



Celebrating Mardi Gras

慶祝狂歡節



“What are you baking?” asked Grandpa Mike. “It smells great.”

“It is a ‘King Cake’,” Granny answered. “It is a special cake for our granddaughter’s class. I decorated the cake with purple, gold and green.”

“Those are the same colors as Mardi Gras decorations,” Grandpa said.

「妳在烤什麼？」麥克爺爺問。「聞起來好香。」

「國王戚風蛋糕。」貝克奶奶回他。「為我們孫女課程特別做的蛋糕。我用紫色、金色、綠色裝飾蛋糕。」

「跟狂歡節裝飾品的用色一樣，」爺爺說。



“That is what the teacher asked for. The students are reading about winter carnivals, including Mardi Gras. The teacher bought colored beads for the children to wear. The art teacher taught the children to make masks like the ones worn at Mardi Gras parties.”

“Did you know that the Romans were the first people to celebrate winter Carnival?” asked Grandpa Mike. “During the month of February they held feasts and parties.”

Granny Beck laughed. “You mentioned the Romans. They spoke Latin. The word Carnival is Latin for ‘the taking away of meat’. In the early days of Mardi Gras people partied and ate rich foods during Carnival. They gave up eating meat, and fattening foods after the last day of Carnival. That day is called Fat Tuesday or Mardi Gras in French.”

「老師就是這樣要求的。學生正在讀關於冬天的嘉年華，其中包括狂歡節。老師買了彩色串珠給學生戴。美術老師還教學生做狂歡節派對會戴的面具。」

「妳知道最早是羅馬人先開始慶祝冬季嘉年華的嗎？」麥克爺爺問。「2月裡，他們會舉辦筵席與派對。」

貝克奶奶大笑。「你正好提到羅馬人，他們使用的是拉丁文。嘉年華carnival這個字在拉丁文裡就是『拿走肉』的意思。早期的狂歡節，大家會在嘉年華期間玩樂吃大餐。嘉年華會的最後1天，他們會停止吃肉及高熱量食物。那天叫作『肥胖星期二』，就是法文的Mardi Gras。」

「世界上很多地方都會慶祝狂歡節，」





“Mardi Gras is celebrated in many parts of the world,” said Grandpa Mike. “In cities like New Orleans, Rio De Janeiro, and Trinidad the parties start small and get bigger as it gets closer to Fat Tuesday. There are costume parades where people play music and ride through the city on decorated floats. They throw beads to people watching the parades.”

“The parades end after Fat Tuesday,” Granny said. “The next day, the cities are quiet, and the clean-up begins. That day is called Ash Wednesday. The parties stop, and people go to church. They give up their rich foods until after Easter.”

“I bet they miss eating Moon Pies,” said Grandpa.

“Moon Pies?”

麥克爺爺說：「在紐奧良、里約熱內盧及千里達等城市，起初的派對會比較小，然後越接近肥胖星期2規模越大。變裝遊行時，大家會放音樂，搭花車穿梭城市。車上的人會朝觀賞遊行的人群拋撒串珠。」

「肥胖星期2過後遊行就會結束，」奶奶說：「隔天，城市一片安靜，大家開始打掃。那天叫作『灰燼星期3』。大家停止派對上教堂去。他們會停止吃大餐，直到復活節過後。」

「我賭他們一定會很想吃月亮派，」爺爺說。

「月亮派？」

「棉花糖和全麥餅乾做的圓形派餅，





“Those are round marshmallow and graham cracker pies that are dipped in chocolate. People wearing masks throw them from the floats in New Orleans during the parades.”

“Those sound good.” Granny Beck likes chocolate. “Can you buy them at the store?” she asked.

“Why?” asked Grandpa Mike.

“The teacher asked parents to help the children make pretend floats out of cereal boxes and shoe boxes at home. We could give moon pies to the teacher to throw to the children when they show off their floats.”

“What a great way to get a taste of Mardi Gras.” said Grandpa.

「棉花糖和全麥餅乾做的圓形派餅，沾巧克力醬吃。戴面具的人會從紐奧良的遊行花車上丟下來。」

「聽起來很不錯。」貝克奶奶喜歡吃巧克力。「店裡買得到嗎？」她問。

「做什麼？」麥克爺爺反問。

「老師要家長幫忙小孩在家用早餐穀片盒及鞋盒做花車模型。我們可以拿月亮派給老師，讓老師在學生展示花車的時候丟給他們。」

「這樣來體驗狂歡節真是不錯。」爺爺說。

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