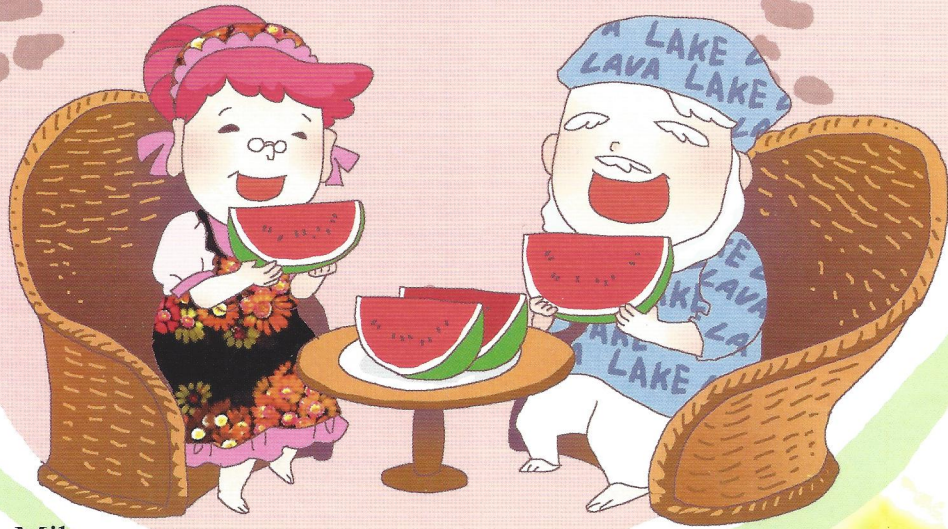




Watermelon Festivals 西瓜節



Grandpa Mike asked, "Do you want some watermelon?"

"I would love some," answered Granny Beck. "What made you think of buying a watermelon?"

"I read that over 115,000 people will be in Richmond Virginia for the Carytown Watermelon Festival. They are going to serve over 3,000 melons. More than 60 musicians will entertain everyone, and 100 exhibitors will sell products."

"That is funny. A big watermelon festival is also being held in North Carolina near Kitty Hawk, where the Wright Brothers flew the first airplane.

麥可爺爺問：「你要吃點西瓜嗎？」
「給我來一點。」貝琪奶奶回答。
「你怎麼會想到要買西瓜？」

「我讀到在維吉尼亞州的里奇蒙市，將會有11萬5千人共同參加卡瑞鎮西瓜節。現場會提供超過3千顆西瓜。超過60名音樂家會到現場表演，還會有1百個展售攤位販賣相關商品。」

「這真有趣。北卡羅萊納州的凱地霍克(Kitty Hawk)，也是靠近萊特兄弟試飛第1架飛機的地方，這裡將舉辦一場大型



The sale of the melons helps support the Wright Foundation. They educate children about flying. Besides eating melons, people go hang gliding and take airplane rides at their festival.”

Grandpa said, “The first watermelon festival came from Africa. Now more than 700 varieties grow all over the world. There are watermelon festivals all across America. Korea, China and Turkey have festivals also. Melons grow best in warmer climates. But even Ontario, Canada has a festival to celebrate the delicious fruit.”

“Vegetable,” corrected Granny.

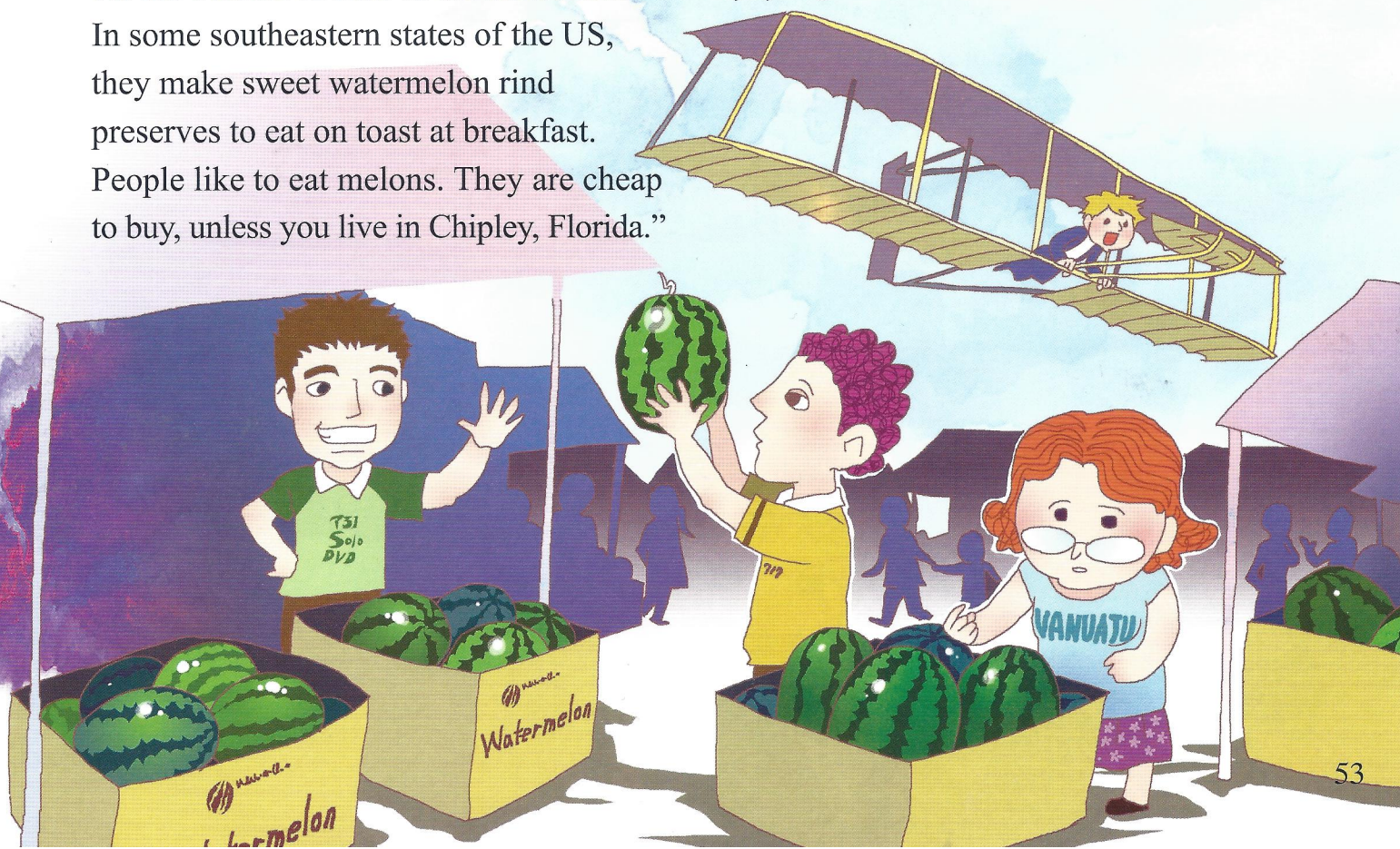
“Scientists say it can be a fruit or a vegetable. Most people eat the inside like a fruit. But, in China, people pickle and eat the outside or rind of the melon also. In some southeastern states of the US, they make sweet watermelon rind preserves to eat on toast at breakfast. People like to eat melons. They are cheap to buy, unless you live in Chipley, Florida.”

西瓜節。會場上販賣西瓜的錢都會拿來贊助萊特基金會。他們教育小孩有關飛行的知識。除了吃西瓜以外，參與這場西瓜節的人還可以玩滑翔翼，還有試乘飛機。」

爺爺說：「西瓜節最早源於非洲。現在全球各地有超過7百場不同的西瓜節。美國、韓國、中國和土耳其都有舉辦西瓜節。瓜類在比較溫暖的氣候下生長得最好。但是，就連加拿大的安大略也有舉辦過西瓜節，讚美這種好吃的水果。」

「西瓜是蔬菜。」奶奶糾正爺爺。

「科學家說，西瓜是水果，也是蔬菜。大多數人把西瓜當水果，吃掉裡頭的果肉。但是，在中國，人們會醃西瓜皮來吃。在美國東南部一些州，人們會製作甜的西瓜皮蜜餞，用來配早餐的吐司吃。人們喜歡吃瓜，瓜類很便宜，當然如果你住在佛羅里達州的奇普利，那就不是這麼回事了。」





“Why are their melons more costly?”

“The city auctions off melons to raise money to pay for their annual festival. One melon sold for \$10,000. The festival has been going on for nearly 60 years.”

“I hope the expensive melon did not get wasted.”

Grandpa said, “A festival in Australia does not waste any melons. Even the bad melons are used. They are chopped up. People slide on them and pretend to swim through them. Americans play with melons too. In Atlanta, Georgia, volunteers smear grease on melons, making them hard to hold. Runners who drop their melons are out of the race.”

“Lincoln, Illinois has a watermelon seed spitting contest,” said Granny. “Abraham Lincoln once christened the town by spitting a mouth full of watermelon juice when the town was named after him.”

「爲什麼那裡的西瓜比較貴？」

「奇普利市會拍賣西瓜，來幫一年一度的西瓜節籌款。有一次，竟然有一顆西瓜賣到1萬美元。當地的西瓜節已經舉辦將近60年了。」

「我希望那顆昂貴的西瓜沒有被浪費掉。」

爺爺說：「澳洲有一場西瓜節不會浪費任何西瓜。就連壞掉的西瓜也有用處。壞掉的西瓜被切成小塊、鋪在地上。人們在上頭滑行，假裝要游過這些西瓜。美國人也拿西瓜來玩耍。在喬治亞州的亞特蘭大，會有義工幫西瓜塗上油脂，讓它們變得很難抓。如果參賽的跑者把西瓜弄掉，那就出局了。」

「伊利諾州的林肯市則會舉辦吐西瓜籽大賽。」奶奶說。「當時，林肯聽到這個城鎮以他命名時，驚訝到把滿口西瓜汁吐了出來。」





Grandpa got serious for a moment. “I think my very favorite watermelon festival is the Green and Red Festival in Jerusalem. Jews and Arabs live inside the walls of that great city. Despite living and working side by side, they often do not get along. The festival begins when people from both groups begin bringing out watermelons, cheeses and pastries to eat. Musicians play, and people dance and sing in a large wooden building. The singing and friendship and eating of watermelon flows through the streets. It is hard to hate or fight someone when you eat, play and sing together. An Israeli student said, ‘The festival is what the city needs. Watermelon is a fruit that both Israelis and Arabs enjoy. When you eat watermelon, you never eat alone.’”

突然間，爺爺嚴肅了起來。「我想，我最喜歡的西瓜節是耶路撒冷所舉辦的『綠與紅之節』。在這座聖城當中，居住了猶太人和阿拉伯人。儘管生活和工作都在同一個地方，猶太人和阿拉伯人常常無法和睦相處。在這個西瓜節上，兩個族群的人開始會拿出西瓜、起司和糕點一同分享。音樂家在現場演奏音樂，人們會聚在一個大型木造建築中跳舞、唱歌。每條街上都沾滿了歌聲、友誼和香甜的西瓜味。如果你和他人一起享用美食、玩樂、唱歌，那麼你很難恨那些人。一個以色列學生說：『這場西瓜節正是這座城市所需要的。以色列人和阿拉伯人都喜歡吃西瓜。當你在吃西瓜時，你不會孤單一個人享用。』」

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