



- ▶ Luca said that 'Rome is full of thieves and robbers that would take the milk out of a poor man's coffee and come back for the sugar' (p.41). Write similar inventive and colourful sentences about your own city or town.
- ▶ The customer who had wanted to buy the dogs cheaply was eventually shamed into paying the full price (p.44). Write the conversation he might have had with his wife or family member when he returned home with his purchase. Begin like this: 'Look at the two iron fire-dogs I bought today. Aren't they lovely, with their brass toes? I got them from ...'
- ▶ The following words are used in these pages. Write a meaning for each word and then try to include as many of the words as possible, in one long sentence: Indignant(ly), dejected, consoling(ly), mascot(s), display(ed), fearing, conversation.
- ▶ Anna tried to console Luca and said that they had managed all right before they had the Five Hundred, but Pierino felt weighed down by his father's 'weary, sad voice' and decided to try and find the car (p.47). Would you have agreed with Anna or with Luca, or would you have left the search to the policeman? Think about what you might have done and give your reasons.
- ▶ Pierino noticed a few things that led him to believe that this 'certainly was a strange policeman' (p.49). Write all the clues you can find in this chapter. Would you have followed this strange policeman, or would you have told your suspicions to some friend or relation?
- ▶ The strange policeman sometimes 'paused at a sweet stall and took one or two sweets to eat but he never offered to pay for them ...' What might the stall-holders whose sweets had been taken by this man have been saying behind his back? Write the dialogue.
- ▶ The author uses descriptive language to describe the conversation between the two men on pages 50–52. Make a list of all the words and phrases which you think bring the conversation to life.
- ▶ Select a scene from these pages which appeals to you and draw or paint it. Make sure you give your picture a suitable title.

