

The Promise by R.L. Scott-Bucleuch

- 1** Gloria. **2** They were very poor. They had had three children before. They had all died. Pedro did not know how to get food for the new baby. **3** 'Will the baby live?' **4** She said to Pedro, 'This boy will grow up and become famous. He will be well-known all over the world. He will give happiness to many people.' And she said to the neighbours, 'The baby will become a great man. One day, he will be rich. He will give happiness to many people and he will help poor people like us.' And then she said to Pedro, 'Be a good father to the boy. One day, he will be a good son to you. That is my promise.' **5** 'Do not lose hope. Remember my words and take good care of him. Be a good father to the boy.'
- 2** **1** Paulo. **2** Palito. It meant 'a thin stick'. Paulo's arms and legs were very thin. **3** He worked as a bus driver. **4** Because their parents died in a fire. Their mother was Pedro's sister, so they were part of his family. **5** Fernanda was the pretty one. Odete was the good student. **6** Football.
- 3** **1** He got a job with the bus company. **2** They were the football team of the Transport Workers' Club. **3** They went to the City Stadium to watch the professional football players. **4** (a) The manager of Bahia Central. (b) The job was to play football for Bahia Central. **5** He wanted Palito to play for Brazil one day. He said players from Bahia teams never played for Brazil. He thought that Palito should wait for a job with a team in Rio or São Paulo. **6** Pedro said that Palito was good enough to play for Brazil one day. **7** To ask the manager of Bahia Central to wait. **8** Yes. **9** To see Palito play for Brazil.
- 4** **1** Palito's friend, Claudio. **2** He wanted to send copies of Claudio's article to the managers of some football teams. They were the managers of the ten best football teams in Rio and São Paulo. **3** News that Palito had been offered a job by a football team. **4** 'Wait and see.' **5** Chico Perez was the manager of White Star. White Star was a football team in São Paulo. **6** He was coming to see Palito.
- 5** **1** (a) Corinthians beat Recife by three goals to one. (b) One. **2** The people lit fires and sang songs and danced. They talked about Palito all night.
- 6** **1** 'Your legs are all right, aren't they?' **2** 'Yes, they're all right. They're twisted and they look funny. But they're strong.' **3** It was a job as a football player with White Star. **4** In São Paulo. **5** He became Senhor Castro's driver. **6** Fernanda and Odete worked as servants for Senhora Castro. Maria made dresses for Senhora Castro and her friends. **7** Antonio and Waldir. They were players in White Star. **8** The crowd were cheering his son at every game.
- 7** **1** She worked for film and television companies. She put make-up on the faces of the actresses. **2** She worked hard and Palito did not see her very often. She wanted to become rich. **3** For Dr Silveira. He was a well-known children's doctor. **4** Palito's legs were becoming more twisted. **5** The team doctor said that his legs must be x-rayed. **6** No. **7** They said that he was going to be chosen for the Brazilian team. **8** A defender from the other team became angry because Palito often tricked him. When Palito did this, the crowd laughed. The defender kicked Palito hard on the legs.
- 8** **1** He said that the bones in Palito's legs were twisted. This was because he did not have enough to eat when he was a baby. He had been playing too much football and the strain had been too great for his legs. **2** He planned to break Palito's legs then set them again. Then the bones would grow straight. **3** 'I don't know. Perhaps after three months. But it'll probably be much longer.'
- 9** **1** She was afraid of hospitals. **2** Fernanda was moving far away from them and from the family. **3** The Brazilian team. **4** At least three months. **5** (a) She looked very, very beautiful. (b) Fernanda won third prize. Palito was angry that she did not win first prize. **6** She had a part in a film. **7** They did not want her to go. **8** She said that they had both changed so much. She said that it was all over.
- 10** **1** They were completely white and they were much straighter. **2** 'Soon.' **3** He could not run fast. And his old skills were gone. **4** He needed a lot more practice. He was not good enough for the first team. **5** Palito began to drink a lot. He stayed in bed late. Sometimes he did not go for training.
- 11** **1** Because the party was for Antonio. Palito was jealous of Antonio's success. **2** He said, 'You have new legs now. You need more time to get used to them.' **3** He decided to try once again and to try even harder. **4** On the football field. He was training.
- 12** **1** Senhor Tonoko. **2** To Senhor Tonoko's gymnasium. **3** All Palito's friends. And Dr Silveira and Odete. **4** He said he wanted Palito back in the first team the next Sunday.
- 13** **1** To the seaside. **2** (a) He was going to join the Brazilian team. (b) Chico. (c) Pedro.
- 14** **1** A team from Europe. **2** Badly. The Europeans scored a goal. **3** He told them to use the wings more. He told them to use Palito on the right. **4** Brazil beat the Europeans by two goals to one. **5** Antonio and Palito. **6** Odete. **7** He knew that Palito had asked Odete to marry him.
- 15** **1** (a) That Palito would be famous. That he would give happiness to many people. And that he would help poor people. (b) His name was known in many countries all over the world. Many thousands of people enjoyed watching Palito on the football field. And the children's hospital in Bahia gave help to many poor, sick children.