

本教材第二版曾获首届全国教材建设奖全国优秀教材二等奖



“十二五”普通高等教育本科国家级规划教材

2

精读

总主编：杨立民 顾问：徐克容

CONTEMPORARY
COLLEGE ENGLISH
现代大学英语

第三版

主 编：邱 枫 陈崐斌

外语教学与研究出版社
FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS

Text A

- 1 The year I found Maheegun, spring was late in coming. That day, I was spearing fish with my grandfather when I heard the faint crying and found the shivering wolf cub.
- 2 As I bent down, he moved weakly toward me. I picked him up and put him inside my jacket. Little Maheegun gained strength after I got the first few drops of warm milk in him. He wiggled and soon he was full and warm.
- 3 My grandfather finally agreed to let me keep him.
- 4 That year, which was my 14th, was the happiest of my life.
- 5 Not that we didn't have our troubles. Maheegun was the most mischievous wolf cub ever. He was curious too. Like looking into Grandma's sewing basket—which he upset, scattering thread and buttons all over the floor. At such times, she would chase him out with a broom and Maheegun would poke his head around the corner, waiting for things to quiet down.
- 6 That summer Maheegun and I became hunting partners. We hunted the grasshoppers that leaped about like little rockets. And in the fall, after the first snow, our games took us to the nearest meadows in search of field mice. By then, Maheegun was half grown. Gone was the puppy-wool coat. In its place was a handsome black mantle.

Maheegun My Brother

Eric Acland



- 7 The winter months that came soon after were the happiest I could remember. They belonged only to Maheegun and myself. Often we would make a fire in the bushes. Maheegun would lay his head between his front paws, with his eyes on me as I told him stories.
- 8 It all served to fog my mind with pleasure so that I forgot my grandpa's repeated warnings, and one night left Maheegun unchained. The following morning in sailed Mrs. Yesno, wild with anger, who demanded Maheegun be shot because he had killed her rooster. The next morning, my grandpa announced that we were going to take Maheegun to the north shack.
- 9 By the time we reached the lake where the trapper's shack stood, Maheegun seemed to have become restless. Often he would sit with his nose to the sky, turning his head this way and that as if to check the wind.
- 10 The warmth of the stove soon brought sleep to me. But something caused me to wake up with a start. I sat up, and in the moon-flooded cabin was my grandfather standing beside me. "Come and see, son," whispered my grandfather.
- 11 Outside the moon was full and the world looked all white with snow. He pointed to a rock that stood high at the edge of the lake. On the top was the clear outline of a great wolf sitting still, ears pointed, alert, listening.
- 12 "Maheegun," whispered my grandfather.
- 13 Slowly the wolf raised his muzzle. "Oooo-oo-wow-wowoo-oooo!"
- 14 The whole white world thrilled to that wild cry. Then after a while, from the distance came a softer call in reply. Maheegun stirred, with the deep rumble of pleasure in his throat. He slipped down the rock and headed out across the ice.
- 15 "He's gone," I said.
- 16 "Yes, he's gone to that young she-wolf." My grandfather slowly filled his pipe. "He will take her for life, hunt for her, protect her. This is the way the Creator planned life. No man can change it."
- 17 I tried to tell myself it was all for the best, but it was hard to lose my brother.
- 18 For the next two years I was as busy as a squirrel storing nuts for the winter. But once or twice when I heard wolf cries from distant hills, I would still wonder if Maheegun, in his battle for life, found time to remember me.

- 19 It was not long after that I found the answer.
- 20 Easter came early that year and during the holidays I went to visit my cousins.
- 21 My uncle was to bring me home in his truck. But he was detained by some urgent business. So I decided to come back home on my own.
- 22 A mile down the road I slipped into my snowshoes and turned into the bush. The strong sunshine had dimmed. I had not gone far before big flakes of snow began drifting down.
- 23 The snow thickened fast. I could not locate the tall pine that stood on the north slope of Little Mountain. I circled to my right and stumbled into a snow-filled creek bed. By then the snow had made a blanket of white darkness, but I knew only too well there should have been no creek there.
- 24 I tried to travel west but only to hit the creek again. I knew I had gone in a great circle and I was lost.
- 25 There was only one thing to do. Camp for the night and hope that by morning the storm would have blown itself out. I quickly made a bed of boughs and started a fire with the bark of an old dead birch. The first night I was comfortable enough. But when the first gray light came I realized that I was in deep trouble. The storm was even worse. Everything had been smothered by the fierce whiteness.
- 26 The light of another day still saw no end to the storm. I began to get confused. I couldn't recall whether it had been storming for three or four days.
- 27 Then came the clear dawn. A great white stillness had taken over and with it, biting cold. My supply of wood was almost gone. There must be more.
- 28 Slashing off green branches with my knife, I cut my hand and blood spurted freely from my wound. It was some time before the bleeding stopped. I wrapped my hand with a piece of cloth I tore off from my shirt. After some time, my fingers grew cold and numb, so I took the bandage off and threw it away.
- 29 How long I squatted over my dying fire I don't know. But then I saw the gray shadow between the trees. It was a timber wolf. He had followed the blood spots on the snow to the blood-soaked bandage.
- 30 "Yap ... yap ... yap ... yoooo!" The howl seemed to freeze the world with fear.
- 31 It was the food cry. He was calling, "Come, brothers, I have found meat." And I was the meat!

- 32 Soon his hunting partner came to join him. Any time now, I thought, their teeth would pierce my bones.
- 33 Suddenly the world exploded in snarls. I was thrown against the branches of the shelter. But I felt no pain. And a great silence had come. Slowly I worked my way out of the snow and raised my head. There, about 50 feet away, crouched my two attackers with their tails between their legs. Then I heard a noise to my side and turned my head. There stood a giant black wolf. It was Maheegun, and he had driven off the others.
- 34 “Maheegun ... Maheegun ...,” I sobbed, as I moved through the snow toward him. “My brother, my brother,” I said, giving him my hand. He reached out and licked at the dried blood.
- 35 I got my little fire going again, and as I squatted by it, I started to cry. Maybe it was relief or weakness or both—I don’t know. Maheegun whimpered too.
- 36 Maheegun stayed with me through the long night, watching me with those big eyes. The cold and loss of blood were taking their toll.
- 37 The sun was midway across the sky when I noticed how restless Maheegun had become. He would run away a few paces—head up, listening—then run back to me. Then I heard. It was dogs. It was the searching party! I put the last of my birch bark on the fire and fanned it into life.
- 38 The sound of the dogs grew louder. Then the voices of men. Suddenly, as if by magic, the police dog team came up out of the creek bed, and a man came running toward my fire. It was my grandfather.
- 39 The old hunter stopped suddenly when he saw the wolf. He raised his rifle. “Don’t shoot!” I screamed and ran toward him, falling through the snow. “It’s Maheegun. Don’t shoot!”
- 40 He lowered his rifle. Then I fell forward on my face, into the snow.
- 41 I woke up in my bedroom. It was quite some time before my eyes came into focus enough to see my grandfather sitting by my bed.
- 42 “You have slept three days,” he said softly. “The doc says you will be all right in a week or two.”
- 43 “And Maheegun?” I asked weakly.
- 44 “He should be fine. He is with his own kind.”

(1,442 words)

Notes on the Text

1. About the author and the text

Eric Acland is a pen name used by Valerie Kaye who was born in England in 1906 and died in Quebec, Canada, in 1982. The text is adapted from *Boys' Life*—the monthly magazine of the Boy Scouts of America, published in August, 1974.

2. cub (para. 1) and puppy (para. 6)

There are specific words which refer to young animals. For example:

cub (a young meat-eating wild animal like a bear, lion, tiger, fox, wolf, etc.)

puppy/pup (a young dog or wolf)

calf (a young cow, or a young animal of some other type, such as a young elephant or whale)

kitten (a young cat)

duckling (a young duck)

chick (a young chicken or bird)

kid/lamb (a young goat or sheep)

piggy/piglet (a young pig)

3. she-wolf (para. 16)

Traditionally the sex (gender) distinction of human beings and animals is expressed by different words such as "brother" and "sister," "nephew" and "niece." It is also expressed by using the "-ess" suffix to refer to the female such as "actress," "tigress" or by using "man" or "woman," "he" or "she." In academic and formal writing, however, the distinction is usually made by using "male" and "female." It is interesting to note that nowadays many people, especially women, do not like to use such words as "man," "mankind," or "chairman" to refer to both sexes. They prefer to use, instead, inclusive language like "human being," "people," "person," "humanity," "human race," or "chairperson."

4. Easter (para. 20)

Easter (复活节) is a religious holiday for Christians celebrated in March or April on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the spring equinox (春分). For many people, Easter is also a time to celebrate spring, new life, and hope. There are many Easter traditions in the United States and Europe, including painting and hiding eggs.

Glossary

alert /ə'leɪt/ <i>adj.</i>	watchful and ready to meet danger
attacker /ə'tækə/ <i>n.</i>	a person or animal who uses violence to try to hurt or kill sb.
bark /bɑ:k/ <i>n.</i>	the outer covering of a tree 树皮
birch /bɜ:tʃ/ <i>n.</i>	桦树
bough /bau/ <i>n.</i>	a main branch on a tree
cabin /'kæbɪn/ <i>n.</i>	a small roughly-built house, usually of wood
chase /tʃeɪs/ <i>v.</i>	to roughly drive away; to cause to leave
creek /kri:k/ <i>n.</i>	a long narrow stream
crouch /kraʊtʃ/ <i>v.</i>	to bend down at the knees
detain /dr'tein/ <i>v.</i>	to prevent sb. from leaving 耽搁; 阻留
dim /dɪm/ <i>v.</i>	to make or become less bright
doc /dɒk/ <i>n.</i>	(<i>informal, AmE</i>) doctor
drift /drɪft/ <i>v.</i>	to float or move carried by wind or water currents
flake /fleɪk/ <i>n.</i>	a very small flat thin piece that breaks away easily from sth. else; <i>snow ~</i> : 雪花
giant /'dʒaɪənt/ <i>adj.</i>	very large
grasshopper /'grɑ:s,hɒpə/ <i>n.</i>	蚱蜢
howl /haʊl/ <i>n.</i>	a long loud cry, esp. made by wolves
leap /li:p/ <i>v.</i>	to jump high into the air
lick /lɪk/ <i>v.</i>	to move the tongue across the surface of sth.
lower /'ləʊə/ <i>v.</i>	to let or make sth. go down
mantle /'mæntl/ <i>n.</i>	a loose outer sleeveless garment 披风; 斗篷 (Here it is used figuratively to indicate the wolf's fur coat.)
midway /,mɪd'weɪ/ <i>adv.</i>	in the middle position; between two places
mischievous /'mɪstʃəvəs/ <i>adj.</i>	eager to have fun by playing harmless tricks 好调皮捣蛋的
muzzle /'mʌzəl/ <i>n.</i>	the nose and mouth of an animal such as a dog, a wolf, or a horse (动物的) 口鼻
numb /nʌm/ <i>adj.</i>	unable to feel anything because of coldness
paw /pɔ:/ <i>n.</i>	an animal's foot that has nails or claws
poke /pəʊk/ <i>v.</i>	to push or move sth. through a space or opening 伸出; 探出
restless /'restləs/ <i>adj.</i>	unwilling or unable to stay quiet and still for any length of time

2026057—专业技术岗—英语类试讲教材

rifle /'raɪfəl/ <i>n.</i>	a long gun which you hold up to your shoulder to shoot
rooster /'ruːstə/ <i>n.</i>	(<i>AmE</i>) a cock
rumble /'rʌmbəl/ <i>n.</i>	a deep continuous rolling sound
shack /ʃæk/ <i>n.</i>	a small and not very strong building 简陋的小屋；棚屋
shiver /'ʃɪvə/ <i>v.</i>	to shake, esp. from cold or fear
slash /slæʃ/ <i>v.</i>	to make a long deep cut with sth. sharp like a knife 砍；劈
slope /sləʊp/ <i>n.</i>	山坡；斜坡
smother /'smʌðə/ <i>v.</i>	to cover thickly
snarl /snaɪl/ <i>n.</i>	a low angry sound while showing the teeth esp. by animals 吼叫；咆哮
soaked /səʊkt/ <i>adj.</i>	very wet
sob /sɒb/ <i>v.</i>	to cry noisily, taking sudden, sharp breaths 啜泣；呜咽
spear /spiə/ <i>v.</i>	用叉（叉鱼）
spurt /spɜ:t/ <i>v.</i>	to come out quickly and suddenly in a thin, powerful stream 喷出；冒出
squat /skwɒt/ <i>v.</i>	to bend your knees and sit on your heels 蹲；蹲坐
squirrel /'skwɪrəl/ <i>n.</i>	a small animal with a long furry tail that climbs trees and eats nuts 松鼠
stillness /'stɪlnəs/ <i>n.</i>	the quality of being quiet and not moving 静止；安静
stir /stɜ:/ <i>v.</i>	to move slightly
stumble /'stʌmbəl/ <i>v.</i>	to walk unsteadily and often almost fall 跌跌撞撞地走；绊倒
thicken /'θɪkən/ <i>v.</i>	to become thick or make sth. thick
timber /'tɪmbə/ <i>n.</i>	wood for building; ~ <i>wolf</i> : (北美) 大灰狼
toll /təʊl/ <i>n.</i>	<i>take its/their</i> ~: to have a very bad effect on sb. or sth. 严重损害
trapper /'træpə/ <i>n.</i>	a person who catches wild animals for their fur
unchained /ʌn'tʃeɪnd/ <i>adj.</i>	not tied up to prevent wandering off or escaping
whimper /'wɪmpə/ <i>v.</i>	to make low crying sounds 呜咽
wiggle /'wɪɡəl/ <i>v.</i>	(<i>informal</i>) to move in small movements from side to side
wool /wʊl/ <i>n.</i>	the hair that grows on sheep and on some other animals
wrap /ræp/ <i>v.</i>	to cover sth. with some material around it 包扎；裹起来