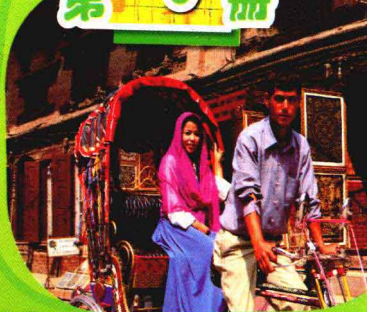


# 新理念 英语阅读

小学六年级

第 4 册



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# 出版前言

《新理念英语阅读》是由上海外语教育出版社从美国 Cengage Learning 出版集团引进改编的一套中小学英语读物。这套读物题材广泛，话题丰富；既有引人入胜、趣味无穷的故事，又有知识丰富、包罗万象的科普读物。把语言输入和知识输入融合在一起，让学生体验阅读的乐趣。

全套读物由美国 Cengage Learning 出版集团青少年读物金牌作家倾力打造，语言纯正、内容丰富、精彩纷呈。原汁原味的语言帮助读者培养英语语感、提升阅读兴趣。《新理念英语阅读》还强调阅读与视听的有机结合，全套读物的原版音频由英语语言专家绘声绘色、声情并茂地朗读，让读者有身临其境的感受。高中阶段另配由美国《国家地理》（National Geographic）精选的视频材料，能充分满足读者视觉和听觉的不同需求。色彩丰富、极具趣味性的插图在辅助读者阅读的同时，也让读者尽情享受前所未有的视觉盛宴。

本套读物针对每个故事精心设计了练习：小学阶段的题型和通用少儿英语星级考试接轨；初中阶段的题型和中考题的阅读部分题型匹配；高中阶段的练习分为阅读前、阅读中、阅读后以及阅读拓展训练和与视频材料相关的练习，帮助学生循序渐进地提高独立阅读能力，有效训练应试技巧。

整套读物分 9 个级别，从小学三年级到高中二年级，共 43 册，包含 78 篇故事和 132 篇科普读物。各级别根据国家《英语课程标准》规定的难度划分，充分考虑到不同年龄段学生的认知特点和阅读兴趣。

《新理念英语阅读》提供丰富多彩的阅读材料和多层次的拓展训练，在适宜性、可读性、多样性和有效性方面均凸显本套英语读物的优势。它让读者感受阅读乐趣的同时，也切实提高了他们的阅读解题能力，使其体验到新理念带给英语阅读的全新动力。

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2010年8月

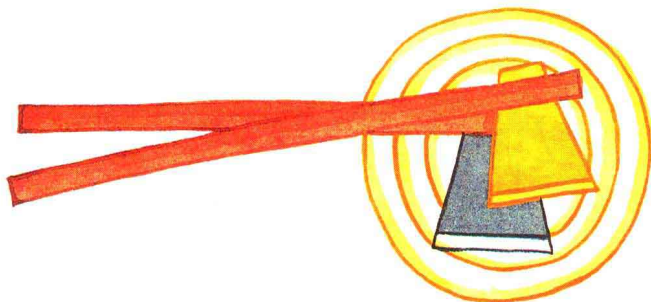
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# Mercury and the *Woodcutter*

Based on a fable by Aesop

Carmel Reilly  
Jane Wallace-Mitchell



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# The Axe

One day, a woodcutter set off to work in the woods for the day. He thought about how lucky he was. All he needed to do his job was his strength and a good axe.

Lucky for him, he had a very good axe. His father had given it to him. It had a beautiful wooden handle and a strong, sharp head.



## NOTES

set off 出发

strength *n.* 力气

handle *n.* 把手

strong *a.* 强有力的

sharp *a.* 锋利的

The woodcutter walked deep into the woods. Soon he came to a river. He found a tree near the river that he thought would be good for firewood.



After he chopped down the tree, he decided to rest by the riverbank.



#### NOTES

firewood *n.* 柴禾

chop *v.* 砍

riverbank *n.* 河岸



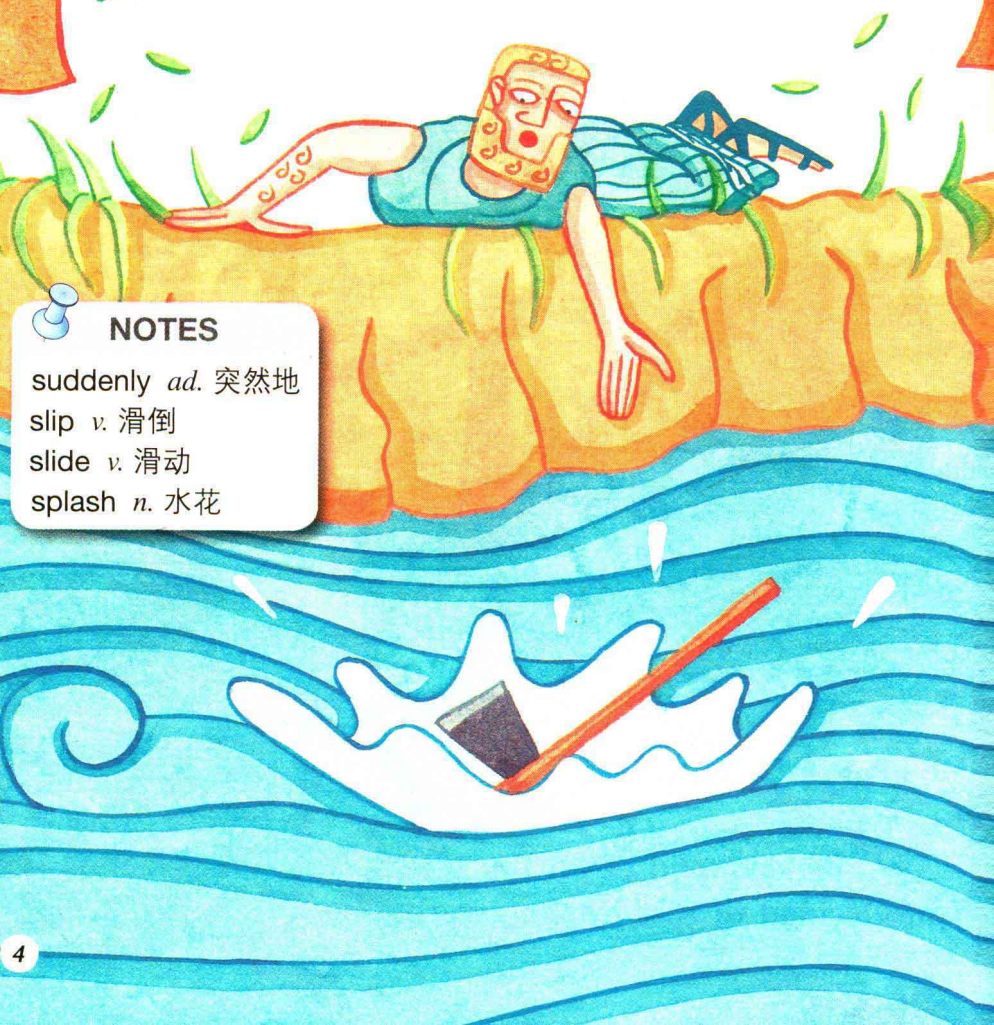
The woodcutter put his axe  
on the ground,  
but he didn't see how close it was  
to the riverbank.

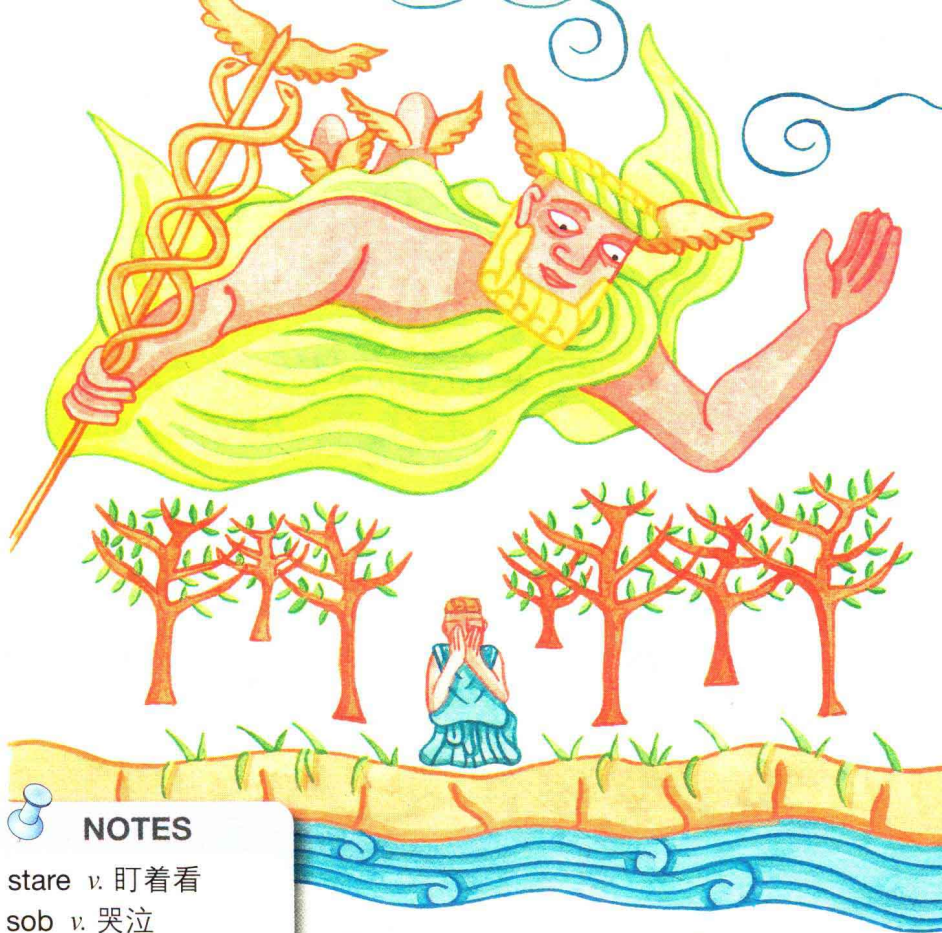
Suddenly, the axe started to slip.  
Before the woodcutter could save it,  
it slid backwards and fell into the river  
with a splash.



### NOTES

suddenly *ad.* 突然地  
slip *v.* 滑倒  
slide *v.* 滑动  
splash *n.* 水花





## NOTES

stare v. 盯着看

sob v. 哭泣

out of nowhere 不知  
道从哪里出来

The woodcutter stared down into the deep water. He couldn't see his axe anywhere. He dropped to the ground and put his head in his hands. "What will I do?" he sobbed. "My beautiful axe is lost."

Suddenly, out of nowhere, a voice said, "I will find it for you."

The woodcutter looked up to see the river god, Mercury (墨丘利, 罗马神中众神的信使) .





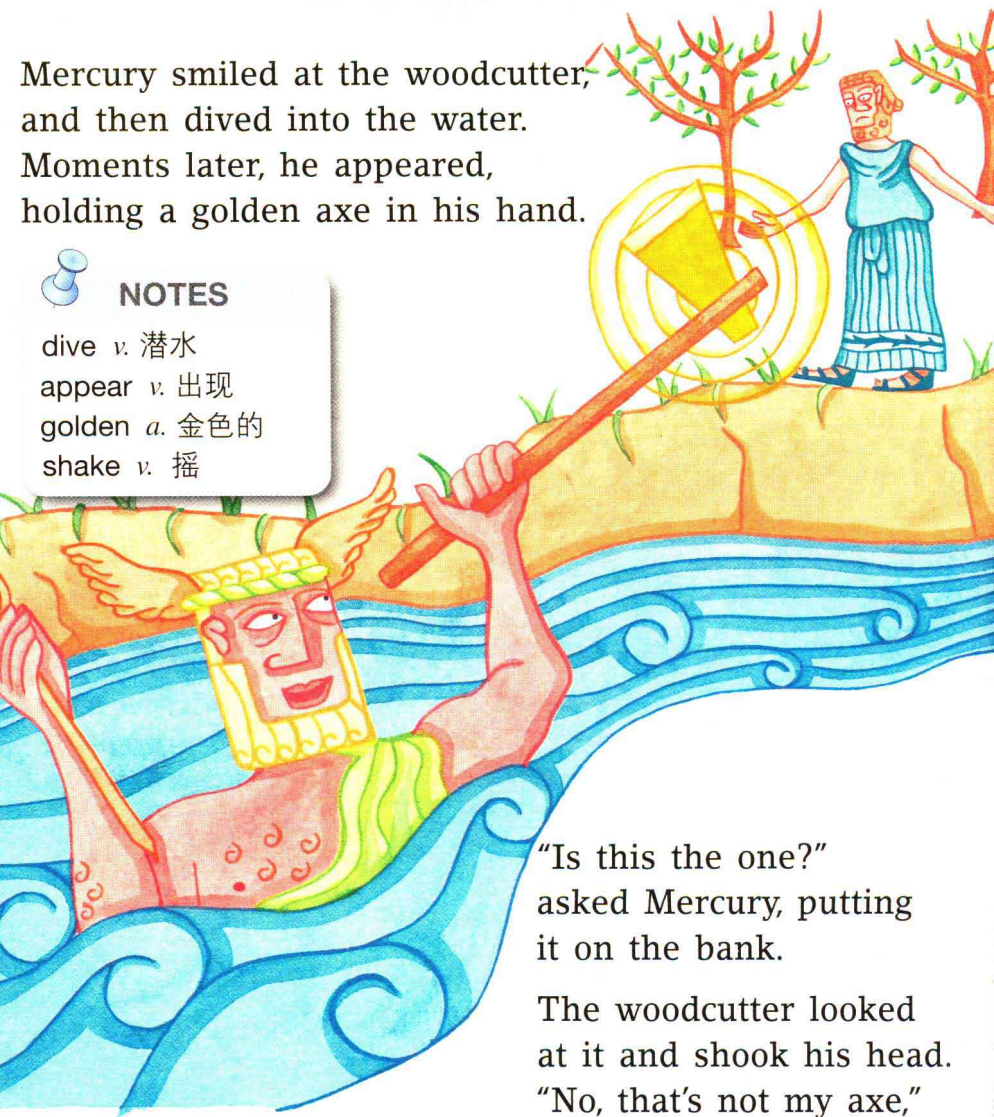
# Honesty

Mercury smiled at the woodcutter, and then dived into the water. Moments later, he appeared, holding a golden axe in his hand.



## NOTES

- dive v. 潜水  
appear v. 出现  
golden a. 金色的  
shake v. 摇



"Is this the one?"  
asked Mercury, putting  
it on the bank.

The woodcutter looked  
at it and shook his head.  
"No, that's not my axe,"  
he said.



Mercury dived a second time, and came back with a silver axe. "Is this the one?" he asked.

"No," said the woodcutter. He looked past Mercury into the water, still wanting to find his own axe.

"I will look again," said Mercury.

When he came up for the third time, he had the woodcutter's wooden axe in his hand.



## NOTES

silver *a.* 银色的  
come up 出现



"Thank you! Thank you!" said the woodcutter, as Mercury handed him his axe.

"Thank you, too," said Mercury. "You have been very honest. Because of your honesty, I am going to give you the golden and silver axes as well."

The woodcutter smiled.

"This is wonderful. Thank you!" he said.



## NOTES

hand *v.* 递

honest *a.* 诚实的

as well 同样





# Dishonesty

On his way home, the woodcutter saw a friend.  
He told his friend what had happened.

As soon as the woodcutter had gone,  
the friend, who was also a woodcutter, grabbed  
his own axe and took off for  
the river. He found the place  
the first woodcutter had told  
him about, and let his axe slip  
into the water. Then he sat  
down and pretended to cry.



## NOTES

happen v. 发生

as soon as —……就……

grab v. 抓起

pretend v. 假装

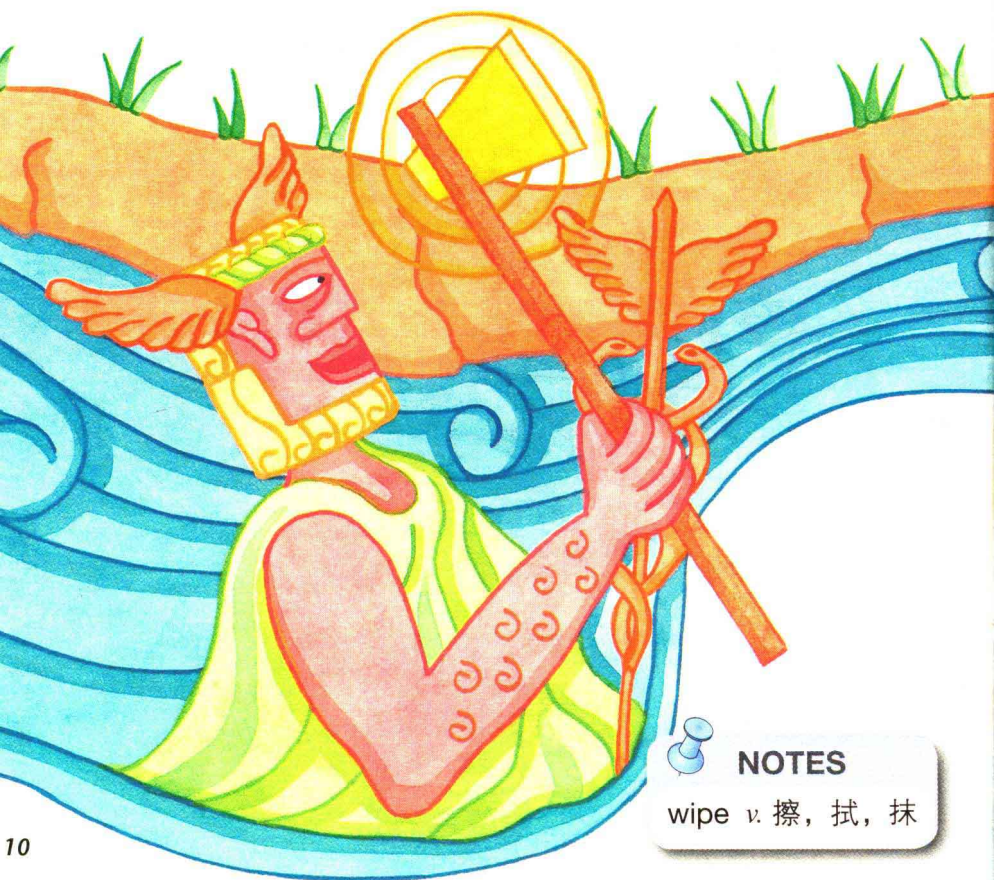




Mercury heard the sobbing, and appeared.  
"I will find your axe for you,"  
he told the second woodcutter,  
when he heard that he had also  
lost his axe.



Mercury dived into the water again.  
After a moment, he came up holding a golden axe.  
The woodcutter sat up and wiped his eyes.  
"Yes, that's my axe!" he said.



#### NOTES

wipe v. 擦, 拭, 抹



## NOTES

angrily *ad.* 愤怒地

dishonest *a.* 不诚实的

disappear *v.* 消失

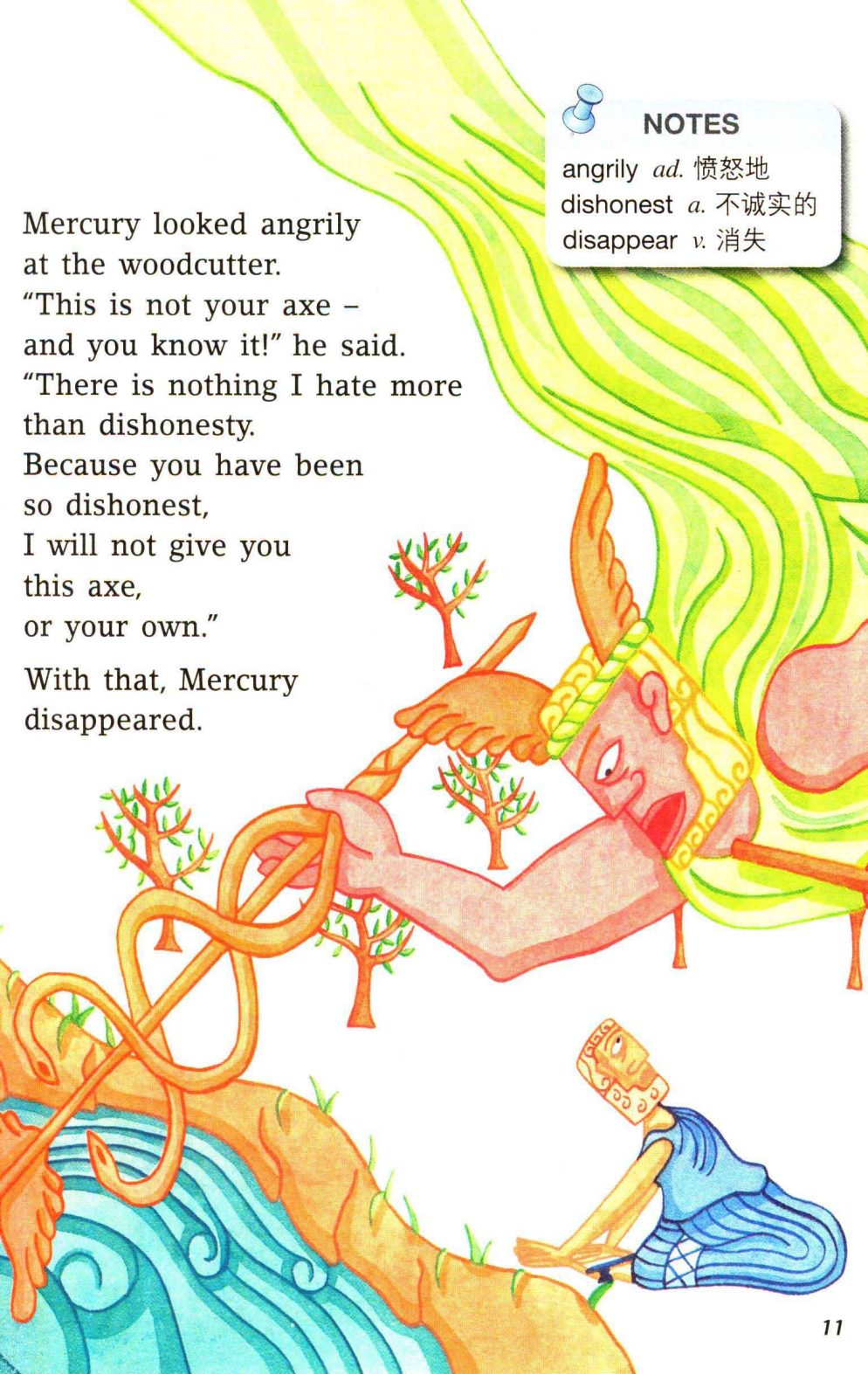
Mercury looked angrily  
at the woodcutter.

"This is not your axe –  
and you know it!" he said.

"There is nothing I hate more  
than dishonesty.

Because you have been  
so dishonest,  
I will not give you  
this axe,  
or your own."

With that, Mercury  
disappeared.





The woodcutter looked out into the river.  
He knew he would never get his axe back.  
Worst of all, when he got home, he was going  
to have to tell everyone how he lost it.



#### NOTES

worst of all 最糟糕的是