



Mandarin
Companion

Chinese Graded Reader

Level 1: 300 Characters

秘密花园

Mìmì

Huāyuán

The Secret Garden

Frances Hodgson Burnett

Mind Spark Press LLC

SHANGHAI

Mandarin Companion Graded Readers

Now everyone can read books in Chinese that are fun and help accelerate language learning. Every book is carefully written to use only characters, words, and grammar that a beginner 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 who have at least an upper-elementary level of Chinese. Most students 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 story line that helps beginners 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, and a numbered footnote indicates every instance of a key word. Pinyin and an English definition is provided at the bottom of the page for the first instance of each key word and a complete glossary of key words is also provided at the back of the book. All proper nouns have been underlined to help the reader distinguish between names and key 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.

Content

i Story Adaptation Notes

ii Characters

iii Locations

1 Chapter 1 没有人喜欢的女孩

7 Chapter 2 去南京

13 Chapter 3 这个阿姨不一样

22 Chapter 4 有人在哭

30 Chapter 5 秘密花园

38 Chapter 6 两个人的秘密

45 Chapter 7 是他在哭!

53 Chapter 8 三个人的秘密

59 Chapter 9 一起去花园

64 Chapter 10 你可以做到!

70 Chapter 11 在花园里!

75 Chapter 12 没有秘密了

80 Key Words

83 Discussion Questions

85 Appendix A: Grammar Points

89 Appendix B: Vocabulary Usage

93 Extensive Reading and Graded Readers

95 Credits and Acknowledgements

96 About Mandarin Companion

97 Other Stories from Mandarin Companion

Story Adaptation Notes

This story is an adaptation of British author Frances Hodgson Burnett's 1911 classic novel, *The Secret Garden*. 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 original story begins in India and later moves to Yorkshire, England when Mary Lennox becomes an orphan. In this adaptation, the locations have been adapted to Hainan and Nanjing, China.

Character Adaptations

The following is a list of the characters from *The Secret Garden* in Chinese followed by their corresponding English names from the original novel. 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.

李叶 (Lǐ Yè) - Mary Lennox

马阿姨 (Mǎ Āyí) - Mrs. Medlock

王乐心 (Wáng Lèxīn) - Martha Sowerby

林爷爷 (Lín Yéye) - Ben Weatherstaff

王乐天 (Wáng Lètiān) - Dickon Sowerby

文先生 (Wén Xiānsheng) - Archibald Craven

文思远 (Wén Sīyuǎn) - Colin Craven

文太太 (Wén Tàitai) - Mistress Craven

Cast of Characters



李叶
(Lǐ Yè)



马阿姨
(Mǎ Āyí)



王乐心
(Wáng Lèxīn)



林爷爷
(Lín Yéye)



王乐天
(Wáng Lètiān)



文先生
(Wén Xiānsheng)



文思远
(Wén Sīyuǎn)



文太太
(Wén Tàitai)

Locations

海南 Hǎinán

The southernmost province of China, Hainan is a large tropical island off the southern coast of mainland China. Today it is known as a popular tourist destination for its clear water and white sandy beaches.

南京 Nánjīng

A prominent place in Chinese history and culture, Nanking has long been one of China's most important cities. Located in east-central China, it is recognized as one of the Four Great Ancient Capitals of China and today is one of China's largest cities and commercial centers.



— Chapter 1 —

没有人喜欢的女孩

她叫李叶，是一个不太好看的女孩。

李叶出生在海南。海南在中国的
最南边，很远很远。李叶的爸爸经常在外
面，很少在家。李叶的妈妈是个很好
看的女人，她有很多朋友，每天都和朋
友一起玩。李叶的爸爸妈妈都很忙，他
们没有时间理他们的女儿。还有，李叶
的妈妈好像一点也不喜欢李叶，她觉得
李叶一点也不像她。李叶出生以后，她
就告诉家里的阿姨：“如果你们想让我
开心，就不要让我看到这个孩子。”

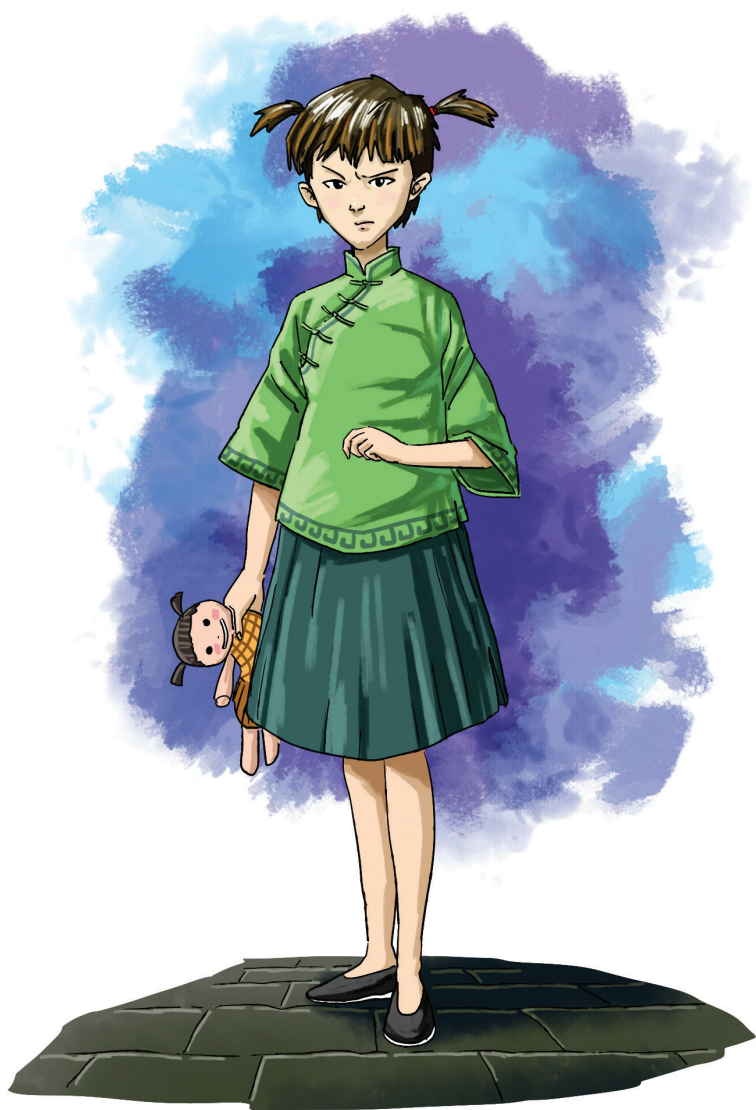
1 玩 (wán) *v.* to play

2 理 (lǐ) *v.* to pay attention to

3 好像 (hǎoxiàng) *v.* it seems

4 阿姨 (āyí) *n.* maid, housekeeper

5 开心 (kāixīn) *adj.* happy



所以，李叶很少能见到她的爸爸妈妈。

李叶真的跟她的妈妈不一样，她看起来又瘦又小，还经常生病。她总是喜欢生气，生气的时候总是哭。如果李叶的妈妈听到她哭，就会很生气。所有的人都不喜欢这个孩子，他们从来没有见过这样的孩子。为了不让李叶哭，她的阿姨总是很听李叶的话。李叶喜欢什么，她的阿姨就给她什么。李叶觉得在这个家里只有她的阿姨关心她。

李叶还不到十岁的时候，有一天，她早上起来以后看到一个新的阿姨，又

6 看起来 (kànqilai) *vc.* to look
(a certain way)

7 瘦 (shòu) *adj.* thin

8 生病 (shēngbìng) *v.* to get sick

9 总是 (zǒngshì) *adv.* always

10 生气 (shēngqì) *vo.* to get angry

11 哭 (kū) *v.* to cry

12 为了 (wèile) *conj.* for the purpose
of, in order to

13 听话 (tīnghuà) *vo.* to obey, *lit.*
“to listen to (someone’s) words”

14 关心 (guānxīn) *v.* to be concerned
about

生气了，因为她想要以前的阿姨。阿姨

10

4

4

告诉李叶：“她不会来了。”李叶更生气

10

了，她让这个新阿姨马上出去，让以前

4

的阿姨马上来。可是很长时间，她的新

4



阿姨没有回来，她以前的阿姨也没来。

那一天和平时不一样，没有人跟她说话，也没有人跟她玩。她很不开心，不知道为什么今天只有她一个人。一定出事了！

后来，她听到妈妈和别人说话，才知道真的出事了。她家里很多人都生病了，不到两天就死了很多人。李叶很难过，因为所有人都不理她。她一个人回到房间哭了一会儿，然后睡了很久。她起来的时候，还是没有人来看她。

“这儿有个孩子！”后来，几个人发现了又瘦又小的李叶，她一个人在房间里。

15 平时 (píngshí) *tn.* usual; usually

16 一定 (yīdìng) *adv.* definitely

17 出事 (chūshì) *vt.* to have an accident

18 后来 (hòulái) *tn.* afterwards

19 难过 (nánguò) *adj.* to feel upset

20 发现 (fāxiàn) *v.* to discover

“孩子，你是谁？为什么在这里？”

有个人问她。

“我叫李叶，我睡了很久。为什么我的阿姨不来？”李叶问。

4

“孩子，他们都死了。”

后来李叶才知道，她的爸爸妈妈和以前的阿姨都死了，别人都走了。

4

没有人想到这个孩子，因为他们不喜欢她，所以没有人关心她。

14

Key Words 关键词 (Guānjiàncí)

- 1 玩 (wán) *v.* to play
- 2 理 (lǐ) *v.* to pay attention to
- 3 好像 (hǎoxiàng) *v.* it seems
- 4 阿姨 (āyí) *n.* maid, housekeeper
- 5 开心 (kāixīn) *adj.* happy
- 6 看起来 (kànqǐlai) *vc.* to look (a certain way)
- 7 瘦 (shòu) *adj.* thin
- 8 生病 (shēngbìng) *v.* to get sick
- 9 总是 (zǒngshì) *adv.* always
- 10 生气 (shēngqì) *vo.* to get angry
- 11 哭 (kū) *v.* to cry
- 12 为了 (wèile) *conj.* for the purpose of, in order to
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- 14 关心 (guānxīn) *v.* to be concerned about
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- 18 后来 (hòulái) *tn.* afterwards
- 19 难过 (nánguò) *adj.* to feel upset
- 20 发现 (fāxiàn) *v.* to discover
- 21 家人 (jiārén) *n.* family
- 22 叔叔 (shūshu) *n.* uncle, father’s younger brother
- 23 带 (dài) *v.* to bring
- 24 应该 (yīnggāi) *aux.* should, ought to
- 25 奇怪 (qíguài) *adj.* weird, strange
- 26 里面 (lǐmiàn) *n.* inside
- 27 有意思 (yǒuyìsi) *adj.* interesting
- 28 想法 (xiǎngfǎ) *n.* thinking, idea
- 29 草地 (cǎodì) *n.* lawn, grassy area

- 30 记住 (jìzhu) *vc.* to remember, to memorize
- 31 衣服 (yīfu) *n.* clothing
- 32 健康 (jiànkāng) *adj.* healthy
- 33 一直 (yīzhí) *adv.* all along
- 34 学会 (xuéhuì) *vc.* to learn
- 35 往前 (wǎngqián) *phr.* forward
- 36 样子 (yàngzi) *n.* appearance
- 37 种 (zhòng) *v.* to plant (a tree or other plant)
- 38 不怎么 (bùzěnme) *adv.* not very
- 39 做事 (zuòshì) *vo.* to do things
- 40 墙 (qiáng) *n.* wall
- 41 忘记 (wàngjì) *v.* to forget
- 42 打理 (dǎlǐ) *v.* to take care of
- 43 掉 (diào) *v.* to fall
- 44 声 (shēng) *n.* noise, sound
- 45 紧张 (jǐnzhāng) *adj.* nervous
- 46 记得 (jìde) *v.* to remember
- 47 试 (shì) *v.* to try
- 48 打开 (dǎkāi) *vc.* to open
- 49 方向 (fāngxiàng) *n.* direction
- 50 不然 (bùrán) *conj.* otherwise
- 51 树林 (shùlín) *n.* forest
- 52 小心 (xiǎoxīn) *v.* to be careful
- 53 亮 (liàng) *adj.* bright
- 54 钥匙 (yàoshi) *n.* key
- 55 秘密 (mìmi) *n.* secret
- 56 关上 (guānshang) *vc.* to close
- 57 工具 (gōngjù) *n.* tool
- 58 问题 (wèntí) *n.* problem
- 59 种子 (zhǒngzi) *n.* seed
- 60 放心 (fàngxīn) *v.* to relax, to be relieved

- 61 办法 (bànfǎ) *n.* way, method
62 睡觉 (shuìjiào) *vo.* to sleep
63 家具 (jiājù) *n.* furniture
64 左右 (zuǒyòu) *adv.* about, more or less, *lit.* “left-right”
65 常常 (chángcháng) *adv.* often
66 旅行 (lǚxíng) *v.* to travel
67 恨 (hèn) *v.* to hate
68 起床 (qǐchuáng) *vo.* to get out of bed
69 可能 (kěnéng) *adv.* possibly, maybe
70 走路 (zǒulù) *vo.* to walk
71 轮椅 (lúnyǐ) *n.* wheelchair
72 认真 (rènzhen) *adj.* serious, earnest
73 有用 (yǒuyòng) *adj.* useful

Part of Speech Key

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

About Mandarin Companion

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

Level 1 Readers: 300 Characters

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 Mr. Qian, 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. Mr. Qian tells the Zhang family of a monkey's paw he was given that has magical powers to grant three wishes to the holder. Against his better judgement, Mr. Qian 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 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, everyone except his nagging wife. With his faithful dog Blackie, Zhou Xuefa spends his time playing with kids, helping neighbors, and discussing politics in the teahouse. One day after a bad scolding from his wife, he goes for a walk into the mountains and meets a mysterious old man who appears to be from an ancient time. The man invites him into his mountain home for a meal and after drinking some wine, Zhou Xuefa falls into a deep sleep. He awakes to a time very different than what he once knew.

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?

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