

О. В. Афанасьева, И. В. Михеева, К. М. Баранова



# АНГЛИЙСКИЙ ЯЗЫК

**КНИГА ДЛЯ ЧТЕНИЯ**



ВЕРТИКАЛЬ

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Книга для чтения является составной частью УМК по английскому языку для 8 класса авторов О. В. Афанасьевой, И. В. Михеевой, К. М. Барановой серии «Rainbow English» и предназначена для развития коммуникативных умений в чтении и говорении.

Пособие знакомит вас с произведениями различных жанров, созданными английскими и американскими авторами, даст возможность попробовать свои силы в анализе художественных и научно-популярных текстов.

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# Предисловие

Дорогие друзья!

У вас в руках книга для чтения к учебнику английского языка для 8 класса серии *Rainbow English*. Это пособие даст вам возможность познакомиться с произведениями различных жанров, созданными английскими и американскими авторами, попробовать свои силы в анализе художественных произведений и научно-популярных текстов. Вы сможете обсудить прочитанное с одноклассниками, высказать свою точку зрения и аргументировать её.

Первая часть Reading Fiction включает в себя отрывки из трёх первых книг известной серии американского писателя Джеффа Кинни (Jeffrey Kinney) «Дневник слабака» (“Diary of a Wimpy Kid”). Главный герой этих произведений Грегори (Gregory), которого в семье называют Грэг (Greg), американский подросток. По совету своей мамы он ведёт дневник, куда записывает то, что происходит в его жизни. Вы сможете познакомиться с восемью отрывками из дневников Грегори, которые он ведёт начиная с 11 лет. Поскольку Грэг — американец, он говорит и пишет, используя американский вариант английского языка. На страницах дневника вы встретите много словосочетаний, которые часто используются в США, познакомитесь с обычными занятиями школьников в этой стране. Это даст вам возможность обсудить поведение Грэга, его родных и друзей, сравнить факты его жизни с тем, что происходит с вами. Первая часть пособия заканчивается специальным глоссарием (Glossary) — списком слов и словосочетаний, с которыми вы, скорее всего, не знакомы (с. 51—55 пособия). Если же какую-то лексическую единицу вы не сможете отыскать в этом списке, обратитесь к англо-русскому словарю, но сначала попытайтесь понять её основной смысл из контекста.

Во второй части пособия *Turning Pages of British History* вы познакомитесь с эпизодами британской истории. Сюда также включены восемь текстов, предлагающих описания различных исторических событий Великобритании, страницы из жизни правителей этой страны и других известных людей королевства. Каждый раздел второй части содержит задание на проведение самостоятельной исследовательской работы с помощью Интернета. Вам предстоит найти информацию, связанную с событиями, о которых вы прочитали, и ответить на предложенные вам вопросы. Здесь также имеется глоссарий (с. 110—114), после которого расположены списки имён собственных и географических названий, встречающихся в текстах, и комментарии к ним.

В третью часть *книги для чтения* включены советы, которые, если начать им следовать, могут помочь читателям в жизни. Прочитайте выдержки из части *Turning Pages in the Book of Wisdom* и решите, не стоит ли взять какие-нибудь из них себе на вооружение. Обсудите это со своими одноклассниками.

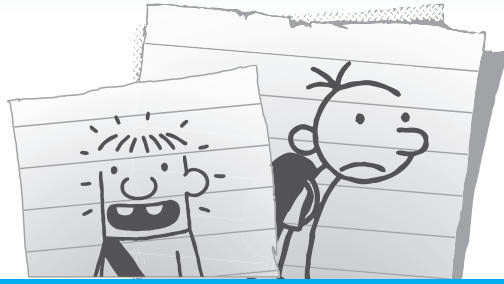
Завершают *книгу для чтения* поэтические странички *Reading Some of the Best English Poetry*. На них напечатаны восемь стихотворений. Мы искренне надеемся, что вас не оставят равнодушными строки классических англоязычных авторов от Уильяма Шекспира (William Shakespeare) до Роберта Фроста (Robert Frost). Стихотворения представляют собой одни из лучших образцов мировой литературы и, несомненно, стоят того, чтобы с ними познакомиться.

Как вы заметили, книга для чтения получилась весьма объёмной, и если у вас не будет достаточно времени, чтобы прочитать её всю, вы можете остановиться на тех частях, которые представляют для вас наибольший интерес.

*Ваши авторы*

# I. Reading Fiction

Extracts from  
"Diary of a Wimpy Kid"  
By Jeff Kinney



5

Reading Fiction

*In the series of books "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" by the American author Jeff Kinney the main character, Gregory (Greg), keeps a diary. You'll be able to read several of his diary entries and get an idea of what his life was like, what pleased the boy or made him unhappy. Readers of the series enjoy not only the humorous text but also the author's own illustrations.*

## Reading Class 1

- 1 Read the text and say which of the following was NOT Gregory's problem.
- a) Greg's relationship with his family members.
  - b) His relationship with his classmates.
  - c) Not being popular with girls.
  - d) Not being the best student in his class.



Tuesday

First of all, I want to get it straight that this is a **JOURNAL** [ˈdʒɜːnl], not a diary. I know what it says on the cover, but when Mom went out to buy this thing I **ESPECIALLY** told her to get one that didn't say "diary" on it.



Great. Now I'll have to be careful not to allow any jerk to catch me carrying this book around: he may get the wrong idea.

The other thing I want to clear up is that this was MOM's idea, not mine. But if she thinks I'm going to write down my "feelings" in here, she's crazy. So there'll be no "Dear Diary" this and "Dear Diary" that.

I just agreed to keep a diary because when I'm rich and famous, I'll have better things to do than answer people's stupid questions all day long. So this book is gonna come in handy.

Like I said, I'll be famous one day, but for now I have to go to middle school with a bunch of morons.

Today is the first day of school and on the first day of school, you should be really careful where you sit. Last year I happened to sit in the middle of a bunch of girls. I don't know WHAT is up with girls these days. It used to be a lot simpler back in elementary school: if you were the fastest runner in your class, you got all the girls. Nowadays, it's much more complicated. Now it's about the clothes you wear or how rich you are or if you are cute or whatever. The most popular boy in my grade is Bryce Anderson. The best I can count on is somewhere around 52nd or 53rd most popular this year.

Thursday

I'm having a seriously hard time getting used to the fact that summer is over and I have to get out of bed every morning to go to school.

By the way, my summer began badly, thanks to my older brother Rodrick. A couple of days into summer vacation, Rodrick woke me up in the middle of the night. He told me I slept through the whole of summer, but that luckily I woke up just in time for the first day of school. You may think I was crazy to believe him, but Rodrick was in his school clothes and he set my

**alarm clock** [ə'la:m klɒk] ahead to make it look like it was the morning. Plus, he closed my curtains, so I couldn't see that it was still dark out. After Rodrick woke me up, I just got dressed and went downstairs to make myself some breakfast, like I do every morning on a school day. But I guess I made some noise because the next thing I knew, Dad was downstairs yelling at me for eating cornflakes at 3:00 in the morning. I told Dad that Rodrick had played a trick on me and Dad should be yelling at HIM, not at me. Dad walked to Roderick's room and I went with him as I wanted to know what would happen. But Rodrick covered up his tracks: he was in bed pretending that he was sleeping. So to this day, I'm sure Dad thinks I'm nutty or something.



- 2** Read the following and say why there are many informal words and Americanisms<sup>1</sup> in the text above.

### Informal words and what they mean

1. wimpy = not brave or strong
2. a jerk = somebody who does stupid and unkind things
3. crazy = not at all sensible or practical
4. a moron ['mɔ:rɒn] = an unkind word for somebody who behaves in a stupid way
5. nutty = stupid or very strange

### Americanisms and their British equivalents

1. Mom = mum, mother
2. is gonna = is going to
3. a vacation = holiday
4. a kid = a child
5. I guess = I think
6. a grade = a class or a year at American schools

<sup>1</sup> **an Americanism** — слово или фраза, используемые в американском варианте английского языка.

7. an elementary school = a school in the US for children between the ages of five and about eleven. (In the UK this is called a primary school.)
8. a middle school = a school in the US for children between the ages of 11 and 14 after they leave elementary school and before they go to high school. (In the UK a middle school is a school for children between the ages 8 and 12. Children of 11—14 go to secondary schools.)

**3** Find in the text the words and word combinations which mean the same as the following. Write them down.

1. я хочу, чтобы всем было понятно \_\_\_\_\_
2. на обложке \_\_\_\_\_
3. понадобится \_\_\_\_\_
4. куча идиотов \_\_\_\_\_
5. что происходит с девочками \_\_\_\_\_
6. гораздо сложнее \_\_\_\_\_
7. мне нелегко привыкать к тому, что \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. орущий на меня за то, что я ем хлопья \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. сыграл со мной шутку \_\_\_\_\_
10. замёл следы \_\_\_\_\_

**4** Give answers to the Why-questions. You may write them down.

1. Why did Greg call his diary a journal? (You may need a dictionary or Glossary One<sup>1</sup> to answer this question.)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup> Glossary One is on pages 51—55.

2. Why was it important for Greg to keep his diary a secret?

---

3. Why did the boy agree to start writing a diary?

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4. Why did Greg choose very carefully where to sit in the classroom?

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5. Why was the boy unhappy about the changes in the girls' behaviour?

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6. Why did Greg believe his brother Rodrick who woke him up one morning during the vacation?

---

7. Why didn't the father punish Rodrick for his trick?

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**5** Use some of the words and word combinations from the box and speak about Greg's problems. Say if his problems are typical of a teenager.

- a wimp
- afraid of bigger and stronger boys
- not sure of himself
- knew that his classmates could laugh at him
- didn't have many friends in his class and school
- couldn't explain to his parents what was happening
- his mom and dad didn't always understand him
- his older brother could be unkind to him

- 6** Work in pairs. Talk about why you would or wouldn't like to make friends with Greg.

Personally I...

I'm in two minds about Greg

On the one hand..., but on the other hand...

I can easily/can't imagine Greg as my friend

I understand/don't understand his problems

I believe I could help him solve some of the problems

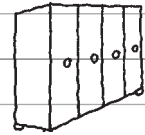
## Reading Class 2

- 1** Read the text and say what Greg DIDN'T mention in his new diary entry.
- Why his dad gets up so early every morning.
  - Why he is angry with Rowley.
  - How he made friends with Rowley.
  - What games they liked to play together.
  - The fact that his parents were kinder to his young brother than to him.
  - His young brother's behaviour.

### Saturday

Well, the first week of school is finally over, so today I slept in. Most kids wake up early on Saturday to watch cartoons or whatever, but not me. Unfortunately, Dad wakes up at 6:00 in the morning no matter WHAT day of the week it is, and he ignores the fact that I am trying to enjoy my Saturday like a normal person.

I didn't have anything to do today, so I just headed for Rowley's house. Rowley is technically my best friend, but I believe he should change in some ways. I've been avoiding Rowley since the first day of school, when he did something that really made me angry. We were getting our things from our lockers at the end of the day, and Rowley came up to me and said, "Want to come over to my house and PLAY?" I have told Rowley a billion times that now we're in middle school and should say "hang out", not "play". But he always forgets my instruction.



I've been trying to be a lot more careful about my image ever since I got to middle school. But having Rowley around is definitely not helping.

I met Rowley a few years ago when he moved into my neighbourhood. His Mom bought him this book called "How to Make Friends in New Places," and he came to my house trying all these stupid recommendations. I guess I kind of felt sorry for Rowley, and I decided to take him under my wing. It's been great having him around, mostly because it allows me to use all the tricks Rodrick plays on me.

### Monday

You know how I said I play all sorts of tricks on Rowley? Well, I have a little brother named Manny, and I could NEVER get away with trying my tricks on him. Mom and Dad protect Manny like he's a prince or something. And he never gets in trouble.

Yesterday, Manny drew a **self-portrait** on my bedroom door in permanent marker. I thought Mom and Dad were really going to let him have it, but as usual, I was wrong. They just said, "Wow!"



But the thing that bugs me most about Manny is the nickname he has for me. When he was a baby, he couldn't pronounce "brother," so he started calling me "Bubby." And he **STILL** calls me that now, even though I keep asking Mom and Dad to stop him. Luckily none of my friends have found out it yet.

Mom makes me help Manny get ready for school in the morning. After I make Manny his breakfast, he carries his bowl of cornflakes into the family room and sits on his plastic **potty**. And when it's time for him to go to day care, he gets up and dumps whatever he didn't eat right in the potty. It naturally ruins my appetite and I can't finish my own breakfast. And Mom is always getting at me about not finishing it.



**2** Guess what these informal words and word combinations mean in the text. Circle the appropriate variants.

1. To *sleep in* means
  - a) to sleep at home
  - b) to sleep better than you usually do
  - c) to go on sleeping after the time you usually wake up
2. To *hang out* is
  - a) to hang wet clothes outside to dry
  - b) to spend time with your friends outside
  - c) to spend too much time outside
3. To *take somebody under one's wing* means
  - a) to take somebody under your protection
  - b) to make good friends with somebody
  - c) to invite somebody home for a meal or a cup of tea

4. To *let somebody have it* means
  - a) to give somebody nice food to eat
  - b) to be very kind to somebody
  - c) to criticize somebody strongly
5. To *bug somebody* is
  - a) to please somebody a lot
  - b) to make somebody rather angry
  - c) to give somebody hope
6. To *get at somebody* means
  - a) to make somebody feel sad and depressed
  - b) to criticise somebody in an unkind way
  - c) to think and talk about something bad for a long time

**3** Find in the text the words and word combinations which mean the same as the following. Write them down.

1. направился к дому Роули \_\_\_\_\_
2. я избегаю Роули с первого дня в школе \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. присутствие Роули рядом \_\_\_\_\_
4. мне ни разу не сошли с рук попытки подшутить над ним \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. несмываемый маркер \_\_\_\_\_
6. детский сад \_\_\_\_\_

**4** Write answers to the questions below.

1. What should “normal” people do on Saturday mornings as Greg saw it?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What in Rowley’s behaviour made Greg unhappy?  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Why was the choice of words so important for Greg?

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4. Whose tricks did Greg practise on Rowley?

---

5. Why do you think Greg's parents were so kind to Manny?

---

6. Why did the nickname "Bubby" worry Greg so much?

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- 5** Use some ideas from the box and speak about Greg's relationship with other children. Say if it is typical of children his age.

Greg was not sure of himself.  
He was afraid that other pupils could laugh at him.  
At the same time he wanted to look impressive like a cool boy.  
Sometimes he followed his big brother's bad example.  
Greg wasn't very kind to his friend Rowley.  
He believed that his parents were not fair to him.  
Greg thought he was much cleverer than the others.

- 6** Work in pairs. Discuss what teenagers should and shouldn't do to become good friends and popular pupils. Write your ideas down, then share them with the rest of the group.

Teens should: \_\_\_\_\_

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Teens should not: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Reading Class 3

1 Read the text and say which of the following is false.

- a) Greg's father wanted to have a sporty child who spent more time outdoors.
- b) Greg did as his father told him and went out to play football.
- c) Rowley's father always knew what games the boys were playing.
- d) Greg wasn't among the fans of the music his brother played.
- e) Rodrick loved it when his mum danced to his music.
- f) Greg woke up his dad one night.



Tuesday

I don't know if I mentioned this before, but I am SUPER good at video games. I'm sure I could beat anybody in my grade. Unfortunately, Dad does not exactly admire my skills. He's always getting at me about going out and doing something "active."

So tonight after dinner when Dad started telling me that I should go outside, I tried to explain how with video games, you can play sports like football and soccer, and you don't even get all hot and sweaty. But as usual, Dad didn't see my logic.

Dad is a smart guy in general but when it comes to common sense, sometimes I wonder about him. Every time Dad kicks me out of the house to do something sporty, I just go up to Rowley's to play my video games there.

Unfortunately, the only games I can play at Rowley's are car-racing games because whenever I bring a game up to Rowley's