

MEET THE AUTHOR

Dear Jack, tell us a little about yourself.

I was born in the North of England and studied German¹ and Russian² at Liverpool University. After graduation I spent several years traveling around the world, teaching English to finance³ the trips.

I then went back to England to do a postgraduate⁴ course at London University. I came to Brazil in 1976 and have lived and worked here, teaching and writing, ever since.

When did you start writing stories?

My first story was published in 1999. This is now my tenth book.



How do you think of your stories?

Stories are around us all the time, often begging to be written, but we rarely take much notice of them. Stories seem to find me, rather than me consciously⁵ looking for one. My inspiration⁶ often comes from a real event.

What is the message in this story?

There are several messages in the story, but I think the most powerful one can be summed up⁷ in the words of the English teacher in the film *Dead Poets Society*—"Seize⁸ the day! Make your lives extraordinary⁹!" We *can* change things. We *can* live the life we want and realize our full potential¹⁰.

Have you any other stories planned for the future?

Yes, I have a file full of ideas for stories.

- 1 German [ˈdʒɜːmən] (n.) 德語
- 2 Russian [ˈrʌʃən] (n.) 俄語
- 3 finance [faɪˈnæns] (v.) 籌措資金
- 4 postgraduate [pɒstˈɡrædʒuət] (a.) 研究生的
- 5 consciously [ˈkɒnʃənslɪ] (adv.) 有意識地
- 6 inspiration [ˌɪnspəˈreɪʃən] (n.) 靈感
- 7 sum up 總結
- 8 seize [siz] (v.) 抓住
- 9 extraordinary [ɪkˈstrɔːdn̩,eri] (a.) 非凡的
- 10 potential [pəˈtenʃəl] (n.) 可能性；潛力

BEFORE READING



1 The story *The Coconut Seller* takes place in Brazil. How much do you know about Brazil? Do the quiz and find out.

- a) Which city is the capital of Brazil?
- ① Rio de Janeiro. ② Brasília. ③ São Paulo.
- b) What is the estimated population of Brazil?
- ① About 50 million.
② Just over 100 million.
③ Nearly 200 million.
- c) Which is the largest city in Brazil?
- ① São Paulo. ② Salvador. ③ Rio de Janeiro.
- d) What is the official language in Brazil?
- ① Spanish. ② French. ③ Portuguese.

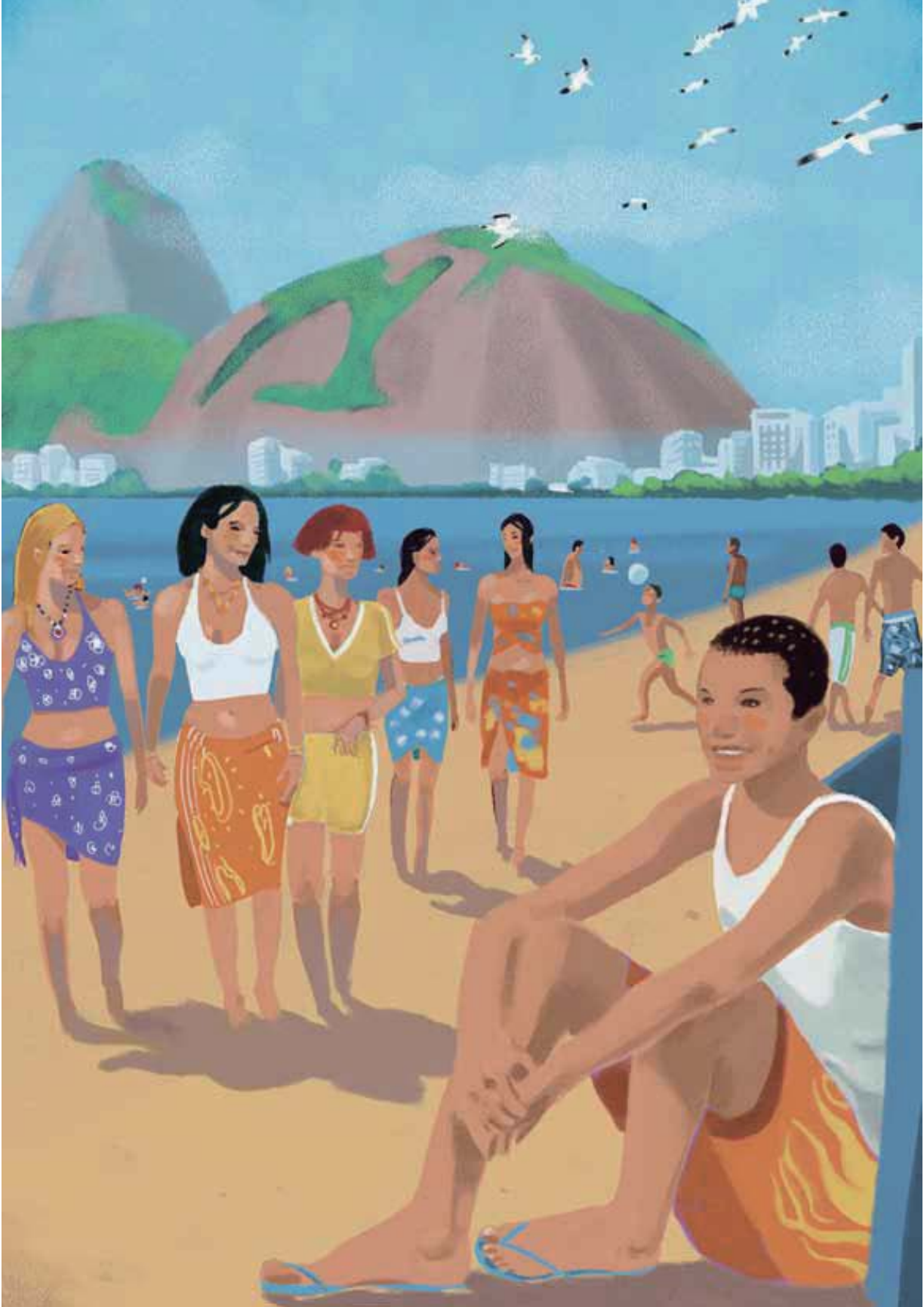
- e) Which country was Brazil a colony of?
① Portugal. ② Great Britain. ③ Spain.
- f) What is the name of the currency in Brazil?
① Dollar. ② Real. ③ Peso.
- g) Brazil's large territory includes different ecosystems, such as
① the Amazon Rainforest.
② the Great Barrier Reef.
③ the Atacama Desert.
- h) What is the famous Sugarloaf in Brazil?
① A typical sweet.
② A mountain in Rio de Janeiro.
③ A popular beach in Bahia.
- i) Which of the following is NOT a famous beach in Rio de Janeiro?
① Copacabana. ② Ipanema. ③ Pantanal.
- j) What is samba?
① A type of Brazilian dance and music genre.
② A typical Brazilian dish.
③ A Brazilian festival.



2 Listen and check the answers.



3 With a partner write a quiz about another country you know or would like to visit. Then exchange your quiz with another pair.





BRUNO



Bruno stopped what he was doing for a moment and sat down on a low wall in front of the beach. He stared out to sea with a broad¹ smile on his face, lost in thought as he enjoyed a moment's rest.

It was a hot, sultry² day like most summer days in Rio de Janeiro. It was only 11 o'clock in the morning and the temperature was already 35°C, and the humidity³ 82%. As usual, Bruno was wearing colorful, knee-length Bermuda⁴ shorts, a white sleeveless T-shirt, and a pair of blue flip-flops⁵. The warm sea breeze⁶ felt good against the smooth, dark skin of his face.

This was the day Bruno's life was going to change forever.

A group of girls walked past and smiled over at Bruno. He was slim and good-looking with short jet-black⁷ hair and sparkling⁸ dark brown eyes. But Bruno wasn't just another good-looking guy. He was one of life's genuine nice guys. He had a very distinctive⁹, deep voice that was also pleasant and cheerful and warm. But he didn't use his voice to win people over¹⁰. No, whenever Bruno did say anything, it was always relevant¹¹ and meaningful.

1 broad [brɔd] (a.) 寬闊的

2 sultry ['sʌltrɪ] (a.) 悶熱的

3 humidity [hju'mɪdətɪ] (n.) 濕度

4 Bermuda [bə'mjʊdə] (n.) 百慕達

5 flip-flops ['flɪp,flɒps] (n.) 〔複〕夾腳拖鞋

6 breeze [brɪz] (n.) 微風

7 jet-black ['dʒet,blæk] (a.) 烏黑的

8 sparkling ['spɜ:klɪŋ] (a.) 閃爍的

9 distinctive [dɪ'stɪŋktɪv] (a.) 有特色的

10 win over 說服

11 relevant ['rɛləvənt] (a.) 切題的



His classmates at school teased¹ him about being shy, but Bruno never got embarrassed or nervous; it was just the way he was. He kept himself to himself. And only spoke when he had something to say. Oh, and he had one of those irresistible² smiles that light up your day. And he constantly³ looked on the bright side of things and was optimistic⁴ about everything. Quite simply, he was a nice happy guy and you couldn't help but like him.

Bruno gazed⁵ blankly at the hustle⁶ and bustle⁷ on Ipanema beach. The beach was crowded with rich, beautiful people, mainly Brazilians⁸, but there were also lots of wealthy tourists, too. There were the usual sunworshippers⁹ and surfers¹⁰, and several groups of people playing football, volleyball and footvolley¹¹, a combination of volleyball and football which was invented in Brazil.

Bruno looked to his right at the two mountains in the distance—the “Dois Irmãos”—the Two Brothers. Rio is such a beautiful place to live, he thought to himself.

BRAZIL

- What do you know about Brazil?
Think; then share ideas with a partner.
- What is your country famous for? What tourist attractions are there?



1 tease [tiz] (v.) 取笑

2 irresistible [ˌɪrɪˈzɪstəbəl] (a.) 難以抗拒的

3 constantly [ˈkɒnstəntli] (adv.) 不斷地

4 optimistic [ˌɒptəˈmɪstɪk] (a.) 樂觀的

5 gaze [geɪz] (v.) 凝視；注視

6 hustle [ˈhʌsl] (n.) 忙碌

7 bustle [ˈbʌsl] (n.) 喧囂

8 Brazilian [brəˈzɪljən] (n.) 巴西人

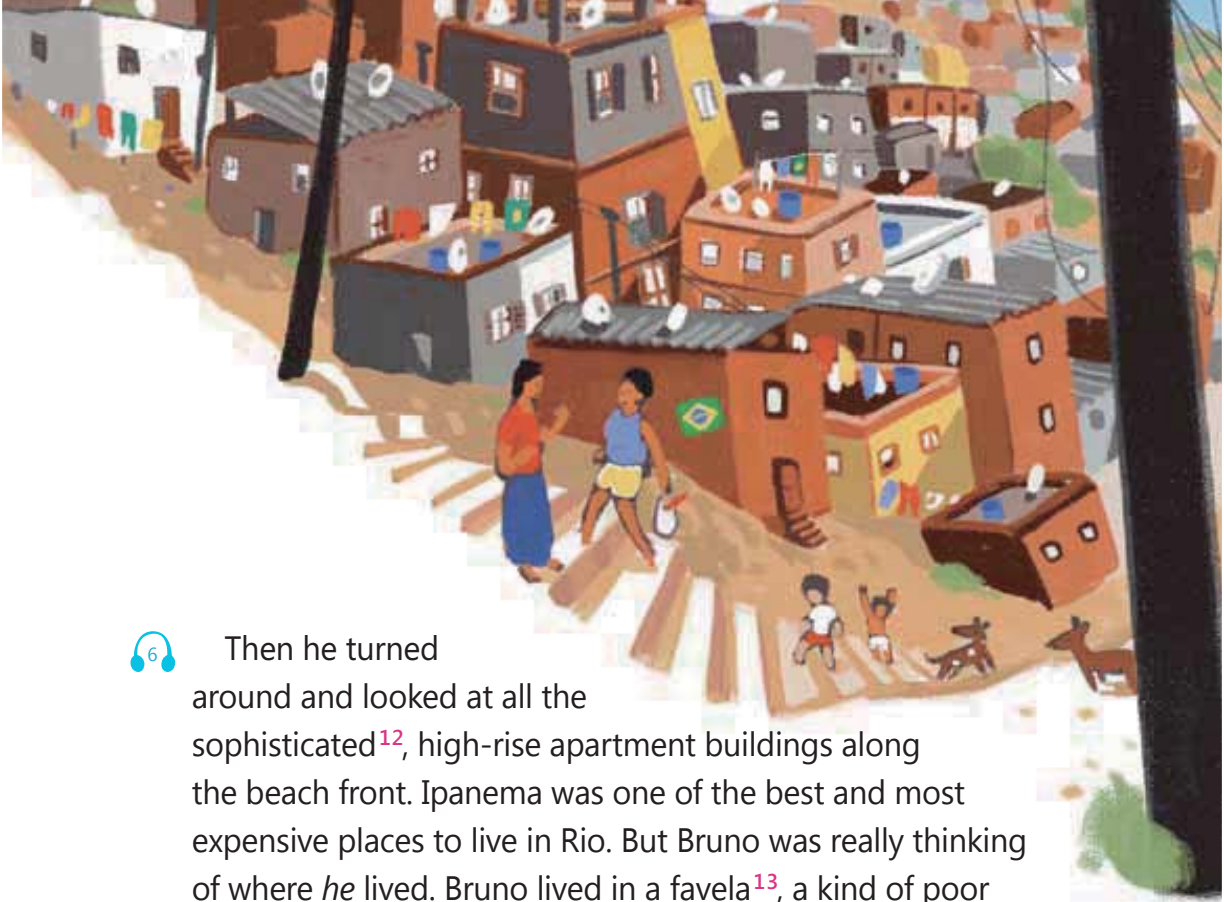
9 sunworshipper [ˈsʌn,wɜːʃəpə] (n.) 喜歡曬太陽的人

10 surfer [ˈsɜːfə] (n.) 衝浪者

11 footvolley [ˈfʊt,vɒli] (n.) 足排球

12 sophisticated [səˈfɪstɪ,ketɪd] (a.) 精緻的

13 favela [fəˈvelə] (n.) (巴西的) 貧民區



Then he turned around and looked at all the sophisticated¹², high-rise apartment buildings along the beach front. Ipanema was one of the best and most expensive places to live in Rio. But Bruno was really thinking of where *he* lived. Bruno lived in a favela¹³, a kind of poor shanty¹⁴ town, called Morro do Cantagalo, on the hill, behind these expensive flats.

In his mind's eye¹⁵ he pictured the favela: hundreds of small, shabby¹⁶, randomly¹⁷ built huts¹⁸ all crowded close together on the hillside. He thought about the thousands of poor people living there, moving up and down along the complex¹⁹ network of stairways and tracks²⁰, often on steep²¹ inclines²². The narrow winding alleys²³ were too small and dangerous for cars and other vehicles.

14 shanty [ˈʃæntɪ] (n.) 簡陋小屋

15 mind's eye 內心裡想像的畫面

16 shabby [ˈʃæbɪ] (a.) 破爛的

17 randomly [ˈrændəmli] (adv.) 任意地

18 hut [hʌt] (n.) 簡陋的小屋

19 complex [ˈkɒmpleks] (a.) 複雜的

20 track [træk] (n.) 小徑

21 steep [sti:p] (a.) 陡峭的

22 incline [ɪnˈklaɪn] (n.) 斜坡

23 alley [ˈæli] (n.) 巷子；胡同



The favela certainly wasn't an easy place to live and young people often turned to a life of crime¹. Bruno suddenly thought of Zeca. Zeca started stealing when he was only eight years old, now he was the neighborhood tough guy². Bruno hadn't seen him for years and he wasn't sorry.

It's an unfair world we live in, Bruno thought. If you're poor you don't get much education and you've little chance of escaping from this situation. Bruno shivered³ and quickly thought of something more positive.

He smiled as he thought of his mom and all the other ordinary⁴ people who lived in the favela, trying to earn an honest living. Day after day they walked up and down the steep steps into Rio to their low-paid, unskilled jobs. But they always had a smile and a big hello for everyone they met.

When he was about eight years old Bruno asked his mother, "Why do we live here and not down there near the beach in those beautiful apartment blocks⁵?"

"That's just the way things are, dear," his mother replied. "In this world there are rich people and there are poor people, and we are poor. There's no way we could ever live like them."

He did not really understand this at that time.

1 crime [kraɪm] (n.) 罪

2 tough guy 惡霸

3 shiver [ˈʃɪvə] (v.) 顫抖

4 ordinary [ˈɔːdn̩,eri] (a.) 普通的

5 block [blɒk] (n.) 街區

6 tattoo [tæˈtu] (n.) 刺青

7 carpe diem [ˈkɑːpe ˈdiːm] (拉)
抓住今天 (=seize the day)

8 profound [prəˈfaʊnd] (a.) 深深的

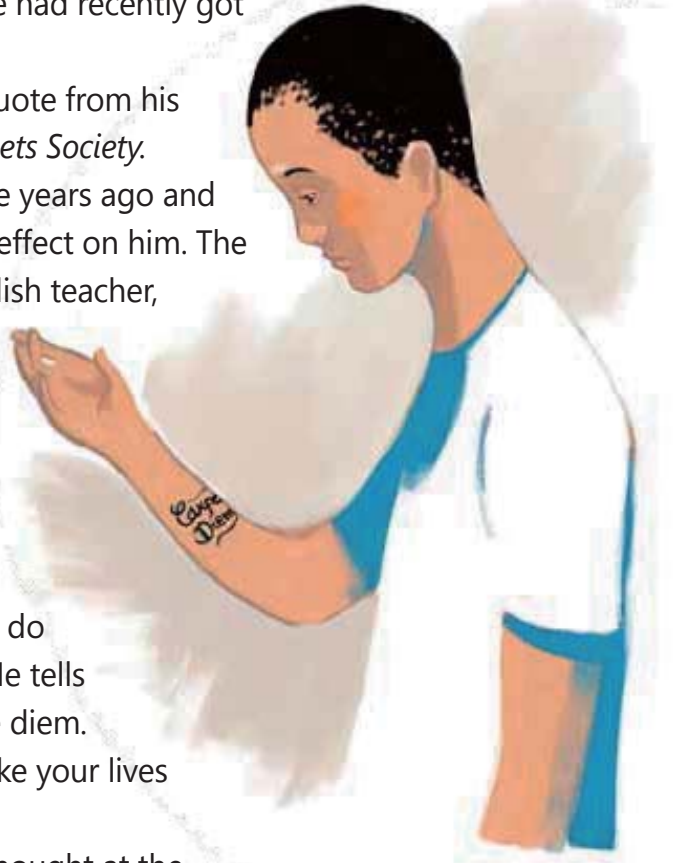
9 unorthodox [ʌnˈɔːθə,dɒks] (a.)
非正統的



Bruno then looked at the inside of his right forearm and the black tattoo⁶ he had recently got done there.

Carpe Diem⁷ was a quote from his favorite movie, *Dead Poets Society*. He'd seen the movie five years ago and it had had a profound⁸ effect on him. The story was about an English teacher, John Keating, in a school for boys. His lessons are unusual and unorthodox⁹ and he inspires his students to change their lives and find the courage to do what they want in life. He tells them constantly, "Carpe diem. Seize the day, boys! Make your lives extraordinary!"

Yes! That's it! Bruno thought at the time. Things are not the way they are just because that's the way they are. We *can* change things. We can live the life we want!



Carpe
Diem