袁隆平的幽默，是一以贯之的。

当年，他在安江农校当老师的时候，一时找不到抹布，就扯着衣袖擦黑板，这一举动自然引起学生哈哈大笑。袁隆平正色地说：“笑什么，爱因斯坦还拿美元支票当书签呢？”

袁隆平喜欢自由，散漫的生活。衣服扣子掉了不补，皮鞋脏了不擦油，因此，有人给他取了浑名叫“油榨鬼”。油榨是湖南方言，不整洁的意思。这个浑名是一个叫李效牧的老师取的。李效牧是个快活鬼，那时候兴学“苏联老大哥”，便给他取了个浑名叫“扁脑壳夫”。有位姓曾的老师写文章爱带之乎者也，袁隆平就给他取浑名叫“曾员外”，有位姓曹的老师爱哼京戏，便取浑名“曹孟德”。他们之间不称呼姓名或某某老师，而是以浑名取乐。

袁隆平才华横溢，爱好广泛，拉小提琴、游泳、打排球、跳踢踏舞，还爱打麻将。打麻将不带“彩”而是钻桌子，袁隆平输了照样钻。他有时手气不好，连连失手，钻了一次又一次。有人说，这回就免了吧！袁隆平不领情，照样钻，做为一个工程院院士、世界级着名科学家，打麻将钻桌子，真是闻所未闻，见所未见，只是现在年岁老了，钻桌子有困难，改为别的方式，再不钻桌子了。

吸烟，是目前威胁着我国人民健康的主要因素之一，据统计，全国烟民达三亿。对此，袁隆平来个反话正说，总结了抽烟七大好处：友谊的桥梁（人与人交往的媒介）；灵感的源泉（激活思维和灵感）；寂寞的伴侣（抽烟排除寂寞）；“非典”的克星（烟中含有焦油）；痴呆的良药（烟中含有尼古丁）；健康的象征（如果抽烟的人不想抽烟说明身体不行了）；纳税的大户（国家一部分税收来自烟民）。袁隆平的一席话，让人觉得他是在宣扬抽烟有益，错了，这是他卖关子，最后的结论是：“弊大于益，我不吸烟。”

说起给孩子取名，袁隆平也与众不同，袁隆平三弟兄，清一色的男子汉，他生了三个儿子，按他的说法是“单一品种”。大儿子小名叫“五一”，二儿子小名叫“五二”，三儿子小名叫“五三”，一、二、三、四，部队行进的口号，只是老四缺席，到了“三”就划了个句号。而到孙辈，名字也都是袁隆平取的，大孙女生下来前几天接连下雨，生下的当天，雨过天晴，故取名“袁有晴”；第二个孙女是农历“雨水”节那天生的，故取名“袁有清”。袁隆平得意地说：“晴是太阳，清是雨水，有太阳有雨水，万物茁壮成长。”在给孩子取名上，他没有忘记农业，也没忘记“幽”一“默”。

本文出自 中国历史故事网 ：<http://www.gs5000.cn/gs/mingren/xdmr/17381.html>

**Helen Keller**

**12. 海伦·凯勒**

She fought for women's right, crusaded for the causes of workers, promoted equality for minorities, and championed the underprivileged and the oppressed. She also earned several prestigious awards from countries as diverse as Japan, Brazil, and Lebanon. An impressive list of achievements for any human, all this was accomplished by a woman who was blind and deaf.

她为女权而战、投身工人事业、促进弱势团体平等权利、支持受苦和受压迫的人。她还荣获日本、巴西、黎巴嫩等国颁发的几项荣誉大奖。对任何人来说，这都是让人印象深刻的成就，然而这是由一位双眼失明双耳失聪的女人取得的。

Helen Keller was born a healthy child in 1880 in Alabama. Stricken by illness at the tender age of nineteen months, Helen lost her ability to see, hear, and speak. Growing up unable to comprehend the world around her, Helen became wild and unruly, until her parents found help.

1880年，海伦·凯勒在美国的阿拉巴马州出生时是个健康的孩子。可在她19个月大时，她得了一场大病，海伦从此失去了视觉、听觉和说话的能力。在成长的过程中，她无法了解周围的一切，变得狂躁而难以管教，最后她的父母只好求助于他人。

They contacted Dr. Alexander Graham Bell, the famous inventor and teacher of the deaf, who introduced them to an institute for the blind in Boston, Massachusetts. A student there, Annie Sullivan, was asked to help. Annie would later become known as the "Miracle Worker."

他们和著名的发明家、聋哑教师亚力山大·贝尔博士取得联系之后，被介绍到一家位于马萨诸塞州波士顿的盲人机构。该机构的学生安妮·苏利文应邀提供帮助。她就是后来那位著名的“奇迹创造者”。

Annie Sullivan taught Helen how to connect objects with letters by spelling words into Helen's hands. Helen's breakthrough came when Annie held her hand under a water pump while spelling "water" into her other hand repeatedly. Helen suddenly understood, and from then on progressed by leaps and bounds.

苏利文在海伦手上拼字，借此教她如何将物体和字母联系在一起。有一次安妮把海伦的手放在水泵出水口下，并且在她的另一支手上重复拼写water的时候，海伦突然明白了，她的学习有了重大突破。从此她进步神速。

Having mastered both the manual and Braille alphabets, Helen became proficient in reading and writing, and began learning how to speak in 1890. Helen entered Radcliffe College and, assisted by Annie Sullivan, graduated cum laude in 1904. She was the first blind-deaf person ever to graduate from college.

海伦在学会了手指拼字法和布莱耶盲人点字法后，她的阅读和书写能力变得熟练起来;1890年，她开始学习说话。后来海伦在苏利文的帮助下，进入拉德克利夫(Radchffe)学院就读，1904年以优异的成绩毕业，她成为第一位大学毕业的盲哑人。

Helen Keller spent the rest of her life as a writer, lecturer, and advocate for the deaf and blind and other disadvantaged groups. She traveled to numerous countries on behalf of the disabled, and founded the Helen Keller Endowment Fund for the American Foundation for the Blind in 1930. She died on June 1, 1968, an outstanding example of the unconquerable human spirit.

海伦·凯勒的余生都致力于写作和演讲，声援盲人、聋人和其他，弱势群体。她代表残疾人，足迹踏遍海外各国，并且在1930年为美国盲人基金会创建了海伦·凯勒捐赠基金。海伦·凯勒于1968年6月1日与世长辞，她可以说是人类不屈不挠精神的最佳典范。

**Hans Christian Andersen**

**13. 汉斯·克里斯蒂安·安徒生**

Born on April 2, 1805, in Odense, Denmark, Andersen was an emotional, yet imaginative, child. His father, a poor shoemaker, died in 1816. With a mother who was very superstitious and unable to read or write, the boy received little education as a child.

安徒生1805年4月2日出生于丹麦欧登塞，他是一个多愁善感而富于想象力的孩子。他的父亲是一个贫困的鞋匠，在1816年去世。由于母亲非常迷信而且不会读书写字，这个男孩小时候没受过什么教育。

Andersen traveled to Copenhagen. There, he hoped to become an actor or singer. He was lucky enough to spend some time with the Royal Theater, but when his voice changed, he had to leave. Luckily, one of the directors helped him by arranging his education。

14岁，安徒生前往哥本哈根。他希望能在那儿成为一名演员或歌手。他有幸能在皇家剧院待了一段时间，但当他变声以后，他不得不离开。幸运的是，一位导演帮助他，为他安排接受教育。

Andersen gained admission to the University of Copenhagen in 1828, and his literary career began soon afterwards. He hoped to achieve success with poems and plays, and underestimated the kind of stories which have made him famous. Though not particularly fond of children, he had a gift for entertaining them. This led a friend to suggest he write down the stories he invented.

1828年安徒生获准进入哥本哈根大学学习，随后他的文学创作生涯很快就开始了。他原本希望能在诗和戏剧的领域里获得成功，而低估了后来使他成名的那类故事。虽然他不是特别喜欢孩子，却有使孩童快乐的天赋。这一点促使一位朋友建议他写下自己创造的故事。

Many of Andersen's tales are based on folklore, and many are products of his own imagination. All of them are told in a humorous and informal style that children loved from the start. Few serious critics, however, took notice of them when they first appeared.

安徒生的很多故事是以民间传说为根据，也有很多是他自己想象力的产物。所有的故事都以孩子们一听就喜欢的诙谐和口语体讲述。然而这些作品最初问世时，几乎没有严肃的评论家注意到它们。

Before his death in 1875, Andersen regularly traveled around Europe, and was enthusiastically welcomed everywhere he went. Because he had always wanted to be famous, he worked hard to gain a reputation in European literary circles. Being a rather vain man, he complained in "The Fairy Tale of My Life" one of three autobiographies he wrote, that people were not interested in his "serious" writing.

安徒生在1875年去世前，定期游历欧洲各地，所到之处他都受到了热烈的欢迎。由于安徒生长久以来一直渴望出名，于是他发奋工作以求能在欧洲文坛获得声望。安徒生是个颇为自命不凡的人，在他所著的三本自传之一的《我童话般的人生》一书中，他抱怨人们对他“严肃”的作品不感兴趣。

Nowadays, of course, Hans Christian Andersen is a household name. Whether he would have liked it or not, millions of children and adults will always be grateful for the magic his stories have brought to their lives.

现在，汉斯·克里斯蒂安·安徒生当然是个家喻户晓的名字。不管安徒生喜不喜欢，千千万万的儿童和大人会对他的故事给人生带来的魔力永远满怀感激。

**Later Life of Charlie Chaplin**

**35. 查理·卓别林的晚年生活**

After failure of the third marriage in 1942, He had met a young woman, the daughter of the great American playwright, Eugene O'Neill. She was only 17 years old and she and Charlie had fallen deeply in love. Her name was Oona. And now it was 1945, after the World War II, America had become affected by a kind of madness, an obsessive fear and hatred of Communism. Charlie became the victim of this persecution. On his way to London for the premiere of the film Limelight, the US Attorney General had forbidden Chaplin re-entry to the United States. He was an exile.

第三次婚姻失败以后，1942年他遇识了一位年轻的女郎，她是美国著名剧作家尤金·奥尼尔的女儿。她才17岁，却与查理相亲相爱，难舍难分。她，名叫奥娜。1945年的美国己弥漫开对共产主义的疯狂仇视和困恼。卓别林成为这次迫害的牺牲品。在赴伦敦举行《舞台生涯》首映典礼的路上，美国司法部长宣布禁止卓别林再度入境美国。他成了一位流亡者。

He was received warmly welcome in London and hailed as a genius. In the US, the vicious attacks continued, Charlie couldn't go back, and the family left for Switzerland. In January 1953, they settled in the beautiful house at Corsier-sur-Vevey that was to be Charlie's home for the rest of his life.

查理在伦敦受到盛情欢迎，被兴高采烈的人们捧为天才。然而在美国，对他的恶毒攻击仍在继续。查理无法返回，于是合家迁居就士。1953年1月，他们在坐落于维也纳成城科西尔的漂亮宅院里定居下来，查理在那里度过了余生。

Though America had denounced Charlie, he had his family-and the acclaim of the rest of the world. In 1945 when McCarthy and his henchmen was discovered that they had been faking evidence. Now America opened its arms to Charlie once more and he showered with awards.

尽管美国对查理横加指责，他却拥有一个团聚的家庭，还享有世界其他各国的赞誉。1945年，麦卡锡及同伙，已经变得声名狼藉，因为他们一直作伪证的事被揭发出来。于是美国又向查理展开了欢迎的双臂，给予他的各种奖励也纷至沓来。

In 1975, just before his eighty-sixth birthday, Charlie, who had been one of the London's "infant poor" was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II.

1975年86岁前，过去曾是维多利亚时代伦敦“儿童济贫院”小孩之一的查理，被英国女王伊丽莎白二世加封爵位。

After a life of incredibly hard work, of great and great sorrows and trials, Charlie seemed to have entered a golden time. He was becoming frail, but loved to work as always.

一生中异常勤奋地工作、取得辉煌成就和历经艰难困苦的查理，好似步入了人生黄金时代。尽管他身体渐趋虚弱，但仍一如既往地热爱工作。

"To work is to live-and I love to live."

他说：“工作就是生活，我热爱生活。”

On the morning of Christmas, 1977, when it was time to wake him and to wish him a happy Christmas, it was found that Charlie had died in his sleep. He was eighty-eight years old.

1977年圣诞节早晨，该唤醒他并祝他圣诞快乐的时候，他被发现已在睡眠中安然注世，享年88岁。

It was a good day for someone who had given so much laughter and encouragement to the world to slip.

对一位**27. Florence Nightingale, Pioneer of Modern Hospital Nursing**

**27. 弗洛伦斯·南丁格尔——现代医疗护理的先驱**

In the early nineteenth century, hospitals were not as good as they are now, and nurses were careless and poor in knowledge. A great many soldiers died of wounds and fever because the doctors were not skillful enough to cure them.

在19世纪早期，医院并不像现在这么好，护士们粗心大意而且知识贫乏。很多士兵死于伤口和发烧，因为医生没有足够的专业技能来医治他们。

When Miss Nightingale was a little girl, she used to like playing with her dolls and pretending to nurse them. When she grew up, she used to visit the poor people near her house and look after them when they were ill. She wanted to be a nurse, but her father said, "Look at the woman who do nursing in the hospital. I don't want you to be like that!" He had plenty of money and let Florence travel to many other countries. Wherever she went she visited hospitals and worked in them herself. Then she was placed in charge of a small hospital. Later, she went to learn nursing in Germany and France.

当南丁格尔女士还是个小女孩的时候，她常常喜欢和她的玩具一起玩儿，假装照顾它们。当她长大了，她常探望她房子附近的穷人，在他们生病时照顾他们。她想要成为一名护士，但是她的父亲说：“看看那些在医院里做护士的女人，我不想让你像她们一样!”他拥有很多钱，让弗洛伦斯去很多其他国家旅行。无论她去哪里，她都要去参观医院，并且自己去那里工作一段时间。之后她负责管理一个小的医院。再后来，她去德国和法国学习护理。

Miss Nightingale worked all day to see that the wounded soldiers were well looked after and properly nursed. Every night she walked around the hospital with a small lamp, visiting the patients. The soldiers were pleased to see her. They gave her the name of "The Lady of the Lamp". She and her nurses saved hundreds of lives and she stayed at the hospital until the war was over.

南丁格尔女士整日工作来保证受伤的士兵能够得到很好的照料和恰当的护理。每天晚上她都提着一盏小灯在医院里四处走动，探访病人们。士兵们很乐意看见她。他们称她为“提灯女神”。她和她的护士门拯救了数以百计的生命，她一直待在医院里直到战争结束。

After the war she returned to England and was honored for her services by Queen Victoria. But Florence said that her work had just begun. She raised money to build the Nightingale Home for Nurses in London. She started to train nurses in hospitals. Soon all the big hospitals in England had their own training schools for nurses. Hospitals became clean and cheerful places and nurses were much more skillful. She also wrote a book on public health, which was printed in several countries. Today, nurses all over the world remember "The Lady of the Lamp".

战争结束后她回到了英国并且被维多利亚女王嘉奖。但是弗洛伦斯说她的工作只是个开始。她筹集资金在伦敦为护士们建立了“南丁格尔之家”。很快所有英国的大医院有了他们自己专门的护士训练学校。医院成为了一个干净而且令人感到愉快的地方，护士们也更加专业了。她还写了一本关于公共卫生的书在若干个国家印刷。今天，全世界的护士都记得“提灯女神”。

Florence died at the age of ninety, still trying to serve others through her work as a nurse. lndeed, it is because of her that we honor nurses today.

弗洛伦斯寿终于90岁，仍然试图以护士的身份来服务他人。事实上，正是因为她我们今天才这么尊敬护士。

曾给世界人民带来如此之多的欢笑和鼓舞的人而言，这一天无疑是悄然谢世的好日子。

**33. The Best Nourishment of Life**

**33. 生命中最好的养料**

A little boy almost thought of himself as the most unfortunate child in the world because poliomyelitis made his leg lame and his teeth uneven and protrudent. He seldom played with his classmates; and when the teacher asked him to answer questions, he always lowered his head without a word.

一个小男孩几乎认为自己是世界上最不幸的孩子，因为患脊髓灰质炎而使他留下了瘸腿和参差不齐的牙齿。他很少跟同学们玩耍;老师叫他回答问题时，他总是低着头一言不友。

One spring, the boy's father asked for some saplings from the neighbor. He told his children to plant a sapling each person. The father said, "Whose seedling grows best, I will buy a favorite gift." The boy also wanted to get his father's gift. But seeing his brothers and sisters carrying water to water the trees bouncily, anyhow, he hit upon an idea: he hoped the tree he planted would die soon. So watering it once or twice, he never attended to it.

一年春天，小男孩的父亲从邻居家讨了些树苗。他叫他的孩子们每人种一棵。父亲对孩子们说：“谁的树苗长得好，我就给谁买一件他最喜欢的礼物。”小男孩也想得到父亲的礼物。但是看到兄弟姐妹们蹦蹦跳跳的背影，不知怎的，他萌生出一种想法，他希望自己栽的那棵树早日死去。因此，浇过一两次水后，他再也没去管它。

A few days later, when the little boy went to see his tree again, he was surprised to find it not only didn't wilt, but also grew some fresh leaves, and compared with the trees of his brother and sister, his appeared greener and more vital. His father kept his promise and bought the little boy his favorite gift.

几天后，小男孩再去看他种的那颗树时，他惊奇地发现它不仅没有枯萎，而且还长出几片新叶，显得很嫩、更有生机。父亲兑现了他的诺言，为小男孩买了一件他最喜欢的礼物。

Since then, the little boy slowly became optimistic. One night, the little boy lay on the bed but couldn't sleep He wanted to go to see the tree. When he came to the courtyard on tiptoe, he found his father was splashing something under his tree with a ladle. All of a sudden, he understood: his father had been secretly fertilizing his small tree! He returned to his room, tears running without restraint.

从那以后，小男孩慢慢地变得乐观起来。一天晚上，小男孩躺在床上睡不着，他想去看看那棵小树。当他轻手轻脚地来到院子时，却看见父亲用勺子在向自己栽种的那棵树下泼洒什么。顿时，他一切都明白了，原来他父亲一直在偷偷地为自己栽种的那棵小树施肥!他返回房间，任凭泪水肆流。

Decades passed. The little boy was elected President of the United States. His name was Franklin Roosevelt.

几十年过去了。那个小男孩成为了美国总统，他的名字叫富兰克林·罗斯福。

Love is the best nourishment of life; even if it just one ladleful of clear water, it can make the tree of life thrive.

爱是生命最好的养料，哪怕只是一勺清水，它都能使生命之树苗壮成长。