

1. Give Me Some Sugar (甜甜滋味在心頭)

**

UNIT 1 文化大觀園

Give Me Some Sugar

甜甜滋味在心頭——糖的歷史

—Michelle Adams

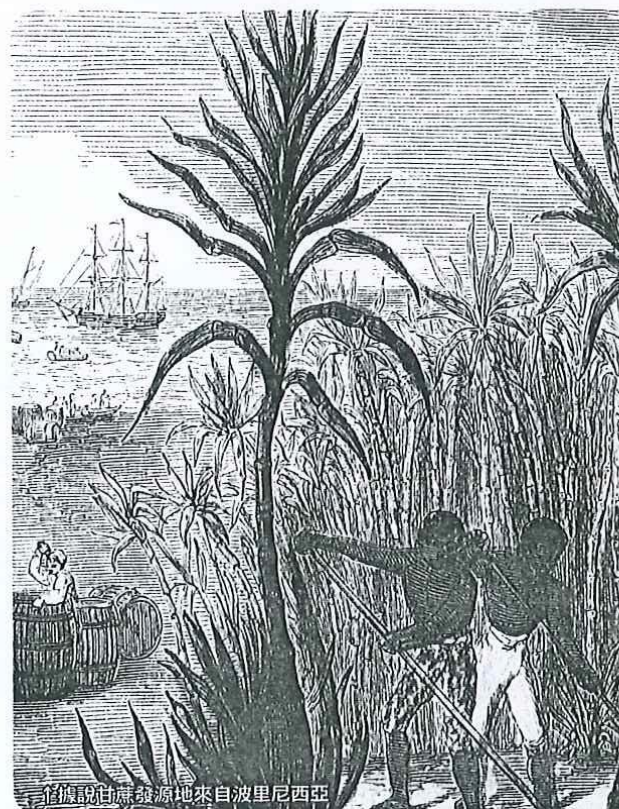
1 課文朗讀》正常 CD/MP3 - 1 / 慢速 MP3 - 28
課程講解》MP3 - 52

A love affair^{*} is going on . . . with sugar! In 2006, the world **consumed**¹ over 150 million tons of sugar. This isn't a recent **phenomenon**.² Sugar has been pleasing our taste buds^{*} for thousands of years.

It is believed that sugarcane[#] first came from Polynesia (波里尼西亞). War and trade spread sugarcane and the sugar-making process through the East and Africa, and it reached Europe in the 11th century. At that time, sugar was something only the rich could afford, *earning it the nickname*³ "white gold." In the 14th century, the price of one kilogram of sugar *was equal to* US\$100 today.

By the 1800s, sugarcane was being grown on four **continents**⁴ and many islands. Even so, it wasn't until 1874 that sugar **taxes**⁵ were lowered and sugar became available to most citizens.

↓ 有白色黃金之稱的甘蔗，在許多國家都有栽種

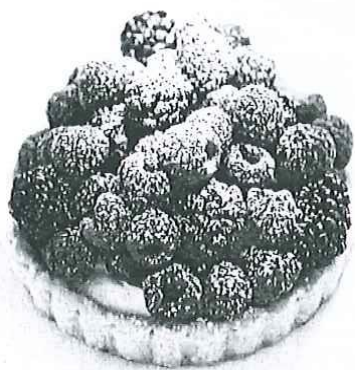


Most sugar at that time was produced from sugarcane. Although it had been noted that sugar could be made from sugar beets,[#] the process was not widely used. Napoleon (拿破崙) encouraged the refinement^{*} of the beet sugar[#] process when the English blocked Europe's trade with sugar-producing countries. This *led to* a second source of sugar—one that could be grown in colder countries.

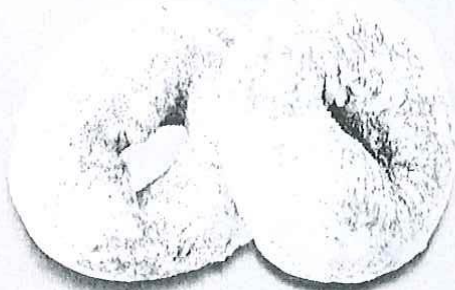
* 中文翻譯請參閱第 66 頁



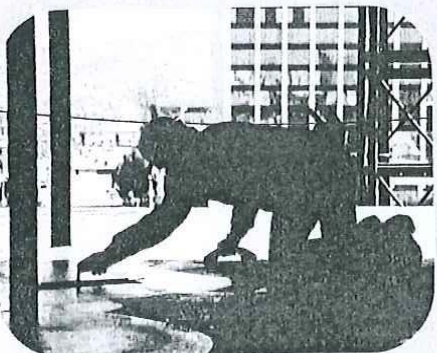
↑糖可用來製作各式果醬及蜜餞，延長保存期限



↑在五花八門的點心上常看到糖霜的使用



↑用途廣泛的糖可利用於在各種食物上



↑把糖加入到水泥減緩水泥硬化的速度

2

課文朗讀》正常 CD/MP3 -2 / 慢速 MP3 -29
課程講解》MP3 -53

For most people in the world, sugar has always *been a part of our lives*. Brazil has the biggest sweet tooth,[†] consuming fifty-nine kilograms per person each year. Sugar is added to dishes at almost every meal, so it's easy to understand how that amount is possible.

Sugar isn't loved only because of its *sweetening* abilities. It also can be used to preserve food. Some people use it to help **heal**¹ wounds, too. Because sugar can dry out a wound, it helps **prevent**² bacteria growth.

You may be surprised to hear that your house could have sugar in the floor. Builders add sugar to **concrete**³ to slow the *hardening* process. That way, they can shape the concrete before it's too firm to work with. Sugar also *plays a part in movies*. Actors may get thrown through windows, but that's not real glass breaking. Stunt **designers**⁴ use sugar to make something that looks and breaks like glass, but won't hurt the actors.

When it comes to the world's uses for sugar, these are only the tip of the iceberg.[†] Even if you are only using it in tasty food and drinks, it's hard to imagine our life without sugar. **Live**

* 中文翻譯請參閱第 66 頁

糖類小辭典



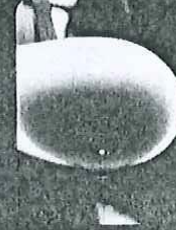
▲ 白糖
white sugar



▲ 紅糖
brown sugar



▲ 方糖
sugar cube
[kju:b]



▲ 焦糖
caramel
[kæərəm]



▲ 冰糖
rock sugar

2.Thumbelina(姆指姑娘)

UNIT 3

短篇故事



3

課文朗讀》正常CD/MP3 -3 / 慢速MP3 -30
課程講解》MP3 -54

HERE once was a poor woman who wanted a child, but she could not have one. She went to a fairy to ask for help.

“Please help me,” the woman said. “I want a child more than anything else in the world.”

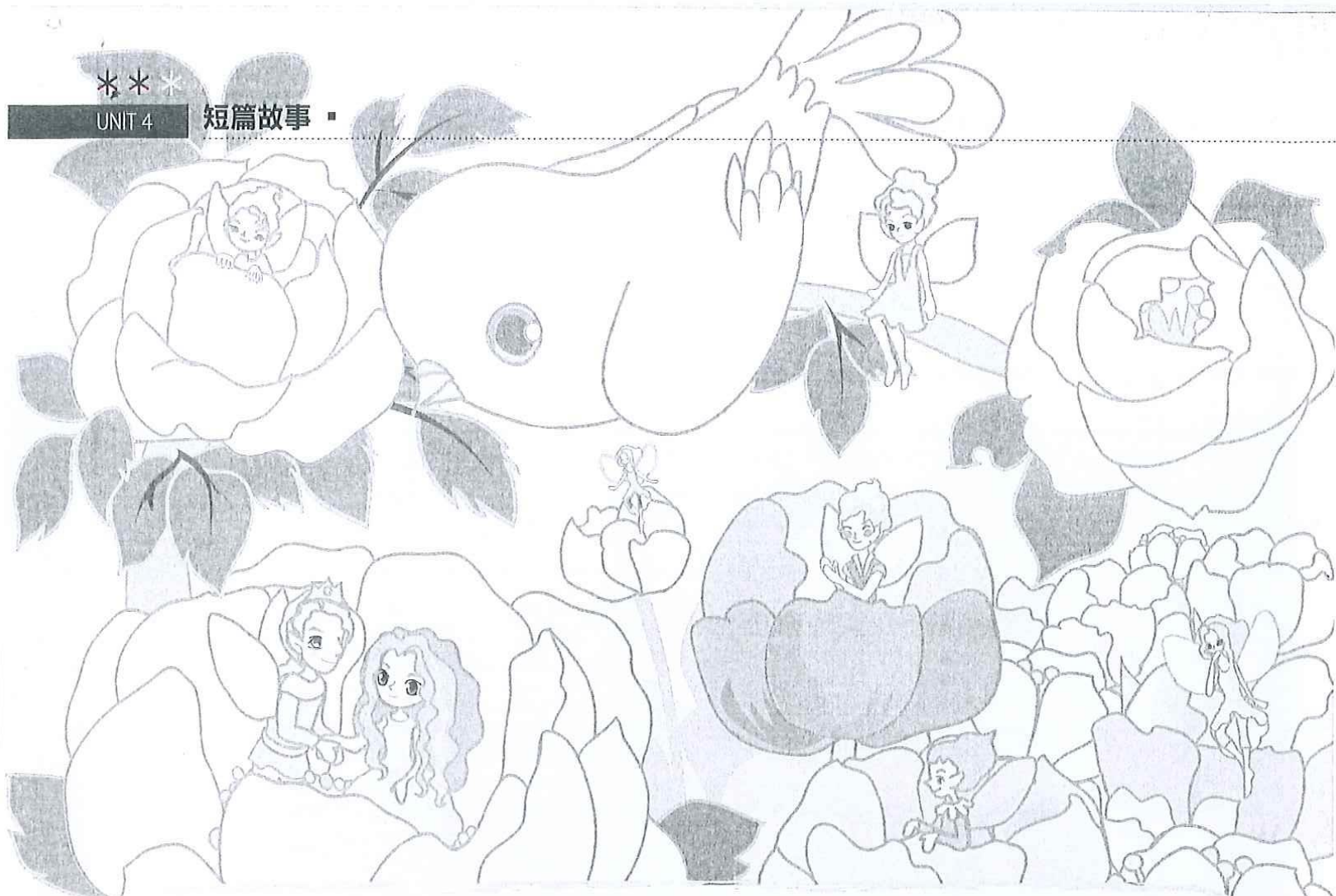
“Here is a seed,” the fairy **replied**.¹ “Plant it in a flowerpot and treat it with care. Then you will get your wish.”

The woman did exactly as the fairy told her. Finally, a beautiful flower grew from the pot, and the petals **burst**² open to reveal a tiny girl. The woman was **delighted**³ with the child, and her heart filled with love. “I will call you Thumbelina,” the woman told the little girl, “for you are *no bigger than* my thumb.”

The woman loved the little girl, and every day was filled with joy. Each night, Thumbelina sang for her mother in a voice that was sweeter than any bird’s. Thumbelina was small, but her mother thought she was perfect.

One night, an ugly toad **hopped**⁴ up to the open window and saw Thumbelina asleep in her bed. “*What a beautiful wife* she will make for my son,” thought the ugly toad. She stole Thumbelina and imprisoned^{*} her on a lily pad.^{*}

* 中文翻譯請參閱第 66 頁



4

課文朗讀》正常 CD/MP3 -4 / 慢速 MP3 -31
課程講解》MP3 -55

When Thumbelina **awoke**,¹ some kind fish helped her escape, but Thumbelina did not know where to go. A mouse **took pity on her**.² “You can stay with me,” the mouse offered, “but you must cook and clean for me.”

Thumbelina was happy until the mouse told her that a mole⁴ wanted to marry Thumbelina. Before the wedding could **take place**,³ Thumbelina saved a dying bird. To return the favor, the bird offered to take her away with him. “I can’t live without sunlight in a mole’s **underground**⁴ home,” thought Thumbelina, so she accepted the bird’s offer.

15 Thumbelina and the bird flew until they reached a blue lake. The bird told her, “I will leave you on one of those large white flowers, and you will be happy here for the rest of your days.”

20 When Thumbelina reached the flower, she was **shocked**⁵ to see a man just her size in the center of the flower. The man fell in love with Thumbelina at first sight. *He told her that every flower had a tiny man or woman living in it, and that he was their king.* “Marry me,” said the king, “and become the Queen of Flowers.” Thumbelina joyfully agreed, and they lived happily ever after. **Live**

⁴ 中文翻譯請參閱第 66-67 頁

3. You Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man(蜘蛛人)

UNIT 6

電影看板

鄰家英雄：蜘蛛人 Your Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man

—Bradley Beckett

8 課文朗讀》正常 CD/MP3 -6 / 慢速 MP3 -33
課程講解》MP3 -57

HE **crawls**² up buildings, swings above the city streets on silk **threads**,³ and catches bad guys in his **web**.⁴ Who is this star of comic books, television shows, and hit movies? He could be only one superhero—the amazing Spider-Man!

Spider-Man was created by Marvel Comic's writer Stan Lee. There is some disagreement about which writer or artists came up with the original idea, but *it is Lee* who shaped and guided the hero from the time Spider-Man was introduced in 1962.

*What makes Spider-Man so different from other superheroes is that his real identity*⁵ is so ordinary. For example, in

Batman's everyday life, he is the very rich and **influential**⁶ Bruce Wayne. When Spider-Man is out of his costume, he is just Peter Parker, a shy high school student who has trouble fitting in. That is the key to his popularity!

Many young readers became instant fans of *Spider-Man* because Peter Parker's problems are so much like their own. He worries about getting his sweetheart,^{*} Mary Jane, to like him and whether he will do well in school. In fact, college students in the 1960s named Spider-Man as one of the most influential people of the time![†]

* 中文翻譯請參閱第 67 頁



9


課文朗讀》正常 CD/MP3-7 / 慢速 MP3-34
課程講解》MP3-58

Spider-Man changed comic books by dealing with difficult topics. He was one of the first heroes to *take on* the drug problem. This was when comic books were **discouraged**¹ from showing drug use, even in a negative way. He was also the first comic book hero to deal with the subject of the 9/11 attacks on the U.S.[†]

Spider-Man **remains**² one of Marvel's most popular heroes. *It is little wonder that* his web has spread to television shows and movies. With the help of director Sam Raimi and star Toby Maguire,

Spider-Man made his first **leap**³ onto the silver screen in 2002. The film was an instant hit and was followed by the equally popular *Spider-Man 2* in 2004.

This year, Spider-Man, along with Raimi and Maguire, return to theaters in *Spider-Man 3*. In the latest movie **adventure**,⁴ Spider-Man faces three new super villains⁶—the New Goblin, Sandman, and Venom. His **toughest**⁵ challenge, however, may be battling his own dark side.

Spider-Man's adventures mix action with amazing stories and evil villains, but the most important element is the very human teen Peter Parker. *As he likes to point out*, he's "just your friendly neighborhood Spider-Man." 

* 中文翻譯請參閱第 67 頁