

Water Parties Around the World



Aranmula, India

The snake boat race has begun! The race is Anish's favorite part of Onam, a harvest festival that lasts for days. Anish stands tall. He supports himself on his tiptoes. He tries to catch a glimpse of the curved boats darting through the water. "Can you see everything?" his dad asks.

"I hear the singing," Anish says. His dad swings him up onto his shoulders.

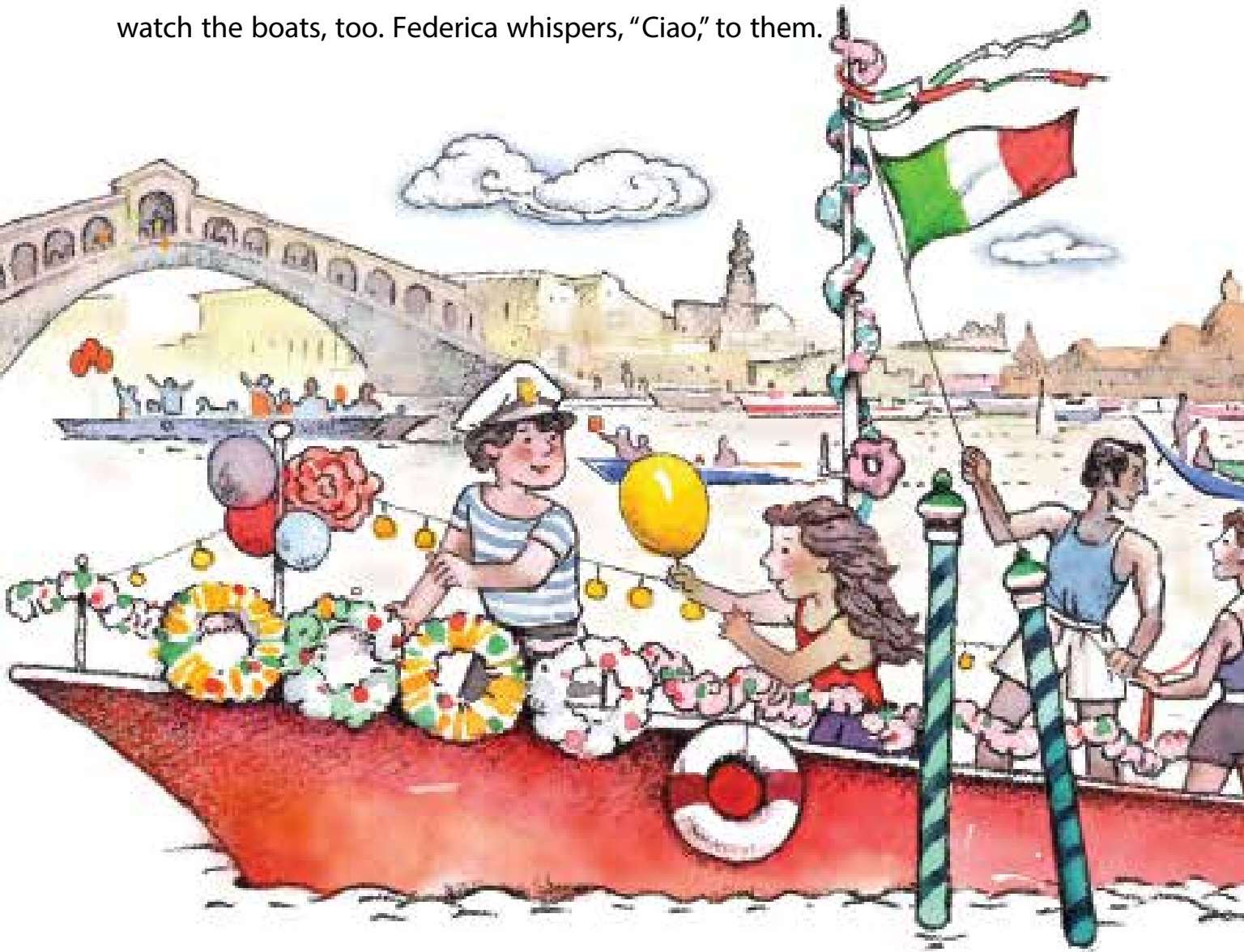
Now Anish can see the lead boat. It is full of people singing, clapping, and rowing. The oars go up and down to the beat. Anish sings along to help them go even faster.

by Dennis R. Brown
Art by Ju-Hong Chen

Venice, Italy

Federica perches on the prettiest boat in the canal. Her brother hung crinkly paper garlands over the railing, and she tied on the balloons. The mismatched bright colors make her think of the fireworks they will see later on. She loves the Festa del Redentore, when her family spends the whole day on the water.

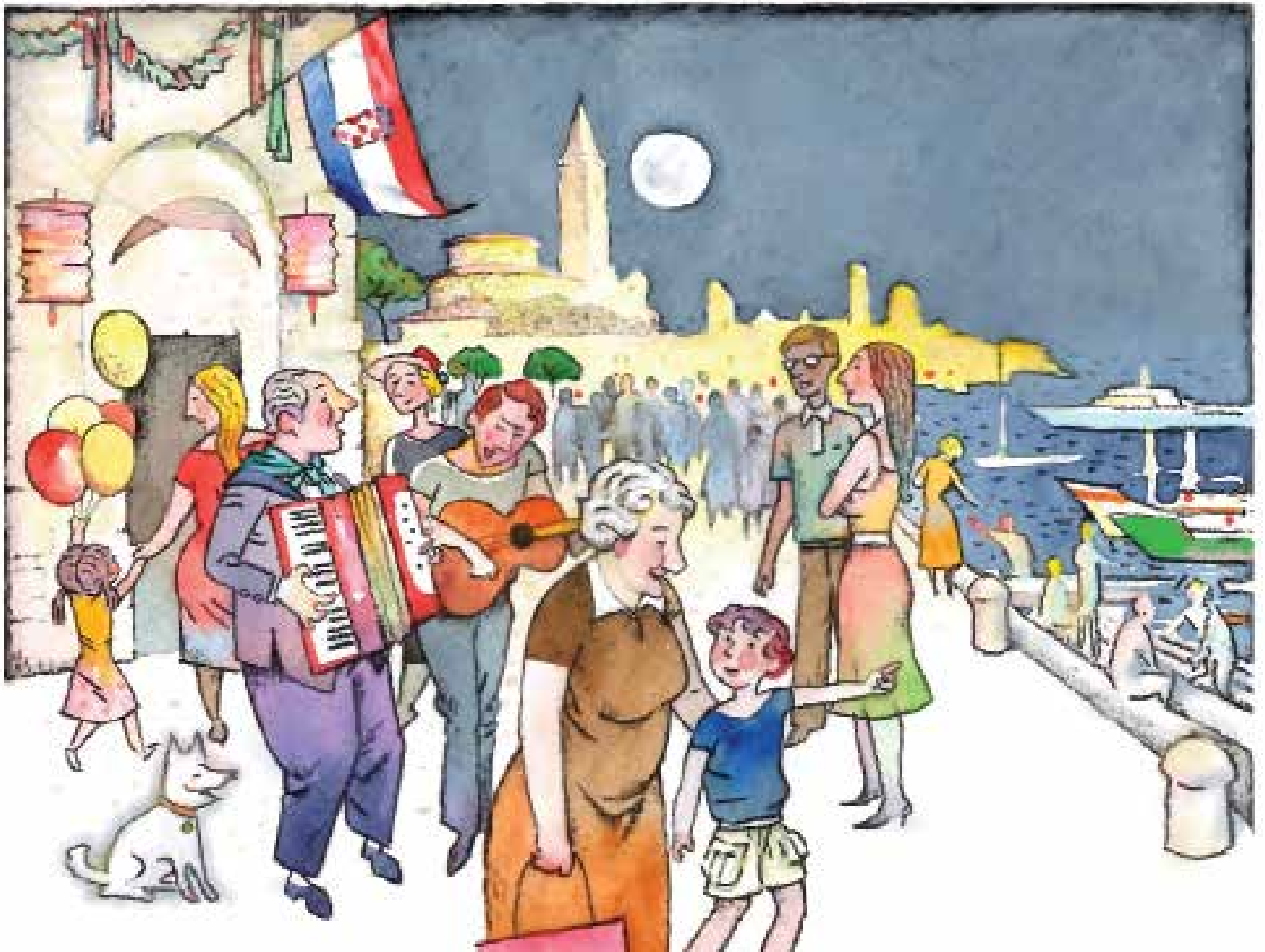
There's the Rialto Bridge! It is just like a street on land with little shops and sidewalks. Some people have stopped to watch the boats, too. Federica whispers, "Ciao," to them.



Zadar, Croatia

After the sun sets, Dmitar and his grandma walk to the waterfront. It's the Night of the Full Moon, and the electric lights have been turned off. The harbor is warm and bright with lanterns, candles, and the big, beautiful moon.

Dmitar wanders through the crowds of people watching the dancers. He is heading to the pier. He stops for a few minutes to listen to a man playing the accordion. Then he walks right up to a boat where his grandma buys fish and mussels. After the excitement subsides, they will enjoy a delicious stew!





Boston, Massachusetts

Grace drifts in her canoe as she waits for the 4th of July fireworks to begin. An orchestra plays on the shore. Grace drums her fingers against the seat in time to the boom-boom-booming music. She sees her dad's foot tapping, and snuggles against his arm.

The river is full of boats. Grace waves a tiny flag at a little boy floating in the opposite direction nearby. "We had a picnic today," she calls. "Did you?"

He smiles and nods.

The music is over, but now something else begins to boom—the fireworks! 🎆