



Love Makes a Difference

Bilingual children's stories

爱能改变事情

双语儿童的故事

Les Miserables

In Les Miserables, Victor Hugo tells of Jean Valjean, whose only crime was the theft of a loaf of bread to feed his sister's starving children. After nineteen years of imprisonment, he was released.

Unable to find work because he had been a convict, he came to the home of an old bishop who kindly fed Jean supper and gave him a bed for the night.

In deep despair over what seemed an impossibly bleak future, Jean yielded to temptation, stole the bishop's silver plates, and slipped away in the night. He was soon caught, however, and hauled back to the bishop's house. Knowing what would happen to Jean if he was convicted a second time, the kind bishop told the police, "I gave him the silver. And Jean, you forgot to take the candlesticks."

Jean was astounded at such kindness. He repented of his thievery and his life was never the same.

悲惨世界

在《悲惨世界》(Les Miserables)一书中，雨果(Victor Hugo)讲述了一个名叫庄·华尔庄的罪犯的故事，他所犯的唯一罪行就是偷了一条面包送给他姐姐那些挨饿的孩子。他在监狱里度过了19年，然后才被释放。

由于曾是一名罪犯，所以找不到工作，他便来到了一位年老的主教c家里。那位主教好心地用晚餐招待他，并让他留宿。

未来似乎极度暗淡，在绝望重压下，庄向诱惑屈服了，他偷了主教的银盘子，并连夜逃走了。然而，他很快就被抓到了，并被带回到主教家里。仁慈的主教心里很清楚，假如庄再次被证明偷窃，后果将会是什么样子。所以，他小心翼翼地对警察说：“啊，我把这些盘子送给了他。还有，庄，你忘记拿这些烛台了。”

庄因他的仁慈而大为诧异，从那时起，就洗心革面了。

c主教--天主教的地方性领袖。

The Two Soothsayers

Once a king dreamed that all his teeth had fallen out. Immediately he sent for one of his soothsayers to interpret the meaning of the vision. With a sad countenance and mournful voice, the soothsayer told the monarch that the dream meant that all his relatives would die and that he would be left alone. This angered the king and he drove the servant from his presence.

Another was called & the king told him of the dream. At this, the wise man smiled, and replied, "Rejoice, O King; the dream means that you will live yet many years. In fact you will outlive all your relatives." This pleased the king a great deal, and in his joy he gave the interpreter a rich reward.

The two men had said, in different ways, the same thing.

两位占卜者

从前，有一位国王梦见他所有的牙齿都掉光了。他马上传召他其中一个占卜者来解释他的梦的意义。占卜者以哀伤的神情和悲恸的语气，告诉国王这个梦是指他所有的亲戚都会先死掉，只剩下他一个人。这使得国王非常愤怒，於是就把这个仆人赶出宫廷。

国王传召另一个占卜者来，把梦告诉他。这位智者此时微笑着回答说：“皇上，请大大欢喜，这个梦是说你还有很多年的寿命，实际上，你会比你所有的亲戚更长寿。”这话使国王甚为愉悦，他因此给了这位占卜者丰厚的奖赏。

其实，这两位占卜者只是以不同的方式说同样的事情而已。



The Clerk

In the city of Philadelphia there was a little third class hotel. Into it one night there came two tired elderly people. They went up to the night clerk and the husband pleadingly said, "Mister, please don't tell us you don't have a room. My wife and I have been all over the city looking for a place to stay. We did not know about the big conventions that are here. The hotels at which we usually stay are all full. We're dead tired and it's after midnight. Please don't tell us you don't have a place where we can sleep."

The clerk looked at them a long moment and then answered, "Well, I don't have a single room except my own. It's not as nice as the other rooms, but it's clean, and I'll be happy for you to be my guests for tonight."

The next morning at the breakfast table, the couple sent the waiter to tell the night clerk they wanted to see him on very important business. The night clerk went in, recognized the two people, sat down at the table and said he hoped they had had a good night's sleep. They thanked him most sincerely.

晚班职员

在费城一家三流的小旅馆里，有一天晚上来了一对年长而疲惫的夫妇。那位先生到当班的晚间职员面前请求说：“先生，请不要告诉我你们这里没有房间。我太太和我已经找遍了整个费城，想要找个地方过夜。我们不知道有一连串的大型会议在这里举行，我们通常住宿的一些饭店全都客满了。我们已经筋疲力尽，时间又是午夜过后，请不要告诉我们你没有地方可以让我们过夜。”

那位职员看着他们好一会儿，然后回答说：“说实在的，我们连一间空房间都没有，只除了我自己住的房间。我晚上工作、白天休息。它并不如其他的房间那么漂亮，但还算干净。我很乐意让你们今天晚上在我的房间作客。”

第二天早晨，那对夫妇在吃早餐时，他们请服务生转告那位晚班职员，他们有很重要的事想和他谈。晚班职员进来，认出他们，于是便与他们同坐在餐桌旁，并说希望他们前一天晚上睡得安甜。

Then the husband astounded the clerk with this statement, "You are too fine a hotel man to stay in a hotel like this. How would you like for me to build a big, beautiful, luxurious hotel in the city of New York and make you general manager?"

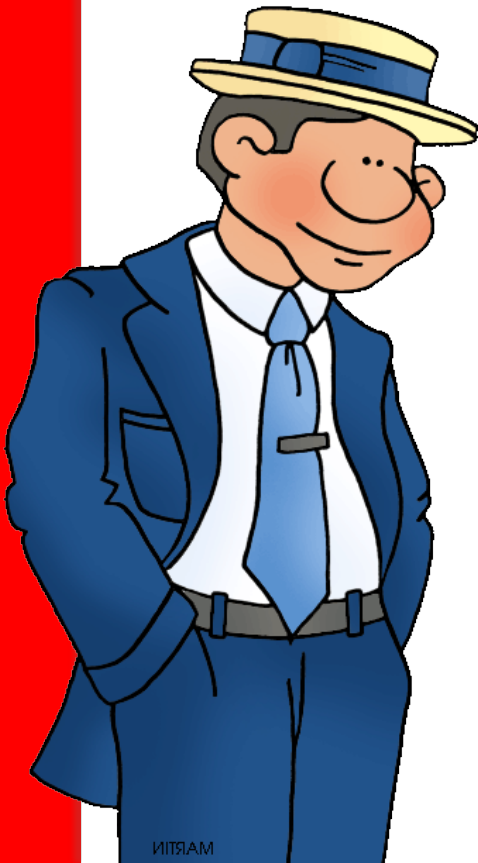
The clerk didn't know what to say. He thought there might be something wrong with their minds. He finally stammered, "It sounds wonderful."

His guest then introduced himself. "I'm John Jacob Astor." So, the Waldorf Astoria Hotel was built, and the night clerk became, in the years to follow, the best known hotel man in the world.

他们非常诚恳地感谢他，然后那位先生说出以下的话，使得晚班职员大吃一惊：“以你这么优越的条件，在这种旅馆里工作实在是大材小用。我在纽约市为你建一栋美观豪华的大饭店，请你来当总经理，你觉得怎么样？”

那位职员不知该如何回答，他以为他们的脑子可能有点问题。他终于结结巴巴的说：“这个主意听起来真是妙极了。”于是他的客人自我介绍说：“我是约翰雅各艾斯特。”

渥多夫艾斯特利亚大饭店就此被建成了，而这位晚班职员在以后的多年以内，成为世上最有名的饭店经理。



Noble Disagreement

In the city of Weimar, Germany, there is a statue that was set up in 1857. It is of two of Germany's great writers, who were also good friends—Johann Wolfgang von Goethe and Johann Christoph Friedrich von Schiller.

While both men were still living, critics and the public often raised the question of which was the greater writer. If Goethe heard people say, "Sir, you are the master poet of the Germans," he was quick to rejoin, "You must not forget Schiller!" And when they praised Schiller as the finest German poet, Schiller would say, "But there is my friend Goethe."

The sculptor of the statue of Weimar expressed their mutual love and admiration beautifully. Goethe has a wreath of laurel leaves in his hand, which he is raising to place on Schiller's head. But Schiller doesn't want the crown. He thinks Goethe deserves it more, and is thrusting it back, as if to say, "No, it is more fitting for you to wear it than me." Thus the two friends nobly disagree, each refusing to be crowned, for they appreciated each other's talent and valued their friendship more than acclaim.

高贵的分歧

德国魏玛有一尊1857年的雕像。那是德国两个伟大的作家兼一对好友——约翰·沃尔夫贡·冯·歌德（1749—1832）和约翰·克里斯托夫·弗雷德里希·冯·席勒（1759—1805）。

两人活着的时候，批评家和公众经常挑起争论：两人谁更伟大。如果歌德听到有人说：“先生，您是德国的诗人领袖，”他会马上回答说：“您一定是忘记了席勒！”而当有人称赞席勒是德国最杰出的诗人时，席勒会回答说：“但是还有我的朋友歌德呢。”

魏玛雕像的雕刻家传神地表现了他们彼此间的友爱与钦佩。歌德手执桂冠，举着要戴到席勒的头上。可是席勒不愿戴。他觉得歌德更配戴它，就往回推，似乎在说：“你戴比我戴更合适。”这表达出两位朋友高贵的分歧，两人都拒戴桂冠，因为他们更欣赏对方的天才，更珍惜他们的友谊，甚于人们的赞扬。

“He Expected It of Me”

There is a story about two brothers who enlisted in the Army during World War I and were assigned to the same unit. They were soon sent to the frontline trenches. In trench warfare, each side dug a network of trenches along the frontline of their territory, then laid siege to the other side's trenches. From time to time, one side or the other launched an offensive to try to break through the enemy's lines.

During one such attack, the younger brother was mortally wounded in no man's land—that exposed, deadly area between the opposing forces. The older brother, still safe in the trench, saw it happen and knew what he must do. He worked his way through the trench, around other soldiers, until he came to his field commander. “I've got to go get him!” the older brother called out over the din of battle.

“That's impossible!” his commander yelled as he grabbed him. “You'll be killed the minute you stick your head out of this trench!”

“他在期待着我”

有个故事，讲到一战中，有兄弟两人应召入伍，并被分到了同一个部队。他们很快被送到了前线。在一战时的壕堑战中，交战双方都会在自己占领区的前沿挖一道战壕，试图封锁对方。时不时，一方会发动进攻，企图打破敌人的阵线。就在这样一次进攻中，弟弟在无人区受了重伤，暴露在交战双方之间的一片死亡区。

战壕里的哥哥，看到了发生的一切，他本能地知道自己该做什么。他艰难地绕过其他士兵，来到了指挥官面前。“我要去把他救回来！”哥哥大声喊道。战斗仍在进行。

“不可能！”指挥官抓住他，大吼道。“一出战壕，你就会被打死！”

But the older brother tore himself loose from the officer's grip, scrambled out of the trench, and plunged into no man's land to find his brother, amid withering fire from the enemy.

When he did, the younger brother could only manage a whisper. "I knew you'd come!"

By this time, the older brother had also been seriously wounded. He barely managed to drag his brother back to their line, and they both fell into the trench, dying.

"Why did you do it?" demanded the commander. "I told you you'd get yourself killed too!"

"I had to," the older brother replied with a final smile. "He expected it of me. I couldn't let him down."

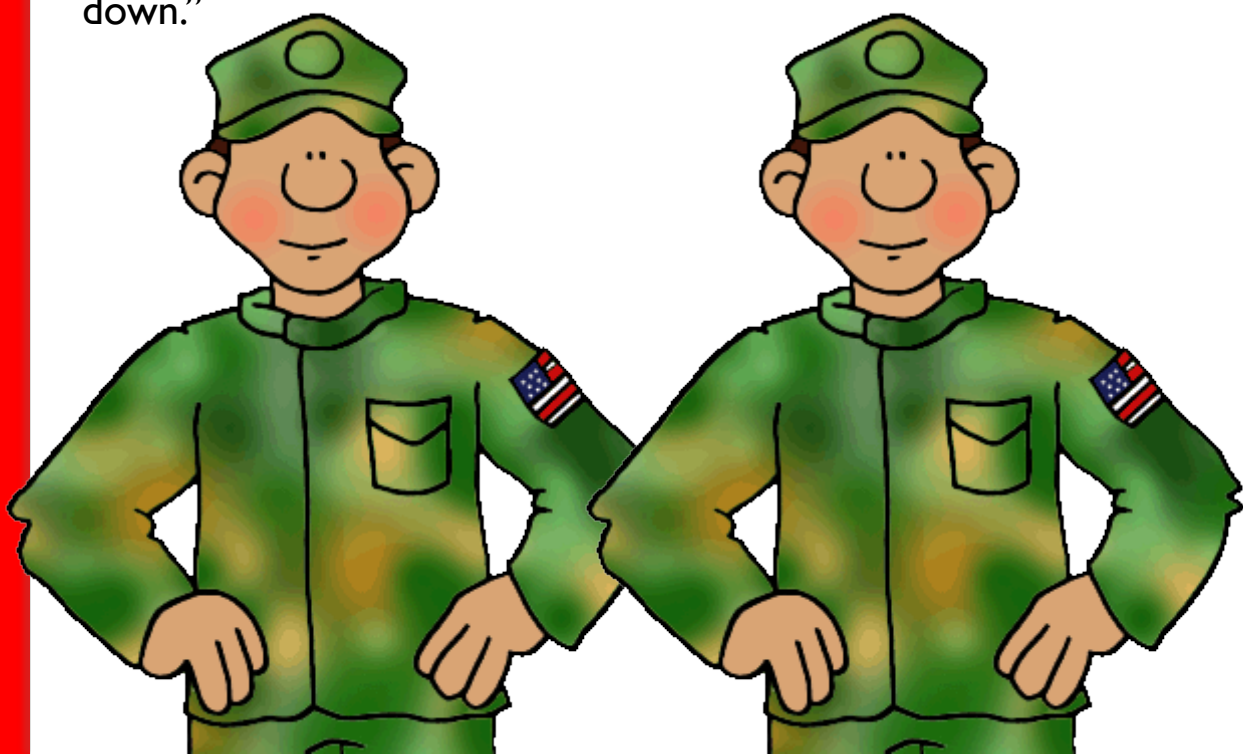
但是哥哥挣脱了指挥官的手，爬出战壕，一头扎进无人区，顶着枪林弹雨，找他的弟弟去了。

当他找到时，弟弟只剩下了最后一口气：“我知道你会来的！”

——这时，哥哥也受了重伤。他用尽最后的力气把弟弟拖回自己的阵地，双双倒在战壕里，奄奄一息。

“你为什么要那样做？”指挥官问道，“我说了，你会被打死的！”

“我一定要去，”哥哥的脸上露出最后一丝微笑。“他在期待着我。我不能让他失望。”



What Matters

A few years ago at the Seattle Special Olympics, nine contestants, all physically or mentally disabled, assembled at the starting line for the 100-yard dash. At the gun, they all started out—not exactly in a dash, but with a relish to run the race to the finish and win.

All, that is, except one boy who stumbled on the asphalt, tumbled over a couple of times, and began to cry. The other eight heard the boy cry. They slowed down and looked back. They all turned around and went back. Every one of them. One girl with Down's syndrome bent down and kissed him and said, "This will make it better." All nine linked arms and walked across the finish line together.

Everyone in the stadium stood, and the cheering went on for several minutes. People who were there are still telling the story. Why? Because deep down we know this one thing: What matters in this life is more than winning for ourselves. What truly matters in this life is helping others in their race, even if it means slowing down and changing our course.

真正重要的是什么？

几年前，在美国西雅图举行的“残疾人奥林匹克运动会”上，参加一百米短跑的九位参赛者全都聚集到了起跑线上。他们都是身体或精神上的残疾人。枪声一响，他们全都冲了出去；虽然他们无法冲刺，但却在充满乐趣地参赛；他们全都希望能够跑完全程，赢得胜利！

但有一个男孩子在跑道上跌跌撞撞，一连摔倒了好几次；最后，他哭了起来。其余的八个人全都听到了他的哭声，大家一起放慢了脚步，回过头来看他。然后，他们停了下来，每个人都掉头往回跑！有一个身患唐氏综合症的女孩子，弯下腰来吻了吻他，然后说：“这会使你觉得好一些的！”随后，九个人一起手拉手地跑过了终点线。

在场的每一个人都站了起来，欢呼声持续了数分钟之久。在场的人们至今还在谈论此事，这是为什么呢？这是因为：我们从心底里知道，生命的目的，并不只是让自己成功而已。生命中最要紧的是去帮助别人也跑完生命的赛程。即便这么做会延缓我们的速度、或改变我们的方向，但这却是值得的！



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