

Apple Festivals

蘋果節



“Hi, Grandpa,” said Eleni. “Where are we going?”

Grandpa Mike smiled as his granddaughters, Julia and Eleni got into the car. “We are going to the Apple and Pork Festival in Clinton, Illinois.”

“But, what will we do?” asked Eleni.

“We are going to watch people making apple cider and apple butter. There will be games, pony rides and craft making. They will have a flea market and lots of great food, including pork chop sandwiches and apple pie.”

“What is a flea market?”

Grandpa Mike said, “People will sell all kinds of things, especially antiques and apple products. Grandma even brought a cat home from a flea market at an apple festival. She named it Apple.”

「嗨，爺爺。」艾蕾妮說。「我們要去那裡？」

麥可爺爺笑著看他的孫女茱莉亞和艾蕾妮坐上車。「我們要去伊利諾州柯倫頓市的蘋果和豬肉節。」

「那麼，我們要做什麼？」艾蕾妮問。

「我們去看人們製作蘋果汁和蘋果奶油。蘋果節上會有各種遊戲，可以騎小馬，也可以自己做手工藝品。會場會有跳蚤市場，還會賣很多好吃的東西，像是豬排三明治和蘋果派。」

「什麼是跳蚤市場？」

麥可爺爺說：「在跳蚤市場上，人們會賣各種東西，特別是古董和與蘋果相關的產品。奶奶還曾經在蘋果節的跳蚤市場上買了一隻貓咪回來。她把貓咪命名為蘋果。」



“Our festivals are small. But, there are really big festivals. Over 50,000 people go to the Bayfield, Wisconsin Apple Festival each year. Like our festival, they eat lots of apple desserts, and have a kid’s area with rides and games. But, they have a 400 member band playing in a giant parade. Native Americans play drums and dance at the event. A popular festival in North Carolina attracts over 160,000 visitors each year.”

“Why do so many people go to festivals?”

“They like the fresh air, the food, music and the entertainment including cloggers, stagecoach rides and hayrides, quilting contests, baking contests, apple decorating races, chainsaw wood carving, petting zoos and more. Children like pie eating contests, apple peeling contests and even plays about Johnny Appleseed.”

「我們的蘋果節很小，但是有些地方的蘋果節很盛大。每年威士康辛州貝菲爾德的蘋果節會有超過5萬人參加。與我們的蘋果節差不多，參加者會吃很多蘋果做成的甜點，還有圍出兒童區，進行騎馬和其他遊戲。但是，他們有一支4百人的樂隊，在大遊行上表演。美洲原住民會表演擊鼓和舞蹈。在北卡羅萊納州有一個熱門的蘋果節，每年能吸引超過16萬名參加者。」

「爲什麼這麼多人會去參加節慶呢？」

「他們喜歡節慶會場上的新鮮空氣、食物、音樂和各種娛樂，包括木屐舞、乘馬車和乘乾草車，還有拼布大賽、烘焙大賽、蘋果裝飾比賽、木鋸雕刻、寵物動物園和其他許多活動。孩子們喜歡吃派大胃王比賽、削蘋果比賽，有時甚至會演出約翰·蘋果子的故事。」



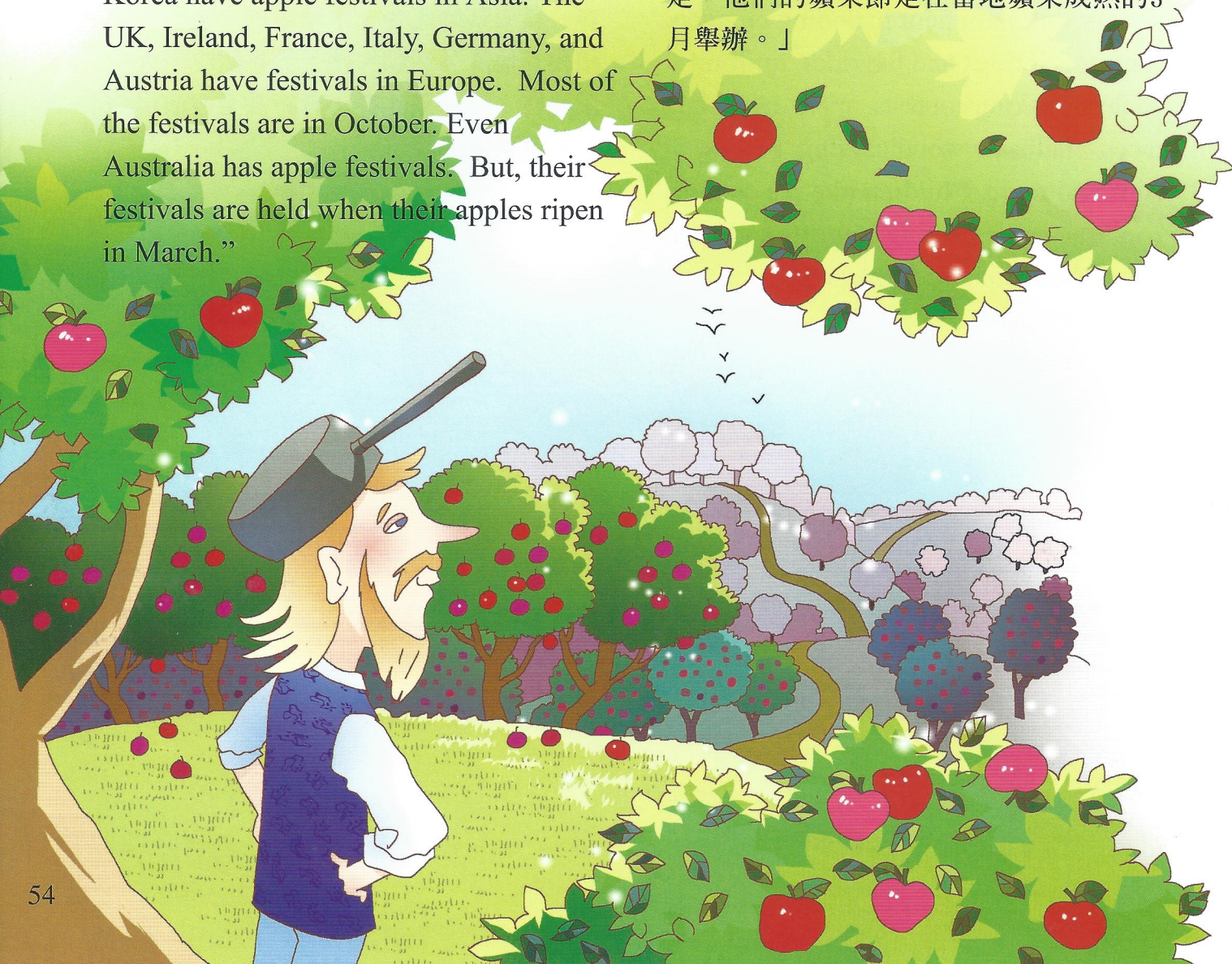


“I know about him. He planted apple trees across America 200 years ago,” said Eleni.

“That’s right,” said Grandpa Mike. “He planted thousands of trees. Apple trees were first brought to America from Europe. Now they are grown in all 50 states and in Canada. Apples grow best in climates protected from wind with good soil, where it is not too hot or too cold. The world’s top apple producers are China, the United States, Turkey, Poland and Italy. In Asia, China and Korea have apple festivals in Asia. The UK, Ireland, France, Italy, Germany, and Austria have festivals in Europe. Most of the festivals are in October. Even Australia has apple festivals. But, their festivals are held when their apples ripen in March.”

「我知道他。2百年前他在美國各地種蘋果樹。」艾蕾妮表示。

「沒錯。」麥可爺爺說。「他種了好幾千棵樹。起初，蘋果樹是從歐洲引進美國。現在，美國的50個州，還有加拿大都有種蘋果樹。蘋果在肥沃的土壤，以及無風、不會太熱也不會太冷的氣候下長得最好。全世界最大的蘋果生產者是中國、美國、土耳其、波蘭和義大利。在亞洲，中國和韓國都有舉辦蘋果節。歐洲的英國、冰島、法國、義大利、德國和奧地利也有舉辦蘋果節。大多數的蘋果節在10月舉辦。甚至連澳洲也有蘋果節的活動。但是，他們的蘋果節是在當地蘋果成熟的3月舉辦。」





“Do you want to know something funny?” asked Grandpa Mike.

“Sure.”

“Apple trees are a member of the rose family. There are over 7,500 varieties of apples in the world.”

“That isn’t funny.”

“Okay, how about this? The world’s longest apple peel was created by a 16 years old girl. It was 172 feet long. And, a festival in Kentucky bakes the world’s largest apple pie. It is ten feet across.”

“Grandpa, I know another funny thing. If you cut an apple in half around the middle, you can see a star,” said Eleni.

“Let’s buy some apples so I can see that star,” said Grandpa.

“I like the way you think!” said Eleni.

「你想知道一些蘋果的趣聞嗎？」麥可爺爺說。

「當然。」

「蘋果樹是薔薇科家族的一員。全世界有超過7千5百種蘋果。」

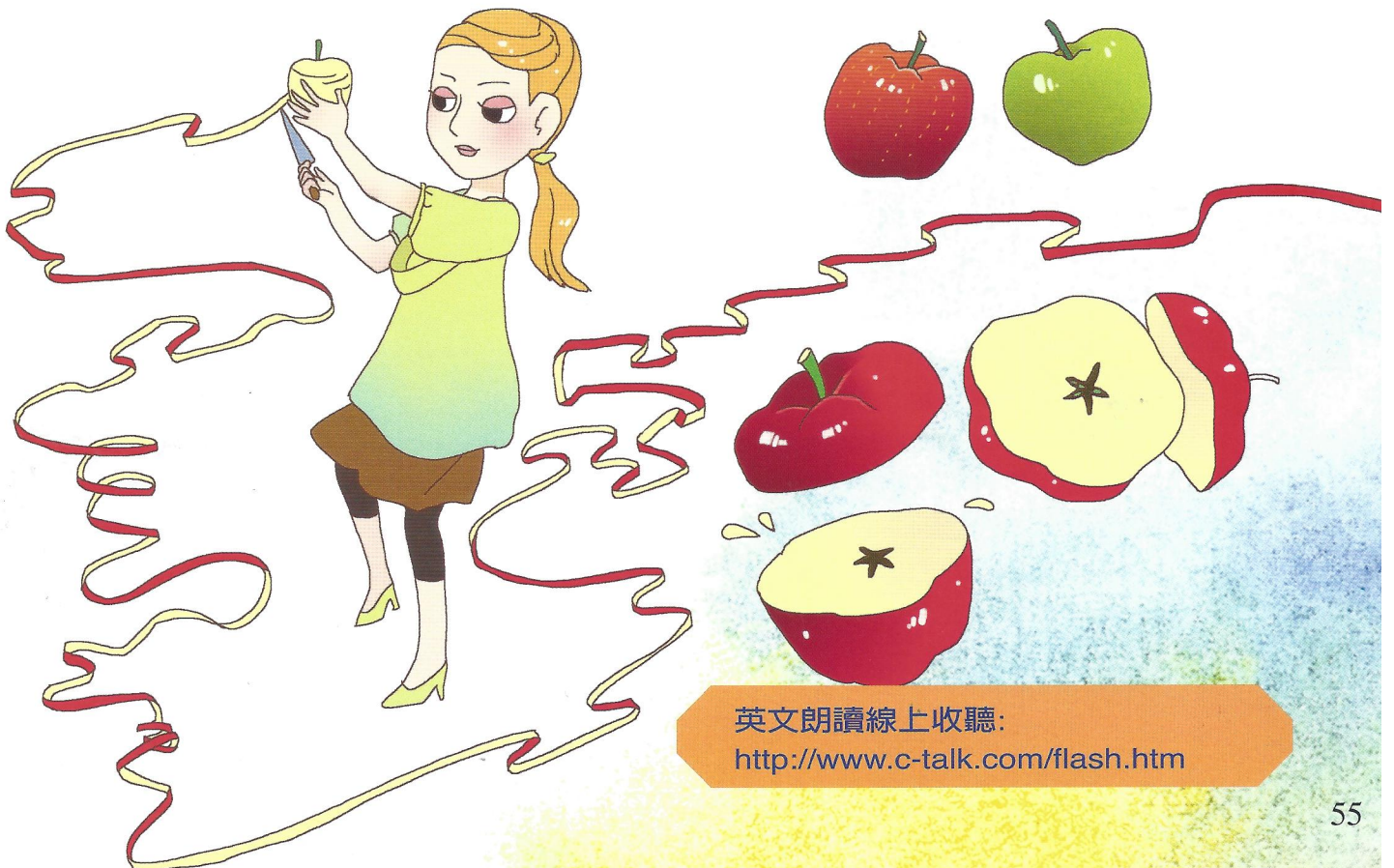
「那可不可有趣。」

「好吧，那這個呢？全世界所削下的最長蘋果皮紀錄是由一個16歲女孩所創下的。她削了172英尺長。另外，在肯塔基州的一個蘋果節上，烤出全世界最大的蘋果派，有10英尺寬。」

「爺爺，我知道另一件有趣的事。如果你把蘋果從中間橫切成兩半，你會看到一顆星星。」艾蕾妮說。

「我們去買些蘋果，這樣我就能看到星星了。」爺爺說。

「我喜歡這個主意。」艾蕾妮說。



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