



Cinco de Mayo

A Mexican American Holiday

五月節：美國墨西哥裔節

“La Cucaracha, La Cucaracha.”

“Granny, do you know what you are singing?” asked Grandpa Mike.

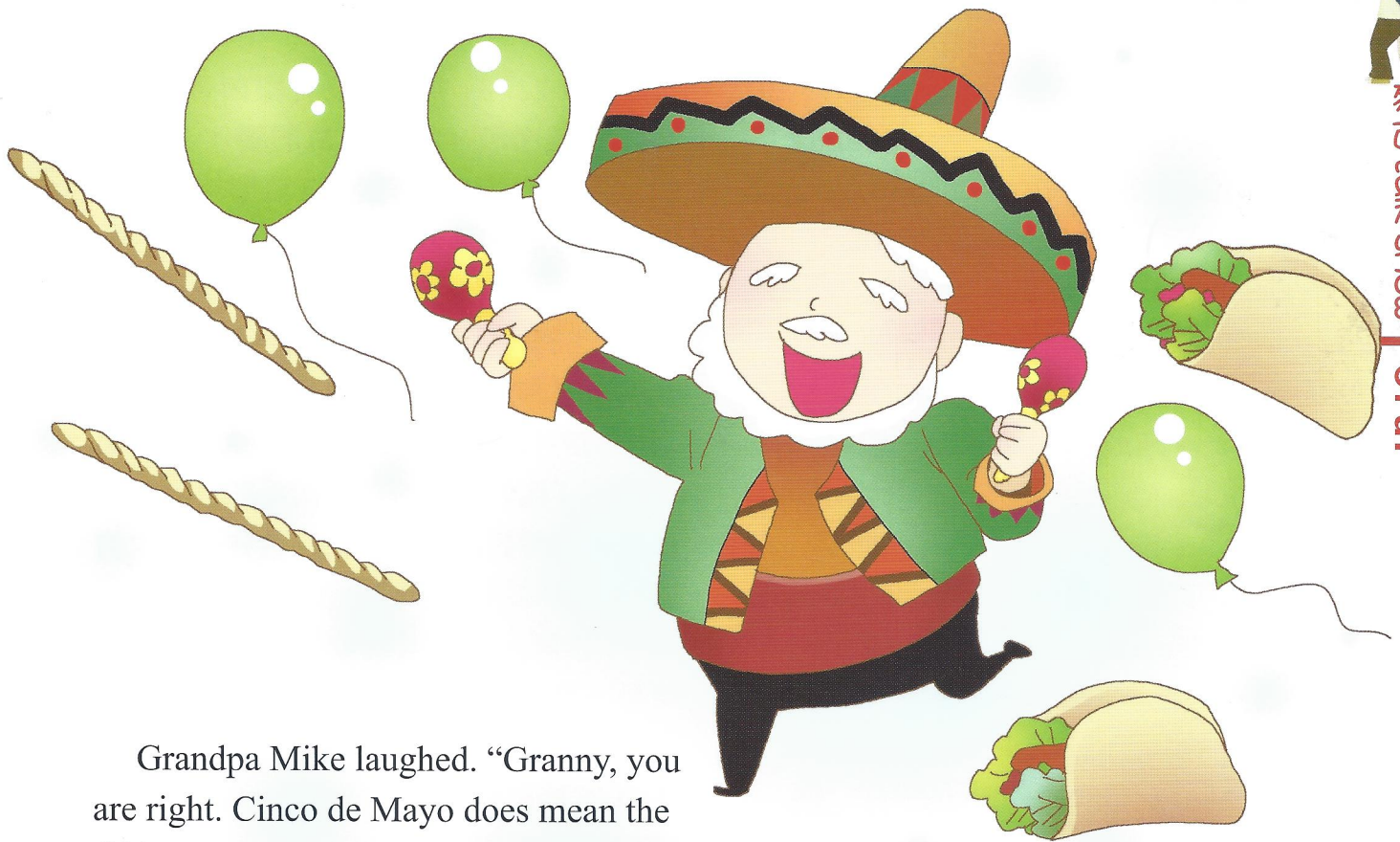
“It’s a Mexican song. I am singing it in honor of Cinco De Mayo, a Mexican holiday,” answered Granny Beck. “There is a sign in the park at the end of our street. It says ‘Music, Food and Local Soccer Tournament on May 5.’ That is Cinco de Mayo, the fifth of May.”

「La Cucaracha, La Cucaracha (蟑螂，蟑螂)。」

「奶奶，妳在唱什麼啊？」麥克爺爺問。

「這是墨西哥民謠。我爲了墨西哥節慶5月節而唱。」貝克奶奶說。「巷口的公園裡有個牌子，上面寫『5月5號有音樂、美食與當地足球巡迴賽。』那就是五月節，5月5號。」





Grandpa Mike laughed. “Granny, you are right. Cinco de Mayo does mean the fifth of May. You are also right. La Cucaracha is a song. It is a Mexican song about a cockroach.”

“Ewww,” they both said together.

“I was singing about a cockroach? A disgusting, filthy bug?” asked Granny.

“It is a lively funny song, Granny. People will be singing all kinds of Mexican songs for the holiday.”

“Why does our town celebrate a Mexican holiday? Grandpa.”

Grandpa Mike said, “Many Mexicans come to our country to get jobs. They come to our area to help our farmers and to work in factories. They brought their customs, music, food and even their holidays with them. There are more Mexicans living here than there used to be. Many become American citizens.”

麥克爺爺大笑，「妳說的沒錯，奶奶。5月節確實是5月5號。妳剛剛唱的也沒錯，La Cucaracha是一首歌，墨西哥的蟑螂民謠。」

「噁……」兩人一起說。

「我剛剛唱的是蟑螂歌？那個噁心骯髒的昆蟲？」奶奶問。

「那是一首生動有趣的歌，奶奶。5月節當天大家會唱各種墨西哥歌曲。」

「爺爺，為什麼我們鎮要慶祝5月節？」

麥克爺爺說：「很多墨西哥人來我們國家找工作。他們來到我們這個區域幫忙農夫工作、在工廠裡打拚。他們帶來他們的習俗、音樂、食物，甚至帶來他們的假期。現在住在這裡的墨西哥人比以前多，很多都已經成為美國公民了。」



“There were no Mexicans in the town where I grew up,” commented Granny. “Times have changed. As a child, I never knew what a taco or burrito or other Mexican food tasted like. Mexican food is good.”

“Cities like Chicago, Los Angeles, Denver and Houston have larger numbers of Mexican-Americans. Cinco de Mayo festivals are bigger there,” continued Grandpa. They will have mariachi bands. Mexican dancers will perform. Some places will have big parades.”

“I know I always ask, Grandpa. But, what is the holiday all about?”

Grandpa loved to talk about history. He told her, “In 1862, the French army attacked Mexico with an army of over 6000 professional soldiers. The French were beaten by a smaller number of less trained Mexicans.

「我成長的小鎮裡沒有墨西哥人。」奶奶有感而發。「時代真的變了！小時候，我根本不知道塔克餅、捲餅或其他墨西哥食物是什麼味道。墨西哥食物真的好好吃。」

「芝加哥、洛杉磯、丹佛及休士頓這些城市有非常龐大的墨西哥裔美國人口。那裡的5月節慶規模也比較大。」爺爺繼續說。「他們會有傳統墨西哥絃樂團，有墨西哥舞者表演。有些地方還會有盛大的遊行。」

「爺爺，我知道我每次都會這樣問。可是，這個節日是在慶祝什麼的啊？」

爺爺最喜歡講古，他說：「1862年，法軍率領超過6千名專業士兵攻打墨西哥，結果法國軍隊卻被一小群沒那麼訓練有素的墨西哥人打敗。」





Ever since, the people have celebrated the patriotism and pride of that day. The holiday helps us learn about the gifts the Mexican people have shared with our country.”

“So we celebrate this Cinco de Mayo like we celebrate St. Patrick’s Day and Oktoberfest to remember the Irish and Germans who live here?”

“You are right, Granny,” laughed Grandpa Mike. “America is made up of people from all over the world. We are lucky to have many holidays that we can enjoy.”

“I have an idea for this holiday. Let’s make tacos and a dessert called churros to eat, and go watch the soccer teams play on Cinco de Mayo.

“I like the way you think, Granny.”

從此以後，大家便會慶祝那天的愛國精神與榮耀。這個節日有助於我們了解墨西哥人與我們國家共享的禮物。」

「所以，我們慶祝5月節的意義，就跟我們爲了感念住在這裡的愛爾蘭人與德國人一樣而慶祝聖派翠克節與10月節？」

「奶奶，妳說的沒錯！」麥克爺爺大笑。「美國有來自世界各地的人，我們很幸運能共享這麼多節慶。」

「我知道該怎麼慶祝這個節日了。5月節當天，我們做塔克餅和吉拿棒甜點來吃，然後去看足球隊比賽。」

「我喜歡妳的想法，奶奶。」

英文朗讀線上收聽：

<http://www.c-talk.com/flash.htm>

