

Let's Enjoy Masterpieces!



All the beautiful fairy tales and masterpieces that you have encountered during your childhood remain as warm memories in your adulthood. This time, let's indulge in the world of masterpieces through English. You can enjoy the depth and beauty of original works, which you can't enjoy through Chinese translations.

The stories are easy for you to understand because of your familiarity with them. When you enjoy reading, your ability to understand English will also rapidly improve.

This series of ***Let's Enjoy Masterpieces*** is a special reading comprehension booster program, devised to improve reading comprehension for beginners whose command of English is not satisfactory, or who are elementary, middle, and high school students. With this program, you can enjoy reading masterpieces in English with fun and efficiency.

This carefully planned program is composed of 5 levels, from the beginner level of 350 words to the intermediate and advanced levels of 1,000 words. With this program's level-by-level system, you are able to read famous texts in English and to savor the true pleasure of the world's language.

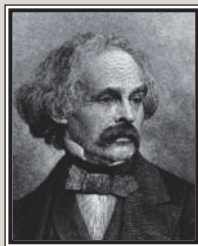
The program is well conceived, composed of reader-friendly explanations of English expressions and grammar, quizzes to help the student learn vocabulary and understand the meaning of the texts, and fabulous illustrations that adorn every page. In addition, with our "Guide to Listening," not only is reading comprehension enhanced but also listening comprehension skills are highlighted.

In the audio recording of the book, texts are vividly read by professional American actors. The texts are rewritten, according to the levels of the readers by an expert editorial staff of native speakers, on the basis of standard American English with the ministry of education recommended vocabulary. Therefore, it will be of great help even for all the students that want to learn English.

Please indulge yourself in the fun of reading and listening to English through ***Let's Enjoy Masterpieces***.

霍桑

Nathaniel Hawthorne
(1804-1864)



Nathaniel Hawthorne was an American novelist and short story writer. He was born into a strict Puritan family and liked to read as a child. After he graduated from college, he started to write stories for magazines in his hometown. His first novel was published in 1837 and gained him recognition as a serious writer. *The Scarlet Letter* was published in 1850.

Hawthorne is known as a writer who had an interest in human guilt and mental problems. In his writings he thoughtfully explored ideas about sin and the human conscience. He was especially interested in the Puritan traditions that he had grown up with and how these religious ideas interacted with the inner-descriptions, morality, religious beliefs, behavior, and psychological backgrounds of strict individuals. Hawthorne wrote about the people who suffered from religious guilt and people who became obsessed by solitude.

His best-known book is *The Scarlet Letter*. His other famous works include *Mosses from an Old Manse* (1846), *The House of the Seven Gables* (1851), *The Blithedale Romance* (1852), *Tanglewood Tales* (1853), and *The Marble Faun* (1860).



The Scarlet Letter is based on a love triangle between Hester Prynne, Arthur Dimmesdale, and Roger Chillingworth. This novel tells about the consequences of adultery in colonial Boston during the middle of 17th century.

It carefully describes the sadness, solitude, and regrets of the characters, who are tortured by the conventional morality of the long-continued customs of their strict and severe Puritan society.

Hester Prynne, whose husband was presumed to have been lost at sea, lives alone in Boston. She becomes pregnant and gives birth to a daughter, whom she names Pearl. She is then publicly vilified and forced to wear the scarlet letter "A" on her clothing to indicate to everyone who meets her that she has committed the sin of adultery. But she refuses to reveal to anyone that her lover is Arthur Dimmesdale, the saintly young village minister.

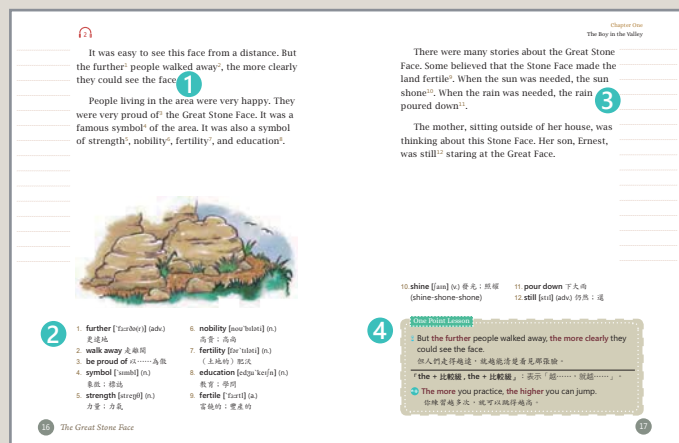
Hester's husband, Roger Chillingworth, who has been away for a long time, reappears when Hester is in town to get her public punishment. Roger doesn't disclose his identity. He decides to discover who is Hester's lover. Roger will exact his revenge on the father of Pearl.

Feeling strong guilt for having committed adultery, young Arthur Dimmesdale becomes quite ill. He finally confesses to his adultery and dies in Hester's arms. In the end, Hester plans to take her daughter Pearl to Europe to begin a new life.



HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

本書使用說明



Audio Recording

In the audio recording, native speakers narrate the texts in standard American English. By combining the written words and the audio recording, you can listen to English with great ease.

Audio books have been popular in Britain and America for many decades. They allow the listener to experience the proper word pronunciation and sentence intonation that add important meaning and drama to spoken English. Students will benefit from listening to the recording twenty or more times.

After you are familiar with the text and recording, listen once more with your eyes closed to check your listening comprehension. Finally, after you can listen with your eyes closed and understand every word and every sentence, you are then ready to mimic the native speaker.

Then you should make a recording by reading the text yourself. Then play both recordings to compare your oral skills with those of a native speaker.

1 Original English texts 3 Response notes

It is easy to understand the meaning of the text, because the text is rewritten according to the levels of the readers.

Spaces are included in the book so you can take notes about what you don't understand or what you want to remember.

2 Explanation of the vocabulary 4 One point lesson

The words and expressions that include vocabulary above the elementary level are clearly defined.

In-depth analyses of major grammar points and expressions help you to understand sentences with difficult grammar.

HOW TO IMPROVE READING ABILITY

如何增進英文閱讀能力

1 *Catch key words*

Read the key words in the sentences and practice catching the gist of the meaning of the sentence. You might question how working with a few important words could enhance your reading ability. However, it's quite effective. If you continue to use this method, you will find out that the key words and your knowledge of people and situations enables you to understand the sentence.

2 *Divide long sentences*

Read in chunks of meaning, dividing sentences into meaningful chunks of information. In the book, chunks are arranged in sentences according to meaning. If you consider the sentences backwards or grammatically, your reading speed will be slow and you will find it difficult to listen to English.

You are ready to move to a more sophisticated level of comprehension when you find that narrowly focusing on chunks is irritating. Instead of considering the chunks, you will make it a habit to read the sentence from the beginning to the end to figure out the meaning of the whole.

3 *Make inferences and assumptions*

Making inferences and assumptions is part of your ability. If you don't know, try to guess the meaning of the words. Although you don't know all the words in context, don't go straight to the dictionary. Developing an ability to make inferences in the context is important.

The first way to figure out the meaning of a word is from its context. If you cannot make head or tail out of the meaning of a word, look at what comes before or after it. Ask yourself what can happen in such a situation. Make your best guess as to the word's meaning. Then check the explanations of the word in the book or look up the word in a dictionary.

4 *Read a lot and reread the same book many times*

There is no shortcut to mastering English. Only if you do a lot of reading will you make your way to the summit. Read fun and easy books with an average of less than one new word per page. Try to immerse yourself in English as often as you can.

Spend time "swimming" in English. Language learning research has shown that immersing yourself in English will help you improve your English, even though you may not be aware of what you're learning.

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Before You Read



Hester Prynne

I am a beautiful and independent woman, but my life is miserable and unlucky. I am married woman, but I had an affair with another man and had a baby. Now the townspeople¹ want me to tell them who the father of my child is! However, I will never tell. I will never betray² another person.



Reverend Dimmesdale

Oh, my life is wretched³! I tell people to behave properly⁴, and to live according to God's will. They respect me despite⁵ my youth. Yet, I am not worthy of their respect. I have a terrible secret that is burned upon the skin above my heart. Oh, how can I wash away my guilt and be free once more?



Pearl

While other children have a father, I don't! However, this does not bother me too much. I am free to play and do what I want most of the time. The adults⁶ think that I have no manners⁷, but they are all too serious and boring for me!



Roger Chillingworth

When I was away, my wife had a baby with another man. But I did not blame⁸ her. She always told me that she did not love me. However, I do blame the father of the baby. I will find out who he is and punish him for his cowardly⁹ silence.



Pastor John Wilson & Governor Bellingham

It is our duty¹⁰ to make sure our Puritan¹¹ society lives according to the will of God. Hester Prynne must reveal¹² to us who the father of her child is. Only then will she be forgiven¹³ by God.

1. townspeople [ˈtaʊnzpi:pəl] (n.)
(總稱) 市民；鎮民

2. betray [biˈtreɪ] (v.) 背叛

3. wretched [ˈretʃɪd] (a.) 卑鄙的；
無恥的

4. properly [ˈprɒ:pərli] (adv.)
恰當地

5. despite [diˈspait] (prep.) 儘管

6. adult [əˈdʌlt] (n.) 大人；成人

7. manners [ˈmænənz] (n.)
禮貌；規矩

8. blame [bleɪm] (v.) 責怪；指責

9. cowardly [ˈkaʊərdli] (a.) 懦弱的

10. duty [ˈdu:ti] (n.) 職責

11. Puritan [ˈpʃʊrɪtən] (n.) 清教徒

12. reveal [riˈvi:l] (v.) 揭露；透露

13. forgive [fərˈgɪv] (v.) 寬恕；原諒
(forgive-forgave-forgiven)

Chapter One



1 A Terrible Sin¹

Although the forefathers² of the Boston Colony³ strove⁴ to create a utopian⁵ society, two of the first things they built when they made their town were a cemetery⁶ and a prison. On this day, twenty years after the first Puritan settlers⁷ arrived in the New World colony, the townspeople gathered outside the prison.

“Good women,” proclaimed⁸ one woman, “if we judged wicked women like Hester Prynne, she would not have the easy sentence⁹ that the town magistrates¹⁰ have handed her!”

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. sin [sɪn] (n.) 罪惡；罪孽 | 6. cemetery [ˈsemətəri] (n.) 墓園；公墓（不屬於教會的） |
| 2. forefather [ˈfɔːr.fɑːðər] (n.) 祖先 | 7. settler [ˈsetlər] (n.) 殖民者；開拓者 |
| 3. colony [ˈkɒlənɪ] (n.) 殖民地 | 8. proclaim [prəʊˈkleɪm] (v.) 宣告；大聲說 |
| 4. strive [straɪv] (v.) 努力；奮鬥（strive-strove-striven） | 9. sentence [ˈsentəns] (n.) 判定的刑罰 |
| 5. utopian [juːˈtɒpiən] (a.) 烏托邦的；理想國的 | |

“Yes!” agreed another woman. “They should at least brand¹¹ the mark upon her forehead with a hot iron! By placing the mark on the front of her gown¹², she can cover it up anytime!”

“Yes!” cried another, “She may cover it as she likes, but the mark will always be on her heart!”

Then the prison door, covered in iron spikes¹³, flew open. A large, frightening figure¹⁴ in black came out from the inner darkness. With his hand, he tried to usher¹⁵ out a young woman. But she pushed the hand away and stepped out into the open by her own free will, with an air of dignity¹⁶.



- | | |
|--|---|
| 10. magistrate [ˈmædʒɪstreɪt] (n.) 有司法權的行政長官；地方法官 | 13. spike [spaɪk] (n.) 長釘；尖鐵（尖頭朝上或朝內，用於防止侵入） |
| 11. brand [brænd] (v.) 烙印（於犯人、牲畜）；加諸污名 | 14. figure [ˈfɪɡjər] (n.) 人影 |
| 12. gown [gaʊn] (n.) 婦女禮服 | 15. usher [ˈʌʃər] (v.) 引導；引領 |
| | 16. dignity [ˈdɪɡnəti] (n.) 尊嚴 |

In the woman's arms was a three-month-old baby. The baby winked¹ because it was the first time it had ever felt sunlight on its face. The mother, standing fully revealed amid the townspeople, lowered² the baby in her arm to show her gown. She was blushing³, but she wore a proud smile. On the breast of her gown was a large letter A. The letter was made of fine, red cloth and embroidered⁴ with rich, gold thread. The design was artistic and fanciful⁵.

Hester Prynne was a tall young woman, with an elegant⁶ figure and dark gleaming⁷ hair. Those who knew her were amazed at her beauty and ladylike comportment⁸ under these circumstances⁹.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. wink [wɪŋk] (v.) 眨眼 | 8. comportment |
| 2. lower [ˈləʊər] (v.) 放低 | [kəmˈpɔːtmənt] |
| 3. blush [blʌʃ] (v.) 臉紅 | (n.) 舉止；態度 |
| 4. embroider [ɪmˈbrɔɪdər] (v.) | 9. circumstances |
| 刺繡 | [ˈsɜːrkəm.stənsəz] (n.) |
| 5. fanciful [ˈfænsɪfəl] (a.) | 情況；環境 |
| 富於想像力的；別出心裁的 | 10. sewing needle [ˈsəʊɪŋ niːdl] |
| 6. elegant [ˈelɪɡənt] (a.) | 針黹；女紅 |
| 高貴的；高雅的 | 11. remark [rɪˈmɑːrk] (v.) |
| 7. gleam [ɡliːm] (v.) | 評論；說 |
| 發微光；閃爍 | 12. scarlet [ˈskɑːrlɪt] (a.) |
| | 鮮紅色的 |



“She certainly has great skill with the sewing needle¹⁰,” remarked¹¹ one of the women, “but what a shameful way to show it!”

“Make way in the King's name!” shouted the prison officer. “Everyone will have a chance to get a good view of this wicked woman from now until noon. Come along, Hester. Show your scarlet¹² letter in the marketplace!”

✓ Check Up

Check the best description of how Hester Prynne accepted her punishment.

- ☐ a With sorrow ☐ b With defiance ☐ c With shame

Ans: b

A Match the names with the character descriptions.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| 1 Hester Prynne | • | • a the man Hester Prynne married |
| 2 Pastor Wilson | • | • b a magistrate in Boston colony |
| 3 Roger Chillingworth | • | • c the oldest minister in Boston colony |
| 4 Governor Bellingham | • | • d a handsome young minister with a powerful voice |
| 5 Reverend Dimmesdale | • | • e a tall woman with an elegant figure |

B Select the ones that use the underlined verbs correctly.

- (a) She gathered a scarlet letter on her breast.
(b) The townspeople gathered outside the prison.
- (a) The baby ushered when it saw the sunlight.
(b) With his hand, he tried to usher out a young woman.
- (a) That fact is the puzzling question that remains for everyone.
(b) The old man was puzzling a look in her eye.

C Choose the best answer to each question.

- What did the scarlet A on Hester Prynne's bosom stand for?
(a) Alphabet (b) Adulterer (c) Admirable
- What fact did Roger Chillingworth make Hester Prynne swear to conceal?
(a) That he was not a real doctor.
(b) That he was the father of her baby.
(c) That he was her husband.

D Fill in the blanks with the given words.

fanciful merciful sermon spikes misbegotten

- Her mark will serve as a living _____ against sin.
- Then the prison door, covered in iron _____, flew open.
- The design was artistic and _____.
- The penalty for this crime is normally death, but the magistrates were _____.
- I would not harm this poor, _____ baby.

