

# Favela Street Kid

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 1-1! We need Pele!"

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. 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...



1. What do you think papayas are? Give a reason for your answer.

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2. What did Little Pele do when he wasn't selling papayas or sifting through rubbish dumps?

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3. Was it really a World Cup Final? Explain your answer.

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4. What do you think Little Pele will do next?

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1. What do you think papayas are? Give a reason for your answer.

**Fruit because it says Little Pele needed to sell them while they were still ripe.**

2. What did Little Pele do when he wasn't selling papayas or sifting through rubbish dumps?

**He was kicking a ball with friends / playing football.**

3. Was it really a World Cup Final? Explain your answer.

**Award 1 mark if the answer is:**

**'No' (and a reason is given referencing the fact that the game is between friends who are pretending it is a World Cup Final).**

4. What do you think Little Pele will do next?

**Award marks (up to 2 maximum) for answers that are consistent with the story so far.**

**Little Pele doesn't play and goes off to sell    Little Pele plays football and the the papayas and the consequences of that.    consequences of that. E.g.:**

**E.g.:**

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|--|--|
| • feels left out                             | • happy to play but feels bad/guilty                           |
| • the others tease/bully him                 | • scores goal/plays well/badly                                 |
| • sells lots of papayas/<br>doesn't sell any | • fruit goes off in the heat                                   |
| • able to buy food and water                 | • family go hungry   |
| • might play football after anyway           | • because of his actions he has<br>to work on the rubbish dump |