

新编中文课外阅读丛书

TALES & TRADITIONS

Volume 2

Cheng & Tsui Readings in Chinese Literature Series

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新编中文课外阅读丛书

TALES & TRADITIONS

READINGS IN
CHINESE
LITERATURE SERIES

VOLUME

2

FOR INTERMEDIATE STUDENTS

第二册

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■ ■ 编写说明 ■ ■
■ ■ 編寫說明 ■ ■

Preface

Chinese is the language of the country with the largest population in the world, and in the United States, Chinese is the language of the second largest group of non-English speakers, after only Spanish. To date, although a number of comprehensive Chinese textbooks are currently available in the United States, interesting and informative pleasure-reading materials specifically designed for Chinese are scarce at all levels. Learners and instructors of Chinese as a foreign language (CFL) have longed for such materials, and as the first AP* Chinese Language and Culture exam was offered in 2007, the need for quality readings that familiarize students with expressions essential to understanding Chinese culture is now greater than ever.

This *Readings in Chinese Literature Series* <新編中文課外閱讀叢書> was created to meet the need for supplementary reading materials for Chinese language learners. Foreign language acquisition research has shown that extensive pleasure reading, in which students read large quantities of level-appropriate books and materials, is essential to attaining fluency in a foreign language. Pleasure

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reading not only improves students' reading skills, speed, and language proficiency, but also leads them to lifelong fluency and enjoyment of reading in the target language. This series presents stories and anecdotes that are a part of the Chinese literary canon and essential for cultural fluency: sayings from classical philosophers, folk tales, legends, excerpts from great works of literature, and more.

Its four chapters, organized by theme, include ten Chinese literary quotations and fables; four legends behind traditional Chinese festivals; five fantasies such as 画龙点睛/畫龍點睛 (Dragon Eyes) and 哪吒闹海/哪吒鬧海 (Little Nezha Fights the Great Dragon King), and five Classical Chinese love romances such as 白蛇传/白蛇傳 (Lady White Snake) and 梁山伯与祝英台/梁山伯與祝英台 (The Story of Two Butterfly Lovers).

Each text in *Tales & Traditions* has an interesting story line, a vocabulary list, and stimulating post-text questions. The texts can be used both for individual student reading and/or for instructor-facilitated classroom reading. Using the discussion questions, teachers can engage students in comprehension checks, cross-cultural comparisons, and real-life reflections. Students may also enjoy acting out the stories (see the “Teaching Note” at the end of this Preface for more information). Teachers will find the texts easy to use and an essential tool to improve learners' presentation skills. The stories will help students gain literacy and familiarity with Chinese written texts that are at the heart of Chinese culture. This focus on reading comprehension and cultural knowledge makes the *Readings in Chinese Literature Series* an excellent companion for students who are preparing for the AP Chinese Language and Culture exam, or other standardized tests.

An appendix of pinyin texts is available online at **<http://my.cheng-tsui.com/tales-traditions>** for students who struggle with character recognition, and a comprehensive index of all vocabulary words, arranged

in alphabetical order by pinyin, will help students review and look up unfamiliar words. Proper nouns that appear in the stories are underlined, so that students can easily recognize and identify them. To check their comprehension after reading each story in Chinese, students may read the English abstracts (see the Appendix), which serve as summaries of each story rather than word-for-word translations.

About the *Tales & Traditions* Series

Differentiated in the use of characters, phrases, sentence patterns, and discourse features, the series consists of four volumes for advanced-beginning, intermediate, advanced, and superior levels. All stories are adapted to a level appropriate for learners of Chinese, from the advanced-beginning level in Volume 1 to the superior level in Volume 4. Each level includes a variety of genres, such as myths, legends, classical and popular short stories, fables, Tang/Song poems, satirical and amusing essays and stories, and extracts of well-known literature. Texts from beginning to advanced levels are all illustrated. Authentic texts, vocabulary words, and sentence patterns have been adapted to keep the stories level-appropriate, while maintaining their originality.

In each volume, vocabulary words, forms of usage, idioms, expressions, sentence patterns, and phrases are selected according to their frequency of use and expository requirements. Students should focus on reading for comprehension, rather than being able to recognize each and every character.

To adapt these stories and compile vocabulary lists, we used three main sources: *Xiandai Hanyu Pinlu Cidian* (现代汉语频率词典/现代汉语频率词典) (1986), *Hanyu Shuiping Dengji Biaozhun he Dengji Dagang* (汉语水平等级标准和等级大纲/汉语水平等级标准和等级大纲) (1988), and *Far East 3000 Chinese Character Dictionary* (

远东汉字三千字典/遠東漢字三千字典) (2003). Words and phrases used at the beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels are selected in accordance with the 甲 乙 丙 levels specified in 汉语水平等级标准和等级大纲/漢語水平等級標準和等級大綱. The length (i.e., the number of running characters) of the texts gradually increases as the academic level advances, from 150 to 1,000 characters per text for the beginning and intermediate levels, and from 500 to 2,000 characters per text for the advanced and superior levels. For the beginning and intermediate levels, most characters were selected from the first 1,500 most frequently used words listed in 现代汉语频率词典/現代漢語頻率詞典, and will be recycled and expanded to the first 3,500 words and beyond for the advanced and superior levels.

As globalization, multiculturalism, and multilingualism change the way people interact with one another around the globe, a high level of Chinese language proficiency has become an important qualification for individuals in the United States and other English-speaking countries to gain a competitive advantage in academics, business, and other areas. We hope this series of stories will help students become fluent readers and speakers of Chinese, as well as global citizens with a multicultural perspective.

TEACHING NOTE

For teachers and students who are using this book as supplementary reading for a Chinese course, we have provided questions in both Chinese and English to stimulate class discussions of the stories. In addition, students can be asked to retell the stories in their own words when class time allows. For extra speaking practice, students may enjoy acting out the stories in small groups. Each group selects a story, writes speaking lines, and assigns roles. A special day or two can be set aside at mid-term or semester's end for performance of the plays.

1

郑人买履
鄭人買履
Zhèng rén mǎi lǚ

The Man from the State of Zheng Who Needed New Shoes



很久以前，有一个郑国人。他的家住在—一个离集市₂很远的地方，买东西很不方便。而且这个集市不是每天都开，要好几天才开一次。所以，他每次去集市以前，都要写下要买的东西，这样才不会忘记₃。

有一天，这个郑国人的鞋子破了，他打算去集市买一双新的。他先用一根小绳子把自己的脚量了一下，然后把小绳子收起来。他想：“过几天，我到集市上去，就按照₄这根绳子的尺寸₅去买新鞋子。”

几天过去了，这个郑国人的鞋子越来越破了。到了集市那一天，他很早就起了床，急急忙忙地往集市跑去。

集市上人很多，但是他很快就找到了卖鞋子的地方。他挑₆了半天，才挑到了一双自己喜欢的鞋子。他正要给钱，忽然₇想起了绳子。他要用那根绳子来量一下新鞋子，看看合适不合适。可是他找啊找啊，找了半天，也没有找到那根绳子。他不好意思地₈对卖鞋子的人说：“对不起，我忘了带尺寸了。请你等一下，我回家去找，找到以后，我再回来。”说完，他就往家里跑。

等他回家找到了绳子，再跑回集市的时候，卖鞋的人已经走了，集市也散₉了。旁边的人看见他很不高，就问他：“你是给谁买鞋子

很久以前，有一個鄭國人。他的家住在一個離集市₂很遠的地方，買東西很不方便。而且這個集市不是每天都開，要好幾天才開一次。所以，他每次去集市以前，都要寫下要買的東西，這樣才不會忘記₃。

有一天，這個鄭國人的鞋子破了，他打算去集市買一雙新的。他先用一根小繩子把自己的腳量了一下，然後把小繩子收起來。他想：“過幾天，我到集市上去，就按照₄這根繩子的尺寸₅去買新鞋子。”

幾天過去了，這個鄭國人的鞋子越來越破了。到了集市那一天，他很早就起了床，急急忙忙地往集市跑去。

集市上人很多，但是他很快就找到了賣鞋子的地方。他挑₆了半天，才挑到了一雙自己喜歡的鞋子。他正要給錢，忽然₇想起了繩子。他要用那根繩子來量一下新鞋子，看看合適不合適。可是他找啊找啊，找了半天，也沒有找到那根繩子。他不好意思地₈對賣鞋子的人說：“對不起，我忘了帶尺寸了。請你等一下，我回家去找，找到以後，我再回來。”說完，他就往家裏跑。

等他回家找到了繩子，再跑回集市的時候，賣鞋的人已經走了，集市也散₉了。旁邊的人看見他很不高興，就問他：“你是給誰買鞋子

啊？”他说：“给我自己。”大家都觉得很奇怪，问他说：“你刚才¹⁰不是挑好了一双吗？为什么不买呢？”他回答说：“我忘了带尺寸了，就回家去找。可是我家住得很远，等找到了再跑回来，卖鞋子的人已经走了。”集上的人都说：“你给你自己买鞋，就用自己的脚量一下，穿上看看就行了，为什么要跑回去找尺寸呢？”这个人说：“买鞋子当然要尺寸啦！要不然，怎么能知道脚有多长呢？”大家听了，都笑了起来：“你那个尺寸是怎么来的呢？不就是从你自己的脚上量下来的吗？”

这个人跑来跑去，忙了一天，新鞋没有买到，脚上的鞋子也破得不能再穿了。

啊？”他說：“給我自己。”大家都覺得很奇怪，問他說：“你剛才₁₀不是挑好了一雙嗎？爲什麼不買呢？”他回答說：“我忘了帶尺寸了，就回家去找。可是我家住得很遠，等找到了再跑回來，賣鞋子的人已經走了。”集上的人都說：“你給你自己買鞋，就用自己的腳量一下，穿上看看就行了，爲什麼要跑回去找尺寸呢？”這個人說：“買鞋子當然要尺寸啦！要不然，怎麼能知道腳有多長呢？”大家聽了，都笑起來了：“你那個尺寸是怎麼來的呢？不就是從你自己的腳上量下來的嗎？”

這個人跑來跑去，忙了一天，新鞋沒有買到，腳上的鞋子也破得不能再穿了。

生词

生詞

Vocabulary List

Simplified Characters	Traditional Characters	Pinyin	Part of Speech	English Definition
1. 郑(国)人	鄭(國)人	Zhèng(guó) rén	n.	a person from the state of Zheng
履	履	lǚ	n.	shoes
2. 集市	集市	jíshì	n.	marketplace
3. 忘记	忘記	wàngjì	v.	to forget
4. 按照	按照	ànzhào	prep.	according to
5. 尺寸	尺寸	chǐcun	n.	a length of measurement (foot and inch)
6. 挑	挑	tiāo	v.	to select, choose
7. 忽然	忽然	hūrán	adv.	suddenly
8. 不好意思地	不好意思地	bùhǎoyìsi de	adv.	embarrassedly
9. 散	散	sàn	v.	to disperse; scatter
10. 刚才	剛才	gāngcái	adv.	minutes ago; just now

讨论题
討論題

Questions for Discussion

Answer in Chinese:

- I. ■■ 这个郑国人为什么要用绳子量自己的脚？
■■ 這個鄭國人為什麼要用繩子量自己的腳？
2. ■■ 这个郑国人买到了鞋子吗？为什么？
■■ 這個鄭國人買到了鞋子嗎？為什麼？

Discuss in English:

3. How would you describe the irony or humor in this story? Is there a similar story in English that demonstrates the downside to dogmatism?

生词索引

生詞索引

Vocabulary Index

Simplified Characters	Traditional Characters	Pinyin	Part of Speech	English Definition	Story Number
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A

爱国(的)	愛國(的)	àiguó de	adj.	patriotic	13
安排	安排	ānpái	v.	to arrange	16
安全	安全	ānquán	adj.	safe	3
按照	按照	ànzhào	prep.	according to	1

B

疤痕	疤痕	bāhén	n.	scar	16
拔下	拔下	báxià	v.	to take off	24
白蛇	白蛇	bái shé	n.	white snake	22
摆手	擺手	bǎishǒu	vo.	to move	10
拜年	拜年	bàinián	v.	to wish somebody “Happy New Year”	11
宝宝	寶寶	bǎobǎo	n.	baby	19
抱	抱	bào	v.	to hold	24
背	背	bēi	v.	to carry on the back	6

I. 郑人买履
鄭人買履
Zhèng rén mǎi lǚ

The Man From the State of Zheng Who Needed New Shoes

Once upon a time, there was a gentleman from the State of Zheng. He lived far from the nearest market, which only opened every once in a while. So each time before he went to market, he took pains to make a shopping list, just in case he might forget things he needed. One day, he noticed his shoes were completely worn out. He decided to buy a new pair when the market opened. He carefully measured his feet with a string and wrote down their size. When the day finally came, he rushed to the market and found a pair of shoes he truly liked. However, he forgot to bring the string with him! So he rushed back home, got the string, and ran back to the market. However, by the time he reached the market, he was disappointed to find the shoe stall already closed.

2. 疑邻盗斧
疑鄰盜斧
Yí lín dào fǔ

Suspecting His Neighbor of Stealing an Ax

Once upon a time, there was a poor man who made a living by selling kindling wood. One day, he went to the mountains to collect wood, but upon returning home he could not find his ax anywhere. He looked around