



- ▶ The three wide ladies had been to a party and described what they had eaten there (p.21). Write a menu for your ideal dinner, stating what drinks will accompany each course. Design this menu carefully, and discuss it with a parent/guardian or your teacher. Perhaps you might be able to cook the meal for your family or in class with your friends.
- ▶ The three women each 'had to sit in the chairs and try them for size and comfort, throwing themselves back in them and laying their arms along to see if they were the right height and length' (p.24). Does this remind you of any other story? Imagine a meeting between these three women and Goldilocks, after she had visited the three bears and tried out their furniture. Write the conversation that took place as they discussed what they wanted in chairs and beds.
- ▶ 'A chair is a chair. You'd think it was camels they were buying at the very least' (p.25). Write some more nonsensical comparisons of your own – be as imaginative as possible!
- ▶ Luca thought that Alfredo and Carmine were 'extravagant' because they paid extra to sit at a table and have their coffee, when they could have their 'coffee at half price standing at the counter' (p.27). Do you agree with him? Have you ever been to a bar or restaurant where it cost more to sit outside than inside? Can you think of reasons for the different charges? Where would you choose to sit and why?
- ▶ Read carefully the description of the journey to Frascati (pp. 29–30). Then sketch or paint a picture of any scene you like – you might choose to paint the Villa Aldobrandini or the square in front of the Cathedral or the terrace with trestle tables and wine shops.
- ▶ Pierino knew that he would never work for the man with the 'pale-green eyes like a goat', 'not at any price' (pp. 35–37). Have you ever felt you couldn't trust someone because of some facial or other feature? Describe an untrustworthy person, using colourful similes. Remember, a simile compares one thing with another, though they may not really be alike.

