

# The Application of British and American Literature Works in the Teaching of College English Reading Course

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**Abstract:** In college English learning, reading course is one of the key components. Reading can improve students' grammar and sense of language, and after reading, students' vocabulary accumulation will gradually increase. But how to choose reading materials in college English reading course to help students gain more ability through reading is very crucial. In recent years, in college English reading courses, more and more teachers recommend students to read British and American classics. Works, whether they are novels or other types of literary works, are in the range that teachers recommend students to read. Reading British and American cultural works can cultivate students' reading ability and enable students to better understand British and American culture in the process of learning English. Understanding the culture of a country is very beneficial to the language learning of that country. This paper analyzes and summarizes the advantages of English and American literary works on the application of English reading learning.

**Keywords:** British and American Literature; College English Reading Course; Application

By reading British and American literature, students can learn the writing habits of British and American countries and the usage of various vocabulary. The most important thing is that they can intuitively feel the folk customs of English-speaking countries. From various types of literature works, a thorough understanding of the style and logic of English narration in the works has a very important impact on the English learning of college students. The literary works of British and American countries, such as novels, usually have very rich storylines, and fascinating storylines, which arouse students' interest in reading, make students read English with curiosity and interest, help students absorb knowledge points in literary works, improve students' English reading ability gradually, stimulate students' interest in reading, and expand students' advantage in daily English learning.

## 1. The advantages of English and American literary works for English reading learning

### 1.1 In depth understanding of the cultural background of English-speaking countries to facilitate the improvement of reading ability

Under different cultural backgrounds, the meanings expressed in articles may be very different. Therefore, learning a language requires a clearer understanding of the culture of the country in which the language is learned. If using Chinese learning methods to read, the efficiency of English learning will be affected, and the results of learning will also be greatly affected. In English and American literary works, students can intuitively feel the language usage, writing techniques, and writing styles of people from different cultures in these literary works. And through the reading of articles to understand the

culture and customs of British and American countries, etc., through the influence of culture, students can better appreciate the meaning of literary works. The understanding of these contents is of great help to students' English reading. Only by having a sufficient understanding of the British and American literature and cultural background, can students ensure that the language they learn is correct and original in the process of language learning. A full understanding of British and American culture can enable students to better understand the true meaning of English articles when reading English, avoid using Chinese thinking to translate English articles, and reduce the occurrence of understanding errors.

## **1.2 To improve the comprehensive understanding of English through repeated reading of long literary works**

For English learning, the most important points are the mastery of vocabulary and pronunciation, the mastery of sentence patterns and grammar, as well as the conversion of narrative logic and thinking styles. Through the repeated reading research of British and American literature, reading the parts that are not understood many times can improve the students' English learning ability in all aspects. For example, when students encounter unfamiliar words commonly used in British and American countries when reading, when this word appears repeatedly, the students will remember this word gradually. Over time, students' vocabulary will be accumulated, and the accumulated words are more commonly used words. Complete articles and even books are different from a single sentence. In many cases, a single sentence is easy to understand and translate, but combined with the entire article, the meaning of the sentence may change. Therefore, in the learning process of English reading, long articles or books must be touched by reading long articles. It is also possible to gradually accumulate more common sentence patterns and grammars from British and American countries, to improve students' understanding of complete works, and to enhance students' ability to understand the subject matter of the whole article throughout the full text. Therefore, reading excellent British and American literature can greatly improve the student's comprehensive understanding of English.

## **2. How to use British and American literary works to complete college English reading teaching**

### **2.1 Selecting appropriate short content for classroom teaching in the reading teaching process**

Since most of the articles in the college English reading textbooks lack interest, and the authors are mostly domestic teachers and scholars, in the teaching of college reading courses, relying only on textbooks for reading cannot meet the reading requirements of college students. Due to the limited classroom time, teachers are required to select suitable content and short-length works for students to read and appreciate when teaching at the university. Through reading foreign classic works led by the teacher in class, understanding the essence of the article, understanding the unfamiliar vocabulary and unusual sentence patterns that appear in the article, and through the teacher's explanation of these foreign classic literary works, students have an understanding of how to read foreign classics. The works will also have a better understanding, and students can also understand the deep meanings expressed in the article thoroughly under the guidance of the teacher. Through the accumulation of experience in reading British and American cultural works accumulated in the classroom, the reading of books after class and the related content of reading comprehension in the course can be done by analogy. This will facilitate the improvement of students' comprehensive strength in English reading.

When dealing with related content of British and American poets, in addition to allowing students to read the poet-related content given in the textbook, teachers can also select some of the poet's verses and show them to students for them to appreciate, think, translate, etc. For example, in lectures about the famous poet Shakespeare, it was impossible for students to read Shakespeare's novels or other works in class, but short and succinct poems can not only reflect Shakespeare's talents, but also make it easier for students to think in class. For example, teacher can let students read and appreciate Sonnet VIII, Sonnets to the Sundry Note soft Music, etc., so as to achieve the purpose of reading British and American literature in the classroom, so that students can feel the charm of British and American classics after reading.

### **2.2 Encouraging students to choose reading works according to their interests after class**

There are many excellent literary works in Britain and the United States. They have different themes, genres, and styles. Different students have completely different preferences for literary works. The time for learning to read in class is limited,

so the nutrients that students can learn in class can't meet the daily needs of English learning. Therefore, for English teachers in universities, teachers' education of students should not be limited to classrooms and teaching materials. Students should be encouraged to actively use their leisure time in daily life, and choose the books they like to read. The amount of reading after class does not need to deliberately pursue the number of books to read. It can be determined according to the actual situation of different students. Students can stimulate their reading by choosing books that they are interested in. For example, many students who are interested in English learning are mostly interested in a certain type of English movies or songs, and gradually developed into an interest in English subjects, such as the complete works of "Harry Potter". Allowing students choosing the books they want to read allows students to actively participate in the reading of British and American literature after class. With sufficient interest, students will be more proactive in finding solutions when they encounter problems in reading, so that students are more willing to face difficulties, and use their interest to cultivate students' self-reading habit, which plays a vital role in improving students' English reading ability in the future.

### **3. Conclusion**

The main influence of British and American classics on English reading is that the real British and American works can fully reflect their cultural and social background, and they can analyze the characteristics of their narratives from the line to understand the people in the British and American countries. The grammar and sentence patterns used in daily life, through understanding other people's culture, improve one's ability and skills in learning other languages, avoiding tedious learning book content, the main function of language learning is to communicate. Only by fully understanding other people's language and culture can it be convenient to realize the significance of learning English reading. Therefore, whether in the college English reading class or in daily life, students need to develop the habit of reading excellent British and American literature as much as possible both inside and outside the class, derive nourishment from other people's classics, and finally use it in their own study and in life.

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