

<<名人>>

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## 前言

这本小传记起初是为《牛津英国名人传记大辞典》写的，我希望对那些想对一个长久而复杂的话题寻求简明扼要介绍的人来说，它能提供一定的帮助。

我自己对丘吉尔的好奇心由来已久，可以追溯到我刚从事历史研究的时候。

那是1964年，当时我的研究领域是二战中的英国。

当时。

我手头有丘吉尔的六卷战争回忆录，但回顾过去。

我惊讶地发现对于丘吉尔后半生的生活我却知之甚少。

幸运的是，我的导师A. J. P. 泰勒是个出色的历史学家，他的谈话有种能使过去比现在更让人感到真实的神奇效果。

由于书面材料的缺乏。

他的洞察力也显得更加宝贵。

对20世纪英国历史的研究刚刚开始，但接着“50年”的统治限制了官方文件的发布，当时丘吉尔仍然健在，他的文件内容也成为高度机密。

## 内容概要

阅读是一种猎取，通过阅读，人们可猎取到不可或缺的精神食粮。有了它，人才会健康成长；阅读是一种咀嚼，通过阅读，人们可咀嚼隐匿于文字中的苦辣酸甜。有了它，人才会学会坚强；阅读是一种倾听，通过阅读，人们可倾听到亘古至今的不同声音。有了它，人才不会迷失方向；阅读是一种欣赏，通过阅读，人们可欣赏到前所未见的旖旎风光。有了它，人的生活才会充满阳光…… 英语阅读除具有上述功效外，还有独特的一面，那就是强化语言基础、提升英语水平。

然而，在浩若烟海的英语阅读材料中，有哪些适合你或是你的首选呢？

恐怕不同的人依据不同的需求会有不同的回答。

不过，有一点是共同的，即每位读者都会选择自认为好的英语阅读材料。

那么，何谓好的英语阅读材料呢？我们认为，就一般情况而言，好的英语阅读材料应具备以下特点：

**广博性** 广博性决定了读者获取的知识量。

换言之，没有广博的语料，人们就无法获取广博的知识。

因此，英语阅读材料应尽量涉及多种话题，涵盖各方面知识。

**权威性** 权威性有两层含义：一是信息准确，有证可查，有史可考，绝非道听途说；二是语言地道，原汁原味，读者能充分享受到“原生态”阅读的乐趣。

**简明性** 简明性首先体现在语料方面，内容要简明，取舍得当，真正将有意义的一面充分展示给读者。

其次，语言表达要简明，做到言简意赅，无拖泥带水之嫌。

**趣味性** 趣味性是语言使用的最高境界，它能使阅读文本生动、有趣，令人爱不释卷、百看不厌。

趣味性带给读者的是阅读享受，如同在明媚的春光里呼吸清新空气。

有鉴于此，并经大量市场调研，上海译文出版社与牛津大学出版社联袂推出了“牛津名人传记丛书”，从莎士比亚到丘吉尔，从达尔文到牛顿，囊括了英国历史上最重要、最具影响力的非凡人物，可谓群星璀璨。

我们相信，该套丛书的推出是广大英语学习者的福音，是广大文学爱好者的福音，是广大史学研究者的福音，更是广大中学生、大学生的福音。

该套丛书带给读者朋友的不仅是精准的知识点和多彩的文化点，更有数不清的意外惊喜！

#### 作者简介

保罗·艾迪生著有《通往1945之路：英国政治和第二次世界大战》(1975)、《国内战线中的丘吉尔：1900-1955》(1992)、《丘吉尔：意想不到的英雄》(2005)。他是爱丁堡大学历史与古典学学院的名誉研究员，于1996至2005年期间，在该院担任二战研究中心的主任。

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## 章节摘录

Youthful adventures<sup>1</sup> Sir Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill (1874-1965), prime minister, was born at Blenheim Palace, Oxfordshire, the family home of the dukes of Marlborough, on 30 November 1874. His father, Lord Randolph Henry Spencer Churchill (1849-1895), was the third son of the seventh duke and a descendant of John Churchill, first duke of Marlborough, Queen Anne's commander-in-chief during the War of the Spanish Succession. His mother, Jeanette (Jennie) Churchill (1854-1921), was the daughter of Leonard Jerome, a New York financier whose ancestor had fought against the British in the American War of Independence. According to a Jerome family tradition accepted by Churchill himself, Jennie's mother, Clara, was of Iroquois descent, but proof is lacking. School days: flouting the rules Jennie and Lord Randolph were married at the British embassy in Paris on 15 April 1874. Winston Churchill's date of birth has given rise to speculation that he was conceived before the wedding, but the only certainty is that he was born prematurely. Preparations were made for the birth to take place in London, but after slipping and falling during a visit to Blenheim Jennie went into labour, the local doctor was summoned, and the baby was delivered at 1.30 a.m. on 30 November. When the seventh duke was appointed viceroy of Ireland in January 1877, the Churchills moved to Dublin. Winston was accompanied by his nanny, Mrs Elizabeth Everest, who took him for walks in Phoenix Park and warned him against a group of evil men known as Fenians. Shortly after the birth of his brother John Strange Spencer (Jack) Churchill (1880-1947) in February 1880, the family returned to London, where Winston began to build up an impressive collection of toy soldiers in the nursery. At eight he was sent to boarding-school at Ascot where the headmaster took a pleasure in flogging the boys until their bottoms ran with blood. Winston performed well in some subjects but his reports often referred to his unruly behaviour. According to one authority, he was birched for stealing sugar from the pantry and retaliated by kicking the headmaster's straw hat to pieces (Churchill and Gilbert, 1.55). When he fell ill his parents transferred him to a school at Brighton where he was much happier but came bottom of the class for conduct. Neither of Churchill's parents lacked affection for Winston, but they gave him little attention and he felt profoundly neglected. Lord Randolph's short and troubled life was devoted mainly to politics: Winston could recall only two or three long and intimate conversations with him. Lady Randolph, meanwhile, revelled in high society. She shone.

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名人传记，《名人:丘吉尔》专家执笔；材料真实，妙趣横生；语言地道，原汁原味；注释简明，通俗易懂。

上海译文出版社与牛津大学出版社联袂推出牛津名人传记丛书，从莎翁到丘吉尔，从达尔文到牛顿，可谓群星璀璨，读之令人受益匪浅、难以释卷.....

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