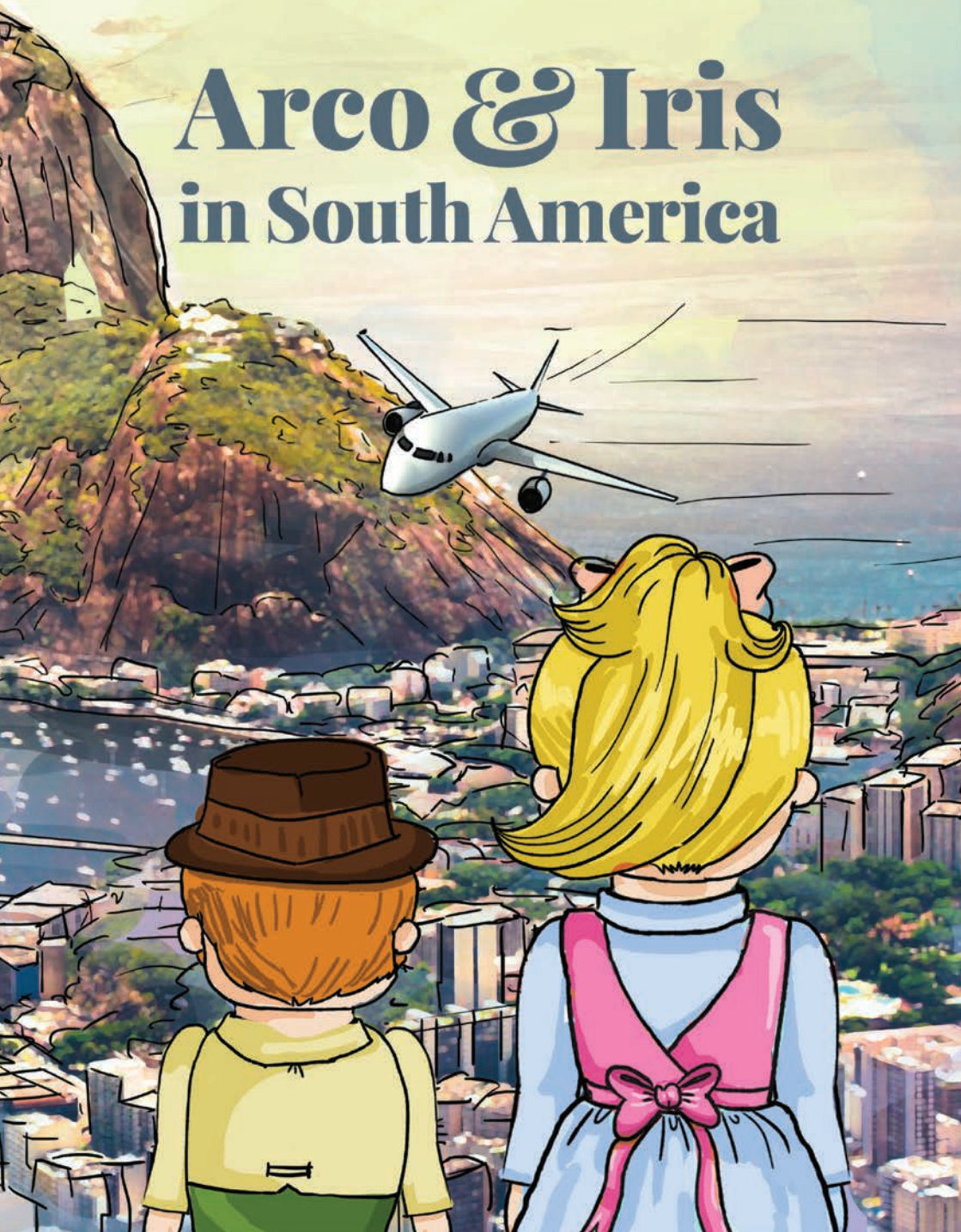


Arco & Iris in South America



*Dear Reader,
This is the story of Arco and Iris' trip
to South America.*

*Arco and Iris are two young people who have lived for
many years on a money box in a glass case housed in
the Museum of Saving in Turin, Italy.*

*The story of Arco and his sister Iris takes us into
the wonderful world of a collection consisting of about
1700 money boxes, donated to the museum by the Tana
family, with especial attention to those examples from
far-off countries full of fascinating places.*

*The journey of our two little children will give parents
the chance to spend a fun evening with their own
children by learning new ideas or re-thinking some
ways about handling their money and that can be
taught to young people from an early age in a creative
and playful way.*

*On the last page, also to help parents and children to
remember, there is a brief summary in the form of a
simple rhyme.*

*We hope that the fun we had in writing this little book
will be the same that you will have while reading it.*



Arco and Iris had been stuck on a money box for a very, very long time, holding hands over a beautiful rainbow.

They would have liked to take an aeroplane and fly high and see the rainbow for real because they could see it only in their minds!



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They lived in Turin in a Museum all about saving and in the glass case next to theirs there was a beautiful money box shaped like a globe with two funny-looking people sitting in a plane!

How lovely it must be to travel! We need to get out and explore the world! We would have lots of new adventures and see who knows how many wonderful places...

But how could they make their dream come true? It seemed impossible! They had never even been outside the Museum...

They decided to ask for help from a nice little old lady who was sitting in the case next to them.

«My dear Arco and Iris,
– she replied – I am very old and I too have never left this place, but I can give you some advice and that is to think carefully about where you want to go, then put away the money you will need, also have a look in your piggy-bank to see if there is anything left over...»



The days passed by slowly but little by little Arco and Iris collected all the money forgotten in the other money boxes.



One night, without knowing whether it was a dream or a spell, they woke up to find themselves real people... in flesh and blood!!! They could not believe it.



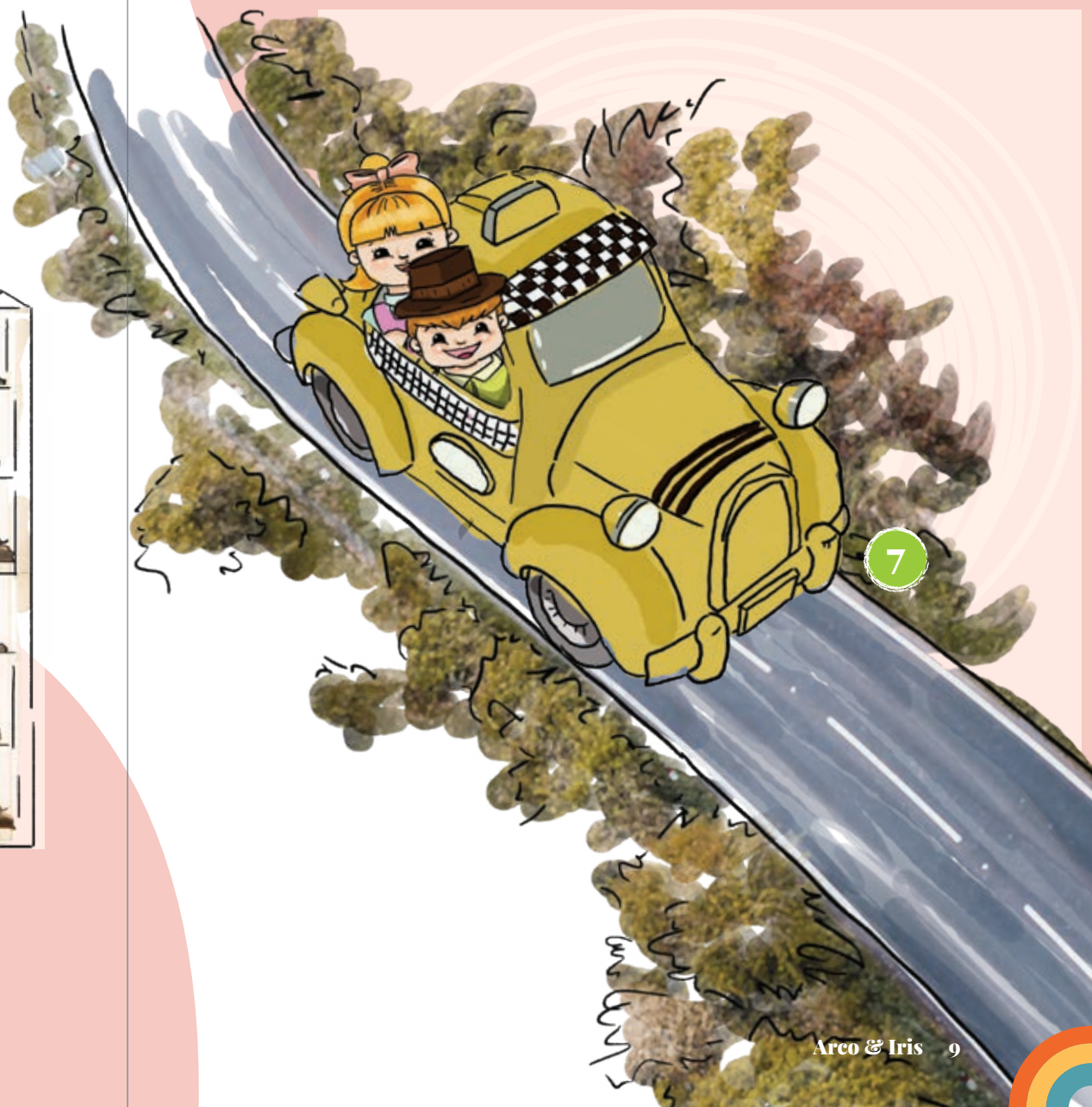
They had often thought long and hard together about where their first journey might be, and after consulting all the atlases and globes in the collection they had decided: they wanted to go to South America!

First of all, they took a nice tobacco-coloured suitcase from another show-case and put all the money saved for travelling in it. It was quite a tidy sum.

The old lady had been right: a penny today, a penny tomorrow that's how your savings grow... and when you need it you have the money to make your dreams come true!



Happy and excited, they took a taxi to the airport and bought two tickets for Brazil!



There were a lot of strange people to see in the airport. Among all the other tourists, they saw one and knew at once that he was really happy: he was already wearing a straw-hat and sunglasses. Obviously, he was off for the holiday of his dreams, and he had saved up for it for a very long time.



Their flight was called... AZ674... and while they were waiting to embark, they saw the pilot get into the cabin.

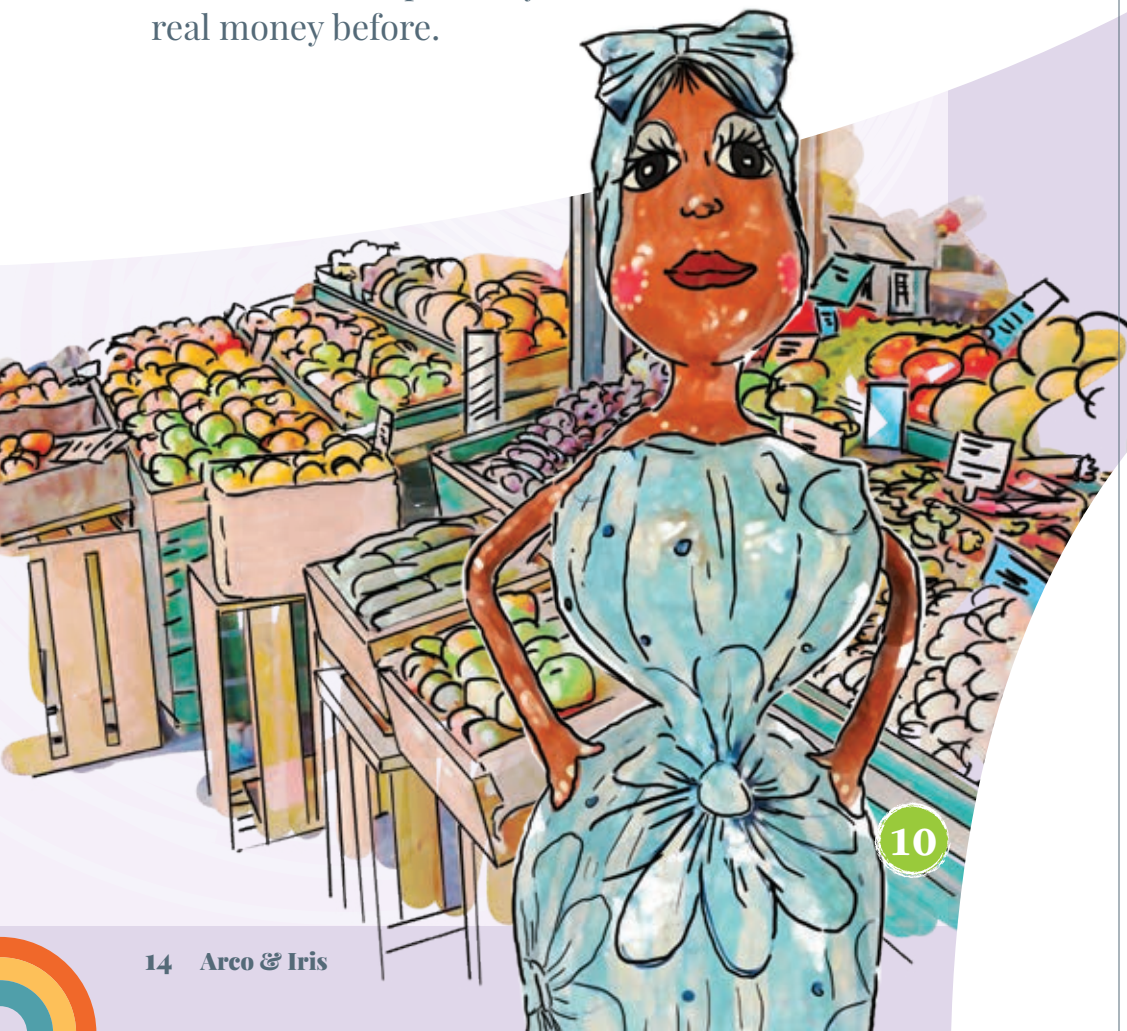
Iris said to Arco: «He must be a clever person, he's exactly the same as the one in the third case on the left in the right wing in the Museum.»

Flying was a marvellous experience! The sky was immense and before they got above the clouds they even saw a rainbow. The clouds below looked like cotton mountains and when they saw the ocean, it was as endless as the sky!



Then they began their descent: they were almost at their destination. They landed in perfect time at the Antonio Carlos Jobim airport in Rio de Janeiro.

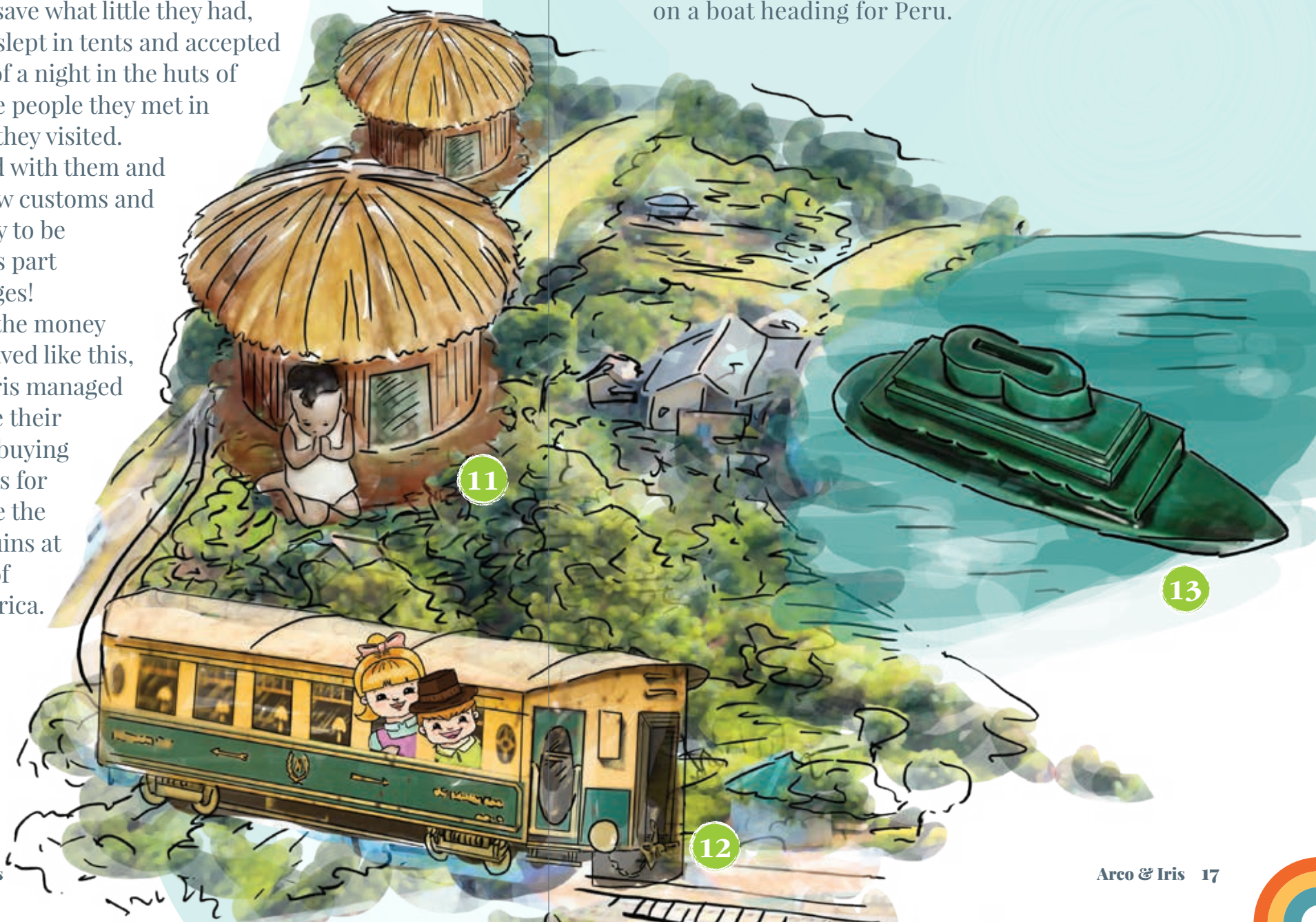
Outside the airport, they met a lady selling fruit. She was dressed rather strangely but, to tell the truth, they only knew the money boxes in the Museum. Seeing that they looked a bit lost, the woman offered to accompany for a while. Arco said to Iris: «This must be a really nice place, just look how good and kind the people are.» As the lady seemed to be an expert businesswoman, Iris asked her for some help as they had never handled real money before.



She advised them to draw up a plan that meant deciding how long they would be on their trip and work out how much they could afford to spend each day on food, accommodation and travel. If they could manage to save something each day, they would be able to buy some souvenirs for their friends back at the Museum. She also suggested that they always keep something apart because you never knew what might happen so far away from home. As the old adage says: always save something for a rainy day. Iris nodded and said that they would do exactly that.

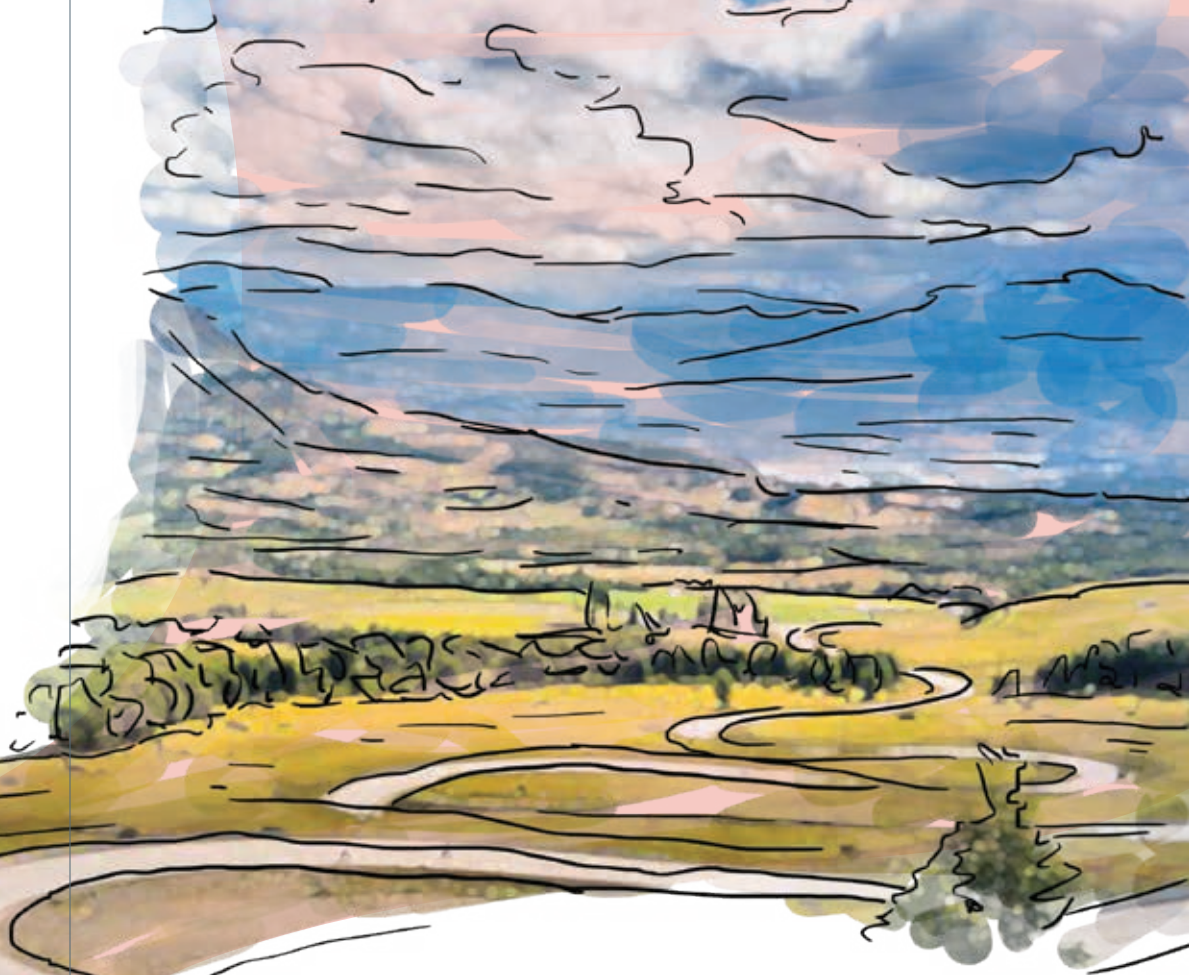
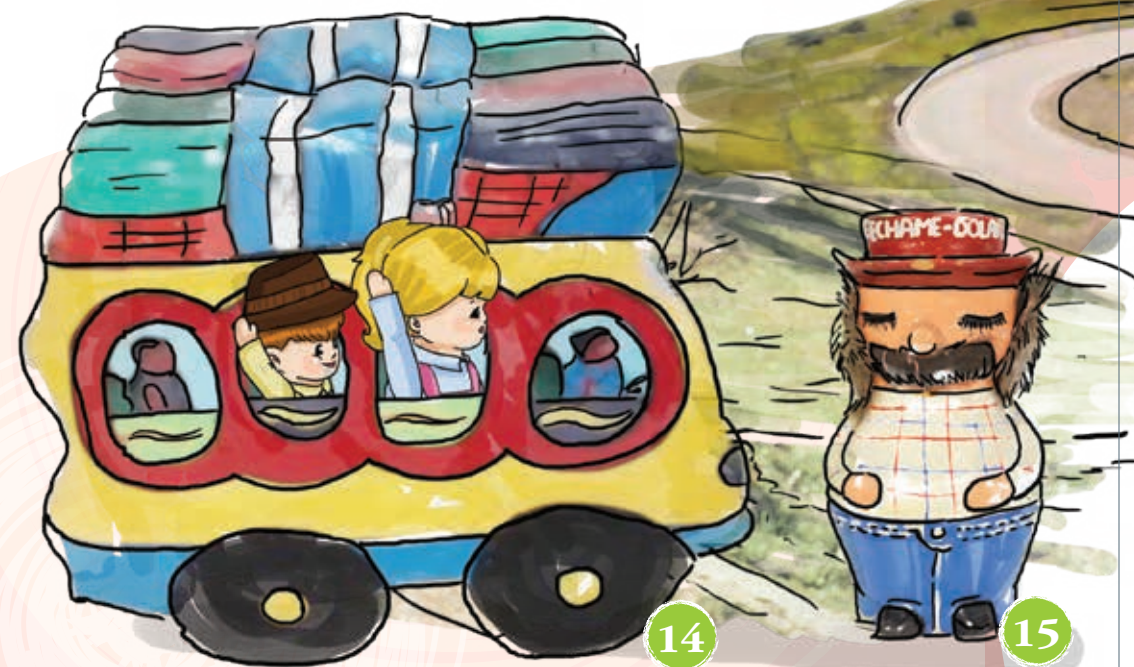
Arco and Iris turned out to be excellent managers of their money: to save what little they had, they often slept in tents and accepted the offers of a night in the huts of some of the people they met in the places they visited. They talked with them and learned new customs and it was a way to be accepted as part of the villages! Thanks to the money they had saved like this, Arco and Iris managed to continue their holiday by buying train tickets for Chile to see the King Penguins at the limits of South America.

On their way back, they even found some part-time jobs that gave them a discount on a boat heading for Peru.



In Peru, they followed the advice of a local inhabitant and for a few cents bought two tickets for a minibus that after a tortuous drive through the Urubamba valley brought them to Machu Picchu, the ancient city of the Incas. An amazing return to the past and an archaeological jewel! They discovered that the Incas used Spondylus shells as money and that they were as valuable as gold.

Sadly, as always, the holiday was coming to an end. But what wonderful places they had seen thanks to looking after their money properly, and what fun it had been! Every day had been totally exciting, not like being stuck in the glass cases at the Museum!!!



Iris said to Arco: «We've learned some important things on this trip... I had never thought that deciding on our objectives would help us achieve them. In fact, by knowing what they were, we never lost sight of them, and we can always choose to change our minds, like we did when we decided to go to Chile.» Then Arco added: «By not wasting our money we managed to see much more than we dreamed of and we had a load of fun!»

It was now time to go back to the Museum. On the flight home, they sat next to a young girl who was about their age. She had a bag full of coins. She was very busy counting them and for a while did not notice Arco and Iris.



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Then she looked up and very politely introduced herself: «I'm Penny the pincher, actually, I just save what I can. I'm on my way back from a holiday and this is the money that is left over. I'm going to keep it safe, so I can go and visit my grandparents next summer.»

Arco asked her if she knew the good rules to money management. She replied: «I like saving, not because I am greedy or stingy, but I have a lot of dreams that I want to come true.»

While Penny was talking she was putting the coins she was counting into a strange-looking box. Seeing their curiosity, Penny showed them the box, a small case with little separate compartments, and explained: «My parents taught me when I was very young to be independent and to plan so as to make my dreams come true.

The money box they gave me as a present helps me to choose how to use the money I get given or earn by doing some little jobs around the house.



At the moment, I have decided that I want to put away some money for Christmas, birthdays and holidays, like the one I've just had. But I know there are people less fortunate than I, so I keep a little something apart also for them because I like sharing!»

Arco and Iris were really happy when they landed in Turin. On their trip they had visited interesting places, met new people and learned really a lot of new things!

They realised that they could take another trip, meet new friends from different cultures who spoke different languages, and see exotic animals... but first they would have to save up the necessary money!

They were afraid they might forget everything they had learned so Iris said to Arco: «We need to write a poem, it will help us to remember.»



The rhyme of the patient ant

*I have lots of dreams in my head,
I add one every night while I am in bed.
I know they cannot all come true,
And I must think them through and through.
If I am patient and very careful,
My money box will soon be full.
By always saving a crumb today,
And a piece of grass another day,
I have lived through winters very cold.
If I save a penny a day as I was told,
I can maybe change them all to gold!
Everyone knows that it's not science:
Take good care and have patience!*



THE MUSEUM OF SAVING

The Museum of Saving is a unique and innovative area set up to encourage financial education. Many people have difficulties in managing their assets due to a lack of basic economic and financial skills. The museum intends to help these people make rational and informed decisions that allow them to achieve their priority goals. In the rooms of the museum, children, teenagers and adults follow a path that helps them to reflect on the conscious use of money and to learn about, and experience, finance in a variety of multi-media ways.



Museum of Saving

Via San Francesco d'Assisi 8/a

Toll-free number (from Italy): 800 167 619

info@museodelrisparmio.it

www.museodelrisparmio.it

From 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. - Closed on Tuesday

Reservations required for groups and schools

Follow the Museum of Saving on:

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MONEY BOXES

- 1 **Children with Rainbow**, 1970–1980, enamelled hard earthenware, Taiwan
- 2 **Globe Albie & Gibie Vultures Wonderful Airlines**, 1990, ceramic, USA
- 3 **Old Woman in an Armchair**, 1960–1970, plaster, unknown provenance
- 4 **Globe Methodist Missionary Society**, 1970, plastic, UK
- 5 **Globe**, 1930–1940, sheet metal, Italy
- 6 **Trip Money Suitcase**, 1990, ceramic, UK
- 7 **Taxi**, 1980–1990, plastic, Greece
- 8 **Tourist**, 1990–2000, porcelain, UK
- 9 **Airplane Pilot**, 1954, plastic, USA
- 10 **Brazilian Woman**, 1990–2000, papier mâché, Brazil
- 11 **Hut with Child**, 1950s, glazed ceramic, Italy
- 12 **Wagon-Lits**, late 1800s, sheet metal, Belgium
- 13 **Transatlantic**, 1930–1940, ceramic, France
- 14 **Minibus**, 2000s, papier mâché, Peru
- 15 **Moustached Man**, 1960–1970, turned and cold painted terracotta, plush, Mexico
- 16 **Penny the Pincher**, 1950–1960, porcelain, UK
- 17 **Red Box with Four Compartments**, 1930s, tin, UK
- 18 **Little Chinese Girl**, 1990–2000, hard cold painted earthenware, China
- 19 **Elephant with Monkey**, early 1900s, zamak, Italy
- 20 **Policeman Child**, 1990s, hot and cold painted earthenware, France
- 21 **Javanese Boar**, 1600–1800, terracotta, Indonesia
- 22 **Little Dutch Girl**, 1960–1970, porcelain, Netherlands

A stylized, hand-drawn illustration of a coastal city, likely Rio de Janeiro, featuring steep mountains, a bay filled with boats, and a cityscape at the bottom. The style is colorful and sketchy.

MdR

MUSEO DEL RISPARMIO
Conoscere, capire, sperimentare.



www.museodelrisparmio.it