

<<英美文学名著赏析（上下）>>

图书基本信息

书名：<<英美文学名著赏析（上下）>>

13位ISBN编号：9787562321781

10位ISBN编号：7562321787

出版时间：2005-2

出版时间：华南理工大学出版社

作者：刘洵波 编

页数：412

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前言

Literature is a cultural heritage. Its importance can never be exaggerated. First, literature is a key to knowledge and wisdom. We encounter new ideas and concepts in literary works. Secondly, literature helps us understand people around us and in different parts of the world by recognizing the diverse points of view. Thirdly, literature can be a tool to teach. Socrates believed that the effect of good literature is to lead the youth to follow the correct path permitted by the laws. Last but not least, literature, when used in language classes, helps us increase our vocabulary, master idiomatic expressions, enhance our cultural awareness, and promote our intercultural communication. British and American literature are among the best of the world literary heritage. They represent the imagination and creativity of British and American writers. To master the English language and to improve our understanding of its culture, it is necessary to study some works of British and American literature. It is with this in mind that we compiled this textbook, which is divided into two volumes: Selected Readings of British Literature and Selected Readings of American Literature. Each volume includes 19 writers, with an individual writer as a unit. Each unit includes "About the Author", "The Story Selected Reading", "Notes", "Remarks" and "Questions for Discussion". The emphasis is laid on the reading, appreciation and analysis of the original texts with a view to helping students understand the richness of these works in their humanistic implications and artistic beauty.

## 内容概要

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章节摘录

John Milton was born in London in 1608 at the height of the Protestant Reformation in England. His father was a law writer who had achieved some success when Milton was born. This prosperity afforded Milton an excellent education, first with private tutoring, then a private school, and finally Cambridge. Milton excelled in languages and classical studies. Cambridge afforded him time to write poetry. After Cambridge, he continued his studies for seven years in a leisurely life at his father's house. It was there that he wrote some of his first published poems, including *Comus* (1634) and *Lycidas* (1638). Milton toured the European continent in 1638 - 1639 and met many of the great Renaissance minds, including Galileo and Grotius. The beginning of the Puritan Revolution found Milton back in England, fighting for a more humanist and reformed church. For more than twenty years, Milton set aside poetry to write political and religious pamphlets for the cause of Puritanism. For a time, he served as Secretary for Foreign Tongues under Cromwell. At the end of the war, Milton was imprisoned for a short time for his views. In 1660, he emerged blind and disillusioned. Nevertheless, he was yet to write his greatest works. *Paradise Lost* was published in 1667, followed by *Paradise Regained* in 1671. Milton's ability to combine his poetry with his polemics in these and other works, was the key to his genius. Milton died in 1674 and was buried in the Church of St. Giles in London. At his death his literary reputation was growing rapidly and by 1700 *Paradise Lost* was already considered as a classic of English literature, the greatest epic in the English language.

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编辑推荐

《英美文学名著赏析(套装上下册)》由华南理工大学出版社出版。

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