



Chinese Graded Reader

Level 1: 300 Characters

# 红猴的价格

Hóng Hóu de Jiàgé

## **The Ransom of Red Chief [SAMPLE]**

by O. Henry

Mind Spark Press LLC

SHANGHAI

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# **Mandarin Companion Graded Readers**

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Now you can read books in Chinese that are fun and help accelerate language learning. Every book in the Mandarin Companion series is carefully written to use characters, words, and grammar that a learner is likely to know.

The Mandarin Companion Leveling System has been meticulously developed through an in-depth analysis of textbooks, education programs and natural Chinese language. Every story is written in a simple style that is fun and easy to understand so you improve with each book.

## **Mandarin Companion Level 1**

Level 1 is intended for Chinese learners at an upper-elementary level. Most learners will be able to approach this book after one to two years of formal study, depending on the learner and program. This series is designed to combine simplicity of characters with an easy-to-understand storyline which helps learners to expand their vocabularies and language comprehension abilities. The more they read, the better they will become at reading and grasping the Chinese language.

Level 1 is based on a core set of 300 fundamental characters, ensuring each book's vocabulary will be simple everyday words that the reader is most likely to know. Level 1 books contain approximately 400 unique words, introducing a limited number of new key words relevant to the story.

Key words are added gradually over the course of the story accompanied by a numbered footnote for each instance. Pinyin and an English definition are provided at the bottom of the page for the first instance of each key word, and a complete glossary is provided at the back of the book. All proper nouns have been underlined to help the reader distinguish between names and other words.

## **What level is right for me?**

If you are able to comfortably read this book without looking up lots of words, then this book is likely at your level. It is ideal to have at most only one unknown word or character for every 40-50 words or characters that are read.

Once you are able to read fluidly and quickly without interruption you are ready for the next level. Even if you are able to understand all of the words in the book, we recommend that readers build fluidity and reading speed before moving to higher levels.

## **How will this help my Chinese?**

Reading extensively in a language you are learning is one of the most effective ways to build fluency. However, the key is to read at a high level of comprehension. Reading at the appropriate level in Chinese will increase your speed of character recognition, help you to acquire vocabulary faster, teach you to naturally learn grammar, and train your brain to think in Chinese. It also makes learning Chinese more fun and enjoyable. You will experience the sense of accomplishment and confidence that only comes from reading entire books in Chinese.

## Extensive Reading

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After years of studying Chinese, many people ask, “why can’t I become fluent in Chinese?” Fluency can only happen when the language enters our “comfort zone.” This comfort comes after significant exposure to and experience with the language. The more times you meet a word, phrase, or grammar point the more readily it will enter your comfort zone.

In the world of language research, experts agree that learners can acquire new vocabulary through reading only if the overall text can be understood. Decades of research indicate that if we know approximately 98% of the words in a book, we can comfortably “pick up” the 2% that is unfamiliar. Reading at this 98% comprehension level is referred to as “extensive reading.”

Research in extensive reading has shown that it accelerates vocabulary learning and helps the learner to naturally understand grammar. Perhaps most importantly, it trains the brain to automatically recognize familiar language, thereby freeing up mental energy to focus on meaning and ideas. As they build reading speed and fluency, learners will move from reading “word by word” to processing “chunks of language.” A defining feature is that it’s less painful than the “intensive reading” commonly used in textbooks. In fact, extensive reading can be downright fun.

## Graded Readers

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Graded readers are the best books for learners to “extensively” read. Research has taught us that learners need to “encounter” a word 10-30 times before truly learning it, and often many more times for particularly complicated or abstract words. Graded readers are appropriate for learners because the language is controlled and simplified, as opposed to the language in native texts, which is inevitably difficult and often demotivating. Reading extensively with graded readers allows learners to bring together all of the language they have studied and absorb how the words naturally work together.

To become fluent, learners must not only understand the meaning of a word, but also understand its nuances, how to use it in conversation, how to pair it with other words, where it fits into natural word order, and how it is used in grammar structures. No textbook could ever be written to teach all of this explicitly. When used properly, a textbook introduces the language and provides the basic meanings, while graded readers consolidate, strengthen, and deepen understanding.

Without graded readers, learners would have to study dictionaries, textbooks, sample dialogs, and simple conversations until they have randomly encountered enough Chinese for it to enter their comfort zones. With proper use of graded readers, learners can tackle this issue and develop greater fluency now, at their current levels, instead of waiting until some period in the distant future. With a stronger foundation and greater confidence at their current levels, learners are encouraged and motivated to continue their Chinese studies to even greater heights. Plus, they’ll quickly learn that reading Chinese is fun!

## About Mandarin Companion

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Mandarin Companion was started by Jared Turner and John Pasden who met one fateful day on a bus in Shanghai when the only remaining seat left them sitting next to each other. A year later, Jared had greatly improved his Chinese using extensive reading but was frustrated at the lack of suitable reading materials. He approached John with the prospect of creating their own series. Having worked in Chinese education for nearly a decade, John was intrigued with the idea and thus began the Mandarin Companion series.

John majored in Japanese in college, but started learning Mandarin and later moved to China where his learning accelerated. After developing language proficiency, he was admitted into an all-Chinese masters program in applied linguistics at East China Normal University in Shanghai. Throughout his learning process, John developed an open mind to different learning styles and a tendency to challenge conventional wisdom in the field of teaching Chinese. He has since worked at ChinesePod as academic director and host, and opened his own consultancy, AllSet Learning, in Shanghai to help individuals acquire Chinese language proficiency. He lives in Shanghai with his wife and children.

After graduate school and with no Chinese language skills, Jared decided to move to China with his young family in search of career opportunities. Later while working on an investment project, Jared learned about extensive reading and decided that if it was as effective as it claimed to be, it could help him learn Chinese. In three months, he read 10 Chinese graded readers and his language ability quickly improved from speaking words and phrases to a conversational level. Jared has an MBA from Purdue University and a bachelor in Economics from the University of Utah. He lives in Shanghai with his wife and children.

## Credits

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Original Author: O. Henry

Editor-in-Chief: John Pasden

Content Editor: Chen Shishuang

Adapted by: Liu Xumei

Illustrator: Hu Sheng

Producer: Jared Turner

## Acknowledgments

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Thank you also to our awesome testers, Kendra Lindsay, Vanessa Dewey, and Jane Bethea.

Finally, thanks to *Journey to the West* for providing just the right cultural context to allow us to adapt this classic short story to a Chinese context.

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## Story Adaptation Notes

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Perhaps best known for *The Gift of the Magi*, O. Henry is a well-known American writer of short stories. Written in 1910, the story *The Ransom of Red Chief* brilliantly tapped into a rich vein of comedy associated with the many difficulties of caring for a mischievous child. The “Red Chief” in the title, however, calls attention to the very different culture of the time, when “cowboys and Indians” was the most common game all children knew, and the United States had barely even begun to address its real issues of racial equality.

This Mandarin Companion graded reader has been adapted into a fully localized Chinese version of the original story. Alabama around the turn of the century is swapped out for backwoods Shanxi around the turn of the millennium. The characters have been given authentic Chinese names as opposed to transliterations of English names, which sound foreign in Chinese.

Clearly, the original “Red Chief” does not work in a Chinese context, even though the story’s larger theme of a child so unruly that he can barely be contained is all too familiar in the modern Chinese one-child household. And yet Chinese kids do have a uniquely Chinese hero all their own, unparalleled in his naughtiness: Sun Wukong, the Monkey King from *Journey to the West*. Thus, our story uses its own version of Sun Wukong, a modern-day, fictional caped simian superhero named 红猴 (Hóng Hóu), and gleefully jettisons the anachronistic “Red Chief.” You won’t miss him at all.

## Character Adaptations

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The following is a list of the characters from *The Ransom of Red Chief* in Chinese followed by their corresponding English names from Henry's original story. There are, of course, other characters in the story besides these, but many do not have exact correspondences to the original. The names below aren't translations; they're new Chinese names used for the Chinese versions of the original characters. Think of them as all-new characters in a Chinese story.

老马 (Lǎo Mǎ) - Bill

林哥 (Lín Gē) - Sam

高先生 (Gāo Xiānsheng) - Dorset

红猴 (Hóng Hóu) - Johnny

## Cast of Characters

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老马  
(Lǎo Mǎ)



林哥  
(Lín Gē)



高先生  
(Gāo Xiānsheng)



红猴  
(Hóng Hóu)

## Locations

### 西安 (Xī'ān)

The capital of Shaanxi Province, Xi'an is famous for being one of the Four Great Ancient Capitals and home of the famous Terracotta Warriors. In this story Xi'an is simply the largest city in this area of China's relatively less prosperous northwest region.

### 山西 (Shānxī)

Not to be confused with next-door province "Shaanxi" (where Xi'an is), Shanxi Province in northern China is arid and mountainous.



## — Chapter 1 —

# 一个生意

1995年的一天，我和老马来到了山西的一个村子。那时候，我们很想去西安做生意，可是只有六百多块钱。

“不行，”我对老马说，“六百多块太少了。我们要买吃的东西，还要坐车。如果去西安做生意，最少还要两千块。”

“可是我们去哪儿找那么多钱？”老马看起来很不开心。

“我们可以先在这里做一个小‘生意’。”  
我看着前面的村子说。

1 村子 (cūnzi) *n.* village, town

2 生意 (shēngyì) *n.* business

3 买 (mǎi) *v.* to buy

4 起来 (qǐlái) *v.* to get up

5 开心 (kāixīn) *adj.* happy

这个村子不太大，人也不多，但是每家都很有钱。大人们去工作的时候，孩子们就在一起玩。他们开心的笑声让我想到了一个好办法。

“村子里的人很爱他们的孩子，他们也很很有钱。如果我们抓走一个孩子，他的父母一定会给我们钱，让我们放孩子回家。这里没有警察，别的村子的警察来的时候，我们早就跑了。”

“这个办法好。”老马开心地说，“村子西边有一个山，山上有个山洞，我们可以买一些吃的放在那里。抓到孩子以后，就带他去那儿。”

6 有钱 (yǒuqián) *adj.* rich; to have money

7 笑 (xiào) *v.* to laugh, to smile

8 想到 (xiǎngdào) *v.* to think of

9 办法 (bànfǎ) *n.* way of doing

10 抓 (zhuā) *v.* to grab

11 放 (fàng) *v.* to put, to release

12 警察 (jǐngchá) *n.* police

13 跑 (pǎo) *v.* to run

14 山洞 (shāndòng) *n.* cave (in the mountains)

15 带 (dài) *v.* to carry



我们都觉得抓 高先生 的儿子最好。  
高先生 是 村子里 最有 钱 的人，两千块这  
个 价格 对他来说，应该不高。再说，他只  
有一个八岁的儿子，所以他一定会给钱的。

我和 老马 在他家外面看了几天，高先生

不在家的时候，孩子就在外面玩。他只有八岁，但是力气不小，常常打别的孩子。村子里的孩子都不喜欢跟他一起玩，所以他总是一个人玩。

村子里的大人也不喜欢这个孩子，因为他常常拿别人家的东西，还用石头在别人的车上写字。他一直以为别人都不知道是他做的坏事。别人问他的时候，他也从来不说“对不起”。

高先生的儿子不喜欢上学。如果高先生发现儿子没去上学，一定会打他。可是，他儿子还是不听话，高先生也没办法。

17 力气 (lìqì) *n.* strength

18 拿 (ná) *n.* to pick up

19 石头 (shítou) *n.* stone

20 以为 (yǐwéi) *n.* to (mistakenly) think that

21 从来不 (cónglái bù) *phrase* never

22 上学 (shàngxué) *vt.* to go to school

23 发现 (fāxiàn) *n.* to discover

24 还是 (háishi) *conj.; adv.* still; had better

25 听话 (tīnghuà) *vt.* to be obedient, to listen



“这个孩子是不好管，”老马说，“不过，  
26  
如果我是他爸爸，我一定会想办法让他  
9  
听话。”  
25

“对，他只是一个八岁的孩子，我们是

大人，一定有办法管他。”我想了一下，又说：“明天等高先生 出门，我们就去抓人，然后给高先生 写信 要钱。”

“林哥，我们很快就有钱去西安做生意了！”老马开心地笑了，“明天我们先去买一些吃的放在山洞里，再去抓人。”

27 等 (děng) *n.* to wait

28 出门 (chūmén) *va.* to go out the door

29 信 (xìn) *n.* letter

30 很快 (hěn kuài) *phrase* quickly, soon

We hope you enjoyed this sample chapter.  
For the full version and other books in this series, please visit:  
[www.MandarinCompanion.com](http://www.MandarinCompanion.com)

## Key Words 关键词 (Guānjiàncí)

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1. 村子 (cūnzi) *n.* village, town
2. 生意 (shēngyì) *n.* business
3. 买 (mǎi) *n.* to buy
4. 起来 (qǐlai) *n.* to get up
5. 开心 (kāixīn) *adj.* happy
6. 有钱 (yǒuqián) *adj.* rich; to have money
7. 笑 (xiào) *n.* to laugh, to smile
8. 想到 (xiǎngdào) *vt.* to think of
9. 办法 (bànfǎ) *n.* way of doing
10. 抓 (zhuā) *n.* to grab
11. 放 (fàng) *n.* to put, to release
12. 警察 (jǐngchá) *n.* police
13. 跑 (pǎo) *n.* to run
14. 山洞 (shāndòng) *n.* cave (in the mountains)
15. 带 (dài) *n.* to carry
16. 价格 (jiàgé) *n.* price
17. 力气 (lìqi) *n.* strength
18. 拿 (ná) *n.* to pick up
19. 石头 (shítou) *n.* stone
20. 以为 (yǐwéi) *n.* to (mistakenly) think that
21. 从来不 (cónglái bù) *phrase* never
22. 上学 (shàngxué) *vt.* to go to school
23. 发现 (fāxiàn) *n.* to discover
24. 还是 (háishi) *conj.; adv.* still; had better
25. 听话 (tīnghuà) *vt.* to be obedient, to listen
26. 管 (guǎn) *n.* to manage, to handle
27. 等 (děng) *n.* to wait
28. 出门 (chūmén) *vt.* to go out the door
29. 信 (xìn) *n.* letter
30. 很快 (hěn kuài) *phrase* quickly, soon

31. 开车 (kāichē) *va.* to drive (a car)
32. 高兴 (gāoxìng) *adj.* happy
33. 件 (jiàn) *mm.* [measure word for clothing, incidents]
34. 哭 (kū) *v.* to cry
35. 大叫 (dàjiào) *n.* to cry out loudly
36. 大声 (dàshēng) *adv.* loudly
37. 打开 (dǎkāi) *vc.* to open
38. 怕 (pà) *v.* to fear
39. 用力 (yònglì) *va.* to use force
40. 厉害 (lìhai) *adj.* impressive
41. 放心 (fàngxīn) *v.* to relax
42. 睡觉 (shuìjiào) *va.* to sleep
43. 衣服 (yīfu) *n.* clothing
44. 累 (lèi) *adj.* tired
45. 睡着 (shuìzháo) *vc.* to fall asleep
46. 穿 (chuān) *v.* to put on, to wear
47. 小心 (xiǎoxīn) *v.* to be careful
48. 洞口 (dòngkǒu) *n.* mouth of a cave
49. 奇怪 (qíguài) *adj.* strange
50. 树 (shù) *n.* tree
51. 往 (wǎng) *cov.* toward
52. 好像 (hǎoxiàng) *adv.* it seems (that)
53. 换 (huàn) *v.* to change
54. 像 (xiàng) *v.* to resemble
55. 生气 (shēngqì) *va.* to get angry
56. 虫子 (chóngzi) *n.* bug, insect, worm
57. 好玩 (hǎowán) *adj.* fun, amusing
58. 一下子 (yīxiàzi) *adv.* all at once
59. 骑 (qí) *v.* to ride on
60. 身上 (shēnshang) *n.* on one's body
61. 抓住 (zhuāzhù) *vc.* to grab hold of
62. 送 (sòng) *v.* to send, to deliver, to take (someone to a place)

63. 相信 (xiāngxìn) *n.* to believe
64. 告诉 (gàosu) *n.* to tell
65. 没想到 (méi xiǎngdào) *phrase* to never have imagined
66. 马上 (mǎshàng) *adv.* right away
67. 放下 (fàngxia) *vc.* to put down
68. 可怕 (kěpà) *adj.* scary
69. 里面 (lǐmiàn) *n.* inside
70. 肉 (ròu) *n.* meat
71. 包子 (bāozi) *n.* steamed bun
72. 卖 (mài) *n.* to sell
73. 不用 (bùyòng) *phrase* no need
74. 草 (cǎo) *n.* grass
75. 破 (pò) *adj.* worn out, beat-up
76. 出国 (chūguó) *vc.* to leave the country
77. 难过 (nánguò) *adj.* upset, sad
78. 帮 (bāng) *n.* to help
79. 包 (bāo) *n.* bag, pack
80. 关系 (guānxi) *n.* relationship
81. 刚才 (gāngcái) *adv.* just now
82. 真话 (zhēnhuà) *n.* the truth (lit. “true speech”)
83. 发生 (fāshēng) *n.* to happen
84. 火 (huǒ) *n.* fire
85. 可能 (kěnéng) *aux.; n.* possibly; possibility
86. 可笑 (kěxiào) *adj.* laughable
87. 从来没 (cónglái méi) *phrase* have never
88. 难听 (nántīng) *adj.* terrible-sounding
89. 试试 (shìshi) *phrase* to give it a try
90. 慢慢地 (mànmàn de) *adv.* slowly

# Part of Speech Key

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*adj.* Adjective

*adv.* Adverb

*aux.* Auxiliary Verb

*conj.* Conjunction

*cov.* Coverb

*mw.* Measure word

*n.* Noun

*on.* Onomatopoeia

*part.* Particle

*prep.* Preposition

*pn.* Proper noun

*tn.* Time Noun

*v.* Verb

*vc.* Verb plus complement

*vo.* Verb plus object

# Discussion Questions

## 讨论问题 (Tǎolùn Wèntí)

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### Chapter 1 一个生意

1. 老马和林哥为什么要抓孩子?
2. 高先生是谁? 为什么村子里的人都不喜欢他儿子?
3. 你觉得父母可以打孩子吗? 为什么?
4. 你小时候做过什么坏事吗? 请说一说。

### Chapter 2 抓人

1. 去抓孩子以前, 老马和林哥想了什么办法让孩子跟他们走?
2. 第一次, 孩子不听他们的话, 所以林哥又想了什么办法? 如果你是林哥, 你会想什么办法?
3. 孩子为什么很喜欢山里, 也不想回家?
4. 你小时候, 有没有在外面跟不认识的人一起住过? 你会怕吗? 请说一说。

### Chapter 3 红猴来了

1. 孩子和红猴是什么关系?
2. 红猴为什么要打老马?
3. 为什么老马不想让红猴找到他的衣服?
4. 如果坏人抓住了你, 你会想什么办法回家?
5. 如果你是林哥和老马, 你会怎么写这个信?

### Chapter 4 写信

1. 你觉得林哥怕红猴吗? 如果让你跟这样的孩子在一起住几天, 你会怎么办?
2. 为什么老马要让高先生多给一千块?
3. 孩子让老马跟他一起玩的时候, 老马为什么不开心?
4. 如果让你跟一个不听话的孩子在一起, 你会想什么办法让他听话?

## Chapter 5 送信

1. 送完信以后，林哥做了什么？
2. 在高先生家工作的人也知道孩子不见了，她怎么看这件事？
3. 你觉得高先生正在找孩子吗？为什么？
4. 林哥回来的时候，红猴在做什么？
5. 如果你认识的一个人总是对你很不好，可是你每天都会见到他，你会怎么办？

## Chapter 6 有钱人的孩子

1. 为什么高先生不让自己的孩子跟别的孩子玩？
2. 为什么高先生很有钱，可是他儿子一点也不开心？
3. 你的父母会给你钱吗？你会怎么花这些钱？
4. 在中国，很多有钱人想送孩子出国，在你的国家呢？

## Chapter 7 回信

1. 下山以后，林哥为什么要先去村子里看看？
2. 高先生的回信里有钱吗？林哥他们看到信以后怎么想？
3. 你觉得林哥他们会给五百块钱吗？为什么？
4. 老马为什么要送孩子回去？

## Chapter 8 新的价格

1. 说一说林哥的第二个信是怎么写的。
2. 村子里的人为什么不喜欢这个孩子？你觉得他是坏孩子吗？为什么？
3. 如果你是林哥，你还会去送第二个信吗？为什么？

## Chapter 9 最后的价格

1. 最后的价格是多少？你觉得高先生这次会给钱吗？为什么？
2. 他们为什么要很晚的时候开车去村子里？
3. 如果孩子发现了他们带他回家了，你觉得会发生什么？

## Chapter 10 再见

1. 高先生一直没告诉警察，也没让警察来抓他们，你觉得这是为什么？
2. 如果你是高先生，你会马上让警察来抓林哥和老马吗？为什么？
3. 林哥为什么要给高先生五百块钱？如果你是林哥，你会怎么做？为什么？
4. 你觉得这个故事好玩吗？为什么？

## Appendix A: Character Comparison Reference

This appendix is designed to help Chinese teachers and learners use the Mandarin Companion graded readers as a companion to the most popular university textbooks and the HSK word lists.

The tables below compare the characters and vocabulary used in other study materials with those found in this Mandarin Companion graded reader. The tables below will display the exact characters and vocabulary used in this book and not covered by these sources. A learner who has studied these textbooks will likely find it easier to read this graded reader by focusing on these characters and words.

### Integrated Chinese Level 1, Part 1-2 (3rd Ed.)

*Words and characters in this story not covered by these textbooks:*

Character	Pinyin	Word(s)	Pinyin
猴	hóu	红猴 猴子	Hóng Hóu hóuzi
林	lín	林哥	Lín Gē
村	cūn	村子	cūnzi
抓	zhuā	抓 抓住	zhuā zhuāzhù
山	shān	山 山洞	shān shāndòng
声	shēng	一声 大声 小声	yī shēng dàshēng xiǎoshēng
洞	dòng	山洞 洞口 洞	shāndòng dòngkǒu dòng
树	shù	树	shù
石	shí	石头	shítou

Character	Pinyin	Word(s)	Pinyin
厉	lì	厉害	lìhai
害	hài	厉害	lìhai
管	guǎn	管	guǎn
虫	chóng	虫子	chóngzi
价	jià	价格	jiàgé
格	gé	价格	jiàgé
警	jǐng	警察	jǐngchá
察	chá	警察	jǐngchá
骑	qí	骑马 骑马	qí qímǎ
破	pò	破	pò
门	mén	出门 门口 车门 大门	chūmén ménkǒu chēmén dàmén
草	cǎo	草	cǎo
总	zǒng	总是	zǒngshì
相	xiāng	相信	xiāngxìn
刀	dāo	刀	dāo
火	huǒ	火	huǒ
怪	guài	奇怪	qíguài
奇	qí	奇怪	qíguài
杀	shā	杀死	shāsi

## New Practical Chinese Reader, Books 1-2 (1st Ed.)

*Words and characters in this story not covered by these textbooks:*

Character	Pinyin	Word(s)	Pinyin
猴	hóu	红猴 猴子	Hóng Hóu hóuzi

Character	Pinyin	Word(s)	Pinyin
洞	dòng	山洞 洞口 洞	shāndòng dòngkǒu dòng
厉	lì	厉害	lìhai
虫	chóng	虫子	chóngzi
直	zhí	一直	yīzhí
价	jià	价格	jiàgé
破	pò	破	pò
草	cǎo	草	cǎo
更	gèng	更	gèng
杀	shā	杀死	shāsi
奇	qí	奇怪	qíguài
怪	guài	奇怪	qíguài
父	fù	父母	fùmǔ
母	mǔ	父母	fùmǔ
近	jìn	近	jìn

## Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi (HSK) Levels 1-3

*Words and characters in this story not covered by these levels:*

Character	Pinyin	Word(s)	Pinyin
猴	hóu	红猴 猴子	Hóng Hóu hóuzi
林	lín	林哥	Lín Gē
村	cūn	村子	cūnzi
抓	zhuā	抓 抓住	zhuā zhuāzhù
洞	dòng	山洞 洞口 洞	shāndòng dòngkǒu dòng

Character	Pinyin	Word(s)	Pinyin
石	shí	石头	shítou
厉	lì	厉害	lìhai
管	guǎn	管	guǎn
死	sǐ	杀死	shāsǐ
虫	chóng	虫子	chóngzi
价	jià	价格	jiàgé
格	gé	价格	jiàgé
警	jǐng	警察	jǐngchá
察	chá	警察	jǐngchá
破	pò	破	pò
刀	dāo	刀	dāo
杀	shā	杀死	shāsǐ
父	fù	父母	fùmǔ
母	mǔ	父母	fùmǔ

## Appendix B: Grammar Point Index

For learners new to reading Chinese, an understanding of grammar points can be extremely helpful for learners and teachers. The following is a list of the most challenging grammar points used in this graded reader.

These grammar points correspond to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) level A2 or above. The full list with explanations and examples of each grammar point can be found on the Chinese Grammar Wiki, the definitive source of information on Chinese grammar online.

CHAPTER 1	
Special verbs with “hen”	很 + Verb
Actions in a row	(Verb Phrase 1) + (Verb Phrase 2)
Two words for “but”	……, 可是 / 但是……
Expressing “only” with “zhi”	只 + Verb
Indicating a number in excess	Number + 多
Using “dui” with verbs	对 + Noun……
Auxiliary verb “yao” and its multiple meanings	要 + Noun / 要 + Verb
Expressing “and also” with “hai”	还 + Verb
Modifying nouns with phrase + “de”	Phrase + 的 + Noun
Adjectives with “name” and “zheme”	那么 / 这么 + Adj.
Appearance with “kanqilai”	看起来……
Indicating location with “zai” before verbs	Subj. + 在 + Place + Verb
Aspect particle “zhe”	Verb + 着
Expressing “not very” with “bu tai”	不太 + Adj.
Expressing “every” with “mei”	每 + Measure Word (+ Noun)
Expressing “when” with “de shihou”	……的时候
Emphasizing quantity with “dou”	大家 / 很多人 + 都……

Expressing “together” with “yiqi”	一起 + Verb
Modifying nouns with adjective + “de”	Adj. + 的 + Noun
Expressing completion with “le”	Subj. + Verb + 了 + Obj.
Causative verbs	Noun 1 + 让 / 叫 / 请 + Noun 2. . . . .
Expressing earliness with “jiu”	Subj. + Time Word + 就 + Verb + 了
Expressing “if..., then...” with “ruguo..., jiu...”	如果 . . . . . , 就 . . . . .
Expressing “will” with “hui”	会 + Verb
Verbs that take double objects	Subj. + Verb + Indirect Obj. + Direct Obj.
Turning adjectives into adverbs	Adj. + 地 + Verb
Structural particle “de”	的 / 得 / 地
Expressing “some” with “yixie”	一些 + Noun
Special cases of “zai” following verbs	Verb + 在 + Place
Tricky uses of “dao”	Verb + 到
Superlative “zui”	最 + Adj.
Phrases using “laishuo”	. . . . . 来说
Expressing “in addition” with “zaishuo”	再说 . . . . .
Using “gen” to mean “with”	跟 . . . . . + Verb
Cause and effect with “yinwei” and “suoyi”	因为 . . . . . 所以 . . . . .
Expressing “always” with “zongshi”	总是 + Verb
Expressing “all along” with “yizhi”	Subj. + 一直 + Predicate
Expressing “mistakenly think that” with “yiwei”	以为 . . . . .
Expressing “never” with “conglai”	从来 + 不 / 没(有) + Verb
Continuation with “hai”	还在 + Verb / Adj.
Using “hao” to mean “easy”	好 + Verb

A softer “but” with “buguo”	……, 不过……
Verbing briefly with “yixia”	Verb + 一下
After a specific time with “yihou”	Time / Verb + 以后
Verbs preceded by “gei”	Subj. + 给 + Target + Verb + Obj.
Sequencing with “xian” and “zai”	先……再……
Expressing “when” with “dengdao”	等(到) + …… , Subj. + 再 / 就 / 才……
<b>CHAPTER 2</b>	
Result complements	Verb + 好
Using “dao” to mean “to go to”	到 + Place
Expressing “already” with “yijing”	已经……了
Using “de” (modal particle)	……的
Simultaneous tasks with “yibian”	一边 + Verb 1, 一边 + Verb 2
Measure words for verbs	Verb + Number + Measure Word
Expressing “again” in the past with “you”	又 + Verb
Result complements “-dao” and “-jian”	Verb + 到 / 见
Expressing “just” with “gang”	Subj. + 刚 + Verb
Doing something more with “duo”	多 + Verb
Softening speech with “ba”	……吧
Expressing “again” in the future with “zai”	再 + Verb
Direction complement	Verb (+ Direction) + 来 / 去
Questions with “le ma”	Verb + 了 + 吗?
Name-calling with “zhege”	Noun + 这个 + Category
Expressing “really” with “zhen”	真 + Adj.
Negative commands with “bie”	别 + Verb
Expressing “much more” in comparisons	Noun 1 + 比 + Noun 2 + Adj. + 多了 / 得多
Intensifying with “duo”	Subj. + 多 + Adj.

Using “ji” to mean “several”	几 + Measure Word + Noun
Expressing “not at all” with “yidianr ye bu”	Subj. + 一点 + 也 / 都 + 不 + Adj.
Complement “-huai le”	Verb + 坏了
<b>CHAPTER 3</b>	
Emphasis with “ju”	就 (是) + Verb
Expressing actions in progress with “zai”	(正) 在 + Verb
Using the “shi... de” construction	是……的
Comparing “chao” “xiang” and “wang”	朝 vs 向 vs 往
Expressing “it seems” with “haoxiang”	好像……
Expressing “a little too” with “you dian”	有点 (儿) + Adj.
Conceding with “ba”	……吧
Expressing “all at once” with “yixiazi”	Subj. + 一下子 + Verb + 了
Advanced result complements	Verb + 住
Basic comparisons with “bi”	Noun 1 + 比 + Noun 2 + Adj.
Negative adjectives with “-si le”	Adj. + 死了
Result complement “-qilai”	Verb + 起来
Expressing “in this way” with “zheyang”	Condition, 这样 + Result / Purpose
Potential complement	Verb + 得 / 不……
<b>CHAPTER 4</b>	
Reduplication of verbs	Verb + Verb
Expressing “difficult” with “nan”	难 + Verb
Conceding a point with “shi”	Adj. + 是 + Adj., 但是……
Expressing “about to happen” with “le”	快 + Verb / Adj. + 了
Expressing “had better” with “haishi”	还是 + Verb
Expressing “for” with “gei”	Subj. + 给 + Recipient + Verb + Obj.

**CHAPTER 5**

Expressing “even more” with “geng”	更 + Adj.
Expressing “every” with question words	谁 / 哪里 + 都
Inability with “mei banfa”	没办法 + Verb
Asking why with “zenme”	怎么 ……?
Expressing lateness with “cai”	Subj. + Time + 才 + Verb-Obj.
Expressing experiences with “guo”	Verb + 过

**CHAPTER 6**

Expressing “should” with “yinggai”	应该 / 该 + Verb
Expressing “both A and B” with “you”	又 …… 又 ……
Expressing “now” with “le”	…… 了
Expressing “before” in general with “yiqian”	以前, ……
Expressing “not very” with “bu zenme”	不怎么 + Adj.
Expressing “not anymore” with “le”	不 / 没(有) + Verb Phrase + 了

**CHAPTER 7**

Change of state with “le”	…… 了
Expressing “had better” with “zuihao”	Subj. + 最好 + Verb Phrase
Expressing “just now” with “gangcai”	刚才 + Verb
Using “zhe” when “verbing away”	Verb + 着 + Verb + 着

**CHAPTER 8**

Expressing location with “zai… shang / xia / li”	在 + Place + 上 / 下 / 里 / 旁边
Doing something less with “shao”	少 + Verb
Advanced yes-no questions with “ma”	…… 吗?
Expressing “everything” with “shenme dou”	什么 + 都 / 也 ……

## CHAPTER 9

Expressing “not even one”      一 + Measure Word + (Noun) + 也 /  
都 + Verb

Turning adjectives into adverbs      Adj. + 地 + Verb

## CHAPTER 10

Expressing “as long as” with “zhiyao”      只要 ·····, 就 ·····

Expressing “for” with “wei”      为 + Noun ·····

# Other Stories from Mandarin Companion

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## Level 1 Readers: 300 Characters

### **The Secret Garden** 《秘密花园》 by Frances Hodgson Burnett

After an epidemic leaves her an orphan, Li Ye is sent off to live with her reclusive uncle in his sprawling estate in Nanjing. She learns of a secret garden where no one has set foot in ten years. With the help of new friends, she brings the garden back to life and learns the healing power of friendship and love.

### **The Sixty Year Dream** 《六十年的梦》 based on Rip Van Winkle by Washington Irving

Zhou Xuefa (Rip Van Winkle) is well loved by everyone in his town, except his nagging wife. One day after a bad scolding from his wife, he goes for a walk into the mountains and meets a mysterious old man. After drinking some wine offered by the old man, Zhou Xuefa falls into a deep sleep. He awakes to a time very different than what he once knew.

### **The Monkey's Paw** 《猴爪》 by W. W. Jacobs

Mr. and Mrs. Zhang live with their grown son. One day an old friend comes to visit and tells of a monkey's paw that has magical powers to grant three wishes to the holder. Against his better judgment, he reluctantly gives the monkey paw to the Zhang family, with a warning that the wishes come with a great price for trying to change fate.

## **The Country of the Blind** 《盲人国》 by H. G. Wells

Chen Fangyuan finds himself trapped in a valley with a people for whom a disease has eliminated their vision and no longer have a concept of sight. His insistence that he can see causes the entire community to think he is crazy. Then one day the village doctors propose a disturbing cure for his insanity.

## **Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Curly-Haired Company** 《卷发公司的案子》 based on **The Red Headed League** by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Mr. Xie was recently hired by the Curly Haired Company to copy articles from a book. He was selected from hundreds of applicants because of his very curly hair. When the company unexpectedly closes, Mr. Xie visits Gao Ming (Sherlock Holmes) with his strange story. Gao Ming is certain something is not right, but will he solve the mystery in time?

## **The Prince and the Pauper** 《王子和穷孩子》 by Mark Twain

During a chance encounter, two nearly identical boys, one a poor beggar and the other a prince, exchange places. Both children soon discover that neither life is as carefree as they expected.

## **Emma** 《安末》 by Jane Austen

Clever, rich, and single, the beautiful An Mo (Emma Woodhouse) is focused on her career as fashion designer in the glamor of 21st-century Shanghai. She sees no need for romance in her life, but when she tries to find a boyfriend for her new friend Fangfang (Harriet), her carefully laid plans begin to unravel. As she ignores the warnings of her good friend Shi Wenzheng (Mr. Knightley), her decisions bring consequences that she never expected. With its witty and charming characters, Emma is often seen as Jane Austen's most flawless work.

### **Level 2 Readers: 450 Characters**

## **Great Expectations: Part 1** 《美好的前途（上）》 by Charles Dickens

In Part 1, Xiaomao is raised by his short-tempered older sister and her husband outside of Shanghai. After meeting the beautiful Bingbing (Estella), Xiaomao dreams of leaving his life of poverty behind. His prospects for the future are bleak, until one day a mysterious benefactor gives Xiaomao the opportunity of a lifetime.

## **Great Expectations: Part 2** 《美好的前途（下）》 by Charles Dickens

In Part 2, Xiaomao (Pip) leaves his life of poverty behind to seek his fortunes in Shanghai and win the heart of the beautiful yet cold-hearted Bingbing (Estella). Xiaomao's world is turned upside down when his mysterious benefactor is revealed and his deepest secrets are brought into the light of day.

## **Journey to the Center of the Earth** 《地心游记》 by Jules Verne

Join Professor Luo and his niece Xiaojing in their daring quest down the mouth of a volcano to reach the center of the earth. Guided by a mysterious passage on an ancient parchment and accompanied by their faithful guide Lao Xu, the three explorers encounter subterranean phenomena, prehistoric animals, and vast underground seas.

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