

# Preface

For students who study Chinese as a foreign language, it's crucial for them to enlarge the scope of their reading to improve their comprehension skills. The “Rainbow Bridge” Graded Chinese Reader series is designed to provide a collection of interesting and useful Chinese reading materials. This series grades each volume by its vocabulary level and brings the learners into every scene through vivid storytelling. The series has the following features:

**I. A gradual approach by grading the volumes based on vocabulary levels.** We have consulted the New HSK Vocabulary (2012 Revised Edition), the *Graded Chinese Syllables, Characters and Words for the Application of Teaching Chinese to the Speakers of Other Languages (National Standard)* and the 1500 Commonly Used High Frequency Chinese Vocabulary, along with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) to design the “Rainbow Bridge” vocabulary grading standard. The series is divided into seven levels (Starter\*, Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, Level 4, Level 5 and Level 6) for students at different stages in their Chinese education to choose from. For each level, new words are no more than 20% of the vocabulary amount as specified in the corresponding HSK and CEFR levels.

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\* Represented by “S” on the back cover.

As the levels progress, the passage length will in turn increase. The following table indicates the corresponding “Rainbow Bridge” level, HSK and CEFR levels, the vocabulary amount, and number of characters.

Level	Starter	1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>HSK/ CEFR Level</b>	HSK1 CEFR A1	HSK1-2 CEFR A1-A2	HSK2-3 CEFR A2-B1	HSK3 CEFR A2-B1	HSK3-4 CEFR B1	HSK4 CEFR B1-B2	HSK5 CEFR B2-C1
<b>Vocabulary</b>	150	300	500	750	1000	1500	2500
<b>Characters</b>	1000	2500	5000	7500	10,000	15,000	25,000

**II. Intriguing stories on various themes.** The series features engaging stories known for their twists and turns as well as deeply touching plots. The readers will find it a joyful experience to read the stories. The topics are selected from Chinese mythology, legends, folklore, literary classics, biographies of renowned people and historical tales. Such widely ranged topics would exert an invisible, yet formative, influence on readers’ understanding of Chinese culture and history.

**III. Reasonably structured and easy to use.** For each volume of the “Rainbow Bridge” series, apart from a Chinese story, we also provide an introduction to the main characters in Chinese and English, new words with English explanations and sample sentences, and an English translation of the story, followed by comprehension exercises and a vocabulary list to help users read and understand the story and improve their Chinese reading skills. The exercises are mainly presented as objective questions that take on various forms with moderate difficulty. Moreover, keys to the exercises are also provided. The series can be used

by teachers in class or by students for self-study.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions about the series, please email us at [liuxiaolin@sinolingua.com.cn](mailto:liuxiaolin@sinolingua.com.cn). You can also exchange ideas with us via our WeChat account: CHQRainbowBridge. This account will provide updates on the series along with Chinese reading materials and cultural tips.

Han Ying and Liu Xiaolin



## 主要人物和地点

### Main Characters and Places

叶 限 (Yèxiàn): 吴财主的大女儿，漂亮善良。妈妈死后，跟继母和继母生的妹妹生活。

Yexian: The elder daughter of a rich man, Wu. She was a beautiful and kindhearted girl who lost her mother, so she lived with her stepmother and stepsister.

继 母 (jì mǔ): 吴财主的小老婆，叶限的继母，不喜欢叶限，虐待叶限。

Stepmother: The second wife of Wu and stepmother of Yexian. She did not like Yexian and abused her.

继母的女儿 (jì mǔ de nǚ'ér): 吴财主的小女儿，长得丑，心地坏。

Stepsister: The younger daughter of Wu. She was ugly and evil.

国 王 (guówáng): 陀汗国的国王。

The King: The King of the State of Tuohan.

陀汗国 (Tuóhánguó): 中国南方的一个岛国，由几十个岛屿组成。

The State of Tuohan: An ancient island nation in the south of China. It consisted of several dozen islands and islets.

## 叶限\*——中国的灰姑娘<sup>①</sup>

① 灰姑娘 (Huīgū-niang) *n.* Cinderella  
e.g., 灰姑娘也能等来想要的明天。

② 久 (jiǔ) *n.* long time  
e.g., 过了很久, 我才想起那件事。

③ 以前 (yǐqián) *n.* earlier times  
e.g., 这条路以前很难走。

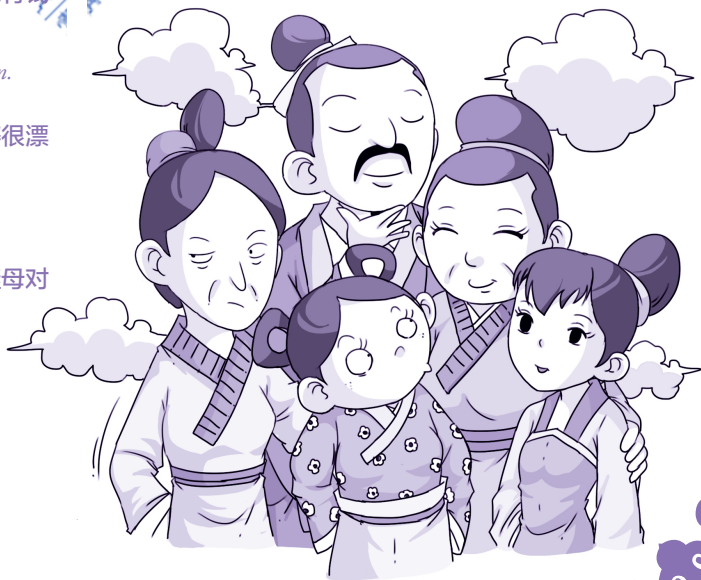
④ 吴 (Wú) *n.* Wu (a Chinese family name)  
e.g., 她妈妈姓吴。

⑤ 财主 (cáizhu) *n.* rich man  
e.g., 中国以前把有钱的人叫作财主。

⑥ 老婆 (lǎopo) *n.* wife  
e.g., 小王的老婆很漂亮。

⑦ 继母 (jìmǔ) *n.* stepmother  
e.g., 我朋友的继母对他很好。

很久<sup>②</sup>以前<sup>③</sup>有一个姓吴<sup>④</sup>的人, 他很有钱。当地人叫他吴财主<sup>⑤</sup>。吴财主有两个老婆<sup>⑥</sup>, 她们每个人都有一个女儿, 大老婆的女儿叫叶限。后来, 吴财主的大老婆死了, 吴财主的小老婆就成了叶限的继母<sup>⑦</sup>。



## Yexian – A Cinderella Story from China

A long time ago, there was a rich man named Wu, or Landlord Wu as the locals called him. He had two wives, each of whom gave him one daughter. Yexian was the daughter of his first wife, who later died. The second wife of Landlord Wu became Yexian's stepmother.

Yexian was beautiful and kindhearted, and could make clothes on her own. Her father liked her very much. Her stepsister, on the contrary, was ugly and evil-hearted.

Later, Landlord Wu died. His second wife disliked Yexian because she was so much more beautiful and smarter than her own daughter. She often beat Yexian, gave her the most demanding work and asked her to fetch water from faraway places. The stepsister also bullied Yexian, which made Yexian very sad.

One day when Yexian was fetching water, she caught a small fish, a red fish with golden eyes. Yexian liked it so much that she brought it home and put it in a bowl. She looked at it every day.

The fish swam around. It was indeed a cute creature. Yexian said to it, "Little fish, I like you and from now on you are my best friend!" She saved her food to feed the fish.

The small fish soon grew too big for the bowl, so Yexian put it in a pond behind her home. Every day when she came near the



## 课前练习 Warm-up exercises

### 一、朗读下面的短语。Read the following phrases.

piàoliang shànliáng wèidao hěn hǎo  
漂亮 善良 味道很好

jǐjímángmáng diǎnle diǎntóu  
急急忙忙 点了点头

### 二、思考题。Pre-reading questions.

1. 叶限是个怎样的女孩儿?

2. 叶限的继母为什么要送给叶限新衣服?

3. 为什么叶限要什么鱼骨头就给她什么?



## 课后练习 Reading exercises

一、阅读故事完成问题。Read the story and answer the following questions.

1. 吴财主有两个\_\_\_\_\_，她们每个人都有一个女儿，大\_\_\_\_\_的女儿叫\_\_\_\_\_。

2. 请根据故事内容给下列句子排列顺序。

- A. 节日到了，鱼骨头送给了叶限一条漂亮的裙子和一双金色的鞋。
- B. 鱼儿一露出水面，继母就把它杀死了。
- C. 有一次，叶限挑水的时候，抓到了一条小鱼。
- D. 叶限把两只鞋子和那件衣服都穿上了，国王带来的人都说太美了。
- E. 老爷爷告诉叶限，在土堆里能找到鱼骨头。
- F. 叶限成为了国王的妻子，他们回到了陀汗国，过着幸福的生活。
- G. 叶限不小心丢了一只鞋，这只鞋被卖到了陀汗国。
- H. 国王拿着鞋子，让每一个女人都试穿一次这只鞋。

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (4) \_\_\_\_\_

(5) \_\_\_\_\_ (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (8) \_\_\_\_\_





## 课后练习答案 Keys to the exercises

### 一、阅读故事完成问题

1. 老婆 老婆 叶限

2. (1) C (2) B (3) E (4) A

(5) G (6) H (7) D (8) F

### 二、为下列各题选择正确的答案

1. B 2. B 3. C 4. A 5. A

6. B 7. D 8. C 9. A 10. D

### 三、判断题：请根据故事内容判断下列说法是否正确， 如果正确请标“T”，不正确请标“F”

1. T 2. T 3. F 4. F 5. T

6. T 7. F 8. T 9. T 10. F

### 四、图片题

(答案略)

## 词汇表 Vocabulary List

办法	<i>n.</i>	bànfǎ	solution, idea, way
保护	<i>v.</i>	bǎohù	protect
财主	<i>n.</i>	cáizhu	rich man
尝尝	<i>v.</i>	chángchang	taste, try
池塘	<i>n.</i>	chítáng	pond
丑	<i>adj.</i>	chǒu	ugly
带	<i>v.</i>	dài	bring, take
刀	<i>n.</i>	dāo	knife
丢	<i>v.</i>	diū	lose, throw
骨	<i>n.</i>	gǔ	bone
国王	<i>n.</i>	guówáng	king
过节	<i>v.</i>	guòjié	celebrate or spend a holiday
喊	<i>v.</i>	hǎn	yell, shout
合适	<i>adj.</i>	héshì	suitable
怀疑	<i>v.</i>	huáiyí	doubt, suspect
灰姑娘	<i>n.</i>	Huīgūniang	Cinderella
急急忙忙	<i>adv.</i>	jíjí mángmáng	in a hurry
继母	<i>n.</i>	jìmǔ	stepmother
脚	<i>n.</i>	jiǎo	foot
节日	<i>n.</i>	jiérì	festival
金色	<i>adj.</i>	jīnsè	golden
金子	<i>n.</i>	jīnzi	gold
经常	<i>adv.</i>	jīngcháng	often, frequently
久	<i>n.</i>	jiǔ	long time
旧	<i>adj.</i>	jiù	worn-out, old
老婆	<i>n.</i>	lǎopo	wife
老爷爷	<i>n.</i>	lǎoyéye	old man, grandpa
脸	<i>n.</i>	liǎn	face
露	<i>v.</i>	lù	show, reveal