Contents

编写说明 / 編寫說明 vi
Preface

教学参考 / 教學參考 x
Teaching Note

词类简称表 / 詞類簡稱表 xi
Abbreviations of Parts of Speech

Ⅰ诗词欣赏 / 詩詞欣賞 1
CLASSICAL CHINESE POEMS

1. 静夜思 / 靜夜思 3
   Missing My Hometown on a Tranquil Night

2. 春晓 / 春曉 9
   Spring Morning

3. 相思 / 相思 15
   Love Seeds

4. 悯农 / 憫農 21
   Pitying the Farmers

5. 登乐游原 / 登樂游原 27
   Visiting the Plain of Tombs
CITIES OF REPUTATION AND SITES OF HISTORICAL INTEREST

6. 中国首都北京 / 中國首都北京
China’s Capital City, Beijing 35

7. 长城 / 長城
The Great Wall 47

8. 西安兵马俑 / 西安兵馬俑
Xi’an’s Terra-Cotta Warriors and Horses 57

9. 敦煌石窟 / 敦煌石窟
Dunhuang Rock Caves 63

10. 西藏布达拉宫 / 西藏布達拉宮
Tibet’s Potala Palace 69

LOVE STORIES

11. 相濡以沫 / 相濡以沫
Giving One’s Best in a Time of Hardship 79

12. 鹿回头 / 鹿回頭
Lady Reindeer Looks Back 87

13. 破镜重圆 / 破鏡重圓
A Broken Mirror Repairs Itself 93

14. 霸王别姬 / 霸王別姬
The Conqueror Bids Farewell to His Favorite Concubine 101

KNIGHT-ERRANT STORIES

15. 卧薪尝胆 / 臥薪嘗膽
Sleeping on Firewood and Tasting Gall 113
16. 关公刮骨疗毒 / 關公刮骨療毒
Scraping the Poisoned Bone for Treatment
121

17. 穆桂英挂帅 / 穆桂英掛帥
Mu Guiying, the Commander-in-Chief
131

18. 女英雄冯婉贞 / 女英雄馮婉貞
The Heroine Feng Wanzhen
141

V 神话 / 神話
MYTHS AND FANTASIES

19. 神农尝百草 / 神農嘗百草
Shennong Tastes Hundreds of Herbs
151

20. 舜帝的故事 / 舜帝的故事
The Story of Emperor Shun
161

21. 海上的守护神—林默娘 /
海上守護神—林默娘
Lin Moniang, Goddess of the Sea
169

22. 八仙过海 / 八仙過海
The Eight Immortals Cross the Sea
177

23. 猪八戒娶亲 / 猪八戒娶親
Zhu Bajie Takes a Wife
185

附录 英文总结 / 附錄 英文總結
Appendix: Story Abstracts in English

生词索引 / 生詞索引
Vocabulary Index

197
215
Chinese is the language of the country with the largest population in
the world, and in the United States, Chinese is the language of the
second largest group of non-English speakers, after only Spanish. To date,
although a number of comprehensive Chinese textbooks are currently
available in the United States, interesting and informative pleasure-reading
materials specifically designed for Chinese are scarce at all levels. Learners
and instructors of Chinese as a foreign language (CFL) have longed for
such materials, and as the first AP* Chinese Language and Culture exam
was offered in 2007, the need for quality graded readers that familiarize
students with expressions essential to understanding Chinese culture is
now greater than ever.

This Readings in Chinese Literature Series <新编中文课外阅读
丛书>/ <新编中文课外阅读丛 书> was created to meet the need
for supplementary reading materials for Chinese language learners.
Foreign language acquisition research has shown that extensive pleasure
reading, in which students read large quantities of level-appropriate
books and materials, is essential to attaining fluency in a foreign language.

*AP is a registered trademark of the College Board, which was not involved in the production of, and does not
endorse, this product.
Pleasure reading not only improves students' reading skills, speed, and language proficiency, but also leads them to lifelong fluency and enjoyment of reading in the target language. This series of graded readers presents stories and anecdotes that are a part of the Chinese literary canon and essential for cultural fluency: sayings from classical philosophers, folk tales, legends, excerpts from great works of literature, and more.

_Tales & Traditions, Volume 3_ is designed for students who have finished the intermediate level of Chinese study. Its five chapters, organized by theme, include five classical Chinese poems such as Li Bai's famous “Missing My Hometown on a Tranquil Night” (静夜思/靜夜思); five explorations of well-known cities and historical sites such as Dunhuang and Tibet's Potala Palace; four classical Chinese love stories such as “Lady Reindeer Looks Back” (鹿回头/鹿回頭); four knight-errant stories such as “The Heroine Feng Wanzhen” (女英雄冯婉贞/女英雄馮婉貞) and “Scraping the Poisoned Bone for Treatment” (关公刮骨疗毒/關公刮骨療毒); and five myths and fantasies such as “Shennong Tastes Hundreds of Herbs” (神农尝百草/神農嘗百草). Material within each chapter increases in difficulty, but students and teachers should feel comfortable reading the selections in any order (note, however, that new words are only glossed at first occurrence).

Each text in _Tales & Traditions_ has an interesting story line, a vocabulary list, and stimulating post-text questions (for both Chinese and English answers). The texts, appearing on facing pages in simplified and traditional characters, can be used for individual student reading and/or for instructor-facilitated classroom reading. Using the discussion questions, teachers can engage students in comprehension checks, cross-cultural comparisons, and real-life reflections. Students may also enjoy acting out the stories (see the “Teaching Note” at the end of this Preface for more information). Teachers will find the texts easy to use and an essential tool
to improve learners’ presentation skills. The stories will help students gain literacy and familiarity with Chinese written texts and topics that are at the heart of Chinese culture. This focus on reading comprehension and cultural knowledge makes the *Readings in Chinese Literature Series* an excellent companion for students who are preparing for the AP Chinese Language and Culture exam or other standardized tests.

A comprehensive index of all vocabulary words, arranged in alphabetical order by pinyin, will help students review and look up unfamiliar words. Proper nouns that appear in the stories are underlined, so that students can easily recognize and identify them. To check their comprehension after reading each story in Chinese, students may consult the English abstracts (see Appendix), which provides short summaries of each story rather than word-for-word translations.

**About the Tales & Traditions Series**
The series of graded readers consists of four volumes, each containing stories adapted to a level appropriate for learners of Chinese: Volume 1 is for advanced-beginning learners, followed by intermediate and low advanced, up to advanced level in Volume 4. Each volume includes a variety of genres, such as myths, legends, classical and popular short stories, fables, Tang/Song poems, satirical and amusing essays and stories, and extracts of well-known literature. Authentic texts, vocabulary words, and sentence patterns have been adapted to keep the stories level-appropriate, while maintaining their originality. Illustrations accompany all texts, from beginning to advanced levels.

In each volume, vocabulary words, forms of usage, idioms, expressions, sentence patterns, and phrases are selected according to their frequency of use and expository requirements. New vocabulary items are glossed where they first appear, so that if a word appears in Chapters 2, 3, and 4,
it will generally be glossed only in Chapter 2. Students should focus on reading for comprehension, rather than being able to recognize each and every character.

To adapt these stories and compile vocabulary lists, the authors used three main sources: *Xiandai Hanyu Pinlu Cidian* (现代汉语频率词典/現代漢語頻率詞典) (1986), *Hanyu Shuiping Dengji Biaozhun he Dengji Dagang* (汉语水平等级标准和等级大纲/漢語水平等級標準和等級大綱) (1988), and *Far East 3000 Chinese Character Dictionary* (远东汉字三千字典/遠東漢字三千字典) (2003). Words and phrases used at the beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels are selected in accordance with the 甲乙丙 levels specified in 汉语水平等级标准和等级大纲/漢語水平等級標準和等級大綱. The length (i.e., the number of running characters) of the texts gradually increases as the academic level advances, from 150 to 1,000 characters per text for the beginning and intermediate levels, and from 500 to 2,000 characters per text for the low advanced and advanced levels. For the beginning and intermediate levels, most characters were selected from the first 1,500 most frequently used words listed in 现代汉语频率词典/現代漢語頻率詞典, and have been recycled and expanded to the first 3,500 words and beyond for the low advanced and advanced levels.

As globalization, multiculturalism, and multilingualism change the way people interact with one another around the globe, a high level of Chinese language proficiency has become an important qualification for individuals in the United States and other English-speaking countries to gain a competitive advantage in academics, business, and other areas. We hope this series of stories will help students become fluent readers and speakers of Chinese, as well as global citizens with a multicultural perspective.

*Preface*  |  ix
TEACHING NOTE

For teachers and students who are using this book as supplementary reading for a Chinese course, we have provided questions in both Chinese and English to stimulate class discussions of the stories. In addition, students can be asked to retell the stories in their own words when class time allows. For extra speaking practice, students may enjoy acting out the stories in small groups. Each group selects a story, writes speaking lines, and assigns roles. A special day or two can be set aside at mid-term or semester’s end for performance of the plays.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part of Speech</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>adj.</td>
<td>Adjective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>adv.</td>
<td>Adverb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>conj.</td>
<td>Conjunction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>expr.</td>
<td>Expression</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mw.</td>
<td>Measure word</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n.</td>
<td>Noun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pn.</td>
<td>Proper noun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>prep.</td>
<td>Preposition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v.</td>
<td>Verb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vc.</td>
<td>Verb plus complement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vo.</td>
<td>Verb plus object</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Classical Chinese Poems

This chapter introduces five classical poems written by the most famous Chinese poets. Although these poems are very popular and included in most Chinese children's books, you may find them quite different from the modern Chinese language you have studied so far. Their vocabulary words and phrases are compact, and the sentence patterns differ from the modern Chinese language you have learned in class.

However, these poems are beautiful, with unique melodies and vivid images that will help you appreciate the Chinese language even more. And they are so deeply associated with Chinese literature and history that they continue to pop up everywhere in modern Chinese readings. Therefore, it is important and necessary for advanced learners like you to be exposed to them. To help you bridge the gap between the classical and modern styles, we have included a prose version of each poem in modern Chinese.

By learning these poems, you will not only learn new characters and vocabulary words but also master “old” characters and vocabulary words in a new style. And most importantly, you will get acquainted with one of the most beautiful and richest of Chinese literary genres—诗歌. We hope that through reading these poems, you will love the language you have committed to learning even more.
3

相思

xiāngsī

(唐) 王维

 táng wángwéi

Love Seeds
Hóng dòu shēng nán guó，

chūn lái fā jǐ zhī。

yuàn jūn duō cǎi xié，

cǐ wù zuì xiāng sī。

《相思》译文 (Prose version)

美丽的红豆生长在南方，
到了春天就会抽枝发芽。
希望你能多摘一些随身带着，
因为红豆正是情思的象征。
紅豆生南國，
春來發幾枝。
願君多采撷，
此物最相思。

《相思》譯文 (Prose version)
美麗的紅豆生長在南方，
到了春天就會抽枝發芽。
希望你能多摘一些隨身帶著，
因為紅豆正是情思的象徵。
## Vocabulary List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Simplified Characters</th>
<th>Traditional Characters</th>
<th>Pinyin</th>
<th>Part of Speech</th>
<th>English Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>红豆</td>
<td>紅豆</td>
<td>hóngdòu</td>
<td>n.</td>
<td>red berry, red bean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>生长</td>
<td>生長</td>
<td>shēngzhǎng</td>
<td>v.</td>
<td>to grow up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>抽枝</td>
<td>抽枝</td>
<td>chōu zhī</td>
<td>vo.</td>
<td>to put forth buds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>发芽</td>
<td>發芽</td>
<td>fā yá</td>
<td>vo.</td>
<td>to sprout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>摘</td>
<td>摘</td>
<td>zhāi</td>
<td>v.</td>
<td>to pick, to pluck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>情思</td>
<td>情思</td>
<td>qíngsī</td>
<td>n.</td>
<td>fond memories, affection, thoughts of romantic love</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>象征</td>
<td>象徵</td>
<td>xiàngzhēng</td>
<td>n.</td>
<td>symbol, emblem</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Questions for Discussion

Answer in Chinese:

1. 红豆生长在什么地方？
   紅豆生長在什麼地方？

2. 为什么诗人希望你多摘一些？
   為什麼詩人希望你多摘一些？

Discuss in English:

3. What is the emblem of romantic love in Western culture?
4. What do red berries symbolize in this poem?
第二章 名城古迹

Cities of Reputation and Sites of Historical Interest
8

西安兵马俑
xī’ān bīngmǎyǒng

Xi’an’s Terra-Cotta Warriors and Horses
西

安，古时候叫作长安，是当时中国政治、经济和文化的中心，也是最早有一百多万人口的大城市。西安有三千多年的历史，有十个王朝在这个城市建立首都。你如果要了解中国几千年的历史，就应该到西安去看看。“西(方)有罗马，东(方)有长安”说的就是西安在中国和世界历史上的地位跟罗马一样重要。你如果知道马可·波罗的故事，你就知道有只的丝绸之路，它就是从西安开始的。如果说埃及的金字塔是世界上最大的地上王陵，那么西安的秦始皇陵则是世界上最大的地下皇陵。

秦始皇陵是安放秦始皇棺材的地方，它的周围有车马坑和兵马俑坑。兵马俑坑非常有名，被称为“世界第八奇迹”。兵马俑坑又分三个坑：一号坑，二号坑，和三号坑。

一号兵马俑坑长230米，宽62米，面积有14260平方米。坑内有武士俑和马俑六千多件，像战场一样，排成方阵。二号坑有一千多件兵马俑，有战车和骑兵。三号坑是个小坑，好像是指挥部，它只有六十多个兵马俑。

这些兵马俑都跟真人真马一样大小，但形态都不一样，表情也都不一样。这些作品是泥塑艺术的顶峰，为中华民族的文化增添了光彩。每年都有来自世界各地的，成千上万的游客来参观。

58 | 西安兵马俑
西安，古時候叫長安，是當時中國政治、經濟和文化的中心，也是最早有一百多萬人口的大城市。西安有三千多年的歷史，有十多個王朝在這個城市建立首都。你如果要瞭解中國幾千年的歷史，就應該到西安去看看。“西(方)有羅馬，東(方)有長安”說的就是西安在中國和世界歷史上的地位跟羅馬一樣重要。你如果知道馬可·波羅的故事，你就知道有名的絲綢之路，它就是從西安開始的。如果說古埃及金字塔是世界上最大的地上王陵，那麼西安的中國秦始皇陵則是世界上最大的地下皇陵。

秦始皇陵是安放秦始皇棺材的地方，它的周圍有車馬坑和兵馬俑坑。兵馬俑坑非常有名，被稱為“世界第八奇跡”。兵馬俑坑又分三個坑：一號坑，二號坑，和三號坑。

第一號兵馬俑坑長230米，寬62米，面積有14260平方米。坑內有武士俑和馬俑六千多件，像戰場一樣，排成方陣。二號坑有一千多件兵馬俑，有戰車和騎兵。三號坑是個小坑，好像是指揮部，它只有六十多個兵馬俑。

這些兵馬俑都跟真人真馬一樣大小，但形態都不一樣，表情也都不一樣。這些作品是泥塑藝術的頂峰，為中華民族的文化增添了光彩。每年都有來自世界各地的，成千上萬的遊客去參觀。
### Vocabulary List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Traditional Characters</th>
<th>Pinyin</th>
<th>Part of Speech</th>
<th>English Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>当时</td>
<td>dāngshí</td>
<td>adv.</td>
<td>at that time</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>罗马</td>
<td>Luómā</td>
<td>pn.</td>
<td>Rome</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>地位</td>
<td>diwèi</td>
<td>n.</td>
<td>status</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>马可·波罗</td>
<td>Mǎkě Bōluó</td>
<td>pn.</td>
<td>Marco Polo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>丝绸之路</td>
<td>Sīchóu zhīlù</td>
<td>pn.</td>
<td>the Silk Road</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>古埃及</td>
<td>Gǔ Āijí</td>
<td>pn.</td>
<td>Ancient Egypt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>金字塔</td>
<td>jīnzhǐ tǎ</td>
<td>n.</td>
<td>pyramid</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>秦始皇陵</td>
<td>Qín ShīHuáng líng</td>
<td>n.</td>
<td>the tomb of Emperor Qin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>棺材</td>
<td>guāncái</td>
<td>n.</td>
<td>coffin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>兵马俑坑</td>
<td>Bīngmǎyǒng kēng</td>
<td>pn.</td>
<td>Vault of Warriors and Horses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>武士俑</td>
<td>Wǔshìyǒng</td>
<td>pn.</td>
<td>Vault of Warriors</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>战场</td>
<td>zhànchǎng</td>
<td>n.</td>
<td>battleground</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>排成</td>
<td>páichéng</td>
<td>vo.</td>
<td>to line up in squares</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>方阵</td>
<td>fāngzhèn</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>骑兵</td>
<td>qìbīng</td>
<td>n.</td>
<td>cavalrymen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simplified Characters</td>
<td>Traditional Characters</td>
<td>Pinyin</td>
<td>Part of Speech</td>
<td>English Definition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>--------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>形态</td>
<td>形態</td>
<td>xíngtài</td>
<td>n.</td>
<td>form, shape</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>表情</td>
<td>表情</td>
<td>biāoqíng</td>
<td>n.</td>
<td>facial expression</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>泥塑艺术</td>
<td>泥塑藝術</td>
<td>níshù yìshù</td>
<td>n.</td>
<td>art of clay sculpture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>顶峰</td>
<td>頂峰</td>
<td>dǐngfēng</td>
<td>n.</td>
<td>summit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>增添</td>
<td>增添</td>
<td>zēngtiān</td>
<td>v.</td>
<td>to add, to increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>光彩</td>
<td>光彩</td>
<td>guāngcǎi</td>
<td>n.</td>
<td>splendor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Discussion Questions

**Answer in Chinese:**

1. 如果要了解中国几千年的历史，为什么应该去西安？
2. 秦始皇陵的兵马俑坑为什么那么有名？

**Discuss in English:**

3. What are the differences and similarities between the Tomb of Qin Shi Huang and the Egyptian Pyramids?
Appendix:
Story Abstracts in English

SAMPLE
I: CLASSICAL CHINESE POEMS

1. 静夜思
   jìng yè sī

   Missing My Hometown on a Tranquil Night

   Li Bai (李白, Lǐ Bái, 701–762) is one of the greatest poets of the Tang Dynasty as well as in all of China’s literary history. Li Bai grew up in what is now Sichuan Province. He is best known for his extravagant imagination and the striking imagery in his poetry. Approximately 1,100 of his poems remain today. In this poem,《静夜思》, Li Bai describes a quiet night when he lay on his bed in a moonlit room. Separated from his family and far from his hometown, he was in low spirits. Looking out his window, he first thought he saw frost on the ground. He then looked up and saw the bright moon, which he realized was shedding light over everything. Lowering his head again, he thought of his hometown and was overcome with homesickness.

2. 春晓
   chūnxiǎo

   Spring Morning

   Meng Haoran (孟浩然, Mèng Hàorán, 689–740) was a prominent Chinese landscape poet during the Tang Dynasty. He was born in what
is now Hubei (湖北) Province and was strongly attached to his hometown. He lived there almost all his life, and its landscape, history, and legends were the subject of many of his poems. In this poem, 《春晓》, the poet portrays a calm spring morning after a night storm, when people wake up to hear birds singing and wonder how many of the beautiful flowers fell during the storm.

3. 相思

Love Seeds

Wang Wei (王维, 王维, 699–761), one of the great poets of the earlier Tang Dynasty, was born in what is now Shensi (陕西, Shǎnxī) Province. He had outstanding talents in poetry, calligraphy, music, and painting, and his 400 poems appear in many anthologies. Wang Wei viewed the world with great compassion and sentiment. In this poem, 《相思》, he compares “red berries” to “love seeds” and writes with affection, “Red berries grow in the south; how many can sprout in the spring? Please gather as many as you can and take them with you, because they can revive your fond memories.”

4. 悯农

Pitying the Farmers

Li Shen (李绅, 李绅, 780–840), born in what is currently Jiangsu Province, was a great poet in the mid-Tang Dynasty. He obtained a Jinshi
6. 中国首都北京

China’s Capital City, Beijing

Beijing is China’s capital city as well as its political, economic, and cultural center. Its numerous historic sites include Tiananmen Square, the Great Wall, the Summer Palace, the Temple of Heaven, and the Forbidden City. The twenty-ninth Summer Olympics were held in Beijing, and the opening ceremony was the grandest of grand, with thousands of magnificent fireworks and a gigantic Chinese painting portraying the origin and development of China throughout its history. The theme of the Beijing Olympics was “One World One Dream,” and the theme song was “You and Me.” They strongly touched people’s lives and transmitted the Olympic spirit of peace, harmony, and solidarity.

7. 长城

The Great Wall

The Great Wall is a symbol of China’s ancient civilization and a source of pride for Chinese people. It is also one of the Seven Wonders of the World. The Great Wall was originally built during the reign of Qin Shi
Huang for military defense, but what we can see today was nearly all re-built in the Ming Dynasty. The Bada Ling section, which is located 75 kilometers north of Beijing, is the best-preserved section. It has a panoramic view of the beautiful mountains and rivers and has attracted millions of visitors from the world each year, including Richard Nixon, Bill Clinton, and Margaret Thatcher.

8. 西安兵马俑
Xi’an’s Terra-Cotta Warriors and Horses

Xi’an was an important city in ancient China and the capital of eleven Chinese dynasties. It is famous throughout the world for the Tomb of Qin Shi Huang, the first emperor of the Qin Dynasty (255–210 B.C.E.). So far, three underground vaults containing thousands of life-size terra-cotta warriors and horses have been unearthed and officially opened to the public. They have often been referred to as “the eighth wonder of the ancient world.” The three vaults are well preserved in three modern exhibits and have attracted millions of visitors each year.

9. 敦煌石窟
Dunhuang Rock Caves

Dunhuang was an ancient city in what is now northwestern Gansu Province, China. It has been famed for its rock caves and prehistoric
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Simplified Characters</th>
<th>Traditional Characters</th>
<th>Pinyin</th>
<th>Part of Speech</th>
<th>English Definition</th>
<th>Story Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>爱护</td>
<td>爱護</td>
<td>àihù</td>
<td>v.</td>
<td>to take good care of, to cherish</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>安危</td>
<td>安危</td>
<td>ānwēi</td>
<td>n.</td>
<td>safety and danger</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>翱翔</td>
<td>翱翔</td>
<td>áoxiáng</td>
<td>v.</td>
<td>to soar, to hover</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>奥林匹克运动会</td>
<td>奧林匹克運動會</td>
<td>Àolínpīkè Yǒndōnghuì</td>
<td>pn.</td>
<td>The Olympics</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>八达岭</td>
<td>八達嶺</td>
<td>Bādá Líng</td>
<td>pn.</td>
<td>Mount Bada</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>拔剑</td>
<td>拔劍</td>
<td>bá jiàn</td>
<td>vo.</td>
<td>to pull out a sword</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>霸王</td>
<td>霸王</td>
<td>bàwánɡ</td>
<td>n.</td>
<td>The Conquerer</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>帮手</td>
<td>幫手</td>
<td>bāngshǒu</td>
<td>n.</td>
<td>help</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>绑</td>
<td>綁</td>
<td>bāng</td>
<td>v.</td>
<td>to bind, to tie</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>包括</td>
<td>包括</td>
<td>bāokuó</td>
<td>v.</td>
<td>to include</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>宝库</td>
<td>寶庫</td>
<td>bāokù</td>
<td>n.</td>
<td>treasure house</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>宝器</td>
<td>寶器</td>
<td>bāoqi</td>
<td>n.</td>
<td>treasure</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simplified Characters</td>
<td>Traditional Characters</td>
<td>Pinyin</td>
<td>Part of Speech</td>
<td>English Definition</td>
<td>Story Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
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<td>--------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>宝物</td>
<td>寶物</td>
<td>bāowù</td>
<td>n.</td>
<td>treasure</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>保存</td>
<td>保存</td>
<td>bāocún</td>
<td>v.</td>
<td>to preserve</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>保护</td>
<td>保護</td>
<td>bāohù</td>
<td>v.</td>
<td>to protect</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>保卫</td>
<td>保衛</td>
<td>bāowèi</td>
<td>v.</td>
<td>to defend</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>堡垒式</td>
<td>堡壘式</td>
<td>bāolēishi</td>
<td>adj.</td>
<td>fortress-style</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>报仇</td>
<td>報仇</td>
<td>báochóu</td>
<td>v.</td>
<td>to revenge, to avenge</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>豹子</td>
<td>豹子</td>
<td>báozì</td>
<td>n.</td>
<td>leopard</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>悲壮</td>
<td>悲壯</td>
<td>bēizhuàng</td>
<td>adj.</td>
<td>moving and tragic</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>被迫</td>
<td>被迫</td>
<td>bèipò</td>
<td>v.</td>
<td>to be forced</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>本领</td>
<td>本領</td>
<td>běnling</td>
<td>n.</td>
<td>skill, ability</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>比喻</td>
<td>比喻</td>
<td>bǐyù</td>
<td>n.</td>
<td>metaphor</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>壁画</td>
<td>壁畫</td>
<td>bihuà</td>
<td>n.</td>
<td>mural paintings</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>边关</td>
<td>邊關</td>
<td>biānguān</td>
<td>n.</td>
<td>border area</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>鞭子</td>
<td>鞭子</td>
<td>biānzi</td>
<td>n.</td>
<td>whip</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>变身术</td>
<td>變身術</td>
<td>biānshēnshù</td>
<td>n.</td>
<td>the art of physical transformation</td>
<td>23</td>
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<tr>
<td>标志</td>
<td>標誌</td>
<td>biāozhì</td>
<td>n.</td>
<td>sign, symbol</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>表情</td>
<td>表情</td>
<td>biāoqíng</td>
<td>n.</td>
<td>facial expression</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>表现</td>
<td>表現</td>
<td>biāoxiàn</td>
<td>v.</td>
<td>to express</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>兵马俑坑</td>
<td>兵馬俑坑</td>
<td>Bīngmǎyǒng kēng</td>
<td>pn.</td>
<td>Vault of Warriors and Horses</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>兵权</td>
<td>兵權</td>
<td>bīngquán</td>
<td>n.</td>
<td>military leadership</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>并列</td>
<td>並列</td>
<td>bìngliè</td>
<td>v.</td>
<td>to stand side by side</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td>波涛汹涌</td>
<td>波濤洶湧</td>
<td>bōtāo xiōngyōng</td>
<td>expr.</td>
<td>great waves</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>