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**ПРАКТИЧЕСКИЙ КУРС ОСНОВНОГО
ИНОСТРАННОГО ЯЗЫКА**

АНГЛИЙСКИЙ ЯЗЫК

ДОМАШНЕЕ ЧТЕНИЕ

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ПРАКТИЧЕСКИЙ КУРС ОСНОВНОГО ИНОСТРАННОГО ЯЗЫКА АНГЛИЙСКИЙ ЯЗЫК

ДОМАШНЕЕ ЧТЕНИЕ

Юниты 1-20: Тексты из художественной литературы на английском языке.

ЮНИТА 1

Учебное пособие представляет собой курс уроков английского языка по домашнему чтению, включающих в себя диалоги, ролевые игры, адаптированные тексты художественных произведений. Сопровождается аудиокурсом.

Для студентов факультета лингвистики СГУ

Юнита соответствует профессиональной образовательной программе №4

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* Глоссарий расположен в середине учебного пособия и предназначен для самостоятельного заучивания новых понятий.

ТЕМАТИЧЕСКИЙ ПЛАН

Myths and Legends.

King Midas.

Dick Whittington's Cat.

David and Goliath.

Robin Hood Meets Little John.

Sir Theodore and the Dragon.

Tasks and exercises.

ЛИТЕРАТУРА

Базовый учебник

1. Warren Foundation. Seattle, 1993.

KING MIDAS

The story of King Midas begins when he befriended an old man named Silenus. King Midas gave him food and drink and a comfortable place to sleep. Silenus was grateful that the king treated a stranger so kindly.

Now, it turned out that Silenus was the teacher and foster-father of the god, Bacchus. When Silenus told Bacchus how kind and generous the king had been, Bacchus decided to reward King Midas and sent for him. When King Midas arrived, he bowed before the god and asked, "Oh, Mighty Bacchus, what have I done that you call me before you?"

"King Midas, you have shown generosity to Silenus, and I wish to be generous with you. Therefore, I will grant any wish you make."

King Midas knew that this was the chance of lifetime. Without a moment's thought, he said, "I wish that everything I touch would turn to gold!"

"Are you sure?" asked Bacchus, "You want everything you touch to turn to gold?"

"Oh, yes," said King Midas, "if you can grant that wish."

"I can grant it," said Bacchus, "but I don't understand why you want such a golden touch. I could give you the power to turn water into wine or rocks into bread, if you would rather have that instead."

"Those would be wonderful powers," answered the king, "but I would like to have the golden touch, as you call it."

"So be it," said Bacchus and waved his hand.

King Midas almost fell over, his knees bent. He felt like someone had given him a great burden, because all of his clothes had turned to gold. King Midas would have jumped for joy, but he could hardly walk. He thanked Bacchus and started on his journey home. As soon as King Midas left the court he decided to try his new power. He picked a leaf off a nearby oak tree. The leaf turned to gold in his fingers. "Wonderful," cried the king and put the golden leaf into his golden pocket. But soon he got tired in his heavy golden clothes so he picked up a long stick to use as a cane. It immediately turned to gold, but it was now very heavy and only added to his burden. He decided that he would wait until he reached his palace before turning things to gold.

But when he reached his palace he went mad with joy and his power. He moved touching the furniture and the rugs and the stones, turning them all to gold. He was delighted. "I have the most expensive palace in all the world," he shouted. He told his servants: "Bring me the cups and plates and pots from the kitchen and I will turn them all to gold." The servants did, and he turned all the things to gold.

“Now we shall have the finest feast ever seen,” said the king happily. “Bring us roast pheasant and wild boar, bring us wine and fruit, bring us the richest cakes and pastry.” His servants obeyed and the feast was spread before the king. He reached for an apple and it turned to gold in his hand. He reached for bread and it glittered gold. “This gift is a bit troublesome at times,” said the king, “but I can overcome it. Bring me a pair of gloves so I can eat without my food turning to gold.”

The servants were amazed by the king’s new power and by the great wealth of his castle. They brought him his gloves and they watched as the gloves turned to gold as soon as he put them on. Then he chose another apple from the platter and took it, it did not turn to gold for his hands were in the gloves, but when the king put it to his mouth it immediately turned to gold upon the first touch of his lips. He grabbed a glass of wine to drink, but it became liquid gold in his mouth.

When his servants saw this they became terrified, for they suddenly realized that if he touched them, even accidentally, they would also turn into golden statues. And so they all left the castle leaving poor rich King Midas all alone. He shouted and raved for a while, but no one heard and no one came. Finally he fell hungry and exhausted on his bed, but the pillow turned to gold and then the blankets and it was a very uncomfortable place to sleep.

At dawn the cock crowed and the king awoke. Outside, the golden sunrise filled the valley and forest and poor King Midas groaned and said, “Oh, Mighty Bacchus, I was wrong to ask for this cursed golden touch, I can see now that there are many things in life and nature that are worth more than gold. Take back this curse I have wished for myself. Be generous with me one more time.”

And Bacchus, hearing his pleas, said, “Go to the river Pactolus, follow the stream to its source and wash your hands and body in the stream and the golden touch will be removed.”

King Midas hurried out, followed the river to its stream and bathed his hands and arms and body and his head. The sands of the stream were turned to gold and remained so to this day. Midas became a normal man again, and for the rest of his life took great pleasure in small things.

Tasks and Exercises

I. Read the story paying attention to the words:

to befriend
a foster-father
to reward
to grant
a chance of lifetime

помогать подружиться
приемный отец
вознаградить
дарить, даровать
шанс всей жизни

to turn to gold	превратить в золото
a golden touch	“золотое” прикосновение
to try the power	испытать силу
to go mad	сходить с ума
a feast	пир
to reach for	дотягиваться, тянуться
to become terrified	испугаться
exhausted	измученный, изнуренный
mighty	могущественный
a curse	проклятие
to remove	удалять, уничтожать
a normal man	обыкновенный человек

II. Complete the sentences according to the story.

- Silenus was
 - a god.
 - a friend of a god.
 - a foster-father of a god.
- Bacchus told King Midas that
 - he would grant any wish he made.
 - he would grant him a lot of gold.
 - he would grant him only a golden touch.
- After King Midas got the new power he almost fell over because
 - he was very happy.
 - his clothes became heavy.
 - he was blinded by the sparkle of the gold.
- King Midas turned nearly all the things in his palace into gold, because
 - he wanted to be very rich.
 - he went mad with joy.
 - he wanted to amaze his servants.
- To overcome the golden touch King Midas used
 - forks.
 - a pair of tongs.
 - a pair of gloves.
- The servants left the king, because they
 - were terrified.
 - were fired.
 - had stolen some gold.
- To remove the curse King Midas
 - drank water from the Pactolus.

- B. ate some fish from that river.
- C. washed in that river his hands, face and body.

III. Give extended answers to the following questions.

1. What did King Midas give Silenus?
2. Was Midas afraid when he first appeared in front of Bacchus?
3. How long did Midas think before he asked Bacchus to give him a golden touch?
4. How many wishes did King Midas have?
5. Why didn't Midas jump for joy after he had received the golden touch?
6. What did the king do with the leaf from an oak tree?
7. What did the servants bring King Midas for the feast?
8. Why couldn't he drink?
9. What did the king do when all his servants left him?
10. Did he spend a pleasant night?
11. What happened after Midas washed himself in the river?

IV. Compose a story describing King Midas.

V. Translate the following expressions from the text. Get ready to use them in the context of the story.

to treat a stranger

to show generosity

so be it

a court

the finest feast

troublesome

2. Это был самый обыкновенный человек, просто он очень устал, был голоден и измучен.

3. Его считали самым могущественным человеком, человеком, который мог исполнить любое желание.

4. Ольга любила его за его щедрость, за то, что он без колебаний помогал любому.

5. Жизнь человека дороже всего на свете, дороже золота и драгоценных камней.

6. Если вы уже испугались, этот страх преодолеть нелегко.

7. Отправляясь домой, Эндрю чувствовал себя так, как будто кто-то возложил на его плечи тяжелую ношу.

8. Временами он оставался совсем один, и это научило его радоваться даже пустякам.

9. Двор королевы всегда славился своими роскошными пирами.

10. “Да будет так,” сказал бог и наградил незнакомца, сняв с него проклятие.

IX. Situations for discussion.

Compose a small story about your possible wish to be fulfilled by a god. Discuss the problem of kindness. Is it always rewarded? Use the vocabulary of the story.

DICK WHITTINGTON'S CAT

We know that Dick Whittington was a real man. We know that he became very rich and that he was Mayor of London. We know that he was a close friend of the king. That is all history. But it is a legend of how he first became wealthy that interests us, because if the story is true Dick Whittington was a poor boy until his cat brought him great wealth.

Legend has it that Dick's parents died when he was very young. With little money and no job he decided to go to London, because people had told him that London was full of wealthy people and the streets were paved with gold. When he arrived in London, he tried to find a job, but found none. There were many like himself looking for work and very few jobs to be had.

After weeks of searching for work he had spent all the money he had. He begged on the streets for a few pennies or for a little food. Gradually he grew weaker and weaker until one night he fainted in a doorway of some house. The next morning the cook of the household, an ill-tempered old woman, found him there and she kicked him and yelled, "You, lazy good-for-nothing boy. Get out of here. This is the house of Sir Ivo Fitzwarren. Up and out I say!" And with those words she kicked poor Dick again.

Weak from hunger, Dick tried to pull himself up. "I'll be on my way, but if you could spare me a little food, I could move faster and farther, good woman."

"I'll give you a hot dish water down your neck if you don't move on," said the mean-tempered old cook. But just at that moment Sir Ivo Fitzwarren himself appeared and hearing Dick's sad story and seeing his weakened condition told the cook to take him into the kitchen, feed him and find him a job around the house.

In a short time Dick had gained back his strength and was working for the old cook who gave him the dirtiest and messiest jobs in her kitchen like washing the pans and cleaning out the grease pits and carrying out the garbage. When the cook found the least excuse, she scolded Dick. It was a hard life, but Dick tolerated it and tried to please the old woman.

Dick had been given a small room with a bed just off the kitchen, and at night the mice and rats went scampering about his room on their way to the food and scraps in the kitchen. The mice and rats were so troublesome that Dick took his only remaining penny and went out into the streets and bought himself a cat.

Now Dick's cat was a fine mouser and in a short time she killed or chased off all the mice and rats. Dick was very happy, but his cat soon proved more valuable than he could have guessed.

Sir Ivo Fitzwarren was a merchant who sent out ships to trade around the world. He would buy cloth, guns, metal and other goods and ship them to distant ports. If he was lucky, the ship's captain would sell the goods at a high profit and return the money to Sir Ivo. In those days it was the custom to let others invest in the ship's goods and to share the profit, if there was any. When Sir Ivo was planning on the next shipment of goods, he asked his servants if they wanted to invest, and many of them did, but when he came to Dick Whittington, poor Dick said, "I'm sorry, sir, but I haven't any money to invest." "Well, have you anything of value to sell? My captain might fetch you a fine price for it," said Sir Ivo.

"Only my cat, sir," said Dick. "She is a fine mouser."

"Well, if you want to send her, maybe the captain can find a buyer for her. I'll give you whatever money he can sell her for."

Reluctantly, Dick sent his cat off to sea. But within the next few months he forgot about his cat. The old cook was always yelling at him and pounding his ears until finally he decided to leave and look for a better job. Late one night he took his small bundle of possessions and a little food and left his small room near the kitchen. He had decided to leave London.

As legend has it, it was November 1st, which we call All Saints Day or All-Hallows Day, and Dick had walked as far as Halloway when he stopped to rest and seated himself on a stone, which to this day is called "Whittington's Stone." Sitting there he heard the bells of Bow Church ringing and they seemed to say, "Turn again, Whittington, Thrice Lord Mayor of London."

"Lord Mayor?" said Dick to himself. "If I can be Mayor, I can put up with anything, even the old cook." So he rose up and hurried back to the Fitzwarren house. And what a good thing it was, for on that very day the ship's captain returned with wonderful news, and the most wonderful was the story of Dick's cat.

It seems the captain's ship had been blown ashore along the Barbary Coast and the captain was taken to the palace of the Barbary King who treated him kindly and offered to buy his goods. Then the king invited the captain to a feast and as they sat down to eat, a horde of mice and rats scurried over the table. The poor captain could hardly believe himself. Politely he asked, "Is it always like this at your banquet?"

The king replied, "Always, and sometimes worse. At night I must have five guards around my bed to keep the rats off me when I sleep. I'd give anything to be rid of the rats."

Hearing that the captain excused himself and hurried back to his ship. In a short time he returned with Dick Whittington's cat and set the animal loose in the banquet hall. The cat, true to her nature, attacked the rats and mice killing some and scaring off the rest. The king was amazed and asked about this strange animal which he had never seen before. The captain explained about cats and told the king that this cat would soon have a litter of

kittens, and she and her kittens and their kittens would someday rid the kingdom of mice.

The king was overjoyed, and he told his servants to bring gold and jewels to purchase this wonderful creature. He also paid much money for the captain's other goods, so when the captain returned to the house of Sir Ivo Fitzwarren he brought profit for all who had invested in the venture, but no one earned more than Dick Whittington, for his cat had been sold for chests of gold and jewels. Dick was now a rich man.

But Dick's new wealth was only the beginning. After presenting gifts to the other servants of the house, even the old cook, he set himself up in business and earned even more money. He married Alice, the daughter of Sir Ivo Fitzwarren, and later inherited that fine gentleman's fortune.

And Dick became famous in London, was elected Sheriff and then Mayor of London three times just as the Bells of Bow Church had predicted.

Tasks and Exercises

I. Read the story paying attention to the words:

a legend	легенда
little money and no job	мало денег и никакой работы
to faint	падать в обморок
to kick	ударять, бить ногой
to feed	кормить
the dirtiest and messiest job	самая грязная и противная работа
mice and rats	мыши и крысы
a merchant	купец, торговец
to invest	вкладывать деньги, помещать капитал
a fine mouser	хороший мышелов
to look for a better job	искать лучшей работы
thrice Lord Mayor	трижды мэр
wonderful news	прекрасные новости
to blow ashore	прибивать к берегу
a horde	орда, полчище, стая
to scurry	поспешно двигаться, бежать
to attack	нападать, атаковать
to rid	избавлять
gold and jewels	золото и драгоценности
fortune	богатство, состояние
to predict	предсказывать

II. Complete the sentences according to the story.

1. Dick
 - A. didn't know his parents at all.
 - B. lost his parents when he was very young.
 - C. left his parents, because they were poor and couldn't feed him.
2. After Dick had spent all the money he
 - A. found a job.
 - B. started to beg on the streets.
 - C. went to the house of Sir Fitzwarren and asked for a job.
3. The cook didn't like Dick because
 - A. she was mean.
 - B. she was strict.
 - C. Dick didn't work properly.
4. Sir Fitzwarren gave Dick a job because
 - A. he needed a good servant.
 - B. the cook asked him.
 - C. he felt sorry for him.
5. Dick bought a cat because
 - A. of the mice and rats.
 - B. he wanted a small friend.
 - C. he wanted to sell it after some time.
6. The servants invested the money into the ship's goods because
 - A. they wanted to earn some money.
 - B. Sir Fitzwarren demanded it.
 - C. they wanted to help Sir Fitzwarren.
7. Later Dick married
 - A. the daughter of Sir Fitzwarren.
 - B. the niece of Sir Fitzwarren.
 - C. the granddaughter of Sir Fitzwarren.

III. Chose the correct answer.

1. What day was it when Dick decided to leave the house?
 - A. All Fools Day
 - B. Christmas
 - C. All Saints Day
2. Who told Dick that he would be the Major of London?
 - A. a cat
 - B. a passer-by
 - C. the bells

IV. Give extended answers to the following questions.

1. Was Dick Whittington a real person?
2. Is the story of Dick's cat a fact or a legend?
3. How had he appeared in the doorway of the house of Sir Fitzwarren?
4. What jobs did Dick have at the house?
5. What was the job of Sir Ivo?
6. Why did Dick decide to leave the house?
7. What message did Dick hear in the bells of Bow Church?
8. How could the captain sell Dick's cat at such a high price?
9. How did Dick become the Mayor of London?

V. Compose a story describing Dick Whittington.

VI. Translate the expressions from the story.

Get ready to use them in the context of the story.

to be paved with gold

to search for

to be on one's way

to pull oneself up

to tolerate

the only remaining penny

reluctantly

a bundle of possessions

to put up

5. Многие люди называли его никчемным человеком, но он терпел их насмешки.

6. Анна очень испугалась и чуть не упала в обморок, увидев полчище мышей и крыс, но быстро взяла себя в руки.

7. Джон был вне себя от радости, когда узнал, что унаследовал состояние своего дяди.

8. Я не мог примириться с тем, что капитан не отдал мне мою долю прибыли.

9. Он очень неохотно отпустил птицу, после чего собрал свои пожитки и ушел.

IX. Situations for discussion.

**What is your opinion on the problem of a chance in one's life?
 Discuss about predictions and fate, whether one can trust
 dreams, fortune-tellers and so on.
 Use the vocabulary of the story.**

УРОК 3

LESSON 3

DAVID AND GOLIATH

David was a young shepherd. He spent many hours alone on the hillsides tending his sheep. To defend his lambs and eyes from attacks by wild animals he would use his sling to throw stones at the attackers.

Legend has it that David became so good with his sling, he could strike the smallest target, and that once he killed an attacking lion with a stone with his sling.

The sling was made from two strips of leather each about two feet long. One end of each strip was tied to a wider piece of leather about the size of a man's hand, and like a hand, that wide piece of leather folded over to

hold a stone or rock. The other end of each strip was held in the hand so the rock in the leather pouch could be swung around and around, and when David would let go of one strap the stone would go flying out and if his aim was good, it would strike its target with great force.

But at heart David was a peaceful and righteous young man, better known for his songs and gentle manner than for his strength and courage. So when King Saul's army went to war with the Philistines, David did not go off to war, but his brothers did.

Some time later David's father sent him with food and supplies to the army camp. David was sitting with his brothers and the other soldiers when a loud voice was heard from the enemy camp across the valley. Everyone ran to see who had made such a great noise, and there on the opposite hillside was Goliath, the giant warrior from the Philistine camp.

Goliath was over ten feet tall, and his arms and legs were as big as a normal man's body. He carried a long heavy sword and a shield so big and heavy that it took two men just to lift it. Goliath had a head like a bull, and it was covered all over with black curly hair. A brass helmet topped his head.

Goliath yelled to the soldiers in David's camp, "I'm the champion warrior of the Philistines. I will fight any man you send against me. If your man wins, our army will leave your land. But if I defeat him, you must all surrender your arms and fight no more."

There was much confusion and fear among the soldiers of King Saul. No one would dare fight Goliath; to do so meant certain death. Goliath went back to his tent, but the next day he came again and repeated his challenge. "Is there no one in your whole army brave enough to do battle with me? Are you cowards?"

David asked his brothers and the other soldiers if they would fight Goliath, but they all said no. Then David said, "If no one else fights for King Saul and our land, I will do it." But the men all laughed at him and said that he was young and foolish and did not know what it meant to stand up against so strong a giant as Goliath.

On the third day Goliath came again and made his challenge, "They are all cowards. The army of the Philistines will destroy them and take their women and their lands."

King Saul asked his generals if there were no men in his whole army who would fight Goliath, and they told him no one, except for a young shepherd named David. Then King Saul sent for David and asked him if he wanted to accept the challenge. David answered that he did. The King reminded him that if he were defeated he would lose not only his life, but would lose for all his countrymen.

"I understand, your majesty," said David, "but someone must go or all is lost anyhow. I have faced other dangers alone in the fields. I can face this danger also."

“Then take my armour,” said King Saul, “and take my sword and shield, for you have nothing but your light garments and your sling.”

“Thank you, but I know little of swords, and the heavy armour would slow me down. I will take only my sling and a few stones from the stream in the valley below. Those will be my weapons. With such weapons I have killed a wild lion. Goliath is no greater danger than that.”

“It shall be as you wish,” said the King. “Our prayers go with you.”

The next day when Goliath shouted his challenge from across the valley, David stepped forth from the soldiers. David’s brothers tried to change his mind, but he would not hear them. He asked to be remembered to his father and mother if anything should happen to him. Then he started down the slope and into the valley.

On the other side Goliath watched the young boy stepping forth to challenge him and he laughed and called out, “Is this the sheep you send to slaughter? Do you want to trick me? Do you think that this puny boy will make me soften my heart and take mercy on him? I will kill him and crush you all.” So saying Goliath came lumbering down the hill to meet David in the valley below.

David stopped at the edge of the stream and washed his hands and his face and head in the stream. Then he searched among the rocks and pebbles and picked three smooth, round stones about the size and shape of large eggs. He placed one of them in his sling and went forward to meet Goliath.

On a small, flat field at the edge of the stream they met. David twirled his sling and took aim at the broad forehead of Goliath just between the eyes. But the first stone went whistling through the air a few inches above Goliath’s head.

With a mighty roar Goliath came charging forward, his massive sword slicing the air, but David was quick and agile and Goliath did not kill him there.

Running a little distance off David set the second stone in his sling. Goliath had turned angrily towards him and David whirled his sling and let the second stone fly. It struck Goliath on the cheek just below his eye. He howled with pain and blood appeared on his cheek.

David saw his chance and while Goliath stood looking at the blood on his hand, David spun his sling and sent the third stone smashing into the giant’s forehead. Goliath head snapped back, his mouth fell open, and he fell down.

David came up to him, picked up Goliath’s sword and killed the fallen giant with his own weapon.

A great cheer went up from the soldiers in King Saul’s army and they came charging across the valley. The army of the Philistines shocked and surprised by the death of their giant champion turned and fled.

David had won a great victory for himself, his king and country, and he went on to win great honors and other victories in later years, but none was as famous as the battle in which David slew Goliath.

Tasks and Exercises

I. Read the story paying attention to the words:

a shepherd	пастух
a sling	праща
to strike the target	поражать цель
peaceful and righteous	миролюбивый и справедливый
to go to war	идти на войну
a giant warrior	гигантский воин
to surrender	сдаваться
to do battle	бороться
to make a challenge	бросить вызов
to accept	принимать
armour	доспехи
our prayers go with you	с тобой наши молитвы
to step forth	выступать вперед
smooth, round stones	гладкие, круглые камни
a few inches above	выше на несколько дюймов
into the forehead	в лоб
with his own weapon	его же оружием
to flee	убегать, спастись бегством

II. Complete the sentences according to the story.

- Usually David used the sling
 - to defend himself.
 - to defend his animals.
 - to train himself.
- The sling was made of
 - leather.
 - grass.
 - rope.
- David was also known for his
 - poems.
 - paintings.
 - songs.

4. David went to the army camp
 - A. because he missed his brothers.
 - B. to become a soldier.
 - C. to bring them some food.
5. Goliath had a head like
 - A. a wolf.
 - B. a bull.
 - C. a tiger.
6. David decided to do battle with Goliath because
 - A. no one else wanted to fight with the giant.
 - B. he wanted to be the first to fight with the giant.
 - C. the king ordered him to do it.
7. When David went to the battle he took
 - A. a sling and a shield.
 - B. only a sling.
 - C. a sling and King Saul's armour.
8. David killed Goliath with
 - A. the sword.
 - B. the sling.
 - C. the spear.

III. Give extended answers to the questions

1. Whom did David kill with his sling?
2. How long was each strip of leather of which the sling was made?
3. How tall was Goliath?
4. Why did Goliath call the soldiers of King Saul cowards?
5. What was the reaction of the soldiers when David told them that he would accept the challenge?
6. Why did David refuse to wear the king's armour?
7. Why did Goliath say that the army of King Saul wanted to trick him?
8. Why couldn't Goliath kill David?
9. What happened to the army of the Philistines?

IV. Describe Goliath.

V. Describe David.

VI. Translate the expressions from the story. Get ready to use them in the context of the story.

to tend

supplies

a champion warrior

there was much confusion and fear

to have nothing but

to know little of smth

it's no greater danger than

he wouldn't hear

to be remembered

to stand up against

a puny boy

a mighty roar

в глубине души

обходительность, мягкие манеры

напоминать

Get ready to read the passages in class.

VIII. Translate the following sentences into English using the vocabulary of the story.

1. В рядах воинов - смятение и страх.

2. Когда ему было 16 лет, он принял решение пойти на войну.

3. Лучший вид защиты - нападение, убивать врага надо его же оружием.

4. Ему не оставалось ничего, кроме как спастись бегством.

5. Он не хотел даже слушать людей, которые утверждали, что в глубине души, Джек справедливый и миролюбивый человек.

6. Он бросил вызов всему обществу.

7. "Передайте моим родителям, что мои молитвы всегда будут с ними!"

IX. Situations for discussion.

Compose your story on how bravery helps in difficult situations. Discuss the problem of acting impulsively, whether one should trust one's feelings or think the case over. Use the vocabulary of the story.

ROBIN HOOD MEETS LITTLE JOHN

Up rose Robin Hood one morning, when all the birds were singing happily among the leaves, and up rose all his merry men, and each fellow washed his head and hands in the cold stream that flowed through Sherwood Forest. Then said Robin, "I will go abroad to seek there adventures, and you, my merry men, rest here in the greenwood. But if you hear my horn three times, come quickly to me for I want your aid."

So saying he left his friends and took the road to the river. As soon as he came up to the bridge, he saw a tall strange figure coming up from the other side of the river. Robin quickened his pace, and the stranger did also it, for they both wanted to cross the bridge first.

"Now, stand you back," said Robin, "and let the better man cross first."

"Then stand back yourself," answered the stranger, "for the better man here, am I."

"That will we soon see," said Robin, "and meanwhile stand where you are, or by Saints, I'll stick an arrow between your ribs."

"If you only dare touch me, I'll tan your hide till it be as many colours as a beggar's cloak," said the stranger.

"Don't talk foolishly," said Robin, "or I will send my shaft right into your heart."

"And you talk like a coward," answered the stranger, "for you stand there with your bow to shoot at my heart, while I have nothing in my hand but a plain blackthorn staff."

"No one," shouted Robin, "in all my life has ever called me a coward. I will put aside my bow and arrows, and will try your manhood."

"I am waiting for you here."

Robin Hood stepped quickly to the road and cut a good staff of ground oak, straight and six feet in length. Then Robin measured the stranger from top to toe, and thought that he had never seen a lustier and stouter man. Robin was tall, but the stranger was taller, for he was seven feet in height. Robin was broad across the shoulders, but the stranger was broader, for he was twice the breadth of a palm and was at least four feet around the waist.

"Nevertheless," said Robin to himself, "I will baste you, my good fellow," then aloud, "Here is my good staff, lusty and tough. Wait my coming and if you dare and if you are not afraid, meet me on the bridge. We will fight until one or the other of us tumbles into the stream."

"Very good," cried the stranger twirling his staff above his head until it whistled.

Never did the knights of Arthur's Round Table meet in a stouter fight than did these two. In a moment Robin stepped quickly upon the bridge where the stranger stood, and then delivered a blow at the stranger's head but the stranger turned the blow away, and in return gave another one, which Robin also turned. So they stood, each in his place for one good hour, and many blows were given and received by each in that time and here and there were sore bones and bumps. But still neither of them seemed likely to stop the fight or to fall off the bridge. Now and then they stopped to rest, and each thought that he never had seen in all his life before such a strong man with such a strong hand. At last Robin gave the stranger such a blow that made the dust fly off his jacket like smoke. The stranger came within a hair of falling off the bridge, but he regained himself very quickly and gave Robin Hood a crack on the crown that caused blood to flow. And the next blow made Robin fall right into the water.

"And where are you now, good lad?" shouted the stranger, roaring with laughter.

"Oh, in the flood," cried Robin. Then he waded to the bank and said: "Give me your hand. I admit that you are a brave and sturdy soul, and can give a good stout strike with this staff. My head hums like bees on a hot June day."

Then he took his horn and wined three blasts. Then he again said to a surprised stranger, "You are a tall and brave lad, for there has never been a man between here and Canterbury Town, who could do to me what you have done."

"And you," said the stranger, laughing, "were fighting like a brave and stout yeoman."

But at this moment a dozen or two stout yeomen, all dressed in green, appeared near the bridge.

"Good master," cried one of them, "how is this? You are wet from head to foot!"

"That stout fellow," answered Robin, "has thrown me into the water."

"So he will be in the water himself. Have at him, lads!"

Then the yeomen leaped upon the stranger, but he was ready and stroke them right and left with his staff, and though he at last went down under so many people, some of the yeomen were also hurt.

"Now stop," cried Robin, "he is a right good man and you shouldn't do him any harm. And you, stranger, will you stay with me and be one of my band? You will have three green suits each year, besides forty marks in pay and will share with us all the goods we get. You will eat sweet venison and drink the stoutest ale, and will be my righthand, for I have never seen such a man with such a staff in all my life. Speak! Will you be one of my good merry men?"

"I don't know," said the stranger, for he was a bit angry.

“If you handle your bow and arrow no better than you handle an oaken staff, I don’t know if you are able to be the leader. But if there is any man here who can shoot better than I do, I will think about joining your band.”

“My merry men,” said Robin Hood, “cut a white piece of bark four fingers wide and set on that oak. And you, stranger, first hit it, and then call yourself an archer.”

“I will,” answered he. “Give me a good stout bow and a broad arrow, and if I do not hit it, beat me with your bows.”

Then he chose the stoutest bow and a straight good shaft, and stepped to the mark. Then he sent the shaft right in the center of the piece of bark.

“Aha,” cried he, “can you see this shot?”

“That is a keen shot, indeed,” said Robin, “but I will try to perform a better one”.

And he took an arrow, and sent it right upon the stranger’s arrow, splitting it into splinters. All the yeomen leaped to their feet and shouted for joy.

“That is a shot indeed,” said the stranger, “and I have never seen any like that! I will be one of your men.”

“Then I have got a right good man this day,” said jolly Robin. “What is your name, good fellow?”

“Men call me John Little,” answered the stranger.

“No,” said Robin, “I don’t like your name and will change it. You must be called Little John, and I will be your godfather. And you, my merry men, go and prepare a christening feast for the new member of our band.”

Tasks and Exercises

I. Read the story paying attention to the words:

to rise up	подниматься, вставать
a horn	рожок
to cross the bridge	переходить через мост
to stand back	отступить, отойти
a coward	трус
to try the manhood	испытать доблесть, мужество, храбрость
to tumble into the stream	упасть, свалиться в воду
knights of Arthur’s Round Table	рыцари круглого стола времен короля Артура
many blows were given and received	с обеих сторон сыпались удары
a flood	течение, поток

to wind three blasts a yeoman	три раза сильно дунуть йомен; сильный, храбрый защитник, страж
a band	банда, шайка
to handle a bow and arrows	уметь обращаться с луком и стрелами
to split	расщеплять
a christening feast	пир по поводу крестин

Learn the words.

II. Complete the sentences according to the story.

- Robin Hood left his merry men
 - to find some money.
 - to find some food.
 - to find some adventures.
- The quarrel between Robin and a stranger began because
 - one of them offended the other.
 - each wanted to cross the bridge first.
 - both of them wanted to quarrel and to fight.
- Robin and the stranger fought with the help of
 - the staffs.
 - the swords.
 - the fists.
- The stranger said that Robin had been fighting like
 - a yeoman.
 - a lion.
 - a tiger.
- Robin said he would pay the stranger
 - thirty marks.
 - forty marks.
 - fifty marks.
- The stranger hit the target with
 - the first arrow.
 - the second arrow.
 - the third arrow.
- Robin said he would be Little John's
 - father.
 - master.
 - godfather.

III. Give extended answers to the following questions.

1. Where did Robin and Little John stand while fighting?
2. How broad was Little John?
3. What wood was Robin's bow made of?
4. What colour clothing was worn by Robin Hood's men? Why? Did they choose that colour?
5. What happened to the merry men who leaped upon the stranger?
6. What did Robin promise to give Little John to eat and to drink?
7. What was the target made of?
8. Why did Robin decide to change the name of the stranger?

IV. Compose a story describing Little John.

V. Translate the expressions from the story. Get ready to use them in the context of the story.

an adventure

by Saints

to measure from top to toe

sore bones and bumps

the dust fly like smoke

a brave and sturdy soul

to hum like bees on a hot June day

Have at him!

6. Увидев вдали фигуру незнакомца, Том ускорил шаг.

7. Не отступай, если не хочешь, чтобы тебя звали трусом.

8. Тед смерил противника взглядом и понял, что тот не сможет причинить ему никакого вреда.

VIII. Situations for discussion.

Compose a story or tell a real one about a sudden incident that frightened you extremely.

Discuss the problem of proper behaviour in such a situation. You may suggest a humorous way out of it.

Use the vocabulary of the story.

УРОК 5

LESSON 5

SIR THEODORE AND THE DRAGON

Many of the knights of old were known for their brave deeds, for the many fierce dragons they killed and for the many fair ladies they rescued. But there was one dragon on the island of Rhodes which killed every knight who came to destroy him. And when there were no knights to eat, he ate horses and cattle and peasants and trampled their houses and crops.

This dragon was taller than most dragons, louder with his screams and hotter with his fiery breath. He had the longest and the sharpest claws of any dragon on earth.

A young knight named Theodore asked his Grand Master if he might go and slay the dragon. The Grand Master, an old and honourable head of the order, refused young Theodore, saying, "We have already lost many of our strong and brave knights. Why should I believe that one so young and untried could do what older and wiser knights could not do? Are your arms stronger than theirs?"

"No, Master," answered young Theodore.

"Are your sword and lance magical?"

"No, sir," humbly replied the young knight.

"Then surely you must believe that your prayers will protect you."

“No, my lord, because all those other knights prayed at their vigils before the battle with the dragon and the Heavenly Father did not help them. I would pray and do vigil, but I would devise a plan to defeat the dragon.”

“Foolish youth,” said the old man. “What are your plans for if your arms and weapons and prayers are weaker than those who went before you? I forbid it. You are not to throw your life away. Speak no more of it.”

At these words, young Theodore left the great hall of the Grand Master, but he had not put the idea of killing the dragon out of his mind. He called his squire and told him to saddle the horses and prepare food and extra clothing for they would depart at noon for the lair of the dragon.

Late that evening, they approached the cave where the dragon lived. A foul odor filled the air and they could hear the rumbling of the dragon’s voice. Then the dragon himself came out of the cave and he was the most fearsome sight any young knight could behold. The dragon was twice as tall as horse, and his yellow eyes shone evilly. His body was covered with thick overlapping scales that no weapon could pierce. It was those thick scales that had protected him from the sword and lance of all knights who had tried to kill him.

And when young Theodore’s horse saw the dragon, it reared up, and tried to run away but Theodore, with his steady hand stopped it. The dragon lumbered forward, his claws slashed through bushes and twigs, but Theodore backed away, studying the dragon and looking for his weak spot. When the dragon reared up, Theodore saw the soft pale yellow belly and said to himself, “If I could thrust my sword or lance there, I could strike his heart and kill him.” Satisfied with what he had seen, Theodore rode off with his squire, leaving the dragon on the hillside.

At a small village many miles away Theodore and his squire put up their horses, and Theodore asked the village blacksmith to make him a life-size model of the dragon and described the beast. The next day he went among the villagers and bought two of the fiercest and bravest bulldogs to be found. When his squire asked why he wanted the bulldogs, Theodore answered, “Bulldogs are known for their bite. Once their strong jaws have taken hold of an animal, they cannot be shaken loose. They will help me fight the dragon.” Within a few days the blacksmith had finished the life-size model of the dragon, and it was indeed very terrific. Its mouth was filled with glowing coals from his furnace so that smoke came from its nostrils. The arms and legs could move, and by pulling on ropes the squire could make it stand up. Young Theodore was pleased. He started with his horse, bringing the poor creature closer and closer to the wood and the metal dragon until gradually the horse got used to the sight.

For the next few days he taught his horse to approach the dragon without fear, and then he told his squire to pull the ropes to make the model of the dragon to stand up. His horse was skittish, but soon calmed down and

learned to charge forward between the swinging arms to the very chest of the dragon.

Then Theodore brought his bulldogs who whined and cowered when they first saw the monster with its glowing yellow eyes. But gradually they, too, learned not to fear it, and on command they would charge in. Each dog would grasp a leg and hold on tightly.

Satisfied with the training of his animals, young Theodore had his squire pack their belongings and the very next day they set out for the lair of the dragon. Along the way they heard that the dragon had just slain another knight and he had destroyed a near-by village. The squire urged his master to turn back and spend more time in practice before attacking the dragon, but Theodore would not listen to him. So they came to a small chapel. There Theodore had his squire feed the horses and the dogs and settle down for the night. As for Theodore, he went into the chapel to pray the whole night through, as was the custom among knights before battles.

The next morning, having finished his vigil, he dressed in his bright and shining armour, took his sword and lance, mounted his horse and had the squire bring the dogs along.

The dragon heard their approach and he came out of his cave. Theodore lowered his lance and prepared to charge. The horse quivered beneath the saddle, but he had learned to face the monster. Then Theodore ordered his dogs released. The two bulldogs went charging into battle. They dodged the teeth and terrible claws and sank their teeth into the dragon's legs, one on each foreleg. The dragon reared up and Theodore saw his chance and urged his horse forward, but before he could sink his lance into the soft dragon's belly, there came a terrible cry and a giant belch of flame from the dragon's mouth.

The poor horse had become used to the sight of the dragon, but it had never heard such a mean, fierce screech. It was too much for it and he reared and threw young Theodore to the ground and rushed madly into the forest. It seemed that all was lost.

Stunned, Theodore tried to clear his head. Only brave dogs saved the day, for nothing could shake loose their grip. The dragon howled and thrashed about, but could do nothing. Young Theodore, in the meantime, came to his senses and reached for his lance, but the dragon had stepped on it with his great weight and had broken it in half. Theodore had only his sword with which to fight, and he drew it and charged at the dragon. He felt its hot breath on his helmet. He struck with the sword again and again and pierced the breast. He drove the sword to its hilt and slashed for the heart. Dark, hot blood burst forth and the dragon gave one fearsome scream and toppled forward, right on young Theodore.

The squire saw all of this and thought his master was dead because he could see only a leg and an arm quivering beneath the still body of the

dragon. But he came up to the dragon and took hold of his master's body and tugged and pulled and yanked until the body of Theodore came out from beneath the carcass of the dragon. The squire removed young Theodore's helmet and the young knight raised his head. He had fought the dragon and survived.

This might be the end of the story, but fate added one more twist to the tale. Everyone rejoiced at the happy news that the dragon was dead, and they followed young Theodore through the streets to the very gates of the the great hall where the Grand Master lived. As Theodore entered the hall all the knights of his order rose up and cheered his brave deed. But the Grand Master was silent.

As Theodore approached him, the Grand Master said, "What is the cause of this great honour and acclaim? What great deed have you performed?"

"Sir," said Theodore, "In His mercy, God has allowed me to kill the dragon of Rhodes."

"That cannot be," said the Grand Master, "for when we last met, I said you should not go to kill the dragon. If you went you would have disobeyed me, and in so doing, you would have broken your vow of obedience. Now what do you say, have you killed the dragon?"

The great hall was silent. All of the knights and squires and attendants and ladies waited on Theodore's answer.

"My Grand Lord," said the young knight, "I went against your commands and I did kill the dragon."

"It is nothing to conquer dragons if we cannot conquer the pride and willfulness in our hearts," said the Grand Master. "You have broken your vows. In this deed you showed great bravery and cunning, but you lacked the virtue of humility and obedience. Therefore, give me your sword and shield. Remove your armour and go and place yourself in the dungeons where you may reflect upon your disobedience."

There were gasps from the ladies, and mumbling from the throng of brave knights, but young Theodore said, "My Grand Master, my rash and foolish heart rushed into danger, ignoring your wise words. I am guilty of all you say and more, for I have thought my wisdom was greater than yours. Therefore, I yield to you my sword and shield." So saying, he placed them at the feet of the Grand Master. Then Theodore called to his squire, "Assist me." And they removed his armour and placed them, too, at the Master's feet, until Theodore stood, dressed only in his long tunic. "I ask your leave as I take myself to the dungeons."

"Go," said the Grand Master.

Young Theodore moved through the crowd which opened to let him pass. There were whispers of encouragement but he said nothing in return. Watching all of this, the Grand Master waited. When Theodore flung open the

door that led to the dungeons below, the Grand Master called, "Wait! This young knight has conducted himself properly. Whatever his earlier sin of disobedience, I see that now he is obedient. Come, brave and noble Sir Theodore. Come and let me embrace you and count you among my bravest and most worthy knights!" So saying, the Grand Master crossed the hall and threw his arms about Theodore.

A great cheer went up in the hall and there was feasting and celebration throughout the day and into the night for Sir Theodore had killed the fierce dragon of Rhodes.

Tasks and Exercises

I. Read the story paying attention to the words and expressions:

many of the knights	множество рыцарей
a dragon	дракон
the Grand Master	Великий Магистр
to refuse	отказывать
to devise a plan	разработать план
to forbid	запрещать
to saddle the horses	оседлать лошадей
fearsome	грозный, страшный, жуткий
a weak spot	слабое место
life-size	в натуральную величину
a bulldog	бульдог
to get used	привыкнуть
to pray	молиться
to face the monster	предстать перед, столкнуться с чудовищем
to rush madly	бешено кинуться, умчаться
to topple forward	падать вперед
to survive	выжить
to rejoice	радоваться
to disobey	ослушаться
a dungeon	тюрьма, темница
to be guilty	быть виновным
to conduct oneself properly	правильно себя вести
the bravest and	самые храбрые и
most worthy knights	достойные рыцари

II. Complete the sentences according to the story.

1. The fearsome dragon lived
 - A. in the mountains.
 - B. on the island.
 - C. in the sea.
2. The Grand Master forbade Theodore to go to the dragon because
 - A. he didn't want Theodore to throw his life away.
 - B. he wanted to send another knight to the dragon.
 - C. he wanted to slay the dragon himself.
3. Theodore went to the battle with the dragon
 - A. alone.
 - B. with his friend.
 - C. with his squire.
4. The dragon was
 - A. twice as tall as a horse.
 - B. three times as tall as a horse.
 - C. four times as tall as a horse.
5. The other knights couldn't kill the dragon because
 - A. they were afraid.
 - B. the body of the dragon was protected by the thick scales.
 - C. of the flame that came from the dragon's mouth.
6. Theodore asked to make a life-size model of the dragon
 - A. to train the horse and the dogs.
 - B. to scare the dragon.
 - C. to try first „to kill“ the model.
7. Just before the battle the dragon
 - A. had killed another knight.
 - B. had eaten a herd of cows.
 - C. had burnt a forest.
8. Theodore's horse fled into the forest because it was scared by
 - A. the flame that came from the dragon's mouth.
 - B. the terrific dimensions of the dragon.
 - C. the dragon's terrible mean screech.
9. Theodore was saved by
 - A. his dogs.
 - B. his squire.
 - C. his friends.
10. When Theodore came back the Grand Master
 - A. rewarded him.
 - B. thanked him.
 - C. sent him to the dungeons.

III. Give extended answers to the following questions.

1. What did the Grand Master tell Theodore when he first asked to fight the dragon?
2. What did the dragon do if he had no knights to eat?
3. Why did Theodore decide that he would be able to kill the dragon?
4. What animals helped Theodore to kill the dragon? Why did he choose them? How did he train them?
5. Why did the squire ask Theodore to turn back?
6. How did Theodore kill the dragon?
7. Why was the Grand Master going to take Theodore's sword and armour and send him to the dungeons?
8. Why did the Grand Master forgive Theodore?

IV. Describe the Dragon.

V. Translate the expressions from the story.

Get ready to use them in the context of the story.

brave deeds

to rescue

untried

a foul odor

steady hand

a blacksmith

to take hold of smth

to charge

to slay

to clear one's head

one more twist to the tale

to lack the virtue of humility

noble

огненное дыхание

защищать

ночная молитва

выбросить мысль из головы

встать на дыбы

хриплый или визгливый крик

обет послушания

преодолевать, превозмогать, побеждать

шепот одобрения

VI. Translate the passage from, „Late that evening...“ up to „...tried to kill him.“; and „Stunned, Theodore...“ up to „...and survived.“.

2. Принцесс всегда спасали храбрые и достойные рыцари.

3. Он ослушался свою мать и теперь молил бога о прощении.

4. К хорошему быстро привыкаешь, и потом трудно отказывать себе в чем-либо.

5. Он с трудом смог прийти в себя после того, как услышал чей-то громкий визгливый крик.

6. Надо побеждать свои пороки и не забывать о своих добродетелях.

7. Он разработал страшный, коварный план о том, как убить дракона.

8. Элли старалась правильно вести себя в обществе, и очень радовалась, когда ей это удавалось.

VII. Situations for discussion.

Compose a story of how brave young people sometimes manage to do things which mature and experienced people can't do.

Discuss, what kind of person you would prefer at an important position, young or not very young.

Use the vocabulary of the story.

**ПРАКТИЧЕСКИЙ КУРС ОСНОВНОГО ИНОСТРАННОГО ЯЗЫКА
АНГЛИЙСКИЙ ЯЗЫК. ДОМАШНЕЕ ЧТЕНИЕ
ЮНИТА 1**

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