
LESSON 11 THE MORNING ORATORIO
LESSON 12 SHORT SELECTIONS IN POETRY
LESSON 13 DEATH OF LITTLE NELL
LESSON 14 VANITY OF LIFE
LESSON 15 A POLITICAL PAUSE
LESSON 16 MY EXPERIENCE IN ELOCUTION
LESSON 17 ELEGY IN A COUNTRY CHURCHYARD
LESSON 18 TACT AND TALENT
LESSON 19 SPEECH BEFORE THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION
LESSON 20 THE AMERICAN FLAG
LESSON 21 IRONICAL EULOGY ON DEBT
LESSON 22 THE THREE WARNINGS
LESSON 23 THE MEMORY OF OUR FATHERS
LESSON 24 SHORT SELECTIONS IN PROSE
LESSON 25 THE JOLLY OLD PEDAGOGUE
LESSON 26 THE TEACHER AND SICK SCHOLAR
LESSON 27 THE SNOW SHOWER
LESSON 28 CHARACTER OF NAPOLEON BONAPARTE
LESSON 29 NAPOLEON AT REST
LESSON 30 WAR
LESSON 31 SPEECH OF WALPOLE IN REPROOF OF MR. PITT
LESSON 32 PITT ' S REPLY TO SIR ROBERT WALPOLE
LESSON 33 CHARACTER OF MR. PITT
LESSON 34 THE SOLDIER ' S REST
LESSON 35 HENRY V. TO HIS TROOPS
LESSON 36 SPEECH OF PAUL ON MARS HILL
LESSON 37 GOD IS EVERYWHERE
LESSON 38 LAFAYETTE AND ROBERT RAIKES
LESSON 39 FALL OF CARDINAL WOLSEY
LESSON 40 THE PHILOSOPHER
LESSON 41 MARMION AND DOUGLAS
LESSON 42 THE PRESENT
LESSON 43 THE BAPTISM
LESSON 44 SPARROWS
LESSON 45 OBSERVANCE OF THE SABBATH

<<美国语文读本6>>

LESSON 46 GOD ' S GOODNESS TO SUCH AS FEAR HIM
LESSON 47 CHARACTER OF COLUMBUS
LESSON 48 “ HE GIVETH HIS BELOVED SLEEP ”
LESSON 49 DESCRIPTION OF A SIEGE
LESSON 50 MARCO BOZZARIS
LESSON 51 SONG OF THE GREEK BARD
LESSON 52 NORTH AMERICAN INDIANS
LESSON 53 LOCHIEL ' S WARNING
LESSON 54 ON HAPPINESS OF TEMPER
LESSON 55 THE FORTUNE TELLER
LESSON 56 RIENZI ' S ADDRESS TO THE ROMANS
LESSON 57 CHARACTER OF THE PURITAN FATHERS OF NEW ENGLAND
LESSON 58 LANDING OF THE PILGRIM FATHERS
LESSON 59 NECESSITY OF EDUCATION
LESSON 60 RIDING ON A SNOWPLOW
LESSON 61 THE QUARREL OF BRUTUS AND CASSIUS
LESSON 62 THE QUACK
LESSON 63 RIP VAN WINKLE
LESSON 64 BILL AND JOE
LESSON 65 SORROW FOR THE DEAD
LESSON 66 THE EAGLE
LESSON 67 POLITICAL TOLERATION
LESSON 68 WHAT CONSTITUTES A STATE?
LESSON 69 THE BRAVE AT HOME
LESSON 70 SOUTH CAROLINA
LESSON 71 MASSACHUSETTS AND SOUTH CAROLINA
LESSON 72 THE CHURCH SCENE FROM EVANGELINE
LESSON 73 SONG OF THE SHIRT
LESSON 74 DIAMOND CUT DIAMOND
LESSON 75 THANATOPSIS
LESSON 76 INDIAN JUGGLERS
LESSON 77 ANTONY OVER CAESAR ' S DEAD BODY
LESSON 78 THE ENGLISH CHARACTER
LESSON 79 THE SONG OF THE POTTER
LESSON 80 A HOT DAY IN NEW YORK
LESSON 81 DISCONTENT.—AN ALLEGORY
LESSON 82 JUPITER AND TEN
LESSON 83 SCENE FROM “ THE POOR GENTLEMAN ”
LESSON 84 MY MOTHER ' S PICTURE
LESSON 85 DEATH OF SAMSON
LESSON 86 AN EVENING ADVENTURE
LESSON 87 THE BAREFOOT BOY
LESSON 88 THE GLOVE AND THE LIONS
LESSON 89 THE FOLLY OF INTOXICATION
LESSON 90 STARVED ROCK
LESSON 91 PRINCE HENRY AND FALSTAFF
LESSON 92 STUDIES

<<美国语文读本6>>

LESSON 93 SURRENDER OF GRANADA
LESSON 94 HAMLET ' S SOLILOQUY
LESSON 95 GINEVRA
LESSON 96 INVENTIONS AND DISCOVERIES
LESSON 97 ENOCH ARDEN AT THE WINDOW
LESSON 98 LOCHINVAR
LESSON 99 SPEECH ON THE TRIAL OF A MURDERER
LESSON 100 THE CLOSING YEAR
LESSON 101 A NEW CITY IN COLORADO
LESSON 102 IMPORTANCE OF THE UNION
LESSON 103 THE INFLUENCES OF THE SUN
LESSON 104 COLLOQUIAL POWERS OF FRANKLIN
LESSON 105 THE DREAM OF CLARENCE
LESSON 106 HOMEWARD BOUND
LESSON 107 IMPEACHMENT OF WARREN HASTINGS
LESSON 108 DESTRUCTION OF THE CARNATIC
LESSON 109 THE RAVEN
LESSON 110 A VIEW OF THE COLOSSEUM
LESSON 111 THE BRIDGE
LESSON 112 OBJECTS AND LIMITS OF SCIENCE
LESSON 113 THE DOWNFALL OF POLAND
LESSON 114 LABOR
LESSON 115 THE LAST DAYS OF HERCULANEUM
LESSON 116 HOW MEN REASON
LESSON 117 THUNDERSTORM ON THE ALPS
LESSON 118 ORIGIN OF PROPERTY
LESSON 119 BATTLE OF WATERLOO
LESSON 120 " WITH BRAINS, SIR "
LESSON 121 THE NEW ENGLAND PASTOR
LESSON 122 DEATH OF ABSALOM
LESSON 123 ABRAHAM DAVENPORT
LESSON 124 THE FALLS OF THE YOSEMITE
LESSON 125 A PSALM OF LIFE
LESSON 126 FRANKLIN ' S ENTRY INTO PHILADELPHIA
LESSON 127 LINES TO A WATERFOWL
LESSON 128 GOLDSMITH AND ADDISON
LESSON 129 IMMORTALITY OF THE SOUL
LESSON 130 CHARACTER OF WASHINGTON
LESSON 131 EULOGY ON WASHINGTON
LESSON 132 THE SOLITARY REAPER
LESSON 133 VALUE OF THE PRESENT
LESSON 134 HAPPINESS
LESSON 135 MARION
LESSON 136 A COMMON THOUGHT
LESSON 137 A DEFINITE AIM IN READING
LESSON 138 ODE TO MT. BLANC

<<美国语文读本6>>

章节摘录

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！

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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 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 embarrassment; 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. . . .

<<美国语文读本6>>

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