

Walking in Roman Footsteps

A Reading A-Z Level Q Leveled Book

Word Count: 891

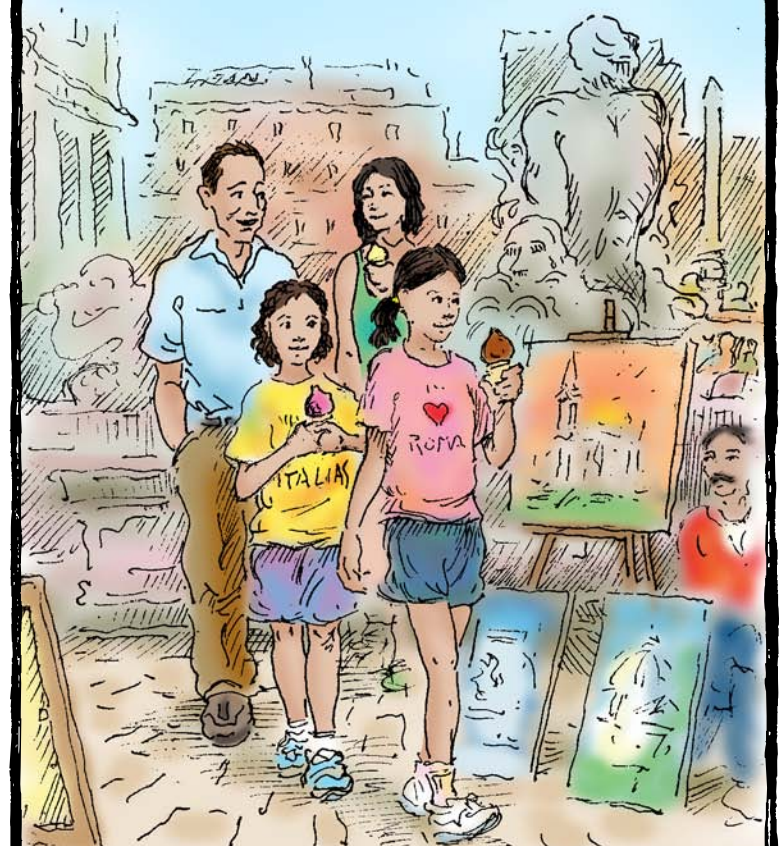


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Walking in Roman Footsteps



Written by Sherry Sterling
Illustrated by Donald Cook

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Level Q Leveled Book
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Correlation

LEVEL Q

Fountas & Pinnell	N
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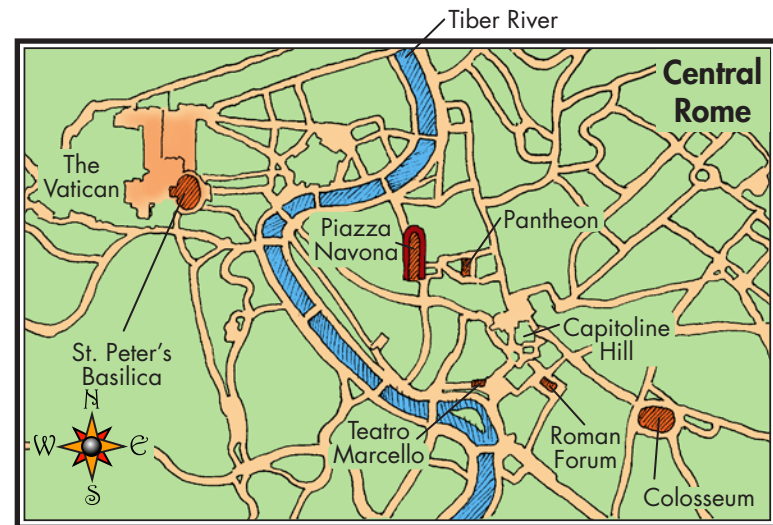
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Bound for Rome

Andria and Rosa live in New York City with their parents. They know that their great-grandparents and earlier **ancestors** lived in Italy. The girls' parents take them on a trip to Rome, Italy, to learn about their family's past.

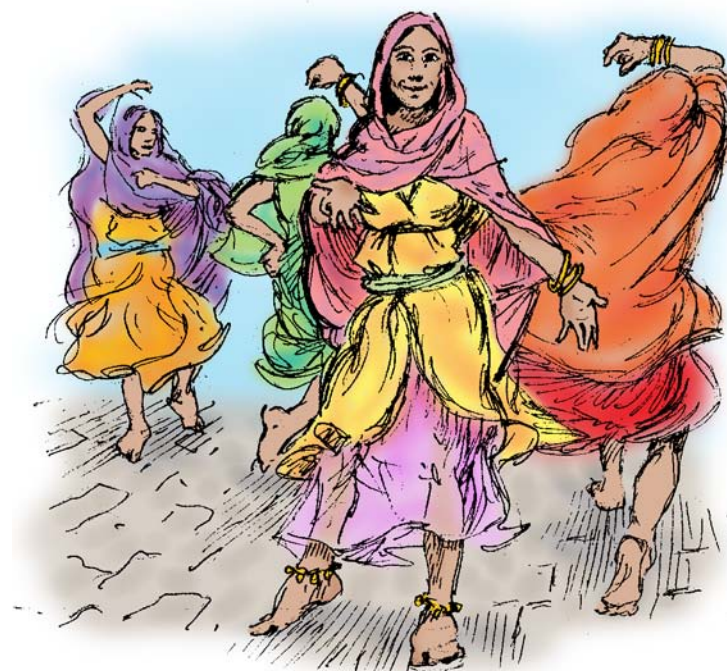
After landing at the airport in Rome, they check into their hotel and then take a city tour. First, they see where their ancestors lived. Then the girls learn about some of the places built over 2,600 years ago. Among the ancient ruins they see are those of the **Colosseum**, the **Roman Forum**, and the *Teatro* (tay-AH-trow) Marcello.





After exploring more of Rome's historic streets, the family stops in the *Piazza* (pea-AH-tsa) Navona for lunch. Shops and cafes line the outside of its oval shape. In the center, artists gather to sell their paintings near the fountains.

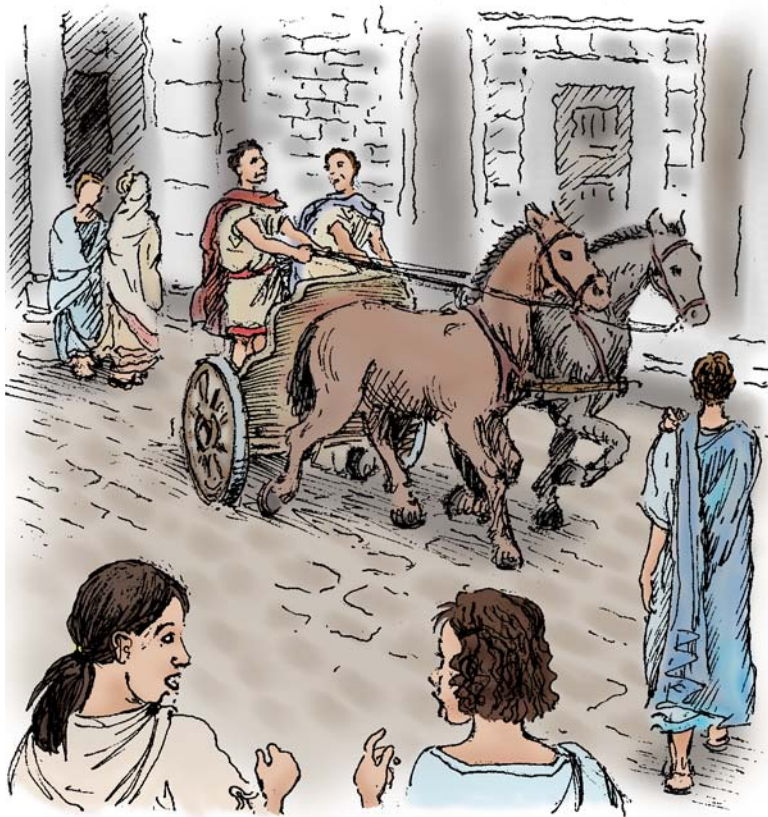
In the piazza, the family eats *mozzarella* (mot-suh-REL-uh) and tomato *panini* (pa-NEE-nee), then they watch the costumed performers—who are standing as still as statues. When someone drops a coin in the bucket in front of the performers, they move like a mechanical wind-up doll. Then stop—and stand totally still once again.



Dance to the Past

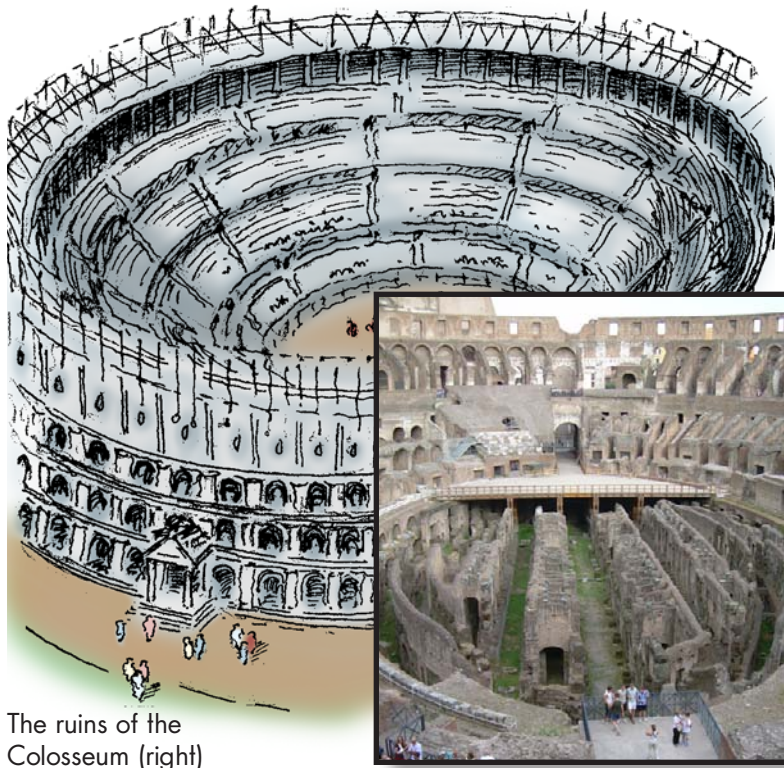
The family buys *gelato* (je-LAH-toe) and walks among the art booths. The girls hear tinkling bells and notice a group of women dancing in swirling skirts. Then one of the dancers smiles strangely, right at the sisters. She draws Andria and Rosa into the dance. When the woman says something to them in her **native tongue**, the girls flash worried looks at their parents. But their parents only smile at them and clap with the music.

As the performers keep whirling the girls around, everything around them blurs. Andria and Rosa feel dizzy, so they sit down by a fountain and search the crowd for their parents' faces. But something's wrong—the crowd is now dressed in **ancient**-looking clothes. Instead of cars, horses and chariots have filled the streets. The girls look at each other with wide eyes, not understanding what has happened.



Andria feels a gentle touch on her shoulder. The gypsy woman who included them in the dance is next to her, talking. But now Andria can understand her words. The dancer tells the girls, “You have been taken back in time to learn how Rome was built—layer upon layer, new upon old. To return to your own time, you must discover three places where the new is built on or around the old. Each time you do, you will get a surprise.”

The girls begin by taking a chariot ride to the Colosseum. But it looks different. The worn and broken red brick walls they saw on the city tour have disappeared. And its tall, circular shape is whole again. It looks new—and now stands covered with gleaming white marble. The awnings at the top are unrolled, giving shade to the thousands of spectators inside. Andria and Rosa hear the crowd roar as the Roman citizens watch the games.



The ruins of the Colosseum (right)



St. Peter's Basilica has a great dome as part of its roof.

Rosa remembers hearing their family's tour guide explain that marble once covered the walls, steps, and seats of the Colosseum. And that, when St. Peter's **Basilica** was built in Vatican City, on the other side of Rome, some of the Colosseum's marble was used to cover the floors. Suddenly Rosa feels something heavy in her pocket—and excitedly pulls out a gold coin to show Andria. Big grins spread across their faces. They are on the right track!

From the Colosseum, they follow the rough stone street up the hill to the Roman Forum. Andria circles the Arch of Titus, built in about AD 84, looking for the road made of large stones that they had walked on the day before. They saw the road with their parents. But now—it isn't there.



The stone road leads to the Arch of Titus, which was built centuries after the road.



Andria realizes why. When this arch was built, people couldn't see the street, either—it was covered by centuries of dirt! Augustus Caesar had built the ancient street in 6 BC. Almost a hundred years later, Titus built the arch on top of the dirt. Even back then, the Romans were building on and around their past. Andria feels a weight in her pocket. She pulls out a gold coin and waves it in triumph!



Teatro
Marcello
(left)



Basilica di
San Nicola
in Carcere
(below)

The girls walk through the Roman Forum and up Capitoline Hill. On their left, they see the ancient pillars and arches of *Teatro Marcello*. They both remember their guide telling them that new **condominiums** have been built above the old arches of the teatro. And they see that the church next door used pillars of an ancient building to make part of its outside wall. A third gold coin rolls in the street toward them!

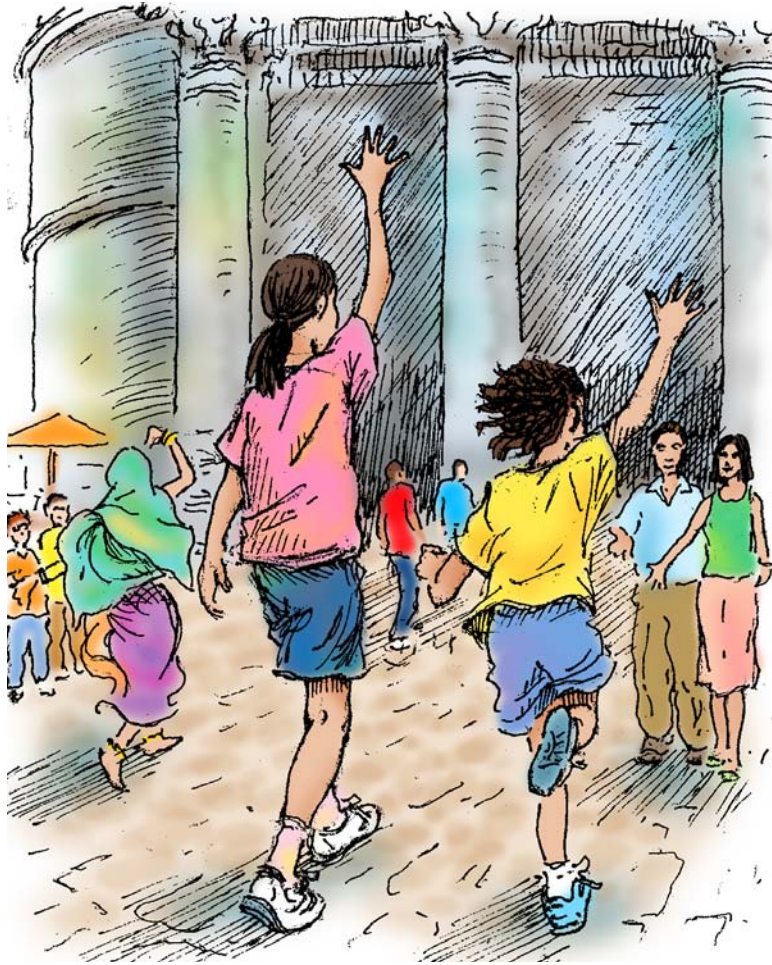


The Pantheon is the round-looking building with columns. The street actually runs much higher today than it did when the Pantheon was built.

Pockets Full of Coins

Andria and Rosa found their three clues! Immediately, the past melts away, and once again they hear the honking of car horns. It's today again—and the dancer is beside them. She leads them to the **Pantheon**. Andria points to the 15-foot slope next to the ancient temple and says “See, the street level of today is much higher than the street used to be.”

The girls now know that without the past, the new would have nothing to stand on. In many ways, the new depends on the old. After nodding to each other with pride, they see their parents waiting for them with open arms. The girls run to them, waving their coins and shouting, "Let's get more gelato!"



Glossary

ancestors (<i>n.</i>)	people in a family who lived long ago, earlier than grandparents (p. 4)
ancient (<i>adj.</i>)	very old (p. 7)
basilica (<i>n.</i>)	a style of building used in ancient Rome for public meetings and later used for churches (p. 10)
Colosseum (<i>n.</i>)	the name used for the amphitheater in Rome because it was so large, or colossal; also spelled coliseum (p. 4)
condominiums (<i>n.</i>)	separate homes or apartments that are part of one building (p. 13)
gelato (<i>n.</i>)	Italian word for a frozen dessert like ice cream (p. 6)
native tongue (<i>n.</i>)	the language someone grows up speaking (p. 6)
panini (<i>n.</i>)	Italian word for toasted sandwiches (p. 5)
Pantheon (<i>n.</i>)	a temple for the Roman gods (p. 14)
piazza (<i>n.</i>)	Italian word for plaza, or a public area (p. 5)
Roman Forum (<i>n.</i>)	the center of business and law in ancient Rome (p. 4)
teatro (<i>n.</i>)	Italian word for theater (p. 4)