



HELLO, SCHOOL!

Julia and Marcin Visit Schools Around the World

8 Countries • 8 Back-to-School Traditions
Coloring Pages for Kids Ages 8–12
FREE Booklet to Download and Print

WELCOME TO SCHOOLS AROUND THE WORLD!

The school year does not begin at the same time or in the same way everywhere. In some countries, children return to school in September; in others, they start in January, February, or spring. Sometimes the first day begins with a special ceremony, a song, or a traditional welcome. In other places, students go straight to their classrooms and begin their lessons.

Julia and Marcin visit eight countries to discover local schools and learn about their back-to-school traditions. Join them, read the fun facts, and color each illustration!

IN THIS BOOKLET, YOU WILL VISIT:

France • Japan • Canada • New Zealand
the United States • Italy • Poland • Egypt

Remember: School starting dates and traditions may vary by region and individual school.

HELLO, SCHOOL! Julia and Marcin Visit Schools Around the World.
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REMEMBER!

For best results, print the pages single-sided to prevent colors from bleeding through.

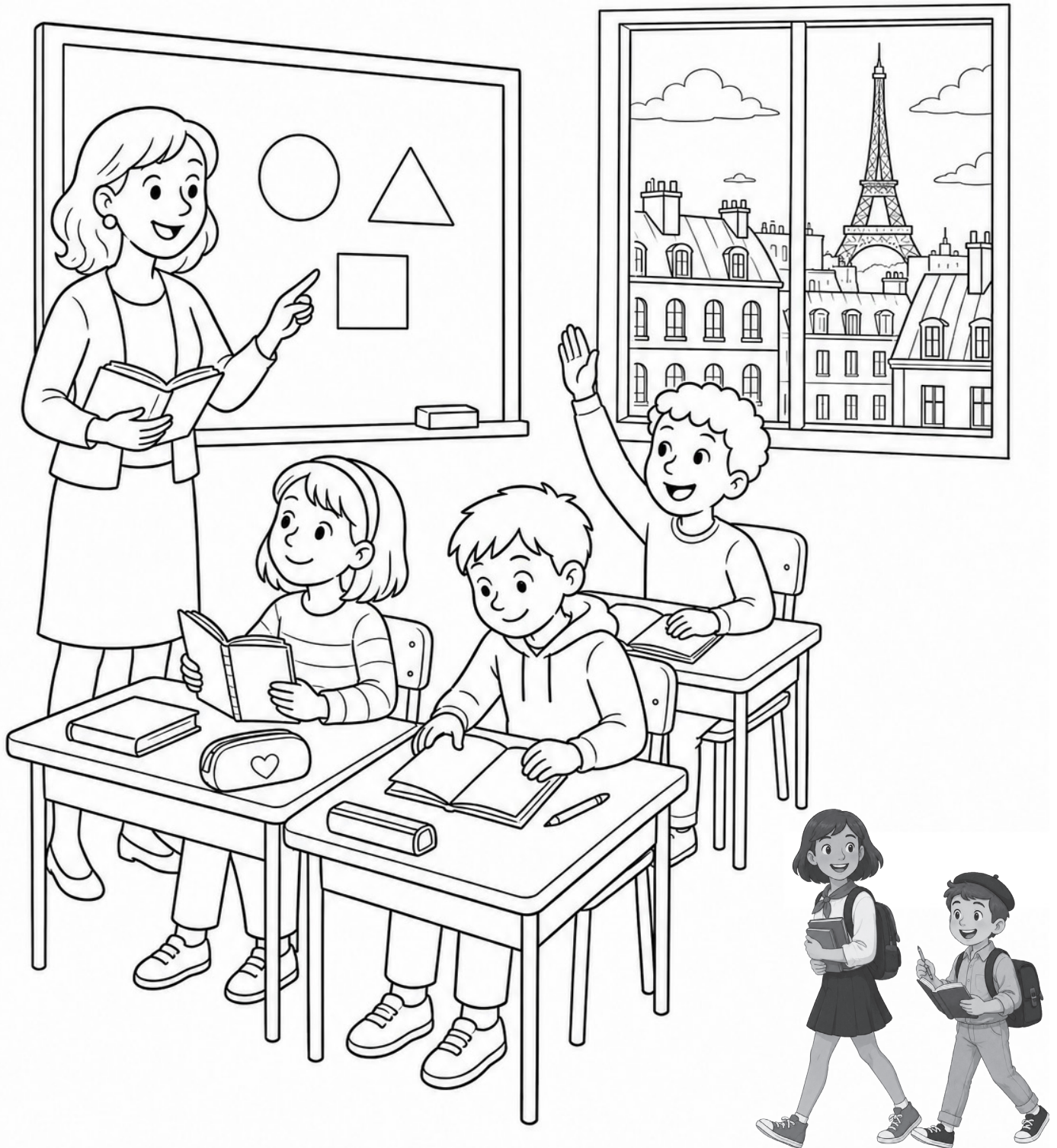
POLAND



Opening Ceremony

In Poland, the school year begins on September 1 or the next weekday if that date falls on a weekend. The first day is usually formal and festive. Schools may hold assemblies or short meetings where students greet their teachers and learn which class and classroom they will attend. Many children wear special first-day outfits, such as white shirts or blouses with navy pants or skirts.

FRANCE



Straight to Class

In France, the return to school is known as *la rentrée*. It usually takes place in early September on the date set by the school calendar. Schools generally do not hold formal opening ceremonies. Students meet their teachers, receive their schedules, get to know new classmates, and begin regular lessons. *La rentrée* also marks the end of the summer break and the return of many adults to work.

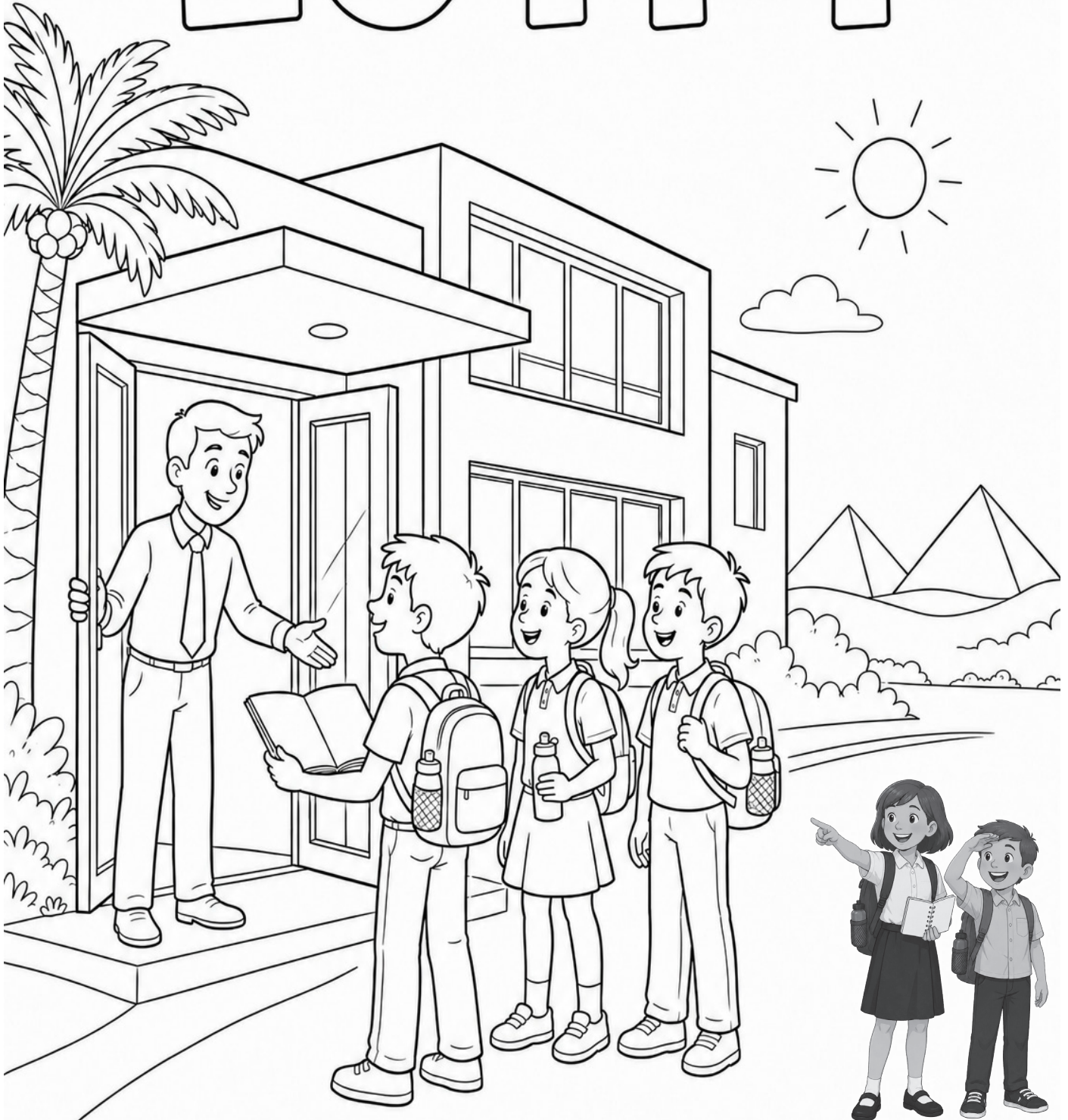
ITALY



First Bell

In Italy, the school year usually begins in the first half of September, with the exact date decided by each region. The return to school is sometimes called *prima campanella*, meaning “the first bell.” In some preschools and primary schools, children wear a *grembiule* – a school smock that protects their everyday clothes. The color of the smock or a small ribbon may also help identify a particular class.

EGYPT



New School Supplies

In Egypt, the school year generally begins in September or early October, depending on the calendar announced for that year. Shopping for school supplies is an important part of the preparations. Families visit bookstores, shops, and *Ahlan Madares* fairs, where they can buy notebooks, pencils, backpacks, and other school essentials.

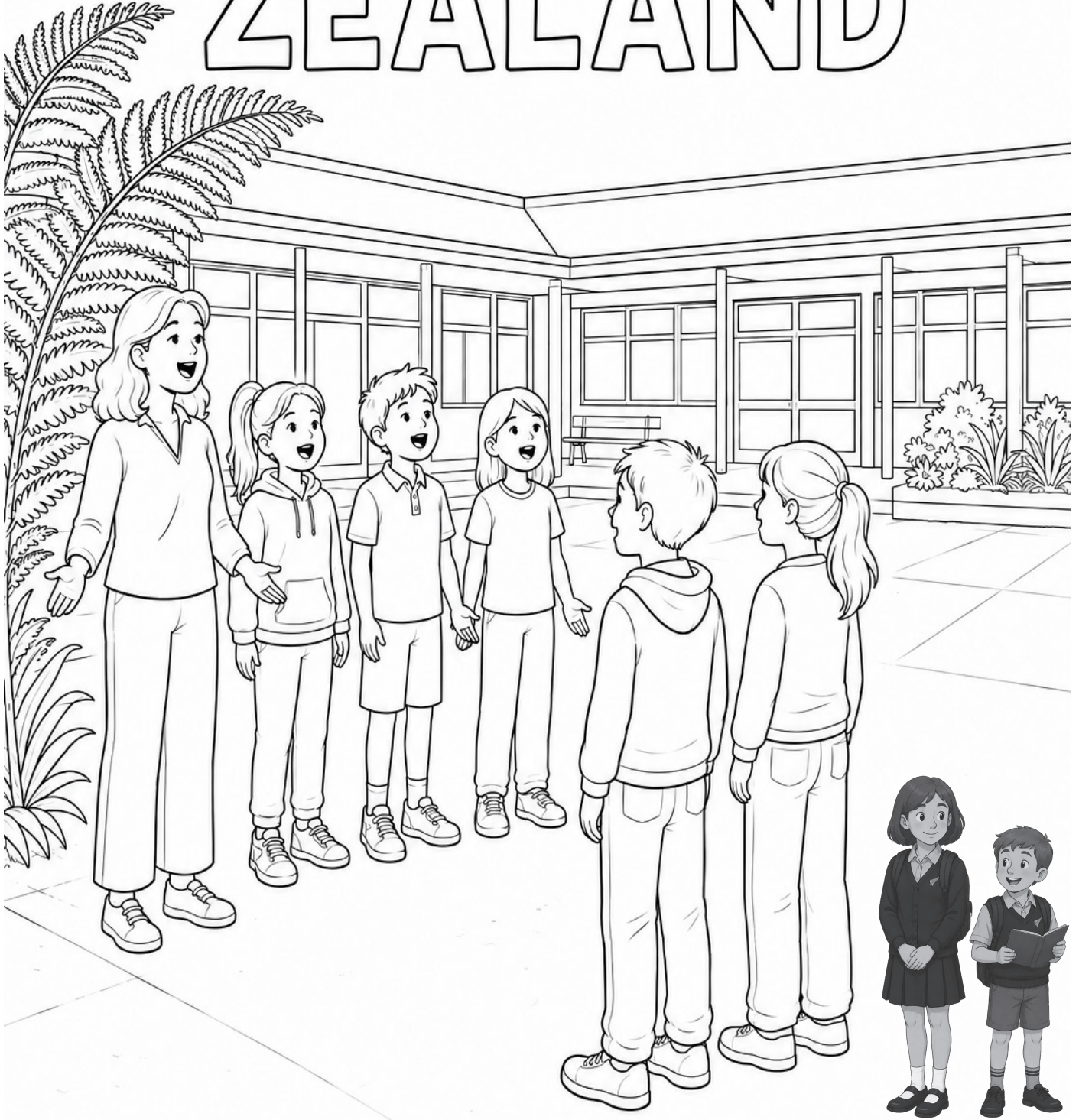
JAPAN



Among the Cherry Blossoms

In Japan, the school year usually begins in early April, during cherry blossom season. Schools hold formal entrance ceremonies, known as nyūgakushiki, to welcome new students. Elementary school children often carry durable, rigid randoseru backpacks for several years. Another food associated with special celebrations is sekihan, rice with red beans traditionally served for good luck.

NEW ZEALAND



Welcome with Song

In New Zealand, the summer vacation ends in late January or early February. Some schools welcome new students with a pōwhiri, a traditional Māori welcoming ceremony. It may include speeches and waiata, or group singing. The ceremony helps newcomers feel recognized and welcomed as members of the school community.

USA



Getting to Know Your New School

In the United States, the first day varies by state and school district, usually falling between early August and early September. Before classes begin, many schools hold an *Orientation Day* or *Back-to-School Night* so students and families can meet teachers, visit classrooms, and learn school routines. Many families also take first-day photos with signs showing the grade their child is starting.

CANADA



Souvenir Photo

In Canada, the school year generally begins in early September, although the exact date varies by province and school. The first day is usually informal. A popular keepsake is a photo of the child holding a sign showing the grade they are starting. Many schools also organize icebreaker activities to help students and teachers get to know one another.