新竹市關東國小109學年度英語朗讀比賽六年級英語朗讀比賽題目

比賽時參賽學生須由二篇文章中抽一篇進行朗讀。

**Mercury and the Woodman**

A poor woodman was cutting down a big tree near the edge of a deep pool in the forest. It was late in the day and the woodman was so tired. He had been working since sunrise. Thus, it happened that the axe slipped and flew out of his hands into the pool.The woodman was very disappointed. The axe was all he had to make a living, and he didn't have enough money to buy a new one. Suddenly, the god Mercury appeared and asked what the trouble was. The woodman told what had happened, and the kind Mercury dived into the pool. When he came up again, he held a wonderful beautiful golden axe. “Is this your axe?” Mercury asked the woodman. “No, this is not my axe,” answered the honest woodman. Mercury laid the golden axe down and sprang back into the pool.This time, he brought up a silver axe, but the woodman declared again that his axe was just an ordinary one with a wooden handle. Mercury dived down for the third time, and when he came up again he had the axe the woodman had lost. The poor woodman was very glad that his axe had been found and could not thank the kind god enough. Mercury was greatly pleased with the woodman’s honesty. “I admire your honesty and as a reward you may have all three axes, the gold and the silver as well as your own,” he said. The happy woodman returned to his home with the treasures, and soon his story was known to everyone. Now, there were several woodmen who believed they could have the same good fortune. They hurried out into the woods, one here, one there, and hid their axes in the bushes. Then they cried and called Mercury to help them. Mercury did appear, first to this one, then to that. Mercury knew they lied and would not give them any wonderful axes. They couldn't even find their own axes the next day.