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Sherlock Holmes And The Case Of The Curly Haired Company: Mandarin Companion Graded Readers: Level 1, Simplified Chinese Edition



Synopsis

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? Mandarin Companion is a series of easy-to-read novels in Chinese that are fun to read and proven to accelerate language learning. Every book in the Mandarin Companion series is carefully written to use characters, words, and grammar that a learner is likely to know. Level 1 is written using approximately 300 unique Chinese characters and intended for Chinese learners at an upper-elementary level. Most learners 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 storyline that helps beginners grow their vocabulary and language comprehension abilities. Visit www.MandarinCompanion.com for the latest updates on new titles.

Book Information

File Size: 2379 KB

Print Length: 58 pages

Publisher: Mind Spark Press LLC (December 17, 2013)

Publication Date: December 17, 2013

Sold by: 亚马逊数字服务 LLC

Language: Chinese

ASIN: B00HFXR6W0

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #345,351 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #12

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Customer Reviews

This is a great series of Mandarin readers! I have been studying Chinese for 4 years now, both in and outside of China. Following very slow progress, I began reading the academic research on second language acquisition and came away with an understanding of “extensive reading” for grammar and vocab acquisition and consolidation- the best method for intermediate learners. (Extensive reading consists of reading works in another language where you comprehend roughly 98% of the content without having to stop and consult the dictionary or grammar reference). The only problem- there are very few good sources in Chinese that facilitate an extensive reading program. There is the China Breeze series, which is good, but I prefer the Mandarin Companion series for several reasons. The most important is their presentation of new vocabulary. When there is a word you likely have not come across in the course of your introductory studies, they provide a reference in the back to define these words- most books do this. But with the Mandarin Companion eBook format, you can quickly tap the word to get its meaning without having to flip a few pages. Importantly, the authors have taken care to continue to present the same words several times to further concrete them in your brain (all with links back to the word’s definition). Of less importance, but still nice- the books include illustrations and fairly compelling stories, things that will keep you interested and reading each day. I am glad we are getting more and better resources for extensive reading in Chinese! And I would recommend this series to anyone interested in this approach to language acquisition.

This is the second Mandarin Companion book I’ve read. The first was their adaptation of “The Secret Garden”. I’m finding it easier to read through Chinese books this level, because I’m also reading works from two other publishers. My only criticism of Mandarin Companion is the lack of audio to help me with the cadence and to check pronunciation, but I find the book interesting, engaging, and the colorful format makes it eye catching. I don’t limit myself to Mandarin Companion because they encourage people to read, so read I will! Also, being familiar with the basic story line from the original is helpful. I appreciate that they chose names that were not slavish transliterations, but something that was easy to read. John Pasden has the academic and instructive chops to help the Chinese learner improve on an existing foundation. Kudos to him and his team! Look forward to my next purchase. I hope they expand their collection of works well beyond what currently exists!

This was my first exposure to a graded reader in Chinese. I have learned Chinese for about 2 years while living in China and recently returned to the US. I was looking for a way to bolster my Chinese and am glad I came across these wonderful resources. I was familiar with John Pasden's work through SinosplICE and ChinesePod, and in this series he has delivered more high quality resources that I have come to expect from him. I was blown away with how much intrigue the authors could pack into such limited vocabulary. I read the book over a weekend. If you are wondering if you have enough vocabulary to read this book, check out the free sample. For reference, I have passed HSK 3 but am only just beginning to study for HSK 4, and only a few words not in the glossary were outside my vocabulary. Thank you to everyone involved in this project. Keep up the good work!

I've always loved Sherlock Holmes. So to have this story as intermediate Chinese language practice, was really fun for me. This is a great book in a great series from Mandarin Companion. I would recommend this book to any intermediate student of the Chinese language to practice their reading skills and really build confidence in their learning. As a graded Chinese reader, this book uses the concept of 'extensive reading' and fully accomplishes its goal to provide a fun and enjoyable story, with smooth and relatively 'easy' Chinese vocabulary and grammar. The book allows you to enjoy the story, while internalizing the flow of language and improving your reading comprehension. The story is a fun adaptation of The Red Headed League to a funny and suspenseful Chinese context. I remember this story from Sherlock Holmes. Great to read it now in Chinese. Kindle version is great and convenient for language students. You can read on various devices, highlight words as you read, navigate easily, etc.

We purchased this for our 12-year-old son who has been studying Mandarin for about 6 months. He loved it. So much better than traditional graded readers which he finds a little boring. It's often difficult to find materials that are age appropriate but at the same time, language level appropriate -- not to mention truly entertaining and fun. This title (and the entire series) definitely hits the mark - a great resource for hanzi and developing reading fluency. We can tell our son loved it because he's already asked us to purchase two additional titles from the series (the Washington Irving & H.G. Wells books) for him to read next. For lower intermediate, Mandarin level learners and above -- of any age - (and of course, or fans of Sherlock :), we could not recommend this series more highly.

As a Mandarin learning, this graded reader was a great story that reinforced the vocabulary and grammar that I have been doing. I'm on my third Mandarin Companion graded reader. They have

done a really good job with the stories.

I really liked the fact that this book kept me excited the entire time to keep reading. Whenever I read in Chinese I get bored after several minutes because it's sometimes annoying to look up characters while reading, but this book is super exciting and with basic characters so I am learning characters while enjoying the book. Overall I would highly recommend this book to someone who is learning Chinese characters and wants to learn them in a fun and efficient way.

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