

for the Student

- 👂 Listen to the story and do some activities on your Audio CD.
- 🗣️ Talk about the story.

for the Teacher

Go to our Readers Resource site for information on using readers and downloadable Resource Sheets, photocopiable Worksheets, and Tapescripts. www.helblingreaders.com

You can download the Answer Key from the official site of Cosmos Publisher: www.icosmos.com.tw

For lots of great ideas on using Graded Readers consult Reading Matters, the Teacher's Guide to using Helbling Readers.

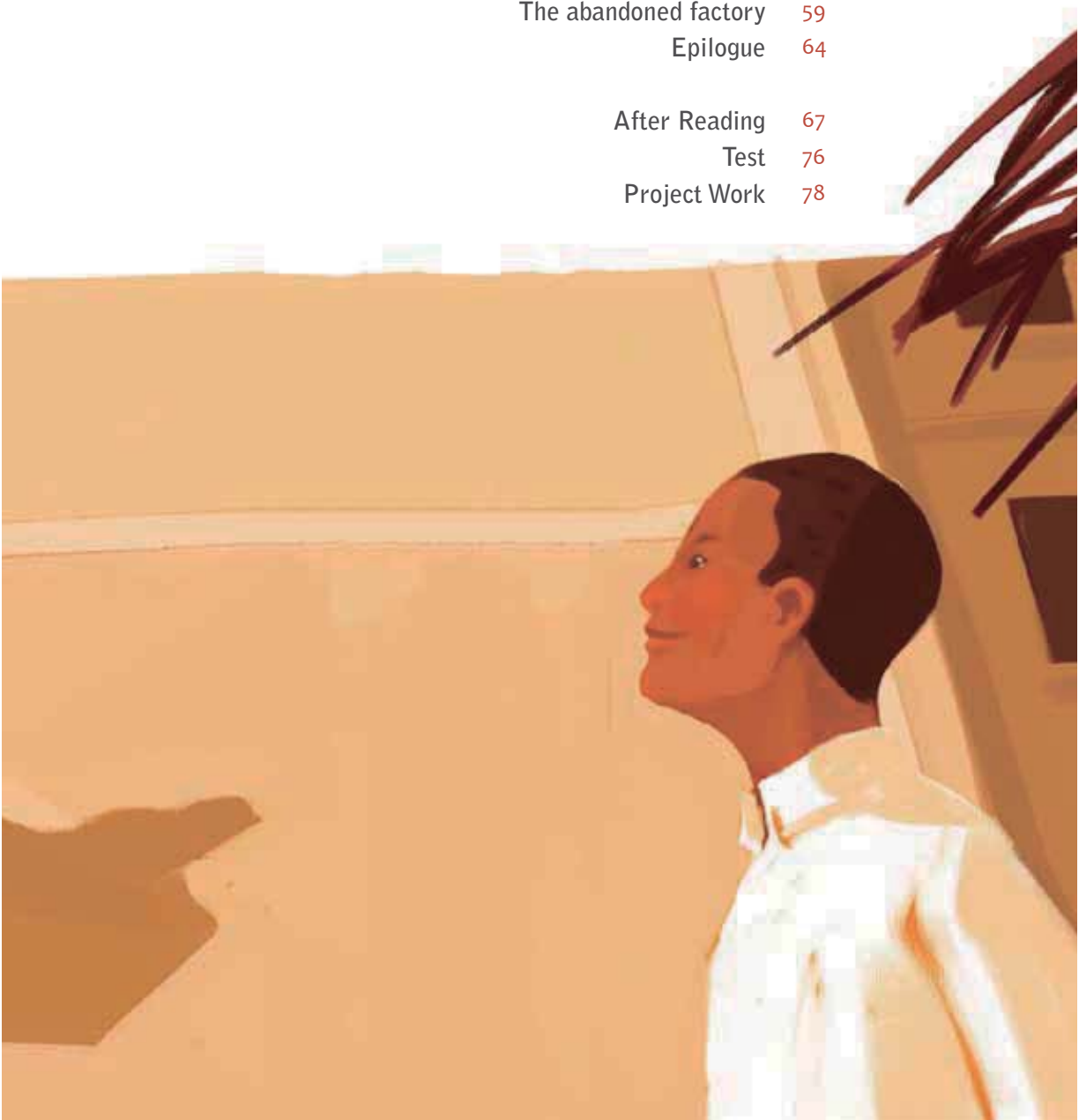
Structures

Modal verb would	Non-defining relative clauses
I'd love to ...	Present perfect continuous
Future continuous	Used to / would
Present perfect future	Used to / used to doing
Reported speech / verbs / questions	Second conditional
Past perfect	Expressing wishes and regrets
Defining relative clauses	

Structures from lower levels are also included.



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MEET THE AUTHOR

Dear Jack, tell us a little about yourself.

I was born in the North of England and studied German and Russian at Liverpool University. After graduation¹ I spent several years traveling around the world, teaching English to finance² the trips.

I then went back to England to do a postgraduate³ 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 begging⁴ to be written, but we rarely take much notice of them. Stories seem to find me, rather than me consciously looking for one. My inspiration 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 up⁵ in the words of the English teacher in the film *Dead Poets Society*—"Seize⁶ the day! Make your lives extraordinary!" We *can* change things. We *can* live the life we want and realize our full potential.

Have you any other stories planned for the future?

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

- 1 **graduation**: when you get a degree at a university
- 2 **finance**: get money for
- 3 **postgraduate**: detailed studies after a degree
- 4 **begging**: (here) asking
- 5 **summed up**: said in few words
- 6 **seize**: take with force

BEFORE READING



Cristo Redentor



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.

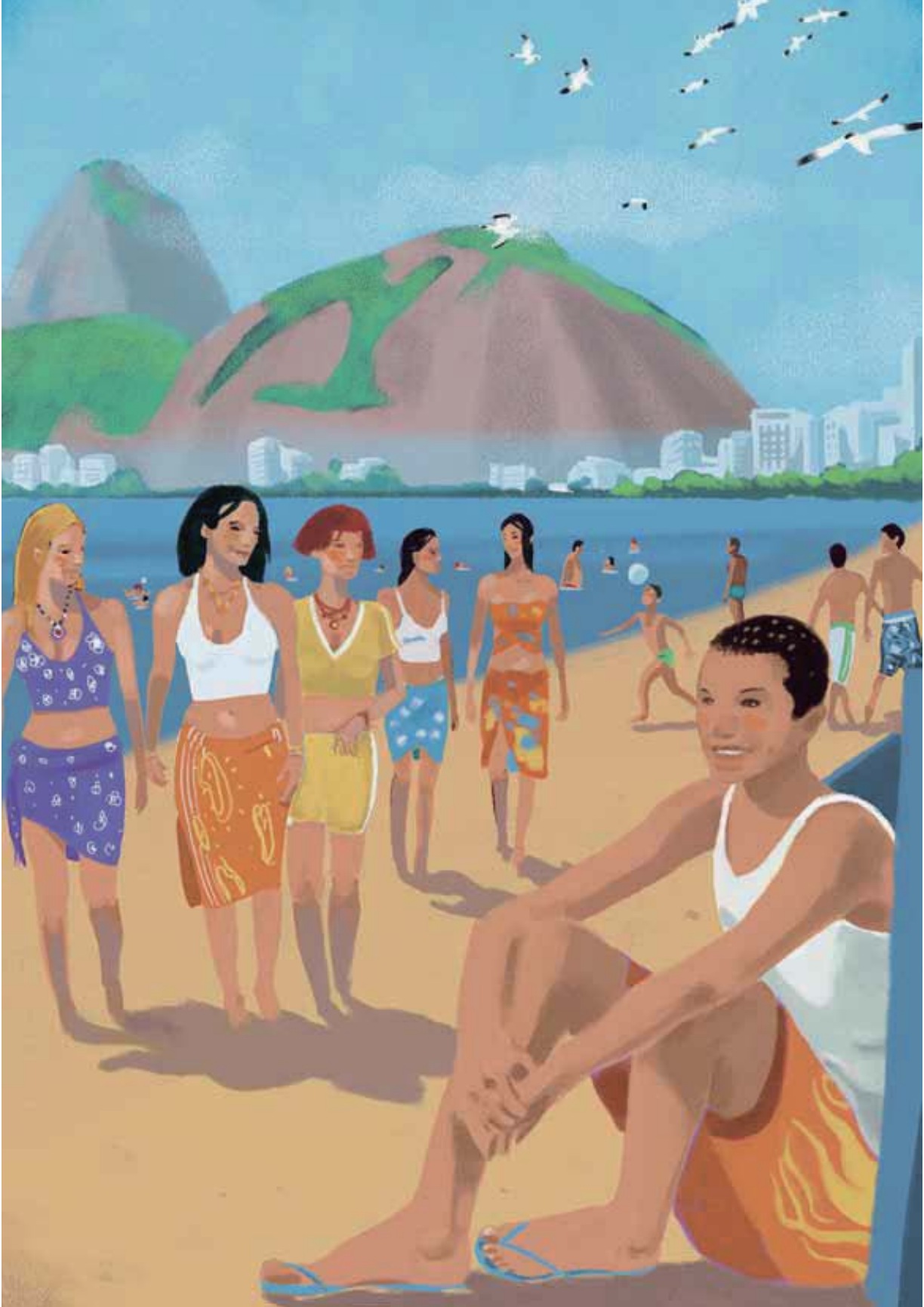
- e) Which country was Brazil a colony of?
① Portugal. ② Great Britain. ③ Spain.
- f) What is the name of the currency in Brazil?
① Dollar. ② Real. ③ Peso.
- g) Brazil's large territory includes different ecosystems, such as
① the Amazon Rainforest.
② the Great Barrier Reef.
③ the Atacama Desert.
- h) 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 humidity 82%. As usual, Bruno was wearing colorful, knee-length Bermuda shorts, a white sleeveless T-shirt, and a pair of blue flip-flops. The warm sea breeze³ 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-black⁴ hair and sparkling dark brown eyes. But Bruno wasn't just another good-looking guy⁵. He was one of life's genuine nice guys. He had a very distinctive, deep voice that was also pleasant and cheerful and warm. But he didn't use his voice to win people over⁶. No, whenever Bruno did say anything, it was always relevant and meaningful.

1 **broad:** (here) big

2 **sultry:** hot and heavy

3 **breeze:** light wind

4 **jet-black:** very black

5 **guy:** male

6 **win people over:** convince people of what he was saying



His classmates at school teased 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 irresistible smiles that light up your day. And he constantly looked on the bright side of things and was optimistic about everything. Quite simply, he was a nice happy guy and you couldn't help but like him.

Bruno gazed¹ blankly at the hustle and bustle² on Ipanema³ beach. The beach was crowded with rich, beautiful people, mainly Brazilians, but there were also lots of wealthy tourists, too. There were the usual sunworshippers⁴ and surfers, and several groups of people playing football, volleyball and footvolley, 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 **gazed:** looked in a fixed way

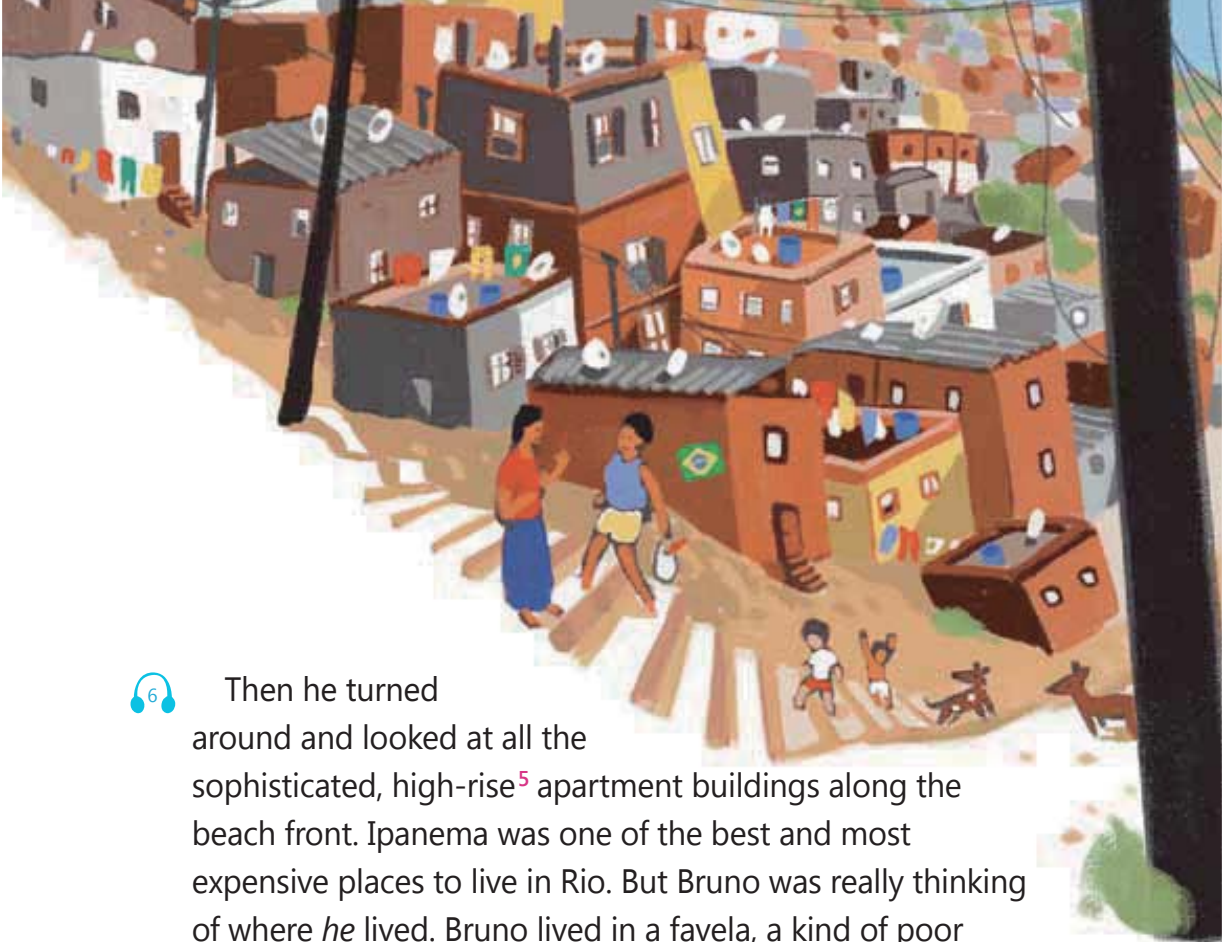
2 **hustle and bustle:** busy movement

3 **Ipanema:** rich neighborhood in the south of Rio de Janeiro

4 **sunworshippers:** people who love lying in the sun

5 **high-rise:** tall (of buildings); with many levels/floors

6 **shanty:** with poor, badly built houses and huts



Then he turned around and looked at all the sophisticated, high-rise⁵ 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 favela, a kind of poor shanty⁶ town, called Morro do Cantagalo, on the hill, behind these expensive flats.

In his mind's eye⁷ he pictured the favela: hundreds of small, shabby⁸, randomly⁹ built huts all crowded¹⁰ close together on the hillside. He thought about the thousands of poor people living there, moving up and down along the complex network of stairways and tracks¹¹, often on steep¹² inclines. The narrow winding alleys¹³ were too small and dangerous for cars and other vehicles.

7 **mind's eye:** imagination

8 **shabby:** in bad condition

9 **randomly:** not planned

10 **crowded:** (here) built close together

11 **tracks:** paths

12 **steep:** difficult to climb

13 **alleys:** narrow streets