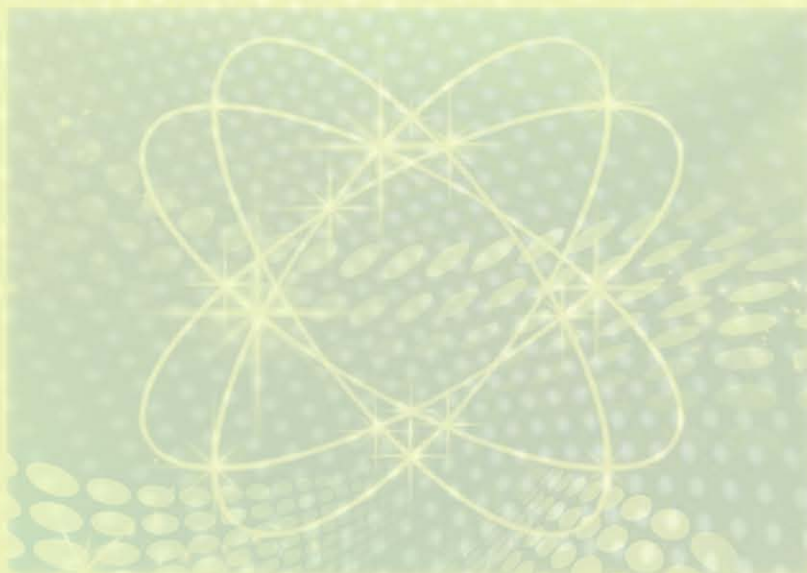


吹笛人



Once upon a time, there was a little town named Hamelin. Everyone in the town was sad because there were many rats.



Rats! They chased the cats and licked the kitchen spoons. They even made nests in the men's best Sunday hats!



Finally, the townspeople went to the mayor and said, "If you don't find a way to get rid of the rats, we're going to get rid of you!"



So the mayor called a council, and they all sat down to think.

"If only there was something I could do to get rid of these terrible rats!" he said.





And just as the mayor said these words, there was a tap-tap at the door. Everyone jumped, thinking it was a rat!



"Come in," said the mayor. And in walked a strange-looking man with long, stringy hair. He was tall and skinny and dressed in an odd outfit of red and yellow.

"Dear sirs," the strange man said, "I have a secret charm.

My pipe can draw away any living thing that does you harm."



"If I rid your town of rats, will you pay me a small sum of cash?" the Pied Piper asked.

"Oh yes!" they all said.



When they had agreed on a fee, the Piper stepped out into the street and smiled. He raised his pipe to his lips and blew just three notes.



As soon as he played that first note, a rumbling sound started.

And then it grew and grew as rats poured out from every house!



They tumbled out into the street by the hundreds. The Piper walked on and kept playing his pipe.



The rats followed him through the town as he walked from street to street.



Finally, the rats reached the river, where they were swept away by the water.

(All except for one, who lived to tell the tale to other towns' rats.)





The townspeople rejoiced, and the church bells rang out. But in the middle of the celebration, the Piper appeared. "My money, please," he said.



"Well, we're very thankful to you, sir, but I'm afraid it's your price that we just can't quite afford," said the mayor in embarrassment.

"But why not stay for dinner?"

The Piper's face turned red with anger. He said, "You may have liked my pipe before but see how you like it now!"



The Piper lifted the pipe to his lips and blew three long notes.
All the townspeople stopped and listened.



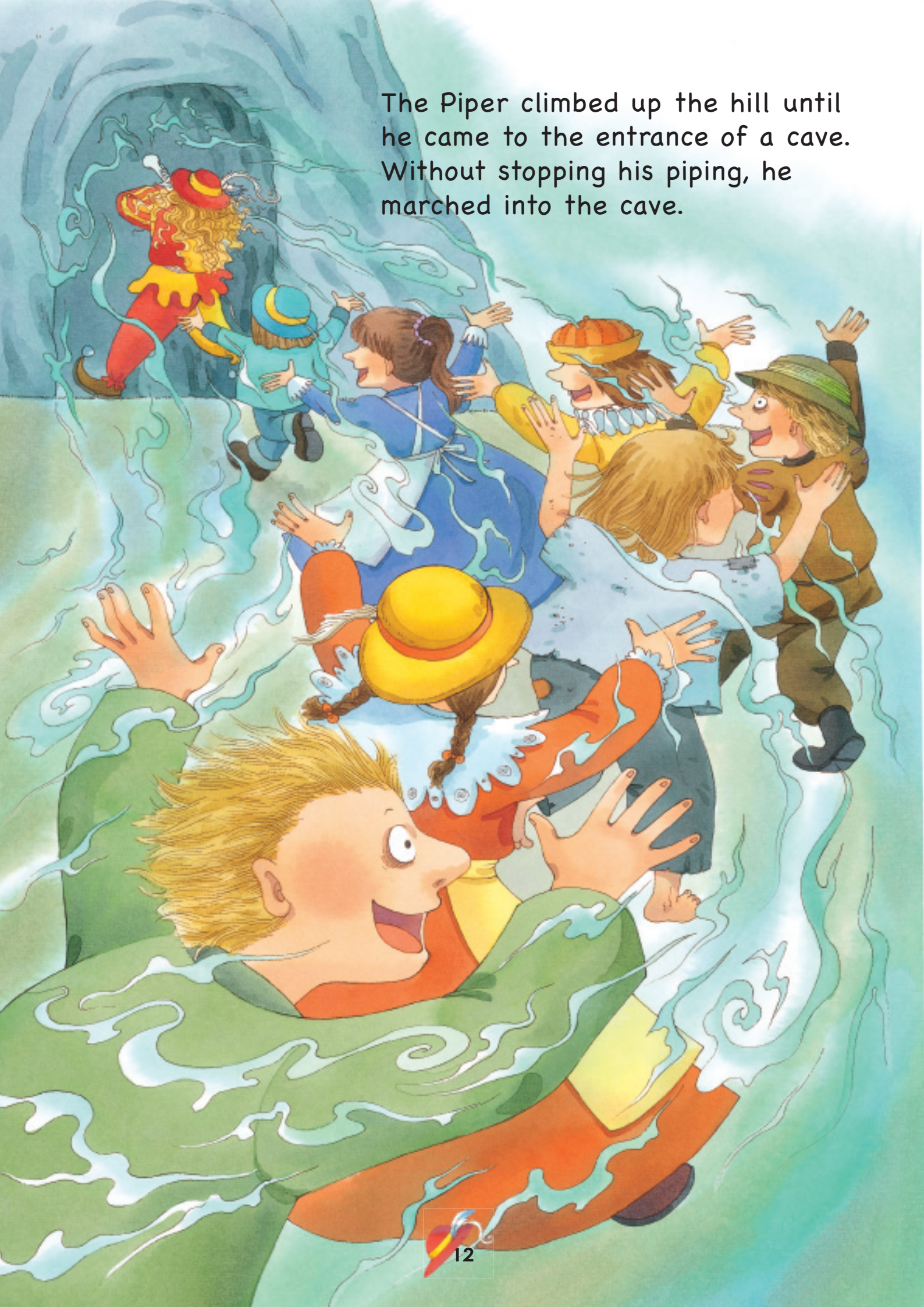


Moments later, they heard the sound of tiny footsteps -- the sound of hundreds of tiny footsteps coming closer. And out of every house came the children.



The Piper left the town and went up the hill with every child following him. They laughed and skipped all the way to the top.

The Piper climbed up the hill until he came to the entrance of a cave. Without stopping his piping, he marched into the cave.





To the horror of the townspeople, the children followed him. When the last child was inside, the cave entrance closed over and disappeared forever.



The townspeople would now pay any price to see their children again. Sadly, they never will. The children now live in an enchanted fairyland inside the Pied Piper's hill.

The Pied Piper of Hamelin



Characters

The Narrator

The Villager

The Pied Piper

The Mayor

Scene 1

Setting : A little town, inside the mayor's office

The Narrator : Once upon a time, there was a little town called Hamelin. Everybody in the town was unhappy because of the rat problem.

The Villager : "Mayor! You have got to think of a way to get rid of all of these rats! They're driving us crazy!"

The Mayor : "I know! I will reward anybody who can think of a way to help us fight these rats!"

The Narrator : All of a sudden, there was a tap-tap at the door. A stranger came in.

The Pied Piper : "I heard you talking about your problem. I believe that I can help you!"

The Mayor : "Really? Oh, that's wonderful! But how?"

The Pied Piper : "Well, I have my way! You just remember to pay me!"

The Mayor : "Of course! We will pay you a great sum of cash!"

Scene 2

Setting : On the street

The Narrator : So the piper smiled and walked out to the street. He took his pipe out and blew three notes. A rumbling sound started, and the rats poured out from all of the houses.

The Villager : "Oh my goodness! Why did all the mice run out together? Where are they going?"

The Narrator : All of the rats followed the Pied Piper all the way into the river and got swept away by the water. The villagers were very happy. They all gathered at the mayor's office.

Scene 3

Setting : Inside the mayor's office

The Pied Piper : "Now I have helped you get rid of all the rats! Please pay me my reward!"

The Mayor : "Yes, yes! We thank you for your help! As for the reward, I think you are asking far too much! We would like to invite you to dinner. That's all we can pay you!"

The Villager : "Yes! We can't pay you any money. But we can afford a free dinner!"

The Pied Piper : "You ungrateful people! You will be sorry!"

Scene 4

Setting : On the street

The Narrator : So the piper smiled and walked out to the street. He took his pipe out again and blew three notes. A rumbling sound started, and all of the children ran out of their houses.

The Villager : "Oh no! Look at the piper! He's taking our children away."

The Narrator : The villagers tried to stop the children from following the piper, but the children wouldn't listen to them. They followed the Pied Piper all the way into a cave.

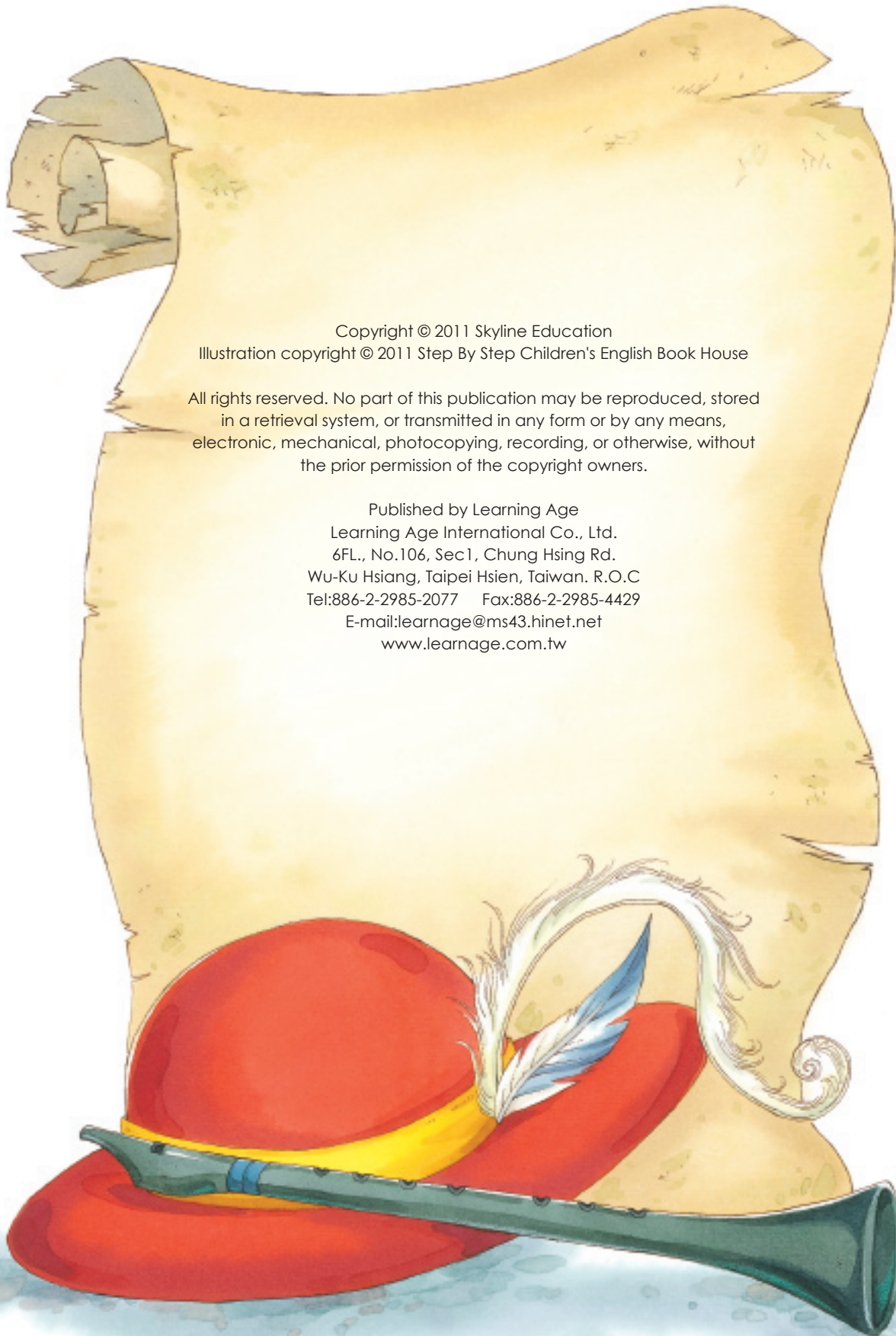
Scene 5

Setting : In front of the cave

The Mayor : "They are walking into the cave and look! The cave entrance is closing up!"

The Villager : "Will we ever get to see our children again?"

The Narrator : The answer is no! The villagers of Hamelin never got to see their children again.

A large, yellow, torn scroll with a red ribbon and a green horn. The scroll is the central element, with a red ribbon tied around it. A green horn with a blue band is positioned at the bottom right, pointing towards the right. The background is white with some light blue shading at the bottom.

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Published by Learning Age
Learning Age International Co., Ltd.
6FL., No.106, Sec1, Chung Hsing Rd.
Wu-Ku Hsiang, Taipei Hsien, Taiwan. R.O.C
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