



ЧУДЕСНЫЕ
ПРИКЛЮЧЕНИЯ

**WONDERFUL
ADVENTURES**

Адаптация,
комментарии,
словарь
Ю.Б. Голицынского

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ИЗДАТЕЛЬСТВО

КАРО

Санкт-Петербург

УДК 373.167.1:820/89

ББК 81.2 Англ-922

Ч 84

Художник
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Ч 84 Чудесные приключения: Книга для чтения на английском языке / Адаптация, комментарии, словарь Ю. Б. Голицынского — СПб.: КАРО, 2010. — 160 с.: ил. — (Серия «Reading with exercises»).

ISBN 978-5-9925-0552-8.

Пособие включает в себя отрывки из произведений классиков английской литературы: «Короля Лира» В. Шекспира, «Робинзона Крузо» Д. Дефо, «Путешествий Гулливера» Дж. Свифта, «Николаса Никльби» Ч. Диккенса. Сборник также содержит полные тексты сказок Р. Киплинга «Как носорог получил свою кожу», «Как кит получил свою глотку», легенду о Беовульфе и рассказ О. Уайльда «Преданный друг». Тексты адаптированы для учащихся средней школы, снабжены вопросами для проверки понимания текста и словарем.

УДК 373.167.1:820/89

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ISBN 978-5-9925-0552-8

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BEOWULF

BEOWULF

As you know, in very old times people had no books. They could not read or write. In their free time they gathered together to tell stories and sing songs. At that time there were men who walked about the country¹, and stopped now at one place, now at another². They sang long songs about great heroes and great events. These men were called "bards". People loved to listen to their songs and stories.

Later, when some of the people learned to read and write, they wrote down many of these songs. One of them was **The Song of Beowulf**³, which tells about a brave and strong hero who fought for the good of⁴ the people.

¹ walked about the country — ходили по стране

² now... now... — то... то...

³ Beowulf ['beɪəwulf] — Беовульф

⁴ for the good of — на благо

A long, long time ago the king of Denmark was Hrothgar¹. He was brave, just and kind, and his people loved him. He built a large and beautiful palace for himself and his warriors. Men came from all parts of the country to look at the fine palace. Every evening many people gathered in the palace, and they ate and drank, told stories and sang songs, danced and laughed.

Not far from the palace there was a large lake. A great monster lived in that lake. His name was Grendel. Grendel heard the singing and laughing in Hrothgar's palace every evening and did not like it. He was lonely in his lake and he was very angry with the warriors because they were making merry². He got more and more angry every day.

Late one night Grendel got out of his lake and went to Hrothgar's palace. Soon he came near it. It was still and dark inside, and Grendel went in. There were many warriors in the palace, but they were all asleep. Grendel killed one of the warriors and drank his blood. Then he killed another warrior and drank his blood, too. That night the monster killed thirty warriors and drank their blood. Then he took the bodies of the dead men and went back to his lake.

¹ Hrothgar ['hrøθga:] — Хротгар

² were making merry — веселились

The next night Grendel came to the palace again. Again he killed thirty warriors, drank their blood and carried their dead bodies into the lake.

Night after night, month after month, winter after winter the terrible monster came to the palace and killed men. There was no laughing and singing now. The bravest and strongest warriors could do nothing against him. Their spears, arrows and swords could not kill Grendel. This went on¹ for twelve years.

II

On the other side of the sea was the country of the Geats². There was a young man among the Geats whose name was Beowulf. He was very brave and strong. He was the strongest man in the whole country. He was stronger than thirty men. One day he heard about the terrible monster Grendel, who killed thirty warriors every night in Denmark. Beowulf wanted to help King Hrothgar. He found fourteen strong, brave warriors among his friends, got on a ship with them and sailed off³ across the sea. They sailed the whole night, and in the morning they came to Denmark.

¹ This went on — Это продолжалось

² Geats [gi:ts] — гиты (или джуты) (народ, живший на юге Скандинавского полуострова)

³ sailed off — пустился в плавание

When they got off the ship, they saw a man on horseback. He was one of King Hrothgar's warriors. "Who are you and what are you doing here?" he asked them.

"We are warriors from the country of the Geats," answered Beowulf. "We know about Grendel. We want to help you to fight the monster."

The warrior took Beowulf and his friends to¹ Hrothgar's palace. King Hrothgar smiled when he saw the Geats.

"I am glad to see you and your friends, brave Beowulf," he said, "but I must tell you that your task will not be easy. You must know that many warriors spent a night in the palace. They tried to kill the monster, but they are all dead now."

"I am not afraid," said Beowulf, "I shall stay in the palace for the night and meet Grendel. And I shall fight without sword or spear or arrows, because they won't help against him."

Night came. Everybody left the palace. Only Beowulf and his friends remained. Beowulf told his fourteen friends to lie down and sleep. He himself waited for Grendel in the dark.

Grendel appeared in the middle of the night. He quickly entered the palace, killed one of the sleeping warriors and began to drink his blood, as he always did. But at that moment he saw Beowulf, and a terrible fight began. They fought for a long time.

¹ took... to — отбѣл к...



Grendel was very strong, but Beowulf was stronger. He caught Grendel by the arm and tore it off¹. The monster howled and ran out of the palace. He ran back to his lake and died there.

¹ tore it off — оторвал её

III

In the morning King Hrothgar and his men came to the palace. They looked with great surprise at Grendel's arm, which was hanging from the ceiling in the middle of the palace. Then they went to the lake. The water of the lake was red with Grendel's blood.

People from all parts of the country came to look at Beowulf and thank him. Everybody was very glad. Till late at night they talked, sang and laughed in the palace as before¹.

At night everybody went to sleep. But the troubles of Hrothgar and his men were not over. An ugly witch came out of the lake and quickly ran to the palace. She was Grendel's mother. She ran into the palace, caught one of the warriors, killed him and carried him to the lake.

"I ask you to help me once more², brave Beowulf," said Hrothgar.

"I shall gladly help you, King Hrothgar," answered Beowulf. "Let us go to the lake at once. I shall kill this witch."

They got on their horses and rode to the lake. When they reached it, they saw that the lake was not quiet and its water was black. They waited. It became cold and dark. The witch did not appear. The warriors did not know what to do. Then Beowulf got off his horse and jumped into the lake.

¹ as before — как и прежде

² once more — ещё раз

When his feet touched the bottom, the witch jumped on him and tried to kill him, but she could not. Then Beowulf saw the witch's cave and ran into it. And here he was very surprised. There was no water in the cave. In the middle of the floor there was a bright fire. In the light of the fire Beowulf saw a magic sword on the wall. He quickly took it and killed the witch with it.

At that moment the sun appeared over his head, and he saw the dead body of Grendel in a corner of the cave.

Beowulf took the magic sword and came out of the lake. His friends were happy to see him alive.

In the palace Beowulf told King Hrothgar and his warriors about his fight with the witch. King Hrothgar thanked Beowulf many times and gave him and his men many rich presents. When Beowulf and his friends were going home, many people came to say good-bye to him and to thank him again and again.

QUESTIONS AND TASKS

1. Why was Grendel angry with the warriors?
2. Find sentences in the text to show how strong Beowulf was.
3. How did Beowulf kill Grendel?
4. Describe in detail the fight of Beowulf and the witch.
5. What do you think: why did people write **The Song of Beowulf**?
6. With what heroes of Russian literature can you compare Beowulf? Why?

GEOFFREY CHAUCER

THREE YOUNG MEN,
DEATH AND A BAG OF GOLD

THE WONDERFUL ADVENTURES
OF PRINCESS CONSTANCE

GEOFFREY CHAUCER

It was a long time ago in the 14th century. One fine April evening some people met at an inn in London. These people wanted to go to the town of Canterbury. It was a long journey. To make it shorter and more interesting they thought of telling¹ stories on their way. Each of them had to tell two stories on the way to Canterbury and two on the way back.

Such is the contents of the book written² in the 14th century by the greatest writer of that time Geoffrey Chaucer³ (1340–1400). The book is called **The Canterbury Tales**. It was written 600 years ago, but it is still read⁴ today. **The Canterbury Tales** are translated into many languages, and people in many countries know the book and its author. Here are two stories from the book.

¹ thought of telling — надумали рассказывать

² written — написанная

³ Geoffrey Chaucer ['dʒɛfrɪ'tʃɔ:sə] — Джеффри Чосер

⁴ it is still read — её всё ещё читают

THREE YOUNG MEN, DEATH AND A BAG OF GOLD

I

Three young men were sitting in an inn. They were drinking wine and making merry. Suddenly they heard a noise outside. They looked out of the window and saw some people carrying¹ a coffin.

“Who is dead?” they asked.

The innkeeper told them the name of the dead man. It was the name of their friend, also a young man. The three young men were very much surprised. They could not believe their ears. But the innkeeper said, “Yes, it is true. Your friend is dead. Death takes young and old. He takes many people. There is a village not far from here. Every day Death kills somebody in that village. Nearly all the people there are dead. Death lives in that village, I think.”

Our three young friends were drinking wine, so they did not understand quite clearly what the innkeeper said. They thought that Death really lived not far from that place, and they were very angry with Death for killing² their friend. They said, “Let’s go and kill Death! Let’s do it before night comes.”

¹ carrying — несущих

² for killing — за убийство



“Be careful,” said the innkeeper, “if you meet Death, he will kill you, too.”

“We are not afraid,” answered the young men. “We shall go and look for Death. And we shall be brothers, and we shall defend each other. And when we find Death, we shall kill him.”

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Адаптация, комментарии, словарь

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Иллюстрация на обложке О. В. Маркиной

Издательство «КАРО», ЛР № 065644

195027, Санкт-Петербург, Свердловская наб., д. 60, (812) 570-54-97

WWW.KARO.SPB.RU

Гигиенический сертификат

№ 78.01.07.953.П.004020.03.07 от 22.03.2007

Подписано в печать 10.08.2010. Формат 84 x 108 ¹/₃₂. Бумага офсетная.

Печать офсетная. Усл. печ. л. 8,4. Тираж 3000 экз. Заказ №

Отпечатано по технологии StP

в ОАО «Печатный двор» им. А.М. Горького

197110, Санкт-Петербург, Чкаловский пр., 15.