

# A Trip to Rio

A Reading A-Z Level M Leveled Book  
Word Count: 578

## Connections

### Writing

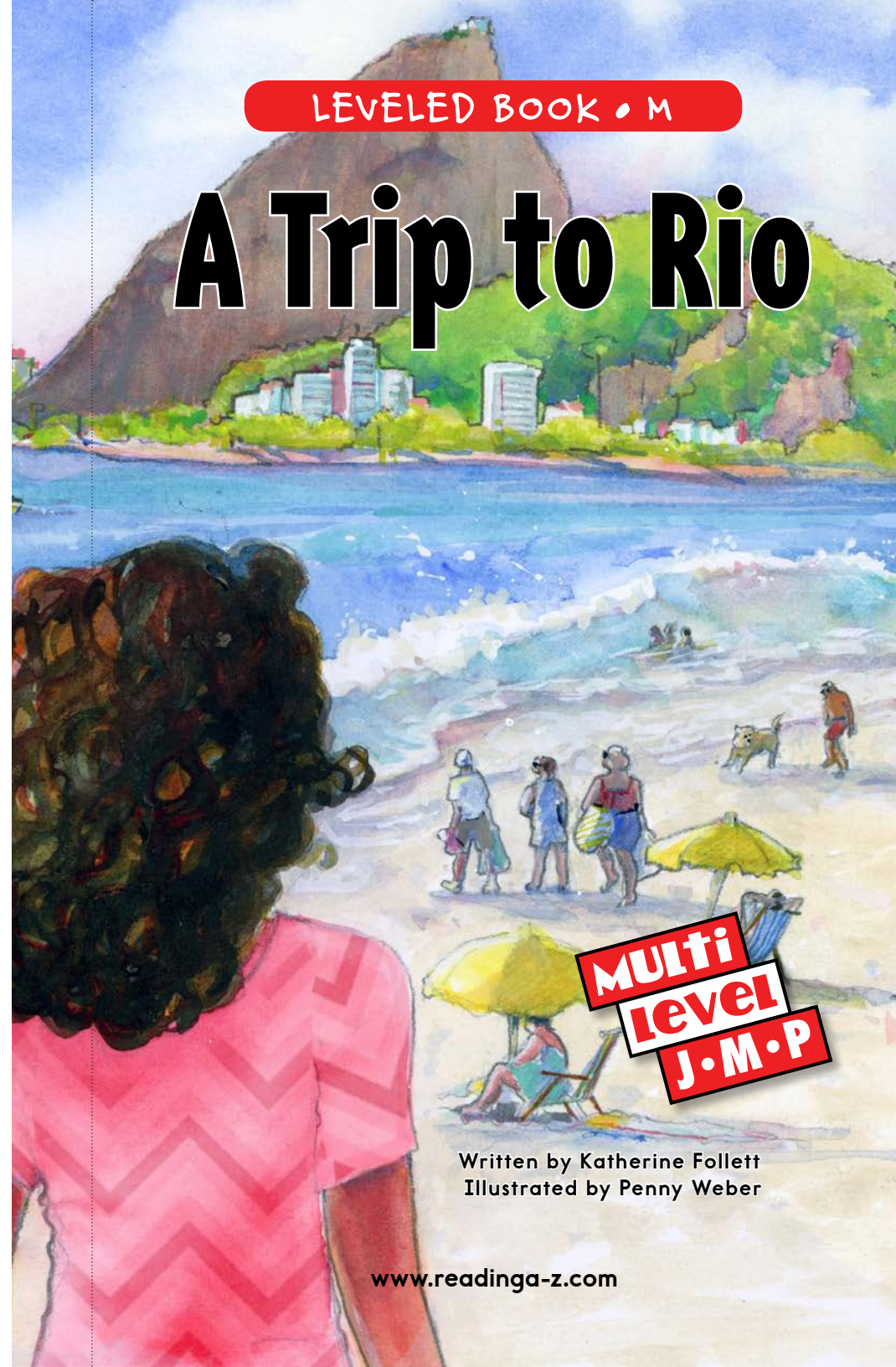
Imagine you are Julia and are visiting Rio de Janeiro for the Olympic Games. Write a postcard home to your teacher. Tell about what you saw and what you did there.

### Social Studies and Art

Make a poster about Brazil. Include a map and information about the country. Present your poster to your class.

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LEVELED BOOK • M

# A Trip to Rio

**Multi  
level  
J•M•P**

Written by Katherine Follett  
Illustrated by Penny Weber

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## Focus Question

How does Julia's attitude change during the story?

## Words to Know

cable car  
festivities  
mangoes  
nervous  
Olympics

Portuguese  
referee  
samba  
stadium

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Level M Leveled Book  
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## Correlation

### LEVEL M

Fountas & Pinnell	L
Reading Recovery	19
DRA	24





Julia and her family waited to get into the **stadium**. The huge crowd made her **nervous**. She did not remember Rio de Janeiro being so busy last time her family visited from New York.

“It’s because of the **Olympics**,” her cousin Gabriela said.



They finally got to their seats. Julia heard different languages all around her, from Chinese to Russian. Her family spoke **Portuguese** so fast that Julia could not understand. She felt alone.

### Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Rio de Janeiro is the second-largest city in the country of Brazil. It is known for its food, music, beaches, and lively celebrations.





The opening-night **festivities** began. Everyone screamed and cheered.

Julia wanted to be excited, too. But their seats were so far away that she could barely see. The loud music made her head hurt.

Julia had been looking forward to this trip to Rio. It was a rare chance to see her cousins and other family members. Now, she just wanted to go home.



The next morning was quiet. Suddenly, Gabriela burst into Julia's room. Her little brother, Chaz, followed. "There's another Olympic event today!" she said. Julia did not really want to go. Her head began to hurt again, but she smiled and got ready.

The families walked through shady streets in Gabriela's neighborhood. The block ended at a park. Gabriela grabbed Julia's hand and ran through the trees. They came out on a beach.





Julia stopped and stared. Rio was beautiful. Tall buildings stood along the water. A big mountain rose behind them.

“That’s Sugarloaf Mountain,” Gabriela said.

White sails floated on the blue bay. It was an Olympic boat race. Julia’s headache went away.



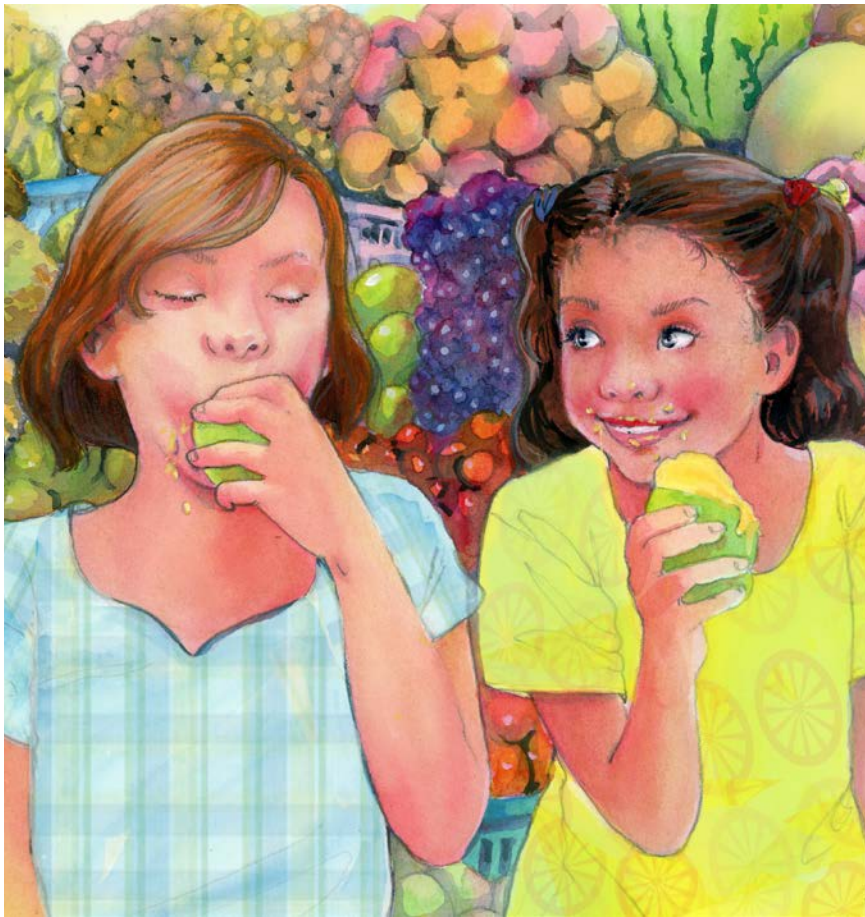
The next day, Julia ran to Gabriela’s room. “We’re going up Sugarloaf Mountain!” she said.

They rode a **cable car** hanging high above the city. Gabriela was scared to be up so high, but Julia stared out the window. The white city stood between blue water, green jungle, and tall gray mountains.

## Rio’s Mountains

Rio is surrounded by dome-shaped mountains. Sugarloaf is the steepest. Corcovado Mountain is the tallest. A 125-foot (38.1-meter) statue called *Christ the Redeemer* stands at its top.

They went to a big market. The **mangoes** were wonderful. “This is what they’re supposed to taste like,” Papa said in Portuguese. At home, they spoke English. But in Rio, Julia liked to speak Portuguese.



They went to the Olympic swimming pool to see a race.

Chaz kept shouting, “Go Brazil!”

“Brazil is not even in this event!”

Gabriela finally said.

“Oh,” Chaz said. He grinned at Julia.

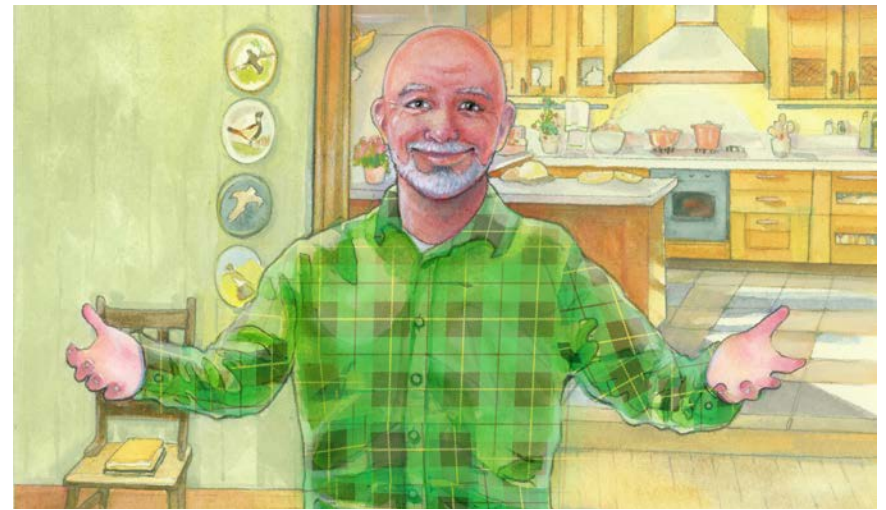
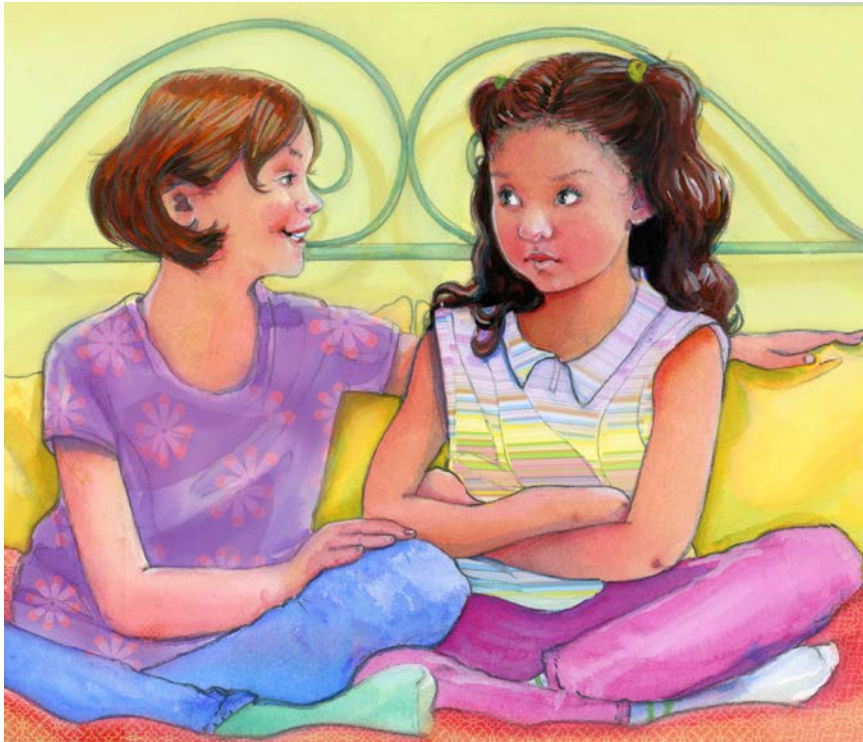
“Go America!”

Julia laughed.



It was Julia's last day in Rio. Gabriela said, "We're going to Grandma and Grandpa's. Then we will go to an Olympic football game."

Julia remembered her first night in Rio. She didn't want to go back to the stadium.



Grandpa opened the door to greet them. Suddenly, everything seemed familiar. Julia remembered visiting their house when she was five. Grandpa taught her to **samba**. She had laughed and laughed.

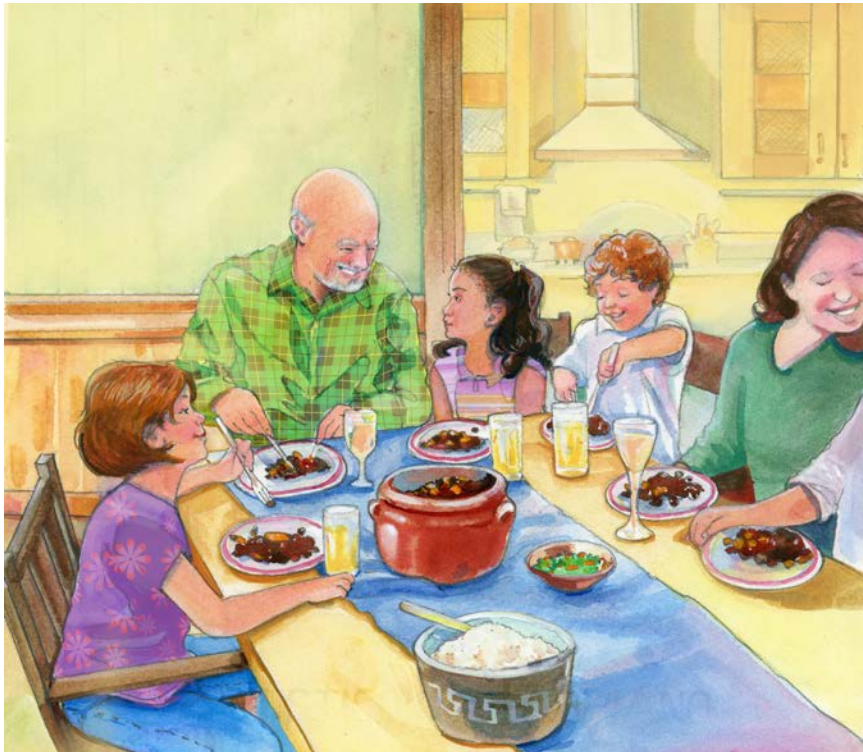
They ate Grandma's *feijoada* (fayzh-WAH-duh), or bean stew. Julia sat next to Grandpa.

### *Feijoada*

*Feijoada* is a traditional bean stew with pork and spicy sausages. Considered the national dish of Brazil, it cooks for many hours and is usually saved for special family celebrations.

"I don't want to go to the football game," Julia whispered, and Grandpa leaned close. "Opening night was too loud. The crowd was too big. I'm scared to go."

"Don't worry, my Julia," Grandpa said. "At football games, all Brazilians are family."

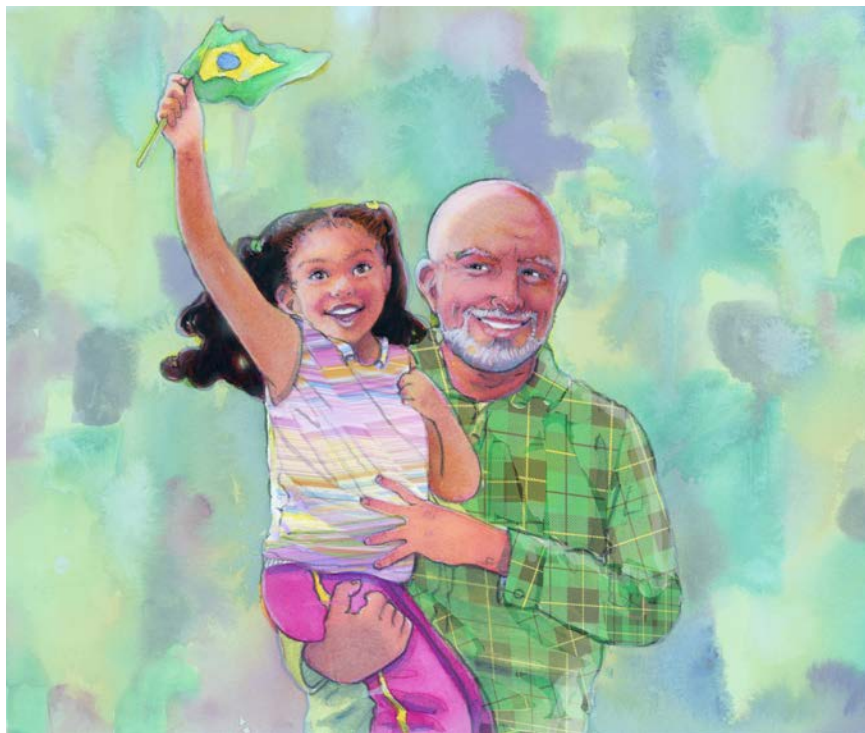


At the stadium, Julia held Gabriela's and Grandpa's hands. The crowd seemed even louder.

When Brazil took a shot, everyone gasped. When the **referee** blew the whistle, everyone yelled. When Brazil ran toward the goal, everyone cheered.

Julia got caught up in the game. The crowd made it exciting. She cheered, too.





Then, Brazil scored a goal. The whole stadium roared. Julia would never forget the sound.

Grandpa lifted Julia in the air. Together, they sang with the crowd.

### ***Brazilian Football***

Football, or soccer, is the national sport of Brazil. Brazilian players are among the best in the world. Brazil is also known for its passionate fans. They have many songs and chants to support their teams.

## **Glossary**

- cable car** (*n.*) a vehicle that is pulled by a cable (p. 8)
- festivities** (*n.*) celebrations that are part of a party, ceremony, or festival (p. 5)
- mangoes** (*n.*) sweet, juicy fruits with yellow and red skin (p. 9)
- nervous** (*adj.*) edgy or tense; afraid (p. 3)
- Olympics** (*n.*) an international contest and festival that involves many kinds of sports (p. 3)
- Portuguese** (*n.*) the main language of Portugal and Brazil (p. 4)
- referee** (*n.*) a judge of a game or match who makes sure the rules are followed (p. 14)
- samba** (*v.*) to do a Brazilian dance of African origin (p. 12)
- stadium** (*n.*) a place with many seats where people watch sports or other activities (p. 3)