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Vocabulary: drama 词汇: 剧

It may not be a real illness but **K-drama fever** is sweeping Asia with as much force as an infectious disease. The latest **hit show** to come out of South Korea has already claimed over 440 million victims in China alone, where it's being **simulcast**. Many millions more are glued to their screens across the continent.

'Descendants of the Sun' is **the latest in a long line of** TV dramas to come out of Korea which have **taken Asia by storm**. The usual theme of **star-crossed lovers** is still very much there but there's a **twist** which many of its fans say gives this drama a distinctive **flavour**. It's a **military romance** which is **set in** a fictional European country.

Ms Gao from Beijing said, "The military theme does not usually appear frequently in TV shows so combined with the romantic theme, this is not like other Korean **soap operas**."

The female **lead**, played by Song Hye-kyo, is a surgeon, while her male **counterpart**, played by Song Joong-ki, is a special forces captain.

"Unlike most Korean dramas which are about a rich guy who falls in love with a poor, golden-hearted girl, the story feels more like the love story of two evenly-matched adults," says Chen Yuanni, from Beijing.

But it's not just Asia which has seen a boom in the popularity of foreign-language TV dramas in recent years. Since the Danish **crime drama**, The Killing, was first **aired** on the BBC in 2011, the nation has been gripped by so-called **Nordic Noir**. What surprises some is that it's not only **thrillers**, such as The Bridge, which have **captured the imagination** of British viewers. There have also been **ratings successes** for shows such as Borgen - about coalition politics - and 1864 - a drama about an obscure 19th century war between Denmark and Prussia.

So why do these international dramas appeal when the cultural references are so remote from the experience of the viewers? Perhaps the answer lies in this piece of advice for aspiring scriptwriters from the BBC's Writersroom: "**Engaging characters** are at the heart of all good drama, no matter how mainstream or unusual your idea may be." So if the characters are strong enough, it doesn't matter if they're from Sichuan, Seoul or Sweden.

词汇表

K-drama	韩国电视剧
(something) fever	(事物) 热, 火
a hit show	非常受欢迎的片子
to simulcast	(和电视台) 同步播放
the latest in a long line of	一系列(韩剧)里最新的一部
to take (somewhere) by storm	(在某处) 大获成功
star-crossed lovers	不幸的恋人们
a twist	变化, 出乎意料的情节
a flavour	特色, 风格, 体验
a military romance	发生在军队里的爱情故事
to be set (somewhere)	(以某处) 为背景
a soap opera	肥皂剧
to resonate	产生共鸣
a lead	主角
a counterpart	(职能或地位) 相对应的事物或人, 男主角
crime drama	犯罪剧
to air	播出, 播放
Nordic Noir	北欧犯罪推理小说或片子
a thriller	惊悚片
to capture the imagination	抓住想象力, 令人神往
a ratings success	高的收视率
an engaging character	吸引人的角色

测验与练习

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. Is K-drama an illness?
2. Have there been other popular Korean TV dramas before 'Descendants of the Sun'?
3. True or false: 'Descendants of the Sun' is completely different to previous Korean dramas?
4. What four examples are there in the text of Scandinavian TV dramas which have been popular in the UK?
5. What could explain the popularity of foreign TV dramas with obscure subjects?

2. 请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. 'Friends' was an international _____ in the 1990s.

top show	hit show	K-drama	simulcast
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2. The Shakespeare play Romeo and Juliette is about _____.

a military romance	a counterpart	star-crossed lovers	an engaging character
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3. _____ are often shown on TV several times a week over many years.

operas	series	thrillers	soap operas
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4. You can set your drama anywhere as long as your characters are _____.

engaging	leading	a ratings success	flavoursome
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5. The equality of the lead characters in Descendants of the Sun _____ with the viewers.

resonates	flavours	thrills	twists
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答案

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. Is K-drama an illness?

No, it's like an illness because it's spreading quickly across countries.

2. Have there been other popular Korean TV dramas before 'Descendants of the Sun'?

Yes, Descendants of the Sun is the latest in a long line of popular Korean dramas.

3. True or false: 'Descendants of the Sun' is completely different to previous Korean dramas?

False. There is the usual theme of star-crossed lovers but with a twist.

4. What four examples are there in the text of Scandinavian TV dramas which have been popular in the UK? **The Killing, The Bridge, Borgen, 1864.**

5. What could explain the popularity of foreign TV dramas with obscure subjects?

Engaging characters are at the heart of all good drama, no matter how mainstream or unusual your idea may be

2. 请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. 'Friends' was an international **hit show** in the 1990s.

2. The Shakespeare play Romeo and Juliette is about **star-crossed lovers**.

3. **Soap operas** are often shown on TV several times a week over many years.

4. You can set your drama anywhere as long as your characters are **engaging**.

5. The equality of the lead characters in Descendants of the Sun **resonates** with the viewers.