

# 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. 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.

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

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

王昭君 (Wáng Zhāojūn): 汉朝皇宫里的一位美丽的宫女, 后来嫁给匈奴国王。

Wang Zhaojun: A beautiful palace maiden who lived during the Han Dynasty (206 BC-220 AD). She was married into the State of Xiongnu in the north.

小玉 (Xiǎoyù): 和王昭君一起进宫的女孩儿, 是她的好朋友。  
Xiaoyu: A girl who was selected into the palace with Zhaojun. They were good friends.

汉元帝 (Hànyuándì): 汉朝的一位皇帝。

Emperor Yuandi: An emperor during the Han Dynasty. He reigned from 48 BC to 33 BC.

毛延寿 (Máo Yánshòu): 宫廷画家。

Mao Yanshou: An imperial painter.

呼韩邪单于 (Hūhányé Chányú): 匈奴的一个国王。

Huhanye Chanyu (Uhaanyehe): A king of Xiongnu.

郅支单于 (Zhìzhī Chányú): 呼韩邪单于的哥哥。

Zhizhi Chanyu: The elder brother of Huhanye.

湖北省 (Húběi Shěng): 中国中部偏南的一个省。

Hubei Province: A province located in the southern part of central China.

秭归 (Zǐguī): 今湖北兴山县。

Zigui: Present Xingshan County in Hubei Province.

香溪 (Xiāngxī): 又名昭君溪，长江支流，位于湖北省西部。

Xiangxi (Fragrant Stream): Also known as the Zhaojun Stream. It flows through Western Hubei Province and is a tributary of the Yangtze River.

长安 (Cháng'ān): 中国汉朝的都城，今西安。

Chang'an: Capital city of the Han Dynasty, which is present Xi'an.

内蒙古 (Nèiměnggǔ): 位于中国北部边疆，是中国五个少数民族自治区之一。

Inner Mongolia: Located at the northern border of China, it is one of the five autonomous regions of China.



## 四大美女<sup>[1]</sup>之王昭君

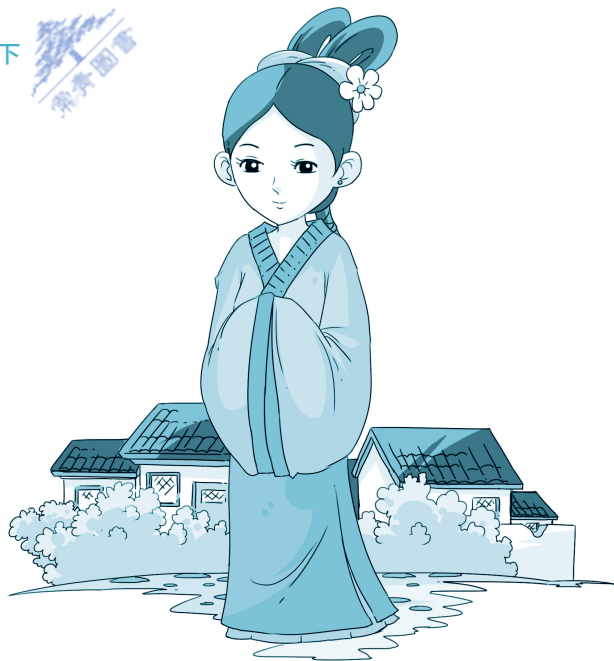
① 古代 (gǔdài) *n.*  
ancient times  
e.g., 中国古代有很多有意思的故事。

② 汉朝 (Hàncháo) *n.*  
Han Dynasty, a period in ancient China (206 BC-220 AD), which is also called 汉代.  
e.g., 汉朝的皇帝姓刘。

③ 河 (hé) *n.* river  
e.g., 河水向东流。

④ 流 (liú) *v.* (of water) flow  
e.g., 她哭了，流下了泪水。

中国古代<sup>①</sup>有四大美女，汉朝<sup>②</sup>的王昭君就是其中的一个。王昭君出生在湖北省的秭归，一条名字叫“香溪”的小河<sup>③</sup>从她家门前流<sup>④</sup>过。昭君从小就很漂亮，她的眼睛像香溪的



## Four Ancient Beauties: Wang Zhaojun

There were four great beauties in ancient China, among them was Wang Zhaojun who lived during the Han Dynasty. She was born in Zigui, Hubei Province. There was a small river called Xiangxi (Fragrant Stream) that flowed past the front door of her house. Zhaojun was very pretty even at an early age; her eyes were as clear as the water of the Fragrant Stream, her face was so pure and delicate that it looked like a peach flower, and her figure was as graceful as a willow tree. Everyone said that she looked just like a fairy maiden from heaven.

Zhaojun's parents and brother loved her dearly, and they invited several educators to teach her reading, the *pipa* and drawing. Little Zhaojun was a quick learner. She liked to play the *pipa* very much and was quite good at it. Upon hearing her *pipa* music, people would often forget what they were doing, and even the little birds that were flying in the sky would sit in the trees to listen. Zhaojun often thought while playing the *pipa*, "What will my future be like? Am I going to follow the path of my neighbors by marrying an average man, giving birth to several lovely children and then spending the rest of my life in a dull and prosaic way?"

Time had passed like this until Zhaojun reached 16. It never occurred to anybody that a major event was about to take place in her family. One morning, a county officer made a sudden visit



## 练习题 Reading exercises

### 一、选择题。 Choose the correct answers.

1. 中国古代最有名的美女有 ( ) 位。

- A. 一            B. 二            C. 四            D. 八

2. 王昭君出生在中国的 ( ) 省。

- A. 长安            B. 湖北            C. 河北            D. 内蒙古

3. 昭君非常喜欢弹 ( )。

- A. 古琴            B. 古筝            C. 扬琴            D. 琵琶

4. 听到昭君要进宫的事, ( ) 哭了起来。

- A. 昭君的妈妈            B. 昭君  
C. 昭君的哥哥            D. 昭君的父亲

5. 在皇宫里, 谁画得最好? ( )

- A. 皇帝            B. 王昭君            C. 小玉            D. 毛延寿

6. 小玉对昭君说的月亮和星星, 分别是指 ( )。

- A. 昭君和小玉            B. 小玉和昭君  
C. 皇帝和大臣            D. 皇帝和宫女

7. 匈奴人住在汉朝的 ( )。

- A. 东边            B. 南边  
C. 西边            D. 北边

8. 郅支单于和呼韩邪单于是 ( )。

- A. 朋友
- B. 兄弟
- C. 父子
- D. 以上都不是

9. 皇帝为什么不能把昭君留在自己的身边? ( )

- A. 皇帝不喜欢昭君
- B. 昭君不喜欢皇帝
- C. 呼韩邪单于很喜欢昭君
- D. 昭君很喜欢呼韩邪单于

10. 昭君到匈奴以后, 教给那里的人 ( ), 让他们生活得更好。

- A. 画画儿
- B. 弹琵琶
- C. 跳舞
- D. 农业生产经验

二、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”。

Decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false(F).

1. 王昭君是汉朝人, 出生在湖北秭归。 ( )

2. 昭君弹琵琶弹得非常好, 人们听到她的琵琶声, 常常会忘记自己要做的事情。 ( )

3. 昭君不希望自己的未来就像邻居家的女孩儿们那样, 和一





## 练习题答案 Keys to the exercises

### 一、选择题

1. C    2. B    3. D    4. A    5. D  
6. D    7. D    8. B    9. C    10. D

### 二、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. T    4. F    5. F  
6. T    7. F    8. F    9. T    10. F

### 三、选择填空

1. A    C    D    B  
2. E    D    F    C    B    A  
3. B    C    E    A    D

### 四、连线题

1. A-b, B-a, C-c, D-f, E-d, F-e  
2. A-c, B-d, C-b, D-a

### 五、请根据故事内容给下列句子排列顺序

F-H-E-J-A-G-B-C-I-K-D

## 词汇表 Vocabulary List

安宁	<i>adj.</i>	ānníng	peaceful, tranquil
安慰	<i>v.</i>	ānwèi	comfort, console
败	<i>v.</i>	bài	fail
办法	<i>n.</i>	bànfǎ	solution, method
边境	<i>n.</i>	biānjìng	border, frontier
部分	<i>n.</i>	bùfen	part, section
财富	<i>n.</i>	cáifù	wealth, fortune
草原	<i>n.</i>	cǎoyuán	grassland
长官	<i>n.</i>	zhǎngguān	officer
处理	<i>v.</i>	chǔlǐ	handle, deal with
赐	<i>v.</i>	cì	grant
聪明	<i>adj.</i>	cōngmíng	smart, clever
打仗	<i>v.</i>	dǎzhàng	fight a war
大臣	<i>n.</i>	dàchén	cabinet minister (of a monarch)
呆	<i>v.</i>	dāi	be stunned
单于	<i>n.</i>	chányú	Chanyu, title of the Xiongnu chief
弹	<i>v.</i>	tán	play (a musical instrument)
度过	<i>v.</i>	dùguò	spend
繁华	<i>adj.</i>	fánhuá	prosperous, bustling
反悔	<i>v.</i>	fǎnhuǐ	go back on one's promise
反应	<i>v.</i>	fǎnyìng	respond, react
妃子	<i>n.</i>	fēizi	imperial concubine
粉嫩	<i>adj.</i>	fěnnèn	(of skin) pink and delicate
封号	<i>n.</i>	fēnghào	title granted by the emperor
各自	<i>pron.</i>	gèzì	each, respective
公主	<i>n.</i>	gōngzhǔ	princess