

Stage 2

**Longman
Structural
Readers**

On the road

Donn Byrne



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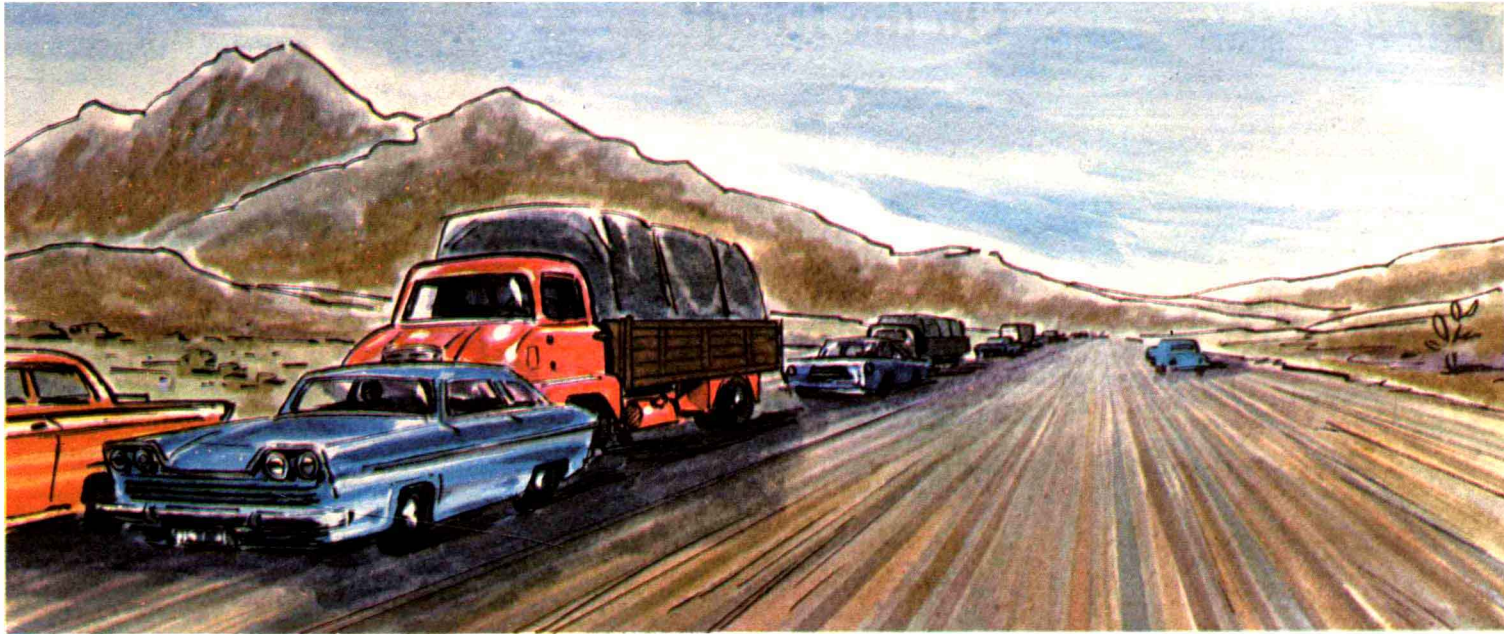
On the Road

Longman
Structural
Readers

Donn Byrne
Illustrated by
Mervyn Stuart

revised impression



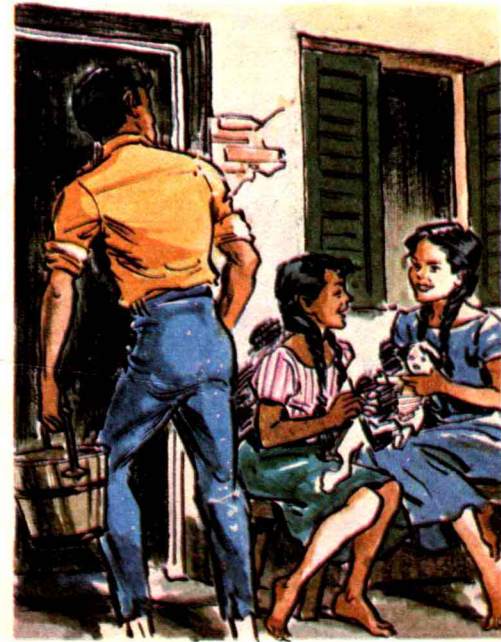


Part One

This is the road to the city. It is a big road and there are cars and trucks on it. The cars and trucks are going to the city. The city is six hundred kilometres from here.



This is a small village in the mountains. It is nearly twenty kilometres from the road. The people in this village are poor and their houses are small.



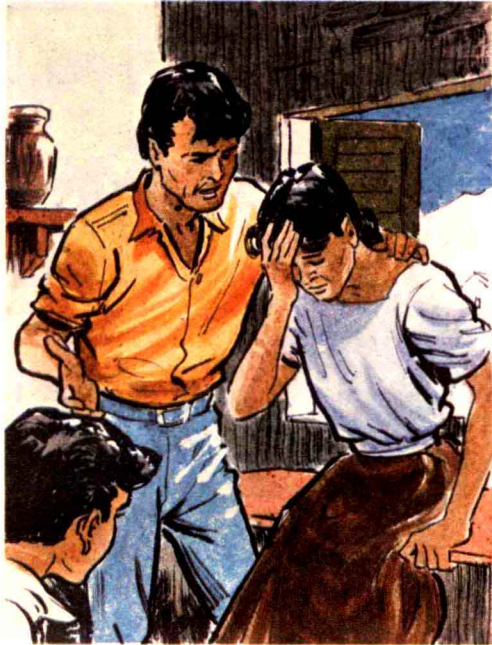
This house is in the village. It is small but there is a large family in it. There are eight people in the family.



The woman is crying. She says to the man: "We don't have any money. Our children are hungry and I don't have any food for them."



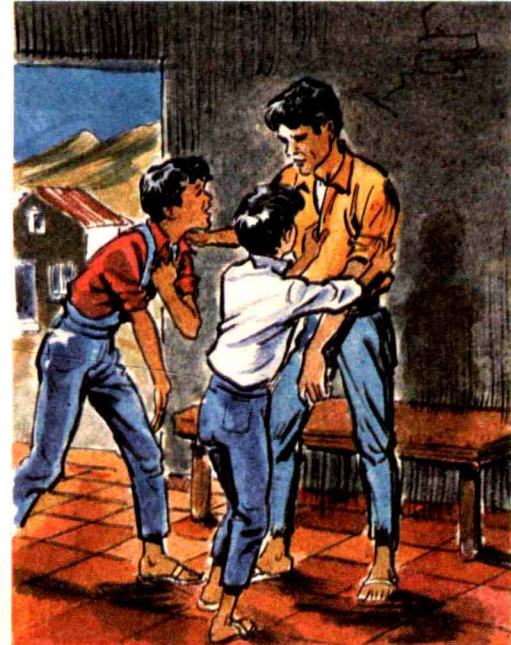
The man is looking at his family. He is sad. His children are hungry. What can he do for them? There isn't any work for him in the village and he can't get money there.



The man says to the woman: "I can go to the big city and I can find work there. There's work in the city. I can't stay here. What can I do in the village?"



These two boys are the man's sons. Their names are Pedro and Carlos. Pedro and Carlos are big boys. They are strong, too.



The two boys say to their father: "Can you take us with you? We're big and strong, and we can work in the city, too."



Their father answers them: "I can take one son with me. I can't take two. Which one of you will come?"



Pedro takes his father's hand and says: "Take me, Father. Carlos can look after the family." Carlos says: "No, father. Leave Pedro here. He can look after the family."



The man has two pieces of paper and he has written the word YES on the first piece. Now he is writing NO on the second piece.



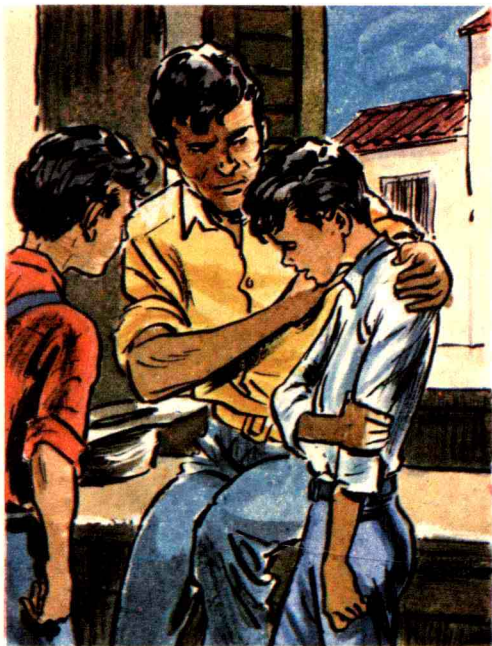
Now the two pieces are in his hat. The man says to his sons: "Shut your eyes. Put your hand into my hat and take out one piece of paper."



Carlos takes a piece of paper out of the hat and looks at it. He says: "The word NO is on my piece." Carlos is very sad because he cannot go with his father.



Pedro looks at his piece of paper. He says: "The word YES is on my piece. I can come with you, Father." Pedro is very happy.



The man says to Carlos: "Be a good son, Carlos. Stay here and look after your mother. Look after your sisters, too. Pedro and I must go to the city."



Now he says to Pedro: "Put some clothes in a bag, and then go to bed. It's a long way to the city. We must get up early."



Part Two

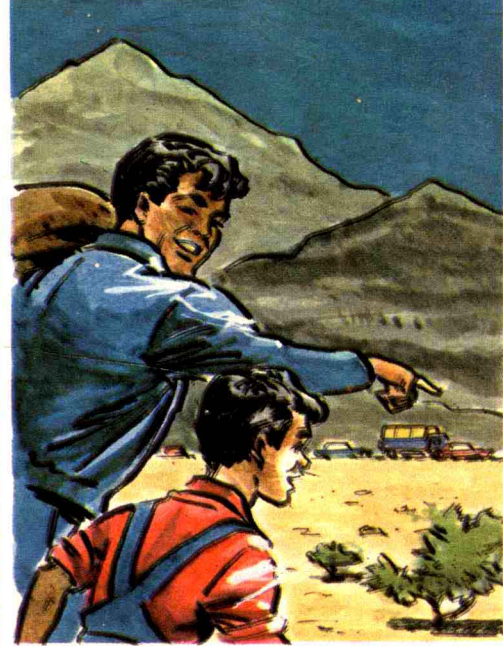
Now it is morning. The sun is coming up behind the mountains. Pedro and his father are leaving their home. Carlos is standing near his mother. She is crying.



Pedro and his father are walking to the big road. Pedro's father has a bag on his back. There are some clothes and a little food in it. Pedro is carrying a small bag.



Pedro's father says to his son: "There are trucks on the big road. We can stop one of these trucks. Perhaps we can go to the city in a truck."



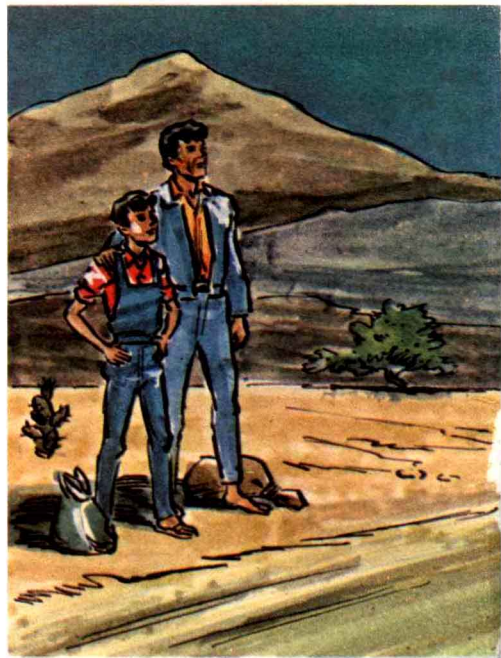
Pedro's father can see the big road. He points at it and says: "Look, Pedro. Look down there. What can you see?"



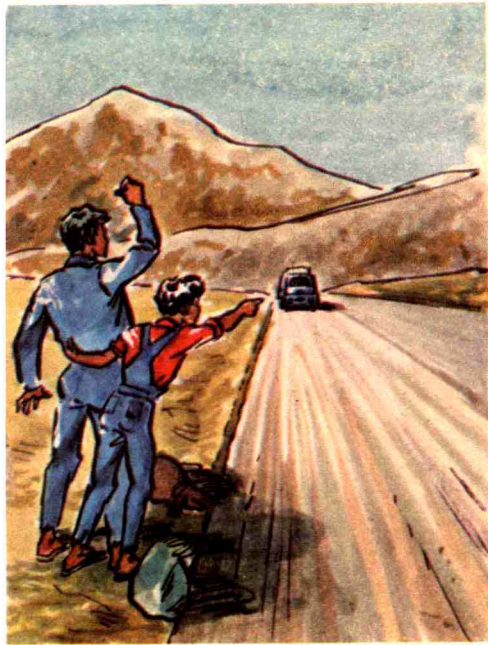
Pedro answers: "I can see the big road. It's the road to the city. Look at the trucks on it." Pedro is pointing at the trucks.



Pedro and his father are running to the big road. Pedro is holding his father's hand. They are very near the road now.



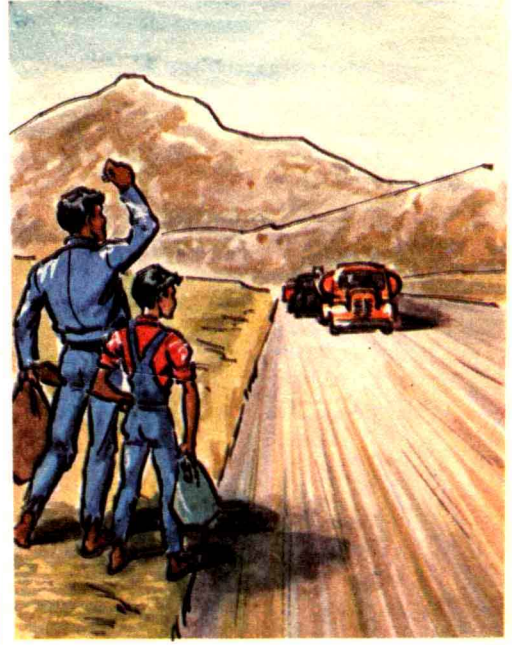
Pedro and his father have run to the big road. Now they are standing beside the road. They are waiting for a truck. They have put their bags on the ground.



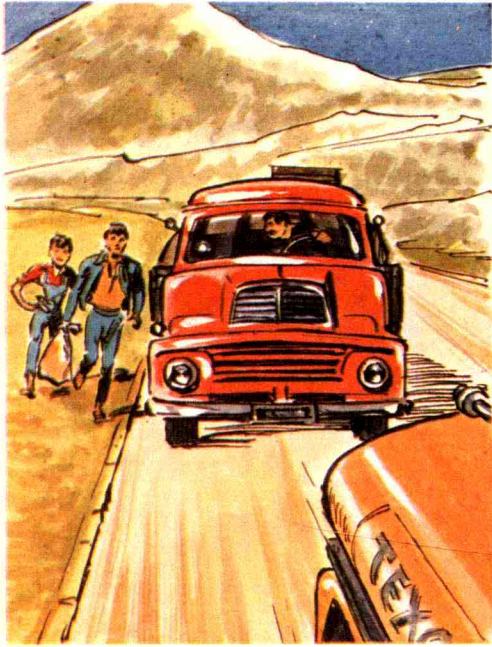
Pedro and his father are waiting for a truck. Pedro points and says: "Look, Father. A big truck is coming now. Can you stop it?" Pedro's father raises his hand.



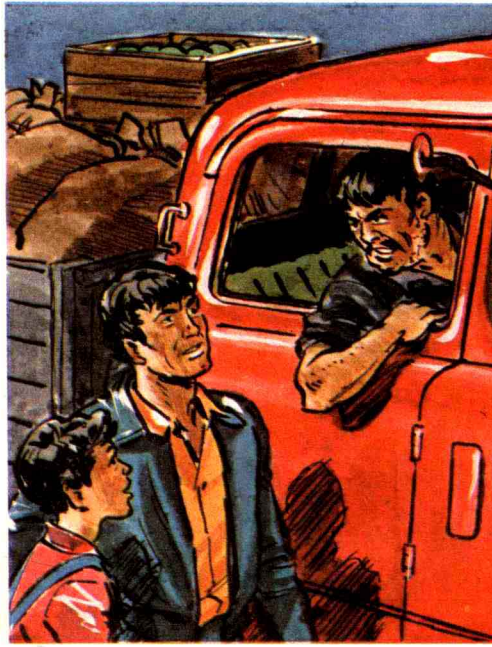
The truck is near Pedro and his father. The driver can see them but he is not going to stop. He is going along the road very quickly.



Two trucks are coming down the road. Pedro's father has raised his hand again. He says: "Stop! Stop! Take us to the city."



The first truck does not stop. But the second truck is stopping in front of Pedro and his father. They take their bags and run to the truck.



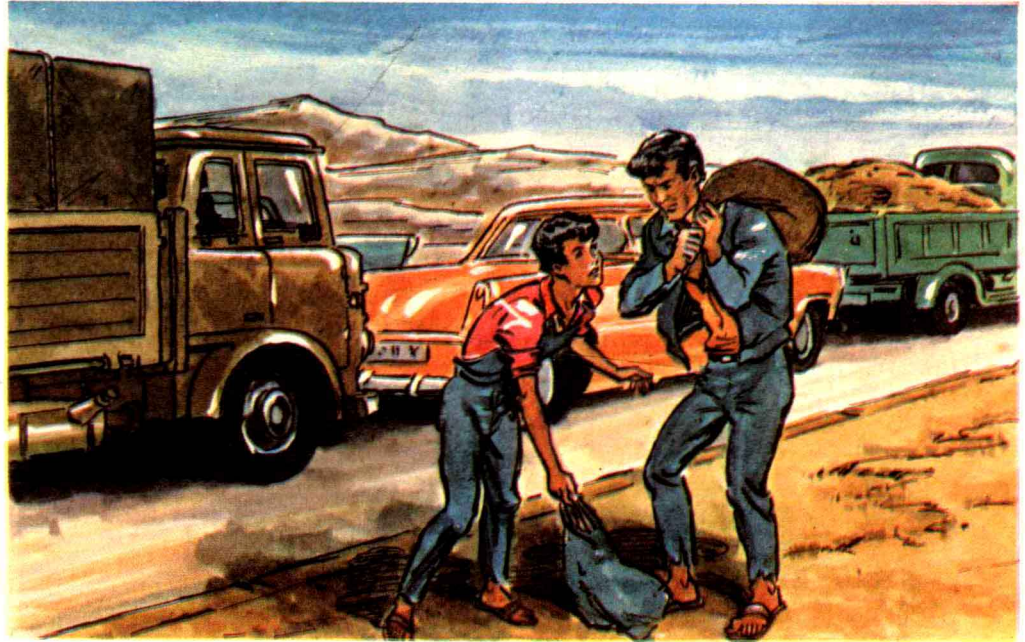
The driver puts his head out of the window. He says to Pedro's father: "Do you have any money? It's a long way to the city. I want some money from you."



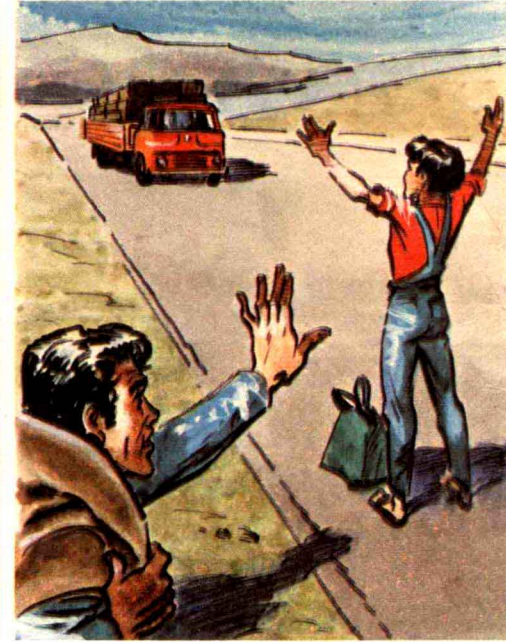
Pedro's father says: "I'm a poor man. I don't have any money. You have a truck and you are going to the city. Be kind and take us with you."



The truck is moving again but Pedro and his father are not in it. The driver is not going to take them to the city. They are very sad.



There are cars and trucks on the road, but they do not stop. Pedro's father does not raise his hand again. He has taken his bag and he is putting it on his back.



Part Three

Pedro and his father are walking down the road. It is afternoon. The sun is over their heads, so they are hot and tired. They are hungry, too.

A big truck is coming down the road, Pedro can see it. He is thinking: "I can't walk to the city. I must stop this truck. I will run in front of it. It's not going very quickly."

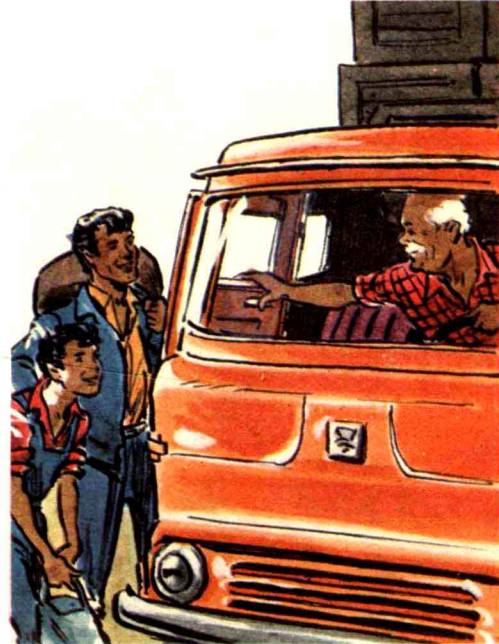
Pedro is standing in the middle of the road. He has raised his hands. He says: "Stop! Stop! Take us to the city."



The driver of the truck thinks: "This man and his son are tired. I have a big truck, so I can take them to the city."



Pedro and his father are standing beside the truck. Pedro's father is talking to the driver. "Can you take us to the city? We don't have any money."



The driver says: "Yes, I can take you. You can't walk to the city. It's a long way. Get into the truck and sit beside me. Your son can sit in the back. He can sit on the boxes."



Pedro is getting into the truck. His father is helping him. There is a place for Pedro between the boxes.



The truck is moving again. Pedro's father is sitting beside the driver and he is talking to him: "What are you carrying on your truck? What's in those boxes?" he asks.



"There's fruit in the boxes," the driver says. "It's from my farm. I'm taking it to the city. There isn't any fruit there. I can sell my fruit in the city."