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# What a Wonderful World! Using Batchelder Books to Support Literacy


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# What a Wonderful World! Using Batchelder Books to Support Literacy

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**Association for Library Service to Children Website**

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***A Faraway Island* (World War II theme)**

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**THE THIEF LORD  
VOCABULARY WORDS**

condescending, perpetrators, discreetly, spindly, labyrinth, vaporetto, pompously, shroud, surreptitiously, nonchalantly, pestilences,

cockerel, appraising, trussed, consumption, averted, diabolical, harebrained, allotted, decrepit, promenade, pensively, imploringly, procured, scudding, disdain, furred, surreptitiously

### Fun Italian Phrases

Thank you. \_\_\_\_\_ *Grazie.*  
You're welcome. \_\_\_\_\_ *Prego.*  
Good morning! \_\_\_\_\_ *Buon giorno!*  
Please. \_\_\_\_\_ *Per favore.*  
Good evening! \_\_\_\_\_ *Buona sera!*  
Yes. \_\_\_\_\_ *Si.*  
How are you? \_\_\_\_\_ *Come va?*  
Excuse me. \_\_\_\_\_ *Mi scusi.*  
I don't understand. \_\_\_\_\_ *Non capisco.*  
Goodbye. \_\_\_\_\_ *Arrivedala/ci.*  
I don't speak Italian. \_\_\_\_\_ *Non parlo italiano.*  
\_\_\_\_\_ *Good morning!*  
\_\_\_\_\_ *Buon giorno!*  
Do you speak English? \_\_\_\_\_ *Parla inglese?*  
Good evening! \_\_\_\_\_ *Buona sera!*  
What's your name? \_\_\_\_\_ *Come si chiama?*  
How are you? \_\_\_\_\_ *Come va?*  
Can you help me? \_\_\_\_\_ *Mi può aiutare?*  
Pardon me. \_\_\_\_\_ *Mi Scusi.*  
Hello! \_\_\_\_\_ *Ciao!/Salve!*  
See you soon. \_\_\_\_\_ *A presto!*  
I'm sorry. \_\_\_\_\_ *Mi dispiace.*

### History of the Venetian Masks

Venetian masks are synonymous with historical 13th Century Venice, La Commedia dell'Arte play, theatre, the celebrations of Carnival and Mardi Gras, as well as mysterious and elaborate masquerade balls all over the world. As history can trace back the first laws governing mask wearing in Venice to the 13th century, no one truly knows the exact origins of daily mask wearing in Venice, adding even more to the mysterious and magical aura of Venetian masks. Traditionally the bauta mask was used during the 13th century, accompanied by the classic tabarro (Venetian Cloak), lovely lace zendale, and a tricorno hat to conceal the identity of the wearer. People wore these disguises and masks from December 26th (St. Stephen's Day) to Shrove Tuesday (Fat Tuesday), giving birth to Venetian Carnivale. By the 18th Century, the Venetian Republic had fallen to Napoleon and became governed under Austrian rule. Venetian mask wearing became prohibited. This continued even through the 1930s as Mussolini's fascist party prohibited the tradition. Venetian Carnivale was halted for almost two centuries. It wasn't until 1979 that local Venetian artisans revived the long ancient tradition, and

### Ten Interesting Facts about Italy

1. The average Italian consumes 60 liters of wine and 30 kilograms, or 66 pounds, of pasta per year.
2. The world's most popular sports cars are made in Italy; these include the Lamborghini, the Ferrari, and the Alfa Romeo, to name a few.
3. Some of the police cars in Italy are Lamborghinis.
4. Italy has two independent states lying within its territory: the San Marino and the Vatican City.
5. The security men guarding the Pope are called the Swiss Guards. They hail from Switzerland and are Catholic.
6. The highest volcano in Europe, Mt. Etna, is found in Italy.
7. Most of William Shakespeare's plays are set in Italy. The famous "Romeo and Juliet" is set in the fair city of Verona.
8. Italy holds the Guinness world record as the country with the most number of elevators in the world.
9. In all of Europe, Italy has the lowest birthrate.
10. Twenty percent of the Italian population is retired and is receiving state pension. With so few children are being born, there are hardly enough tax payers coming in to cover the pension fund requirement.

### Venetian Masks Continued

now Carnivale is celebrated yearly. Carnival, or Carnevale, is Venice's answer to Mardi Gras and Fasching. For eight days before Lent each winter, tourists flood the city to participate in a period of pageants, commedia dell'arte, concerts, balls, and masked self-displays. Whether it is a Venetian Jolly Mask, a traditional bauta mask, a Carnivale masks, or a stunning masquerade masks, you can be assured that each piece has a part of history, culture and magic from Venice, Italy.

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