



# 六十年的梦

Liùshí Nián de Mèng

## The Sixty Year Dream

Based on "Rip Van Winkle" by Washington Irving

# Mandarin Companion Graded Readers

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## Level 1: 300 Characters

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Based on

"Rip Van Winkle"

by Washington Irving

Mind Spark Press LLC

SHANGHAI



# 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 One

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 that helps beginner grow their vocabulary and language comprehension abilities. The more they read, the better they will become at reading and grasping the Chinese language.

Level 1 is designed around the Mandarin Companion's core set of **300 basic characters**. These basic characters ensure that most of the vocabulary will be simple everyday words that the reader is most likely to know. This series contains approximately **400 unique words**; a number low enough to make reading Chinese less intimidating, while also introducing new key words relevant

to the story.

Key words are added gradually over the course of the story. A numbered footnote indicates the first time a new word or character is introduced and the corresponding [hyperlink](#) references the glossary with pinyin and an English definition. Each additional instance of a new word is indicated by a hyperlink. All proper nouns have been underlined to help the reader distinguish between names and words.

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

If you are able to read this book with a high level of comprehension, 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 the speed of character recognition, help acquire vocabulary faster, allow readers to naturally learn grammar, and train the brain to think in Chinese. It also makes learning Chinese more fun and enjoyable. Readers will experience the sense of

accomplishment and confidence that only comes from reading entire books in Chinese.

For more information, please see [Extensive Reading and Graded Readers](#)

# Table of Contents

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*Story Adaptation Notes*

*Characters and Locations*

- 1 1931年
- 2 茶馆里的朋友
- 3 去香山
- 4 奇怪的老人
- 5 老人不见了!
- 6 这是北京吗?
- 7 什么?我死了?
- 8 1991年
- 9 六十年的事
- 10 六十年的梦

*Key Words*

*Discussion Questions*

*Extensive Reading and Graded Readers*

*Credits and Acknowledgements*

*About Mandarin Companion*

*Other Stories from Mandarin Companion*

# Story Adaptation Notes

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This story is an adaptation of American author Washington Irving's 1819 classic story, *Rip Van Winkle*. This Mandarin Companion graded reader has been adapted into a fully localized Chinese version of the original story. The characters have been given authentic Chinese names as opposed to transliterations of English names, which sound foreign in Chinese. The locations have been adapted to well-known places in China.

The story of *Rip Van Winkle* is an interesting case for adaptation because Chinese folklore has a similar story called 烂柯人 (Làn Kē Rén). In that story, the main character, 王质 (Wáng Zhì), was away for over 100 years in contrast to the American story where Rip Van Winkle slept for 20 years. This adaptation settled on the period of 60 years in order to span a specific time period in 20th century China for maximum dramatic effect.

## Character Adaptations

The following is a list of the characters from *Rip Van Winkle* in Chinese followed by their corresponding English names from Irving's original story. The names below are not translations, they are new Chinese names used for the Chinese versions of the original characters. Think of them as all-new characters in a Chinese story.

周学发 (Zhōu Xuéfā) - Rip Van Winkle

王小花 (Wáng Xiǎohuā) - Dame Van Winkle

小黑 (Xiǎo Hēi) - Wolf

周国平 (Zhōu Guópíng) - Rip Van Winkle, Jr.

周国英 (Zhōu Guóyīng) - Judith Gardenier



# Cast of Characters

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周学发  
(Zhōu Xuéfā)



小黑  
(Xiǎo Hēi)



王小花  
(Wáng Xiǎohuā)



刘老三  
(Liú Lǎo Sān)



老张  
(Lǎo Zhāng)



老胡  
(Lǎo Hú)



周欢欢  
(Zhōu Huānhuān)



奇怪的老人  
(Qíguài de Lǎorén)



周国英  
(Zhōu Guóyīng)

## Locations

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北京 Běijīng Beijing (formerly known as Peking), home of the last emperor of China and capital of modern-day China

香山 Xiāng Shān lit. "Fragrant Mountains," a famous location to the west

of Beijing

## 1931年

在北京，每个人都知道一个地方，叫香山。香山看到了北京所有的变化<sup>[1]</sup>。它看到过<sup>[2]</sup>住在北京的第<sup>[3]</sup>一个皇帝<sup>[4]</sup>，也看到过最后<sup>[5]</sup>一个皇帝。它看到过皇帝的出生<sup>[6]</sup>，也看到过皇帝的死。香山还看着每个北京人的生活<sup>[7]</sup>，它看着他们哭，也看着他们笑。北京人都觉得，香山像一个不会说话的老朋友。

1931年的北京跟以前很不一样<sup>[8]</sup>了。那时候，中国已经没有皇帝了，人们都在想中国以后会怎么样。人们真希望<sup>[9]</sup>，香山可以告诉他们。

周学发是一个北京人，他的家在香山不远的地方。周学发的爸爸以前在有钱人家里工作，每天总是<sup>[10]</sup>很早出门，很晚才回家。但是周学发跟他爸爸很不一样，他不关心<sup>[11]</sup>家里的事，也不想工作，只喜欢玩，所以他一直<sup>[12]</sup>没有钱。周学发19岁的时候，他爸爸妈妈帮<sup>[13]</sup>他找了个老婆<sup>[14]</sup>，不久以后，他的爸爸妈妈就死了。

周学发的老婆叫王小花。王小花是一个很有意思<sup>[15]</sup>的女人。她有点胖<sup>[16]</sup>，说话很大声。跟别的中国女人不同<sup>[17]</sup>，她从来不觉得女人应该听男人的话<sup>[18]</sup>。因为周学发

不喜欢在家里做事，也不想出去工作，所以家里的事总是他老婆做。这让王小花很生气<sup>[19]</sup>，她总是对周学发大声说：“我从来没有见过像你这样的男人。你为什么从来不在乎家里的事？如果我不跟你在一起，没有女人会要你。”每次王小花生气的时候，周学发就像个孩子一样，看着天，很长时间不说话。



周学发和王小花有一个儿子和一个女儿。儿子叫周国平，跟周学发很像，每天都在外面<sup>[20]</sup>玩。他有很多朋友，他不喜欢跟周学发一起玩。女儿叫周国英，比周国平

小，她不太喜欢出去玩，经常在家帮王小花做事。周学发很喜欢他的女儿，在家的時候他经常跟女儿一起玩，给她做很多好玩<sup>[21]</sup>的东西。可是如果王小花看到他跟女儿一起玩，就会很生气，因为她觉得周学发应该多做一点家里的事。





在家里，周学发只有一个朋友，就是他的狗<sup>[22]</sup>。这只狗很黑，所以周学发叫它小黑。但是王小花很不喜欢小黑，她生气的时候，也会大声对小黑说：“周学发不做事，

都是你的错。”所以小黑很怕<sup>[23]</sup>王小花，每次看到王小花，都会小心<sup>[24]</sup>地跑开<sup>[25]</sup>。

# Key Words

## 关键词 (*Guānjiàncí*)

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1. 变化 *biànhuà* *n.* change, changes
2. 看到过 *kàndàoguò* *vc.* have seen (before)
3. 第 *dì* [ordinal marker for numbers, used in "first," "second," etc.]
4. 皇帝 *huángdì* *n.* emperor
5. 最后 *zuìhòu* *adj.* last, final
6. 出生 *chūshēng* *n.* birth
7. 生活 *shēnghuó* *n.* (daily) life
8. 跟...不一样 *gēn...bù yīyàng* *phrase* not the same as...
9. 希望 *xīwàng* *v.* to hope
10. 总是 *zǒngshì* *adv.* always
11. 关心 *guānxīn* *v.* to be concerned about
12. 一直 *yīzhí* *adv.* continuously, all along
13. 帮 *bāng* *v.* to help

14. 老婆 lǎopo *n.* wife (informal)
15. 有意思 yǒuyìsi *adj.* interesting
16. 胖 pàng *adj.* fat
17. 跟...不同 gēn...bùtóng *phrase* different from...
18. 听...的话 tīng...dehuà *phrase* to listen to..., to do as... says
19. 生气 shēngqì *v.* to get angry
20. 外面 wàimiàn *n.* outside
21. 好玩 hǎowán *adj.* fun
22. 狗 gǒu *n.* dog
23. 怕 pà *v.* to be afraid of
24. 小心 xiǎoxīn *v.* to be careful
25. 跑开 pǎokāi *vc.* to run away
26. 别人 biérén *n.* other people
27. 奇怪 qíguài *adj.* strange
28. 想法 xiǎngfa *n.* thinking, idea
29. 打水 dǎshuǐ *vo.* to draw water (from a communal source)

30. 送水 sòngshuǐ *vo.* to deliver water
31. 开心 kāixīn *adj.* happy
32. 不好听 bùhǎotīng *adj.* bad-sounding, harsh, mean
33. 茶馆 cháguǎn *n.* tea house
34. 谈 tán *v.* to talk about, to discuss
35. 跟...一样 gēn...yīyàng *phrase* the same as...
36. 可能 kěnéng *adv.* possibly, maybe
37. 看起来 kànqǐlai *v.* to appear, to look (a certain way)
38. 一下子 yīxiàzi *adv.* all at once, all of a sudden
39. 听话 tīnghuà *adj.* obedient
40. 没面子 méimiànzi *phrase* humiliating, lit. "to have no face"
41. 再也没有 zài yě méiyǒu *phrase* never again have
42. 发生 fāshēng *v.* to happen, to occur
43. 木头 mùtóu *n.* wood
44. 小木头人 xiǎo mùtóu rén *phrase* little wooden figurine
45. 难过 nánguò *adj.* sad, upset

46. 地上 dìshang *n.* on the ground
47. 放心 fàngxīn *v.* to rest assured, to not worry
48. 好像 hǎoxiàng *v.* it seems that
49. 长得 zhǎngde *v.* to (physically) look (a certain way)
50. 好看 hǎokàn *adj.* good-looking
51. 漂亮 piàoliang *adj.* pretty
52. 记得 jìde *v.* to remember
53. 原因 yuányīn *n.* cause, reason
54. 花 huā *v.* to spend
55. 后来 hòulái *tn.* afterwards
56. 要不然 yàoburán *conj.* otherwise
57. 下山 xiàshān *vo.* to go down the mountain
58. 声音 shēngyīn *n.* sound, voice
59. 可怕 kěpà *adj.* frightening, scary
60. 马上 mǎshàng *adv.* right away
61. 刚才 gāngcái *tn.* just now



62. 平时 *píngshí* *adv.* usually, normally
63. 上山 *shàngshān* *vo.* to go up the mountain
64. 瘦 *shòu* *adj.* thin
65. 头发 *tóufà* *n.* hair
66. 拿不动 *nábudòng* *vc.* cannot move, cannot carry
67. 山洞 *shāndòng* *n.* cave
68. 发现 *fāxiàn* *v.* to discover
69. 天上 *tiānshàng* *n.* in heaven
70. 小河 *xiǎohé* *n.* stream, lit. "small river"
71. 样子 *yàngzi* *n.* appearance
72. 不好意思 *bùhǎoyìsi* *adj.* embarrassed
73. 睡着 *shuìzháo* *vc.* to fall asleep
74. 睡醒 *shuìxǐng* *vc.* to awake from sleep
75. 出现 *chūxiàn* *v.* to appear
76. 过分 *guòfèn* *adj.* going too far
77. 八九十岁 *bājiǔshí suì* *phrase* 80 or 90 years old

78. 胡子 húzi *n.* beard
79. 破 pò *adj.* worn out
80. 变成 biànchéng *vc.* to turn into
81. 短 duǎn *adj.* short
82. 做梦 zuòmèng *vo.* to dream
83. 越来越 yuèlái yuè *adv.* more and more
84. 睡觉 shuìjiào *vo.* to sleep
85. 要饭的 yàofànde *n.* a beggar
86. 好奇 hàoqí *adj.* curious
87. 战争 zhànzhēng *n.* war
88. 活着 huózhe *vc.* living
89. 再也不 zài yě bù *phrase* never again be
90. 方便 fāngbiàn *adj.* convenient
91. 自来水 zìláishuǐ *n.* tap water

# Part of Speech Key

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*adj.* Adjective

*adv.* Adverb

*aux.* Auxiliary Verb

*conj.* Conjunction

*mw.* Measure word

*n.* Noun

*on.* Onomatopoeia

*part.* Particle

*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: 1931年

1. 请你介绍一下周学发和他的家人。
2. 周学发的父母帮他找了一个老婆，你觉得他们做得对吗？为什么？
3. 你觉得中国女人都像王小花一样吗？为什么？
4. 王小花从来不觉得女人应该听男人的话，你觉得她的想法对吗？

### Chapter 2: 茶馆里的朋友

1. 周学发和他的朋友在茶馆里讨论什么？他们的想法是什么？
2. 像周学发这样的老公，你觉得怎么样？
3. 中国人觉得，女人在外面，应该给老公面子。你怎么

看？

4. 你有没有遇到过让你很没面子的事？请说一下。

### Chapter 3: 去香山

1. 周学发和周欢欢想在一起，可是他们的父母不让他们在一起。你觉得对吗？为什么？
2. 以前在中国，住在同一个地方的男人和女人，如果是同一个姓，就不可以在一起。这是为什么？这样的事在你的国家发生过吗？
3. 如果你的家人、朋友让你很没面子，你会怎么做？

### Chapter 4: 奇怪的老人

1. 你觉得那个奇怪的老人是什么人？
2. 你去过哪些山？你觉得它们怎么样？

### Chapter 5: 老人不见了

1. 你觉得你去过的最漂亮的地方是哪里？为什么？

2. 你第一次喝酒是什么时候？请说一个跟喝酒有关的有意思的事。
3. 现在在中国，很多人家里都只有一个孩子，这个孩子就是家里的“小皇帝”。你听说过“小皇帝”吗？你对“小皇帝”怎么看？

## Chapter 6: 这是北京吗？

1. 周学发睡醒以后发生了什么？
2. 如果你是周学发，你发现自己一下子变老了，会怎么办？
3. 如果一个东西可以让你变老或者变小，你想要吗？为什么？

## Chapter 7: 什么？我死了？

1. 周学发在他的家和以前的茶馆里，遇到了什么人？发生了什么事？
2. 如果有人向你要饭、要钱，你会怎么做？为什么？
3. 如果你一个晚上没有回家，你回家的时候发现自己变



老了，你的父母不认识你了。怎么办？

## Chapter 8: 1991年

1. 你知道六十年里，中国发生了什么变化吗？
2. 1991年的时候，你在哪里？从那个时候到现在，你的国家发生了什么变化？
3. 你觉得是什么让周学发一下子老了六十岁？

## Chapter 9: 六十年的事

1. 周国英告诉周学发，在六十年里，他的家发生了什么变化？
2. 你的国家以前有过战争吗？请说一说你对战争的看法。

## Chapter 10: 六十年的梦

1. 你觉得周学发更喜欢1931年还是1991年？为什么？
2. 如果你可以喝老人的酒，你希望发生什么变化？

3. 你希望自己老了以后的生活是什么样的？

4. 如果你写这个故事，你会怎么写？

# 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!

# Credits

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Original Author: Washington Irving

Series Editor: John Pasden

Lead Writer: Yang Renjun

Content Editor: Yu Cui

Proofreader: Zhang Pei

Illustrator: Hu Shen

Producer: Jared Turner

## Acknowledgments

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Moreover, we will be forever grateful for Yuehua Liu and Chengzhi Chu for pioneering the first graded readers in Chinese and to whom we owe a debt of gratitude for their years of tireless work to bring these type of materials to the Chinese learning community.



# 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.

# 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*

Li Ye (Mary Lennox) grew up without the love and affection of her parents. 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. Li Ye finds the garden and slowly discovers the secrets of the manor. With the help of new friends, she brings the garden back to life and learns the healing power of friendship and love.

### The Monkey's Paw 《猴爪》

*by W.W. Jacobs*

Mr. and Mrs. Zhang live with their grown son Guisheng who works at a factory. One day an old friend of Mr. Zhang comes to visit the family after having spent years traveling in the mysterious hills of China's Yunnan Province. He tells the Zhang family of a monkey's paw that has magical powers to grant three wishes to the holder. Against his better judgement, he reluctantly gives the monkey paw to the Zhang family, along with a warning

that the wishes come with a great price for trying to change ones fate...

## **The Country of the Blind 《盲人国》**

*By H.G. Wells*

“In the country of the blind, the one-eyed man is king” repeats in Chen Fangyuan’s mind after he finds himself trapped in a valley holding a community of people for whom a disease eliminated their vision many generations before and no longer have a concept of sight. Chen Fangyuan quickly finds that these people have developed their other senses to compensate for their lack of sight. His insistence that he can see causes the entire community to believe he is crazy. With no way out, Chen Fangyuan begins to accept his fate until one day the village doctors believe they now understand what is the cause of his insanity... those useless round objects in his eye sockets.

## **Sherlock Holmes and the Curly Haired Company 《卷发公司的案子》**

*Based on "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Red-Headed League" by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle*

Mr. Xie was recently hired by the Curly Haired Company. For a significant weekly allowance, he was required to sit in an office and copy articles from a book, while in the meantime his assistant looked after his shop. He had answered an advertisement in the paper and although hundreds of people

applied, he was the only one selected 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?

Mandarin companion is producing a growing library of graded readers for Chinese language learners. For the newest releases, visit [www.MandarinCompanion.com](http://www.MandarinCompanion.com)

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