Favela Street Kid: The Story of Little Pele

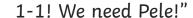
Chapter 1

The mid-afternoon sun was hot and unforgiving in the favela. In this heat, roads melted and the sand burned your feet. It had been in the high thirties for over a week now and Little Pele's Brazilian neighbourhood of narrow lanes, jigsaw bricks and corrugated metal felt like one huge, town-sized oven.

What made matters worse was that it was too hot for the tourists. They had been staying in Rio's air-conditioned hotels and villas for the past few days, which, to a street kid like Little Pele who needed to sell his papayas while they were still ripe, meant no money for his family. It also meant he might have to work on the rubbish dumps to earn some money. He had been wandering the streets all day but hadn't sold anything. Little Pele picked up his crate and headed towards Copacabana beach.

On his way, he came across a game of street football.

"Lil' P!" someone shouted. It was Gabriella, his best friend. "It's the final of 1970 - Brazil versus Italy! It's



Little Pele's passion was football. When he wasn't selling papayas or sifting through rubbish dumps looking for something he could sell, he was kicking a ball with his friends. His family were football-mad as well. His parents named him after Pele - the greatest footballer of all time, his dad said. But his family also

needed money to live. He looked at the papayas and then back at the game. If he didn't sell the papayas,

his family would have no money to buy simple things like bread

and water.

Suddenly, the ball flew over to where he was standing. Little Pele controlled the ball on his chest, juggled it between both feet, balanced it on his head, flicked the ball up and trapped it under his foot.

Sell the papayas or score in a World Cup final? Hmm, it was a tough choice...









Question

Read the first chapter carefully. What does this paragraph tell you about Little Pele's character?

Explain two features of his character, using evidence from the text to support your answer.

[3 marks]			





Answers

Acceptable points:

- 1. hardworking
- 2. caring/devoted/concerned for his family
- 3. passionate/fanatical about football
- 4. upbeat/optimistic

Award 3 marks for two acceptable points, at least one with evidence, e.g.

- I can tell that he's hardworking since he's out in the heat trying to sell papayas to the tourists. He also seems very upbeat despite having a tough life. [AP1 + evidence, AP4]
- Little Pele is devoted to his family because he is willing to work on the rubbish dumps to pay for food for them. He is obsessed with football - it's his life. [AP2 + evidence, AP3].

Award 2 marks for either two acceptable points, or one acceptable point with evidence, e.g.

- It tells you that Little Pele doesn't stop trying to earn money even though the conditions are tough as he cares very much for his family. [AP2 + evidence]
- It tells us that he is fanatical about football and concerned for his family. [AP3 + AP2].

Award 1 mark for one acceptable point, e.g.

- He is very hardworking. [AP1]
- He is very caring and worried about the welfare of his family. [AP2].



