



Pumpkin Festivals 南瓜嘉年華

“Hi, Eleni. Do you want to go to see pumpkin chucking?” asked Grandpa Mike.

“What is pumpkin chucking, Grandpa?” asked nine year-old Eleni.

“Air cannons and catapults shoot pumpkins at targets,” said Grandpa. “The pumpkins fly 400 miles per hour and go almost 3/4 of a mile.”

“Isn’t that wasting food, Grandpa?”

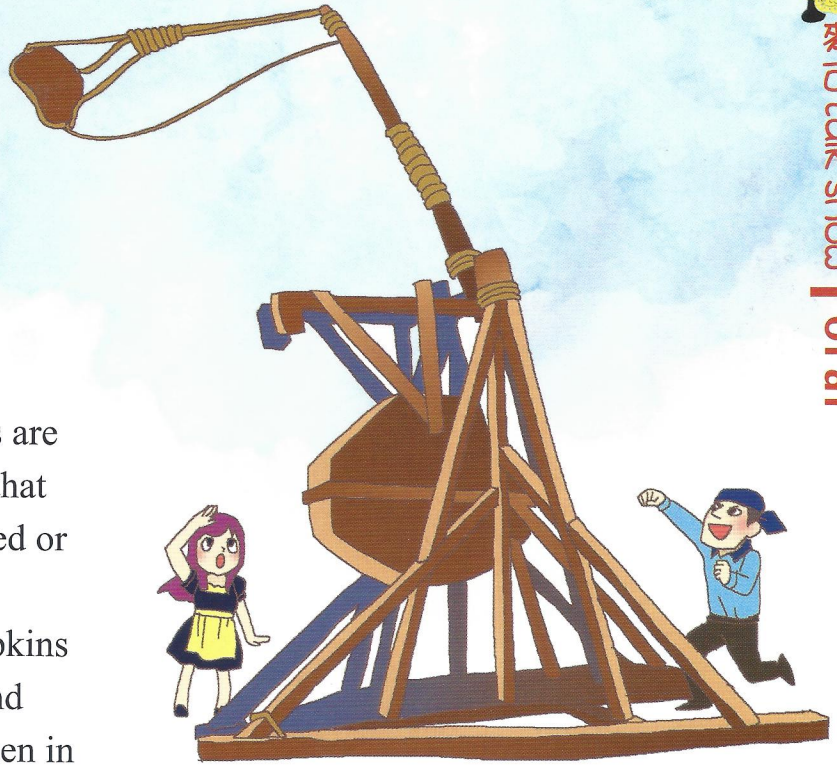
「嗨，伊蕾妮。你想要觀賞拋南瓜表演嗎？」麥可爺爺問。

「什麼是拋南瓜，爺爺？」9歲的伊蕾妮問。

「空氣砲和大彈弓會對著目標發射南瓜。」爺爺說。「那些南瓜的時速有4百英里，可以飛3/4英里遠。」

「這樣不會浪費食物嗎，爺爺？」





“No, honey. The good pumpkins are canned to be eaten. The pumpkins that cannot be eaten are carved or painted or used in the chucking contests.”

“After the festival, the bad pumpkins are made into feed for pigs, dogs and chickens. Most of the pumpkins eaten in America are grown in our state. Our local town of Morton, Illinois makes 85% of the canned pumpkin in the world.”

“Do pumpkins grow in other places?” asked Eleni.

“The first pumpkins were found a few thousand years ago in Central America. Now they grow everywhere except Antarctica. Most come from the USA, Canada, India and China. There are pumpkin festivals all across the USA, Australia, Canada, Europe and South Africa.”

“Grandpa, what do people do at pumpkin festivals?”

“Cities in New Hampshire and Illinois each try to see who can have the most carved pumpkins with lights in them. They stack them to make towers as high as 45 feet.”

「不會的，親愛的。好的南瓜會被裝在罐子裡，以後可以吃。那些不能吃的南瓜就會拿來做雕刻、畫畫，或是被用在拋南瓜大賽中。」

「在嘉年華結束之後，壞掉的南瓜會被用來餵豬、狗和雞。美國人吃的大部分南瓜都來自我們州。我們的小鎮，伊利諾州的摩頓鎮生產了全球85%的南瓜罐頭。」

「其他地方也有南瓜嗎？」伊蕾妮問。

「南瓜最早是在數千年以前，在中美洲發現的。現在，除了南極以外，每個地方都有種南瓜。大多數南瓜來自美國、加拿大、印度和中國。美國、澳洲、加拿大、歐洲和南非都有舉辦南瓜嘉年華。」

「爺爺，人們在南瓜嘉年華時都做什麼？」

「在新罕布夏和伊利諾州的城市會比賽，看誰能夠雕出最多南瓜燈。他們把雕好的南瓜燈堆成塔，最高到達45英尺高。」



“Illinois won with 30,919 carved pumpkins in 2012. They also have pumpkin basketball and pumpkin bowling. There are kids’ costume parades, fireworks, hayrides, pie making and pumpkin weigh offs. Champion pumpkins can weigh over 2000 pounds.”

“That is bigger than me.”

“The pumpkins are so large in Vermont that people carve them and use them for boats. They race each other. There is a festival in Florida where people carve pumpkins under water while snorkeling,” said Grandpa. “The largest festival in the world in Germany has over 400,000 pumpkins. They make huge art decorations with pumpkins and squash - like giant whales and dinosaurs. Pumpkins are a member of the squash family.”

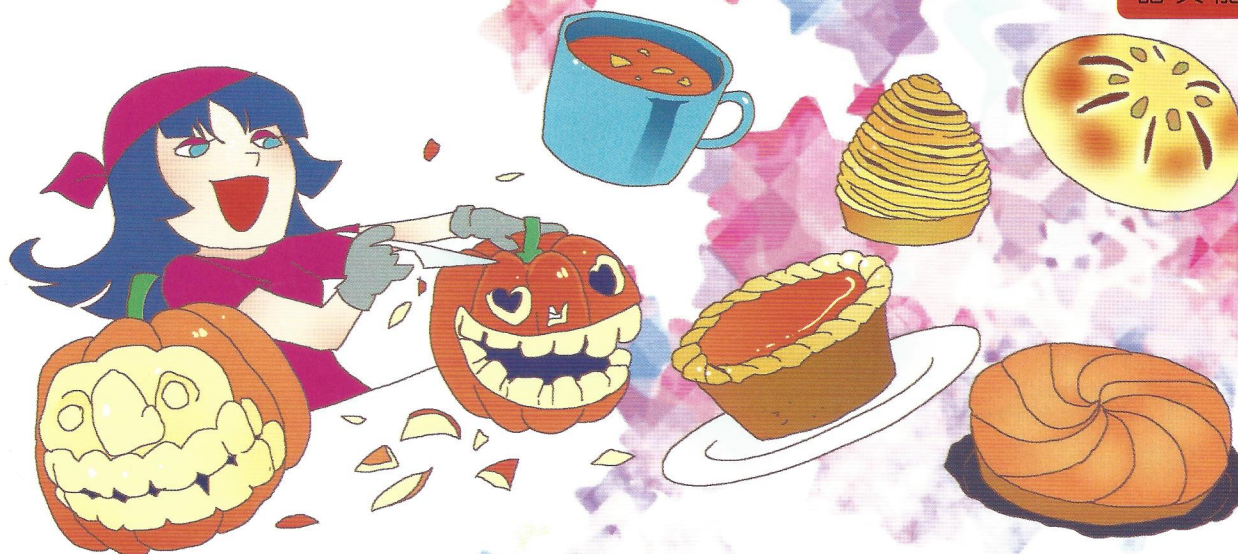
“Don’t people just eat pumpkins in pies?”

「2012年，伊利諾州以30,919個南瓜燈獲勝。在南瓜嘉年華上，還會有南瓜籃球賽和南瓜保齡球賽。孩子們會舉辦化妝舞會遊行，還會有煙火表演、乾草車遊街、南瓜派製作活動和南瓜秤重大賽。冠軍南瓜可能會超過2千磅重。」

「那比我還大耶。」

「佛蒙特州的南瓜很大，有人還把它們雕來當做船隻。他們舉辦南瓜船划船大賽。在佛羅里達的一場南瓜節上，人們一邊浮潛一邊雕刻南瓜。」爺爺說。「全球最大的南瓜嘉年華在德國，共有超過40萬顆南瓜。他們會用南瓜和各種夏瓜來做大型裝飾藝術，像是大隻鯨魚和恐龍。南瓜是夏瓜類家族的一員。」

「人們不是只有吃南瓜派嗎？」



“Pumpkins are used to make soups, pies, and breads. The flower of the fruit can be fried. The Chinese cook the leaves like vegetables and make congee from the meat of the pumpkin. The Swiss make balls with pumpkin and flour and boil them. The Australians roast them with meat. Italians stuff pumpkin into ravioli. Even the seeds are roasted and eaten as healthy snacks. Germans called pumpkins a poor man’s food. Pumpkins are a cheap way to feed the hungry.”

“Now you are making sense,” said Eleni. “Grandpa, let’s go to the festival and eat pumpkin pie.”

“Did you know that people eat over 50 million pumpkin pies a year and that the largest pumpkin pie ever made was over five feet wide?”

“Grandpa!”

“Did you know that people once thought pumpkins could remove freckles and cure snake bites?”

“Grandpa,” said Eleni. “Quit teasing me, and take me to the pumpkin festival.”

「南瓜可以用來做湯、派和麵包。這種瓜類的花朵可以油炸。中國人會把南瓜葉當成蔬菜烹飪，還用南瓜來煮粥。瑞士人用南瓜和麵粉揉成球狀，水煮來吃。澳洲人會烤南瓜來吃。義大利人把南瓜包進義大利麵餃裡。就連南瓜籽都可以烤來當健康點心吃。德國人把南瓜稱為窮人的食物。要餵飽饑餓的人，南瓜是一種便宜的方式。」

「你說的有道理。」伊蕾妮說。「爺爺，我們去參加南瓜嘉年華，然後吃點南瓜派吧。」

「你知道人們每年吃掉5千萬分的南瓜派，史上最大的南瓜派有超過5英尺寬嗎？」

「爺爺！」

「你知道人們曾經以為南瓜可以除雀斑，還有治療被蛇咬傷的傷口嗎？」

「爺爺，」伊蕾妮說。「不要再逗我了，快帶我去參加南瓜嘉年華。」

英文朗讀線上收聽:

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