



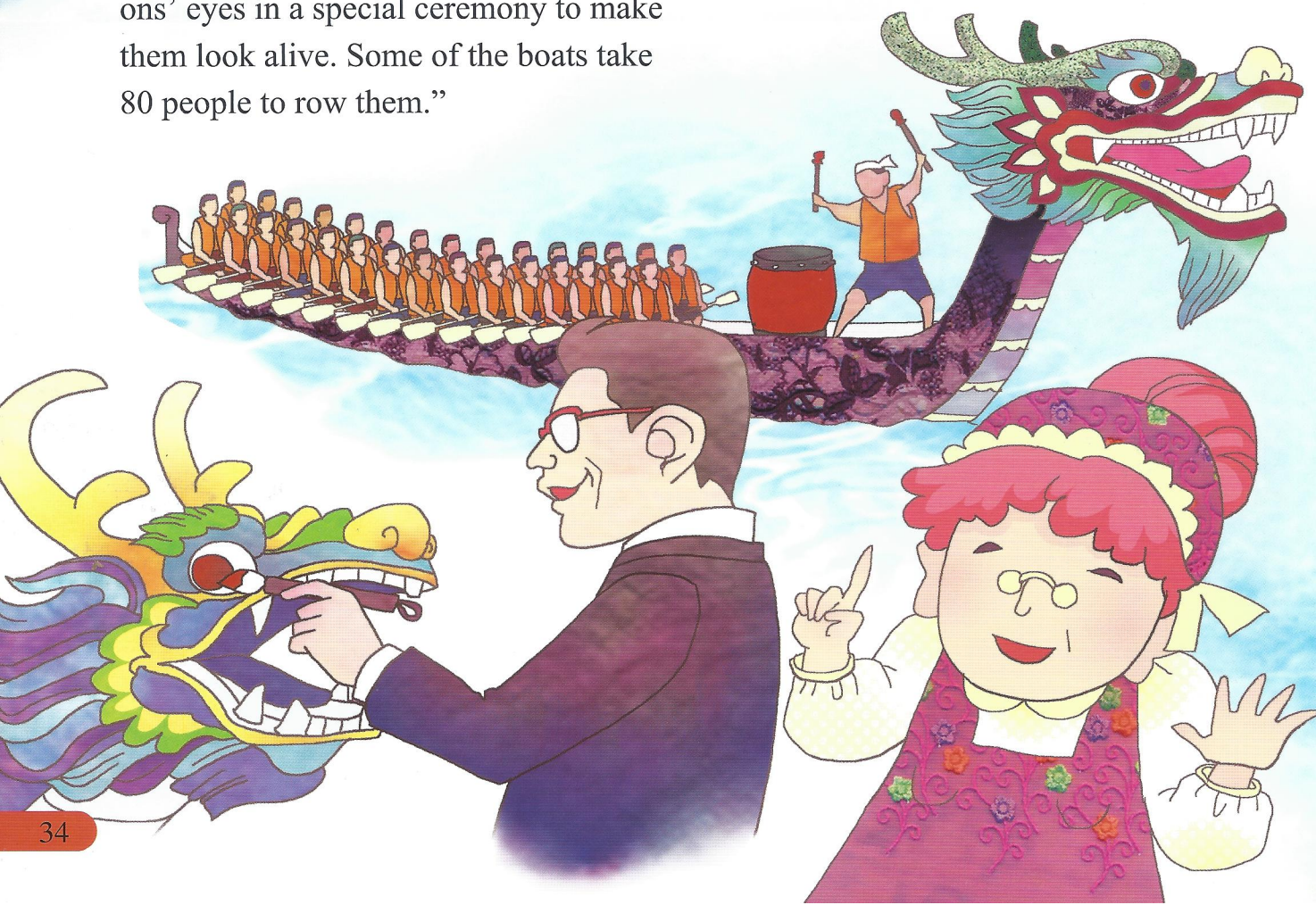
Dragon Boat Festival 端午節

“Grandpa Mike, I got a letter from Taiwan. Our friends went to the Dragon Boat Festival. What kind of festival is that?”

“The Dragon Boat Festival is a really big holiday in Asia. People paint boats to look like dragons. They paint the dragons’ eyes in a special ceremony to make them look alive. Some of the boats take 80 people to row them.”

「麥克爺爺，我收到一封來自臺灣的信。我們的朋友去參加端午節。那是什麼活動啊？」

「端午節是亞洲的盛大節日。大家會把船漆成龍的樣子。他們在特殊儀式上為龍點睛，讓它們看起來像活生生的龍。有些龍舟需要80個人才划得動。」





“That sounds like fun. Do the boats race?” asked Granny Beck.

“They do. The race is part of a story.”

“You love stories, Grandpa Mike. Tell me about it.”

“Long ago a wise and respected man lived in China. He was a poet, and government minister. People loved him. But, he was unjustly banished. He felt so bad that he jumped into the river.”

“Grandpa Mike, that is so sad.”

“The fishermen rushed in their long boats to try to save him. But, it was too late, and they decided to throw rice dumplings wrapped in bamboo leaves (zongzi) in the water, so the fish would eat those and not the drowned poet. The festival celebrates his memory and the heroes who tried to save him.”

「聽起來好好玩。龍舟會比賽嗎？」
貝克奶奶問。

「會啊，比賽是有故事的。」

「麥克爺爺，你最愛故事了。告訴我吧。」

「很久以前，在中國有位受尊敬的智者。他是詩人，也是官員，深受百姓愛戴。但是他卻遭到不公平的流放。他心情非常不好，所以跳進了河裡。」

「麥克爺爺，好令人悲傷喔。」

「漁夫們趕忙划起長舟要救他。但是已經太遲了，所以他們決定把粽子丟進河裡餵魚，這樣魚就不會去吃淹死的詩人。端午節是爲了紀念他，也紀念努力要救他的勇士們。」





“The real dragon boat races have a drummer on each boat. The drumming, zongzi, and other parts of the festival are supposed to help keep away evil and disease. But, mostly, the festival is just for fun.”

“What are some of the other festivals and boat races like?”

Grandpa Mike said, “Most are like the ones in Taiwan. But, some are longer. The longest race in the world takes over 38 hours. One race in China is even in winter. It is an ice dragon boat race. In Alice Springs in Australia, they have dry boat races.”

“How can you have a dry boat race?”

“They live in the desert. It is too dry for real boat races. The racers cut the bottoms out of boats. They step into the boats and hold the sides with their hands.

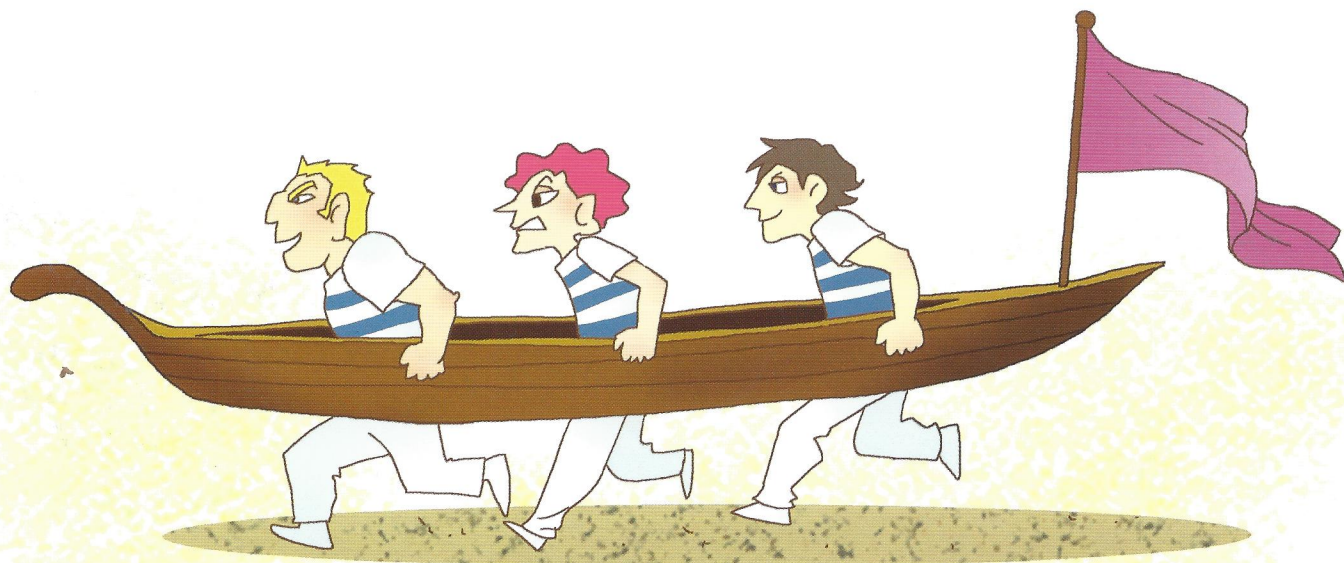
「真正的龍舟比賽時，每艘船上都有鼓。打鼓、粽子及其他活動都是爲了要驅逐邪惡與疾病。但說到底，慶祝活動只是爲了好玩。」

「其他地方的慶祝活動及划船比賽是什麼樣子？」

麥克爺爺說：「大部分都跟臺灣的一樣。但有些比賽的時間會拉長。世界上最久的划船比賽得花超過38個小時。中國大陸甚至有一場冬天舉行的比賽，是冰上龍舟賽。澳洲的愛麗絲泉還會舉行陸上划船比賽。」

「陸上要怎麼比賽划船？」

「他們住在沙漠裡。那裡氣候乾燥，沒辦法舉行真正的划船比賽。參賽者會在船底挖個洞，站在船裡面用手扶住兩邊。」





Then they run, carrying the boats to the finish line. If it rains, and there is water, the boat race is cancelled.”

“How silly!”

“In Maine in the United States, people carve large pumpkins and use them for boats.”

“Grandpa Mike, you are teasing me.”

“Really, some pumpkins weigh over 1200 pounds, but they float! People paint them like dragons and sit in them like boats. They even race in the pumpkins.”

“Grandpa!”

“It is true, Granny Beck. But, most Dragon Boat Races use real boats like the ones in Taiwan. I wish we were in Taiwan with our friends at their Dragon Boat Festival right now.”

“You know what, Grandpa Mike? So do I.”

然後他們抱著船用力跑向終點線。如果下雨，河道積水，就取消比賽。」

「好蠢喔！」

「美國緬因州的人會拿大南瓜來雕刻，當成船。」

「麥克爺爺，你在跟我開玩笑吧。」

「真的，有些南瓜超過1,200磅重，但還是會浮起來！大家會把龍畫在南瓜上，然後當成船坐在裡面。他們甚至會用南瓜來比賽。」

「爺爺！」

「貝克奶奶，是真的。但多數龍舟比賽還是使用像臺灣那種真正的龍舟。我真希望我們現在就跟朋友一起在臺灣過端午節。」

「麥克爺爺，你知道嗎？我也希望！」



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