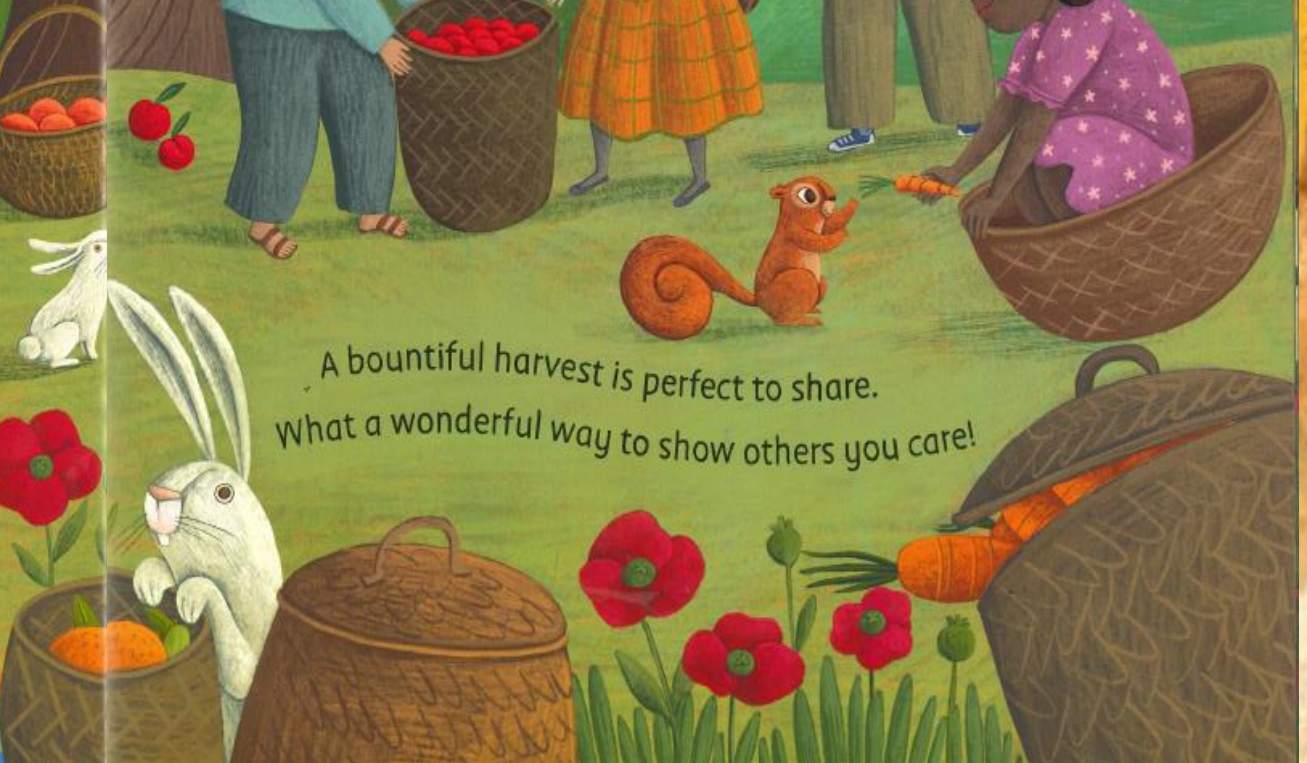


Today's story is about how harvest is celebrated in different countries around the world.

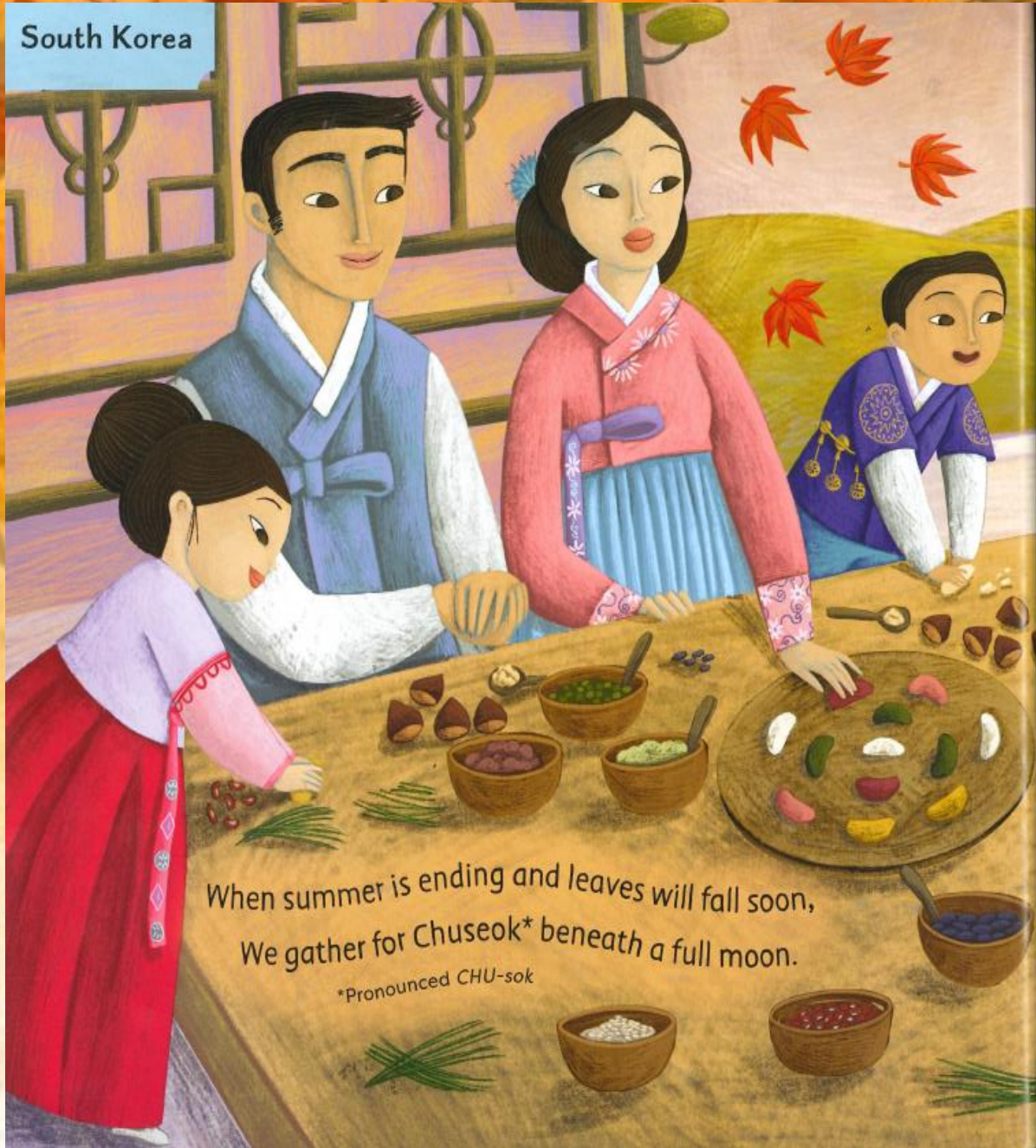
People as far back as anyone's known
Have gathered to give thanks for food we have grown.



A bountiful harvest is perfect to share.
What a wonderful way to show others you care!

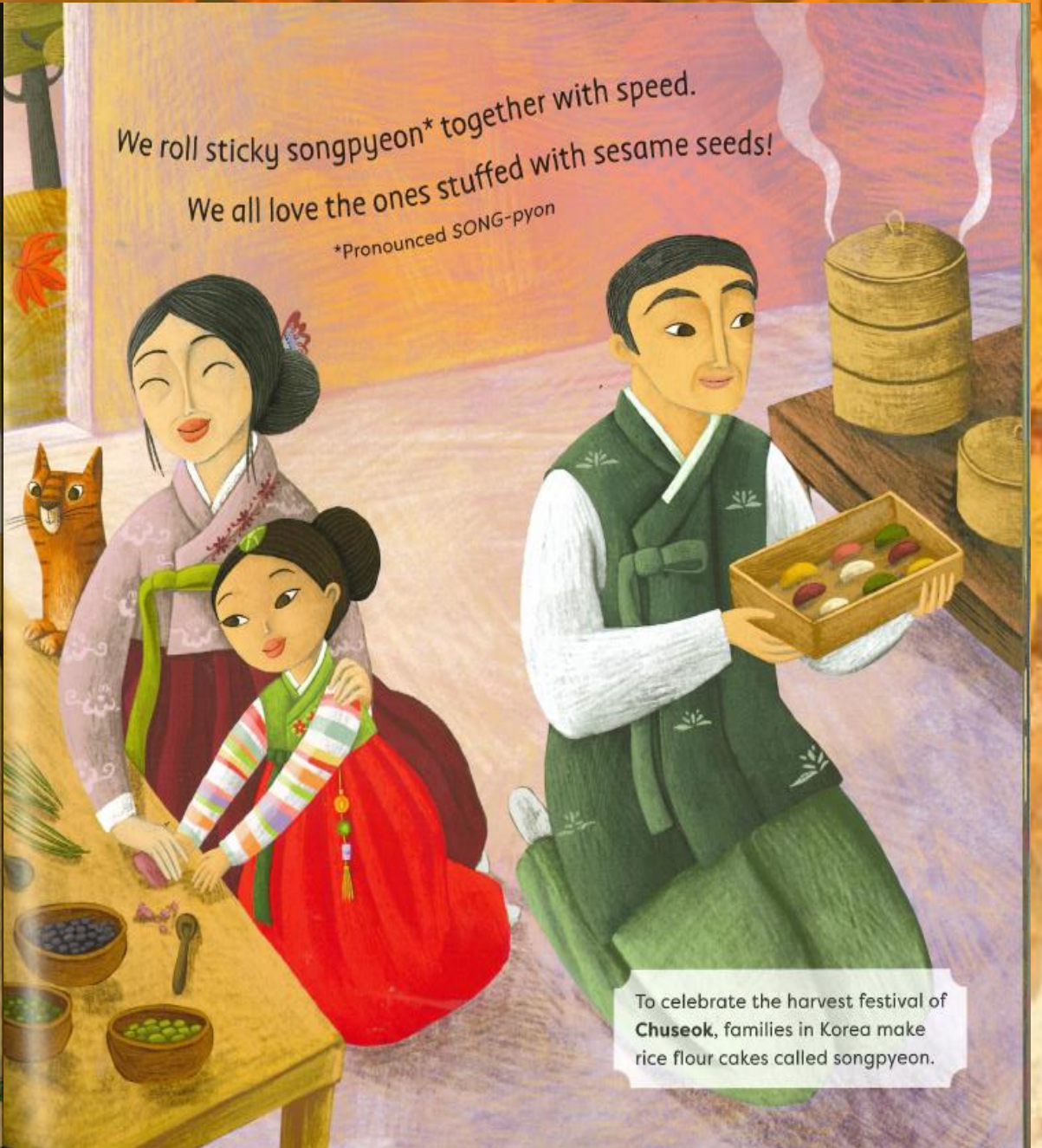


South Korea



When summer is ending and leaves will fall soon,
We gather for Chuseok* beneath a full moon.

*Pronounced CHU-sok



We roll sticky songpyeon* together with speed.
We all love the ones stuffed with sesame seeds!

*Pronounced SONG-pyon

To celebrate the harvest festival of **Chuseok**, families in Korea make rice flour cakes called songpyeon.

Poland

When Dożynki* comes and we cut the last sheaf
We tie it with flowers and make a big wreath.

**Pronounced do-ZHEN-kee*

We offer the grains and the loaves of fresh bread,
Giving thanks we have food for the cold days ahead.

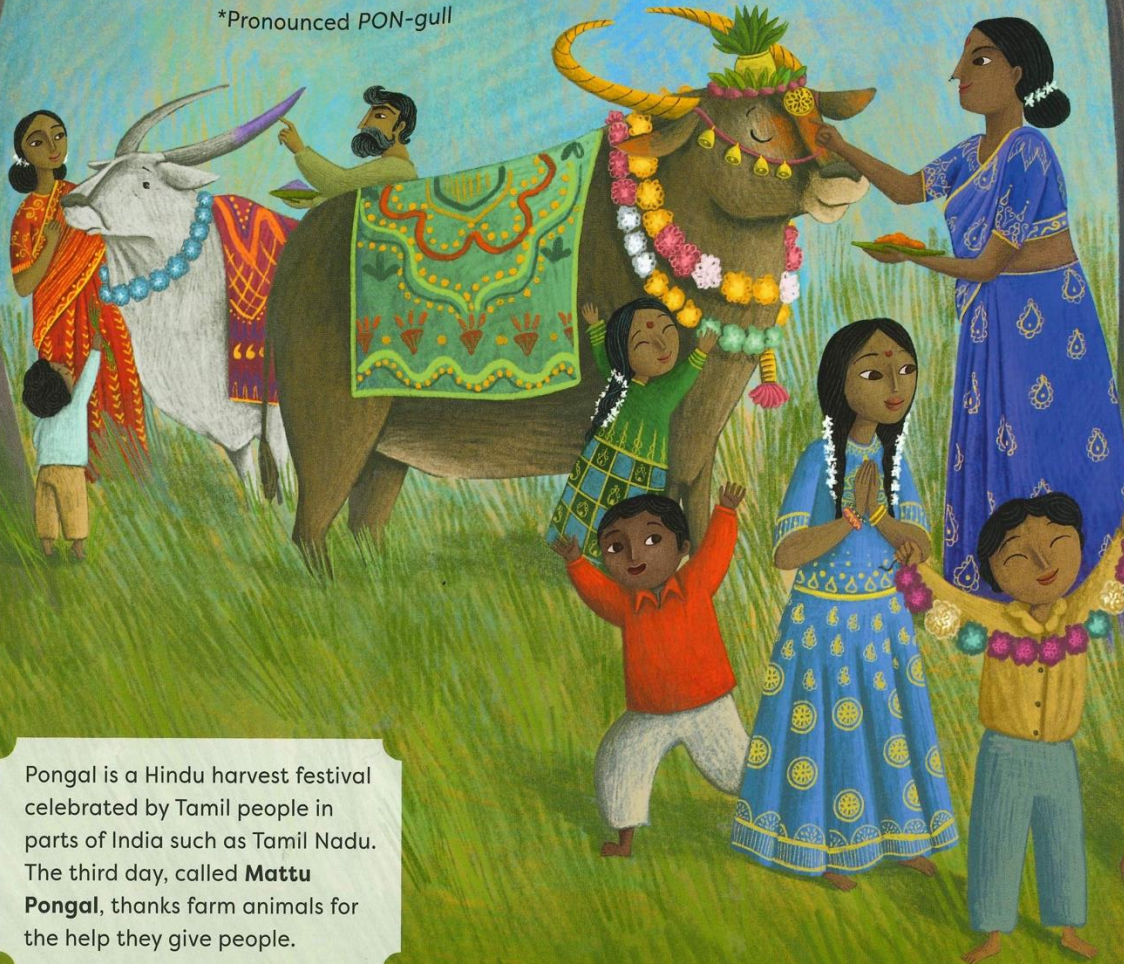


At the Slavic festival of **Dożynki**, the last sheaf of grains to be harvested is woven into a wreath and carried in a procession.

Tamil Nadu, India

On the third day of Pongal*, we thank all the cows
And the powerful bulls who work hard pulling plows.

*Pronounced PON-gull

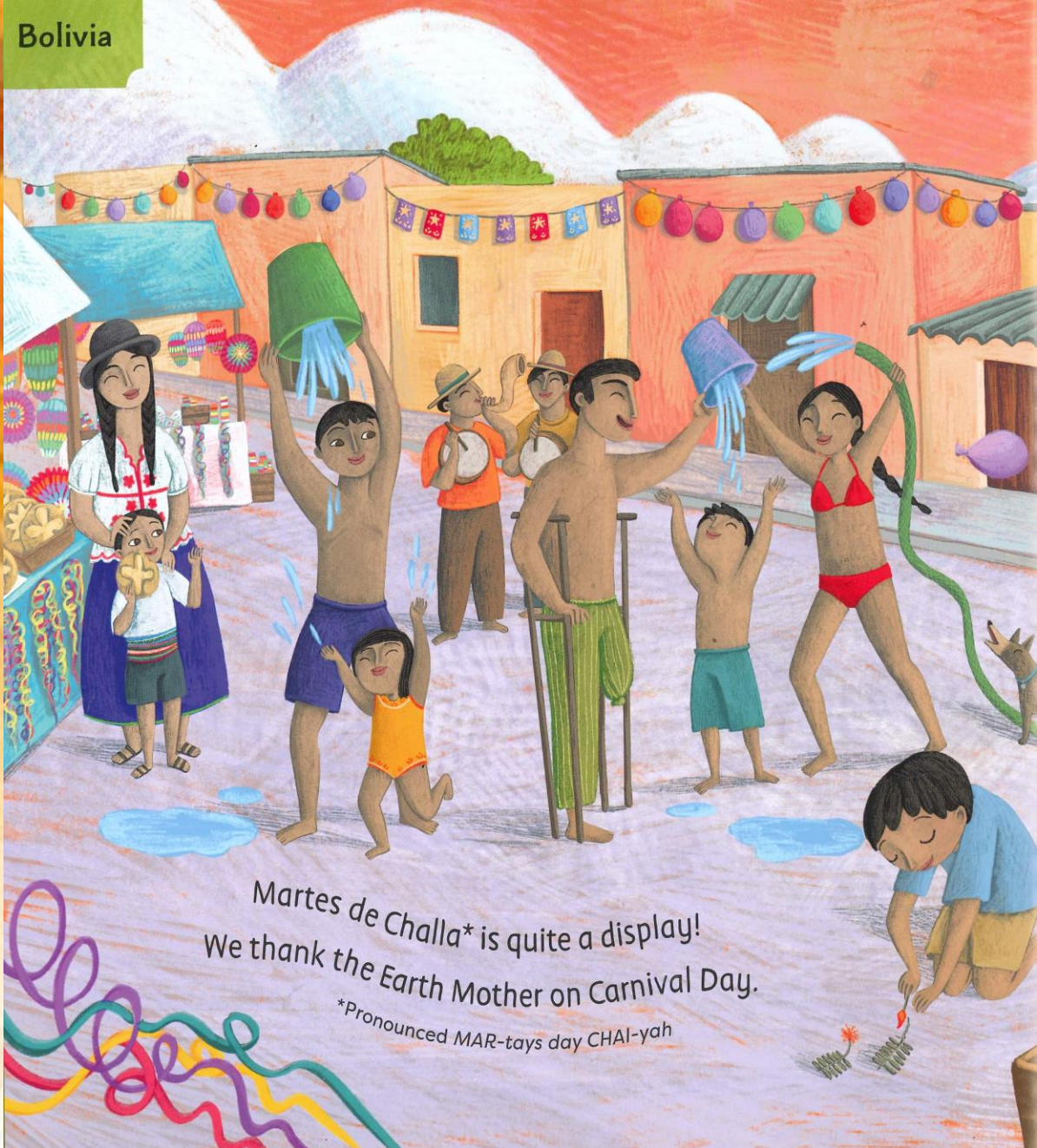


Pongal is a Hindu harvest festival celebrated by Tamil people in parts of India such as Tamil Nadu. The third day, called **Mattu Pongal**, thanks farm animals for the help they give people.

We dress up the cattle and hand-feed them treats.
The pot's boiling over with sweet rice to eat!



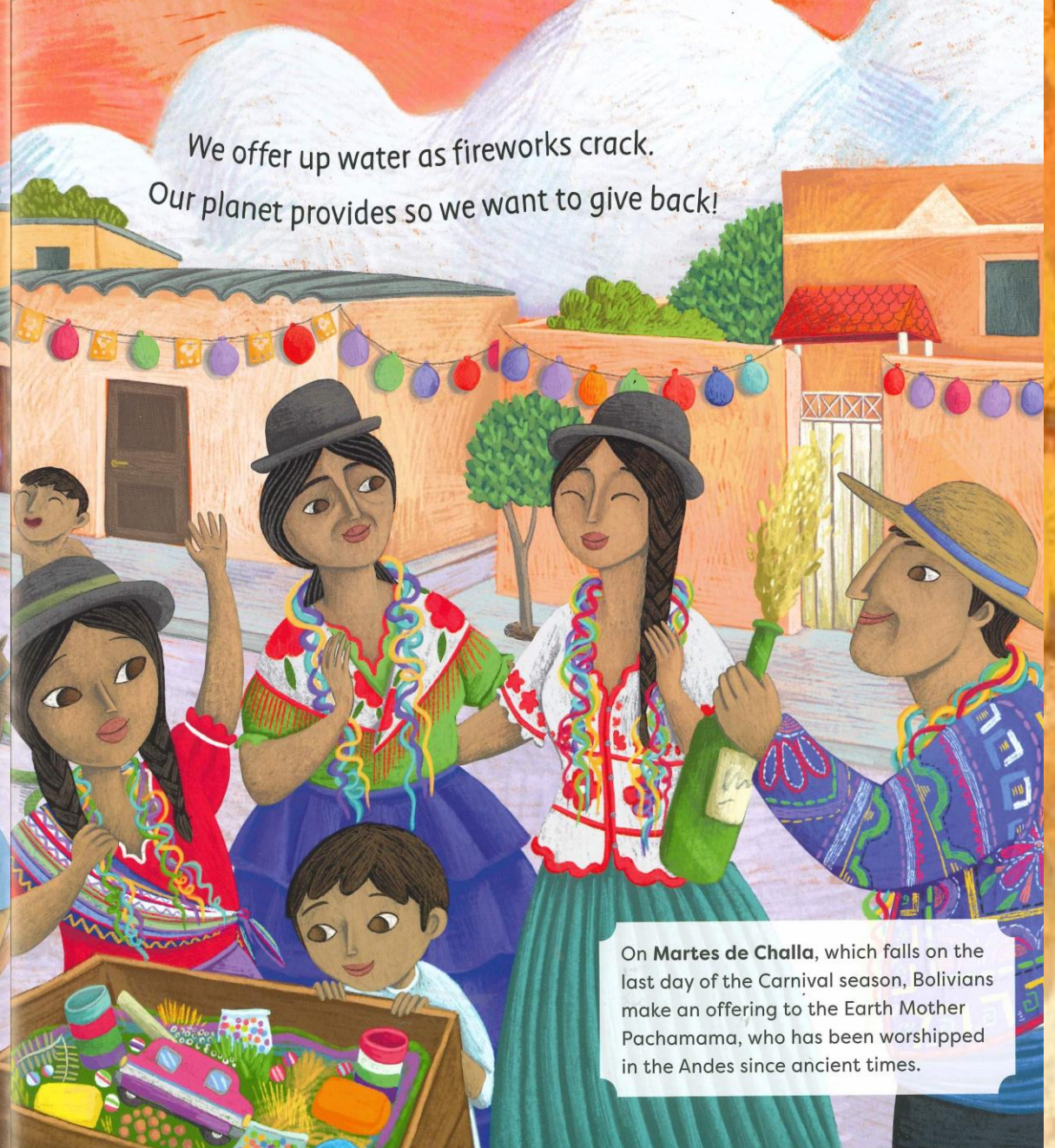
Bolivia



Martes de Challa* is quite a display!
We thank the Earth Mother on Carnival Day.

*Pronounced MAR-tays day CHAI-yah

We offer up water as fireworks crack.
Our planet provides so we want to give back!



On **Martes de Challa**, which falls on the last day of the Carnival season, Bolivians make an offering to the Earth Mother Pachamama, who has been worshipped in the Andes since ancient times.



At Homowo* each year, the Gã people recall
Dry days in the past when the harvest was small.

*Pronounced hoe-MOE-woe



Now, laughing at hunger, we all dance and sing.
We're thankful for rain and the harvest it brings.

At Homowo, the Gã people of Ghana laugh at hunger and remember when they overcame starvation.

Barbados

Our ancestors sighed with relief in the sun
Once the back-breaking work of the harvest was done.



Enslaved Africans were brought to Barbados against their will to work on sugarcane plantations. **Crop Over** was born from the relief they felt at the end of the brutal harvest season.

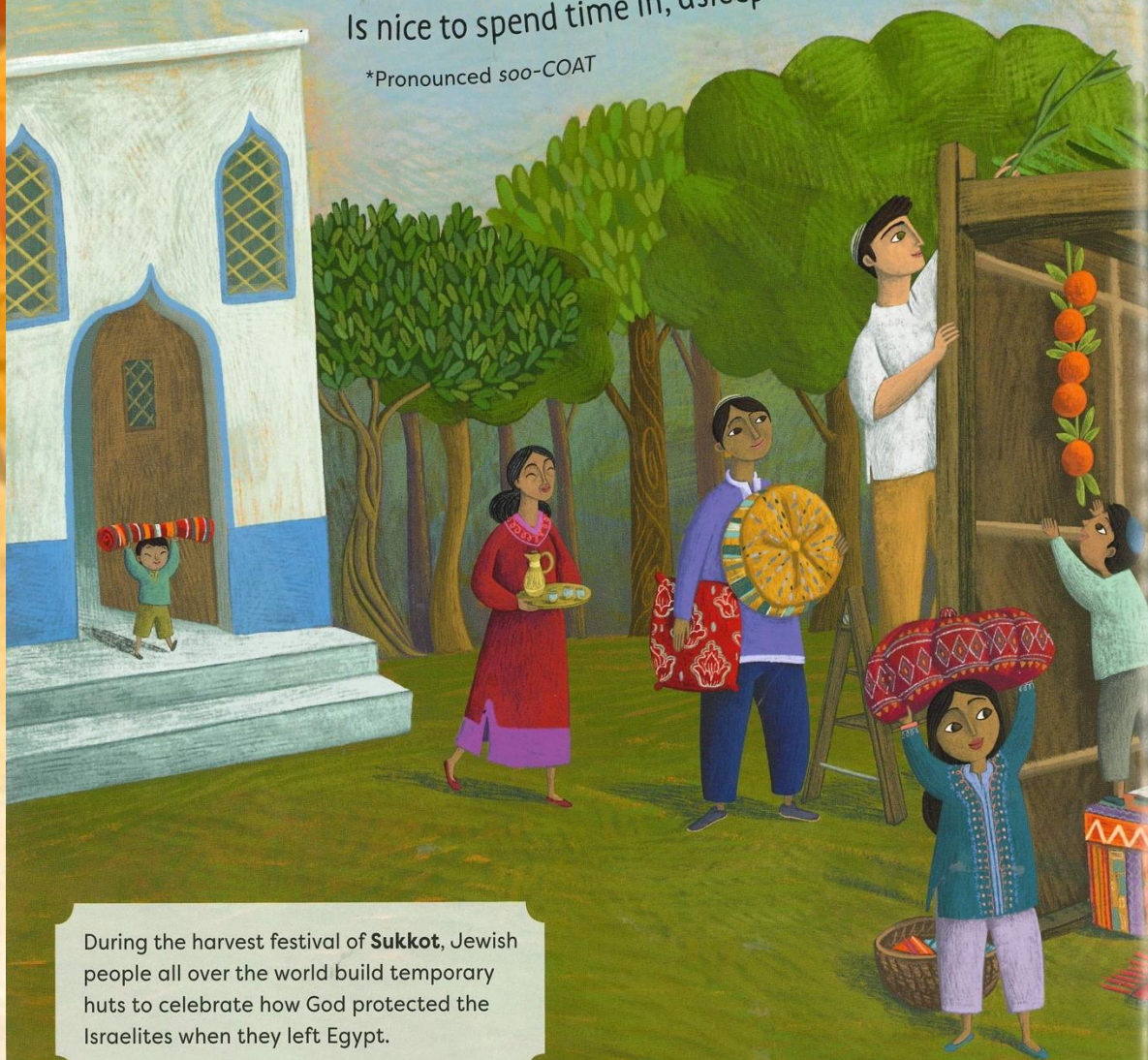
When Crop Over comes, we wear feathers and crowns.
We take pride in our heritage, passing it down.



Morocco

When it's time for Sukkot*, the building we make
Is nice to spend time in, asleep or awake.

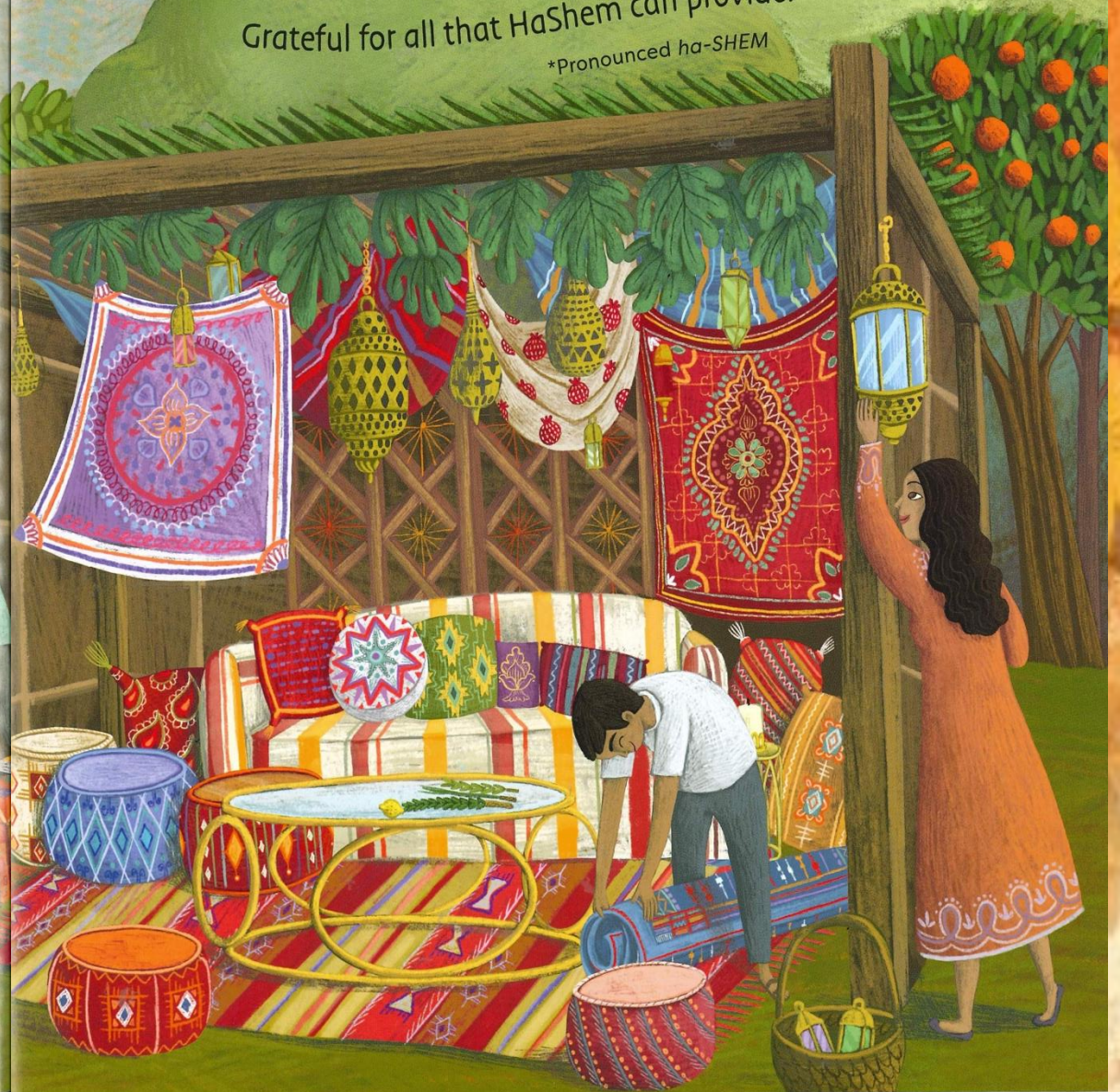
*Pronounced soo-COAT

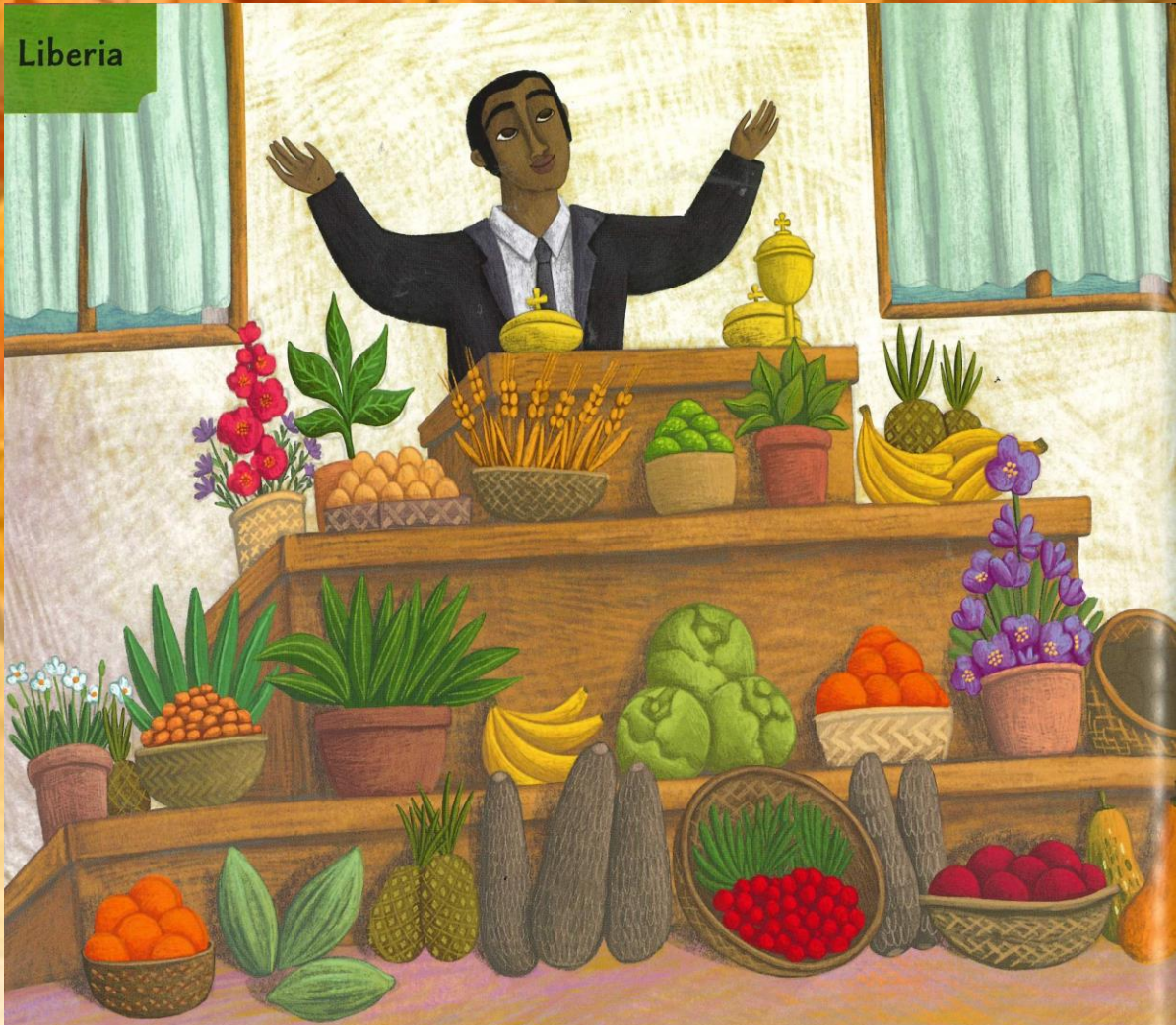


During the harvest festival of **Sukkot**, Jewish people all over the world build temporary huts to celebrate how God protected the Israelites when they left Egypt.

Our family and friends come to meet us inside,
Grateful for all that HaShem can provide.

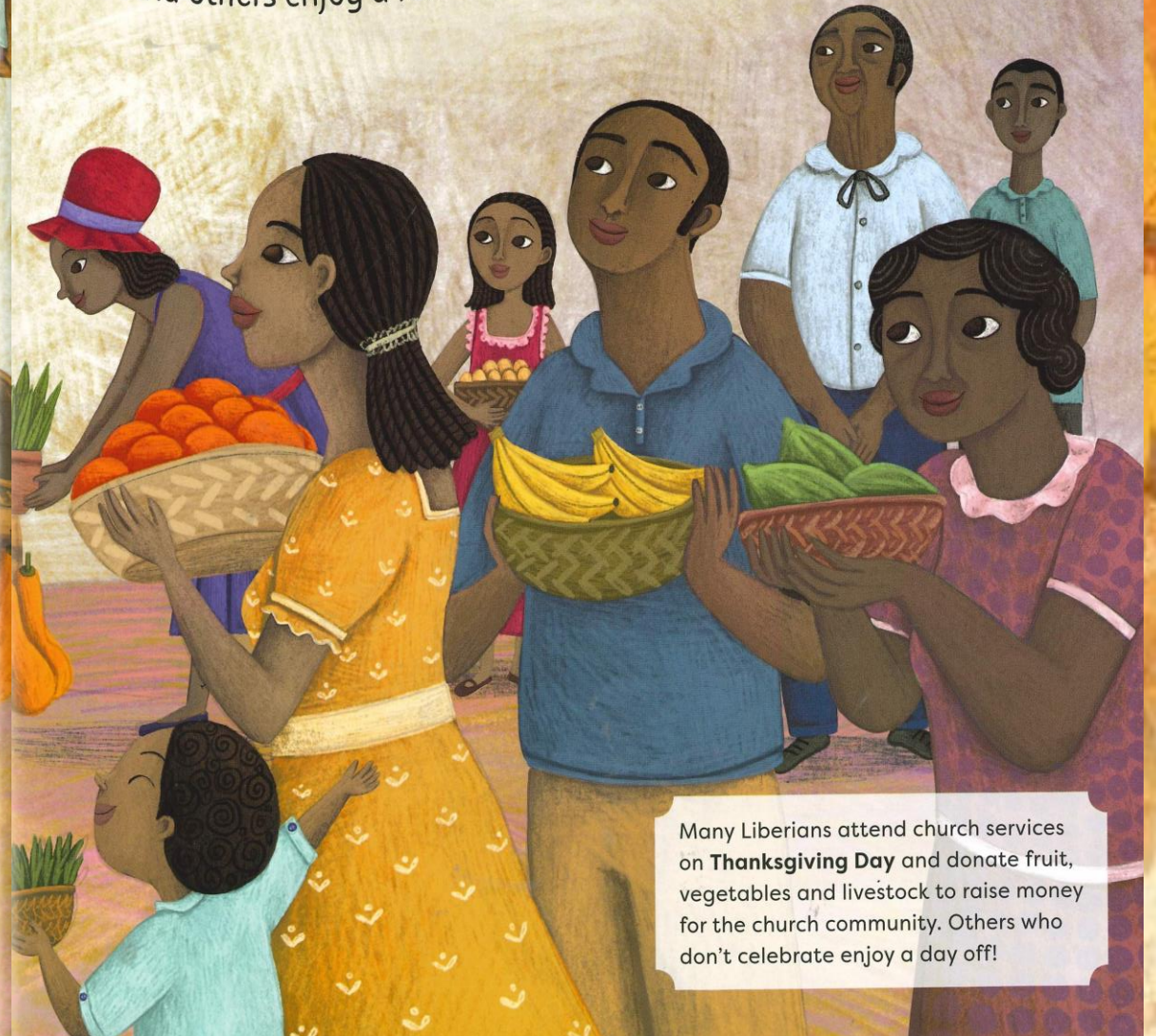
*Pronounced ha-SHEM



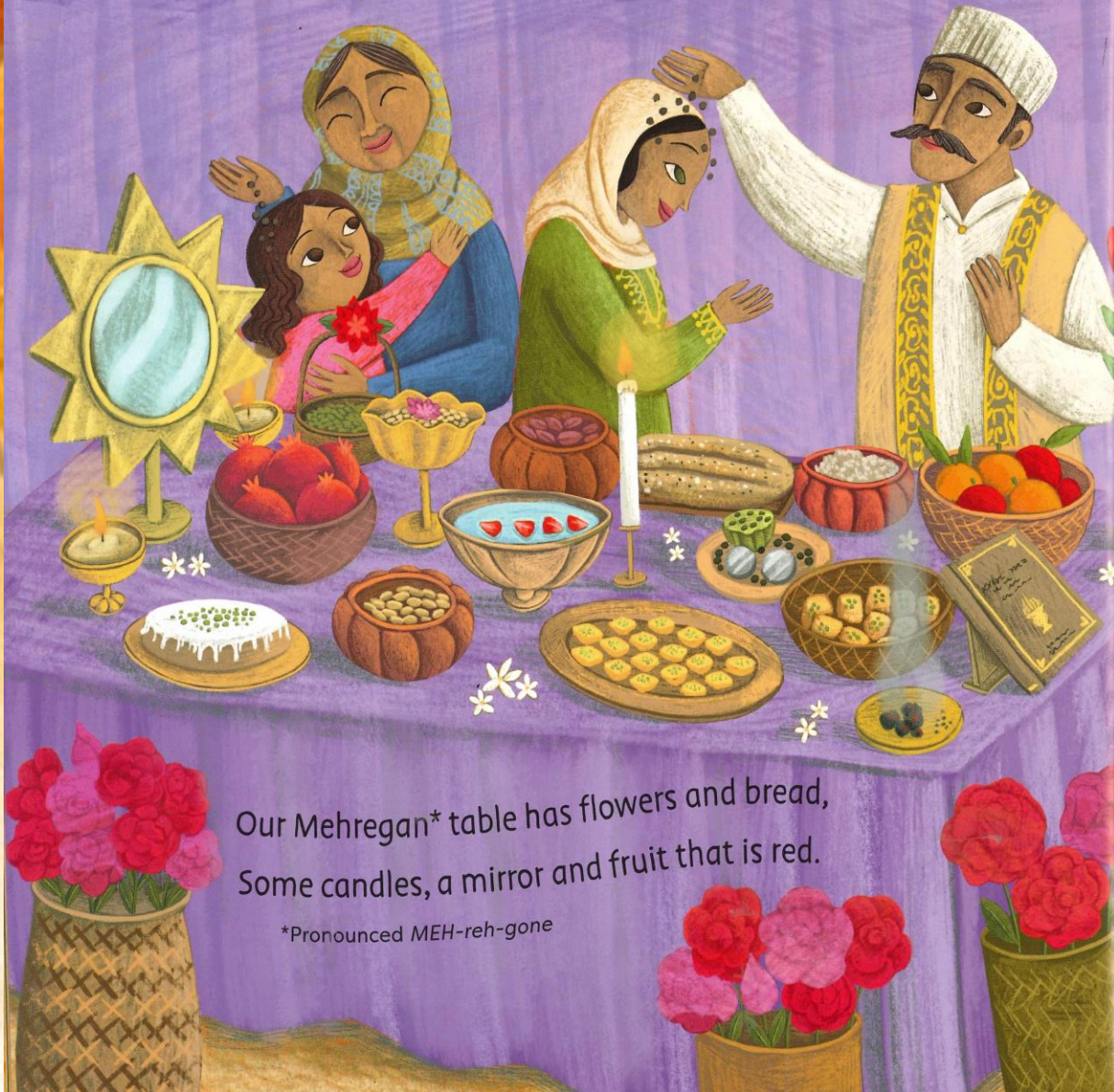


Each year in November comes Thanksgiving Day.
We show that we're grateful in all different ways.

Some bring fruit to the church and then hear pastors preach,
And others enjoy a fun day at the beach!



Many Liberians attend church services on **Thanksgiving Day** and donate fruit, vegetables and livestock to raise money for the church community. Others who don't celebrate enjoy a day off!



Our Mehregan* table has flowers and bread,
Some candles, a mirror and fruit that is red.

*Pronounced MEH-reh-gone

We joyfully toss herbs and seeds in the air,
Embracing to show one another we care.



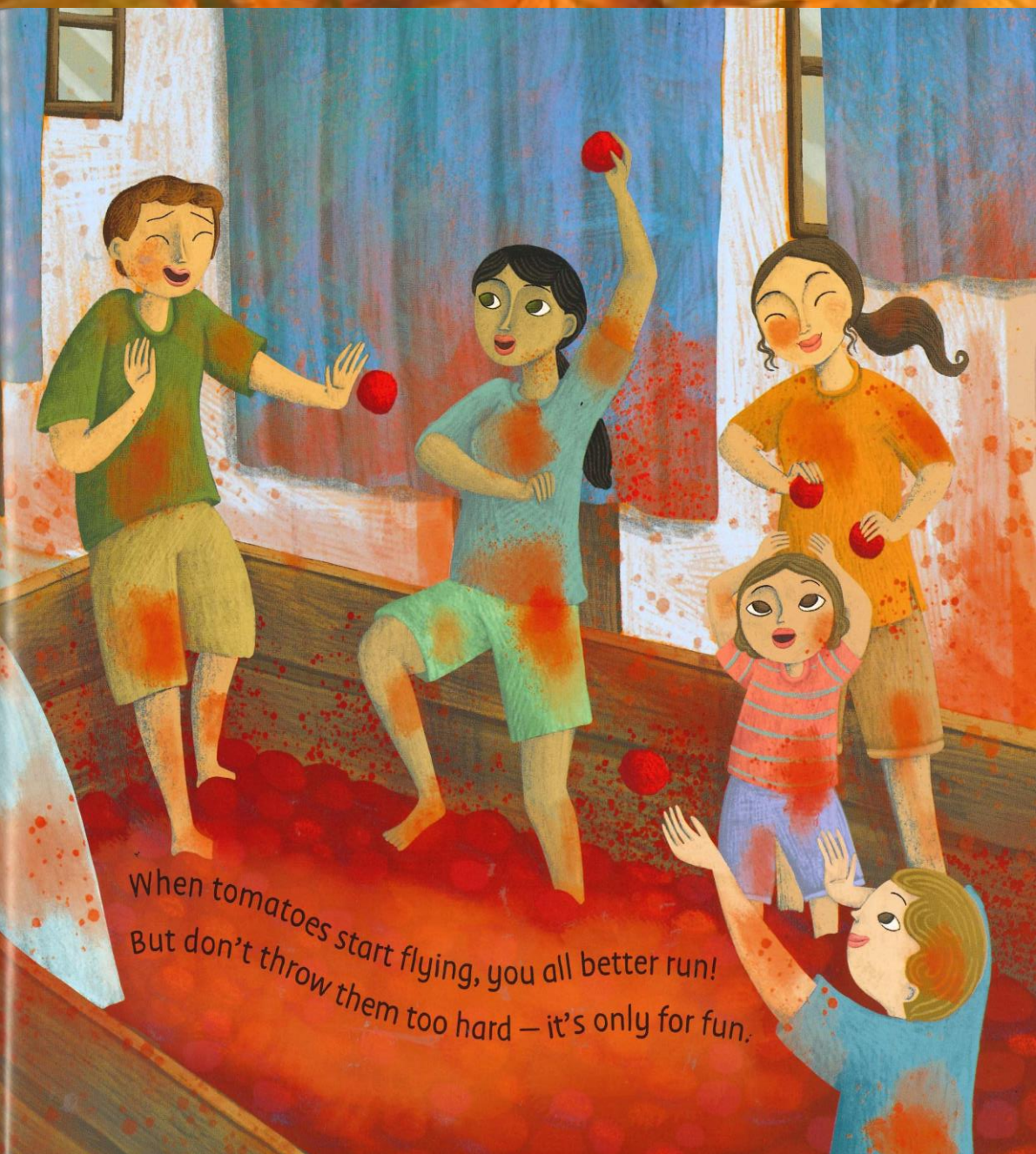
Mehregan is observed every October in Iran by decorating a sofreh (table) with special items, including produce from the harvest.

Spain

It's La Tomatina*! Tomatoes are ripe.
Let's head to the streets for a rowdy food fight!
*Pronounced LAH toe-mah-TEE-nah



Every summer, people flock to the small town of Buñol, Spain for **La Tomatina**, a friendly food fight using tomatoes too ripe to be sold.



When tomatoes start flying, you all better run!
But don't throw them too hard – it's only for fun.



We harvest the wheat when we feel fresh spring air.
Vaisakhi* is here, and it's time for the fair.

*Pronounced vai-SAH-kee



The mela* puts us in a jovial mood.
We love all the dancing, the rides and good food!

*Pronounced MAY-lah

At **Vaisakhi** people of all faiths celebrate the winter wheat harvest in Punjab, India. People enjoy having extra money from the harvest to spend on treats at a mela (fair).



Every Saint Martin's Day brings a parade.
We march through the streets with the lanterns we made!

We all sing together by candlelight glow.
Stars twinkle above and we twinkle below.

Christians in Germany celebrate **Saint Martin's Day** every November 11 with a lantern-lit walk that is sometimes led by a man on horseback dressed as Saint Martin.

People have changed how we live through the years
But we still come together when harvest time nears.

We give thanks for our Earth and the hard work that's done
To grow the world's harvests to feed everyone.



Have you had a harvest festival at your place of worship?

Have you heard or seen any farmers at work in fields near you?

What food are you planning to donate to our harvest gathering?





School Reflection

This is our school,
Let peace dwell here,

Let the rooms be full of contentment.

Let love abide here,
Love of one another,
Love of mankind,
Love of life itself.

Let us remember

That as many hands build a house,
So many hearts make a school

Help us to learn, play and share together.

We hope our school will be a place of great discovery, adventure and creativity.

May it be a place where we love to learn and where we learn to love,

A place where everyone is respected, and all are deeply valued.

