

Score! I just got a letter from my *primo*, my cousin, Carlitos. I live in America, but he lives in Mexico, where my family is from. Maybe someday we'll meet!

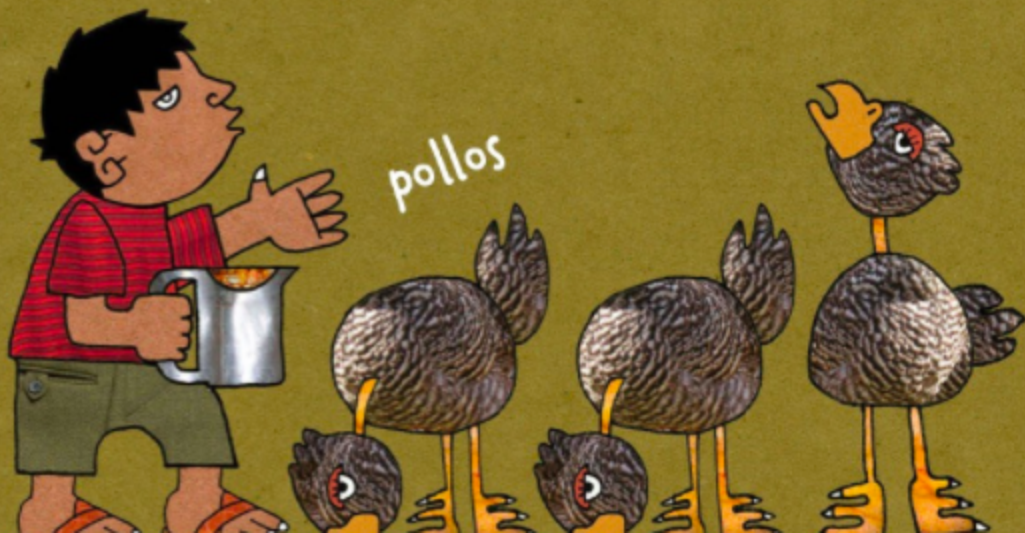


Dear Primo Charlie,

How are you? Do you wonder like me what life is like far away? I live on a farm surrounded by mountains and trees. My family grows many things, such as *maíz*.



We have a *burro*, *pollos*, and a *gallo*. Every morning
the *gallo* crows and crows.



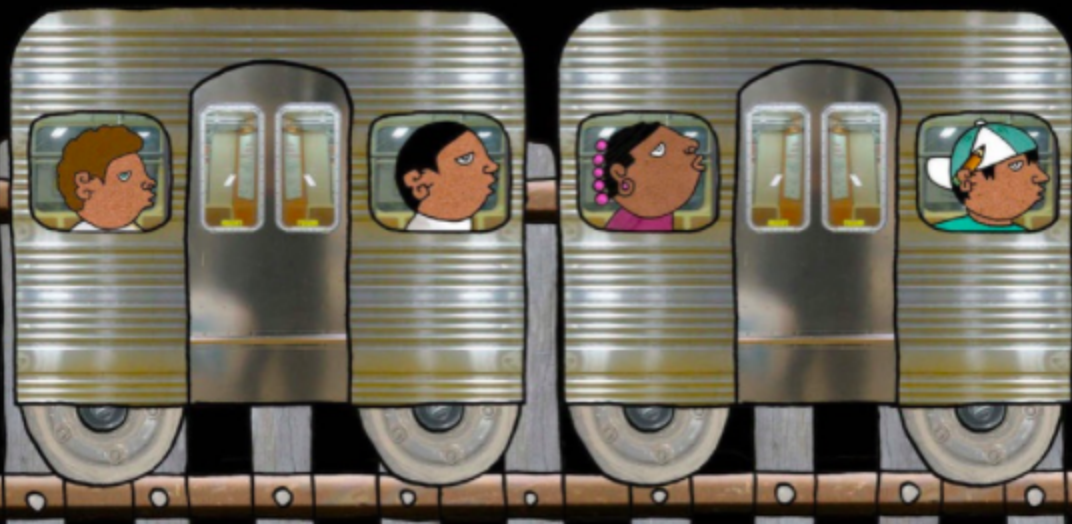
Dear Primo Carlitos,

I live in a city. From my window I can see a bridge and cars zooming by. I can see skyscrapers, too.

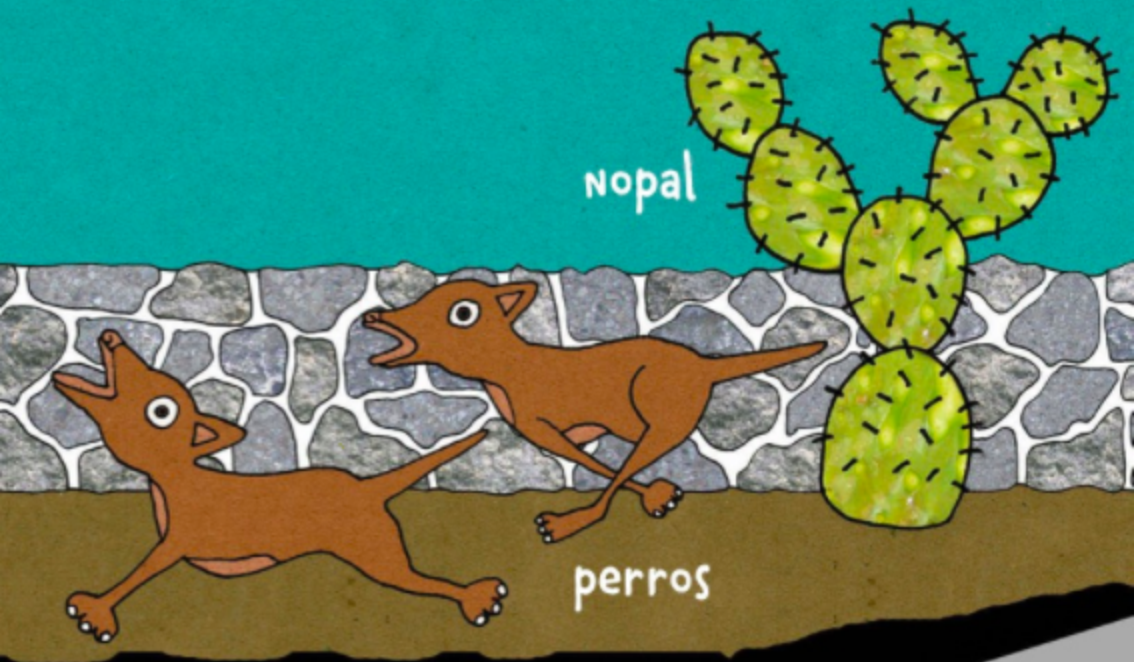
Skyscrapers are buildings so tall they tickle the clouds. At night all the lights from the city look like the stars from the sky.



Every morning I ride my *bicicleta* to school.

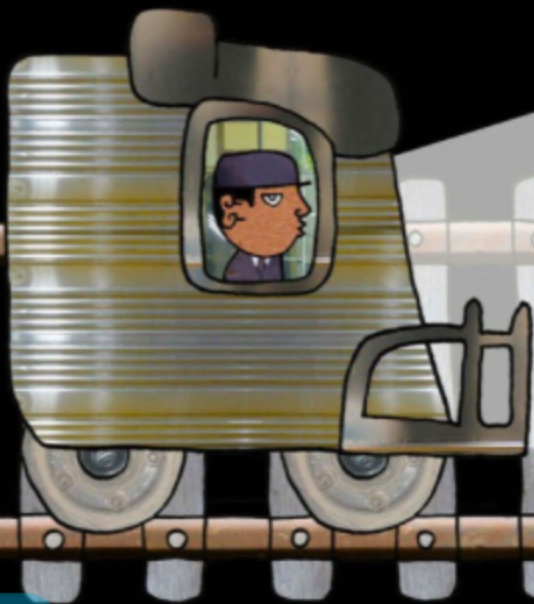


I ride it past the *perros* and past a *nopal*.



nopal

perros



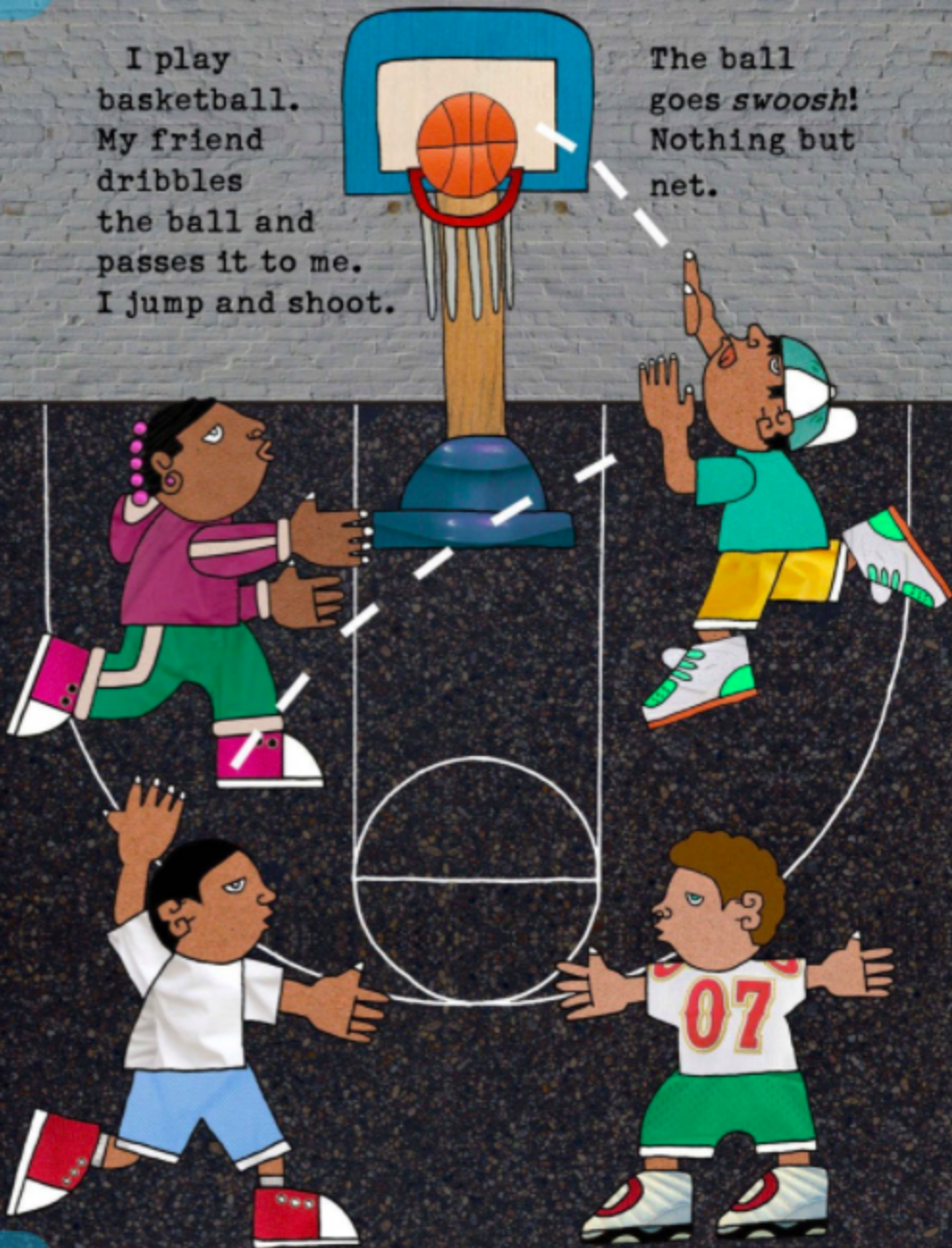
I ride the subway to
school. The subway is
like a long metal snake,
and it travels through
tunnels underground.

At recess time I play *fútbol*. My friend passes me the ball, I kick it with my foot, and if I score, I yell . . . *gol!*



I play
basketball.
My friend
dribbles
the ball and
passes it to me.
I jump and shoot.

The ball
goes *swoosh!*
Nothing but
net.



When I come home from school, I help my mom cook. My favorite meal is *quesadillas*. I make them with cheese and *tortillas*.



In America we have lots of different foods. My favorite is pizza. I like getting a slice on my way home from school.



After I finish my homework, my mom lets me go outside and play. In Mexico we have many games, like *trompos* and *canicas*.



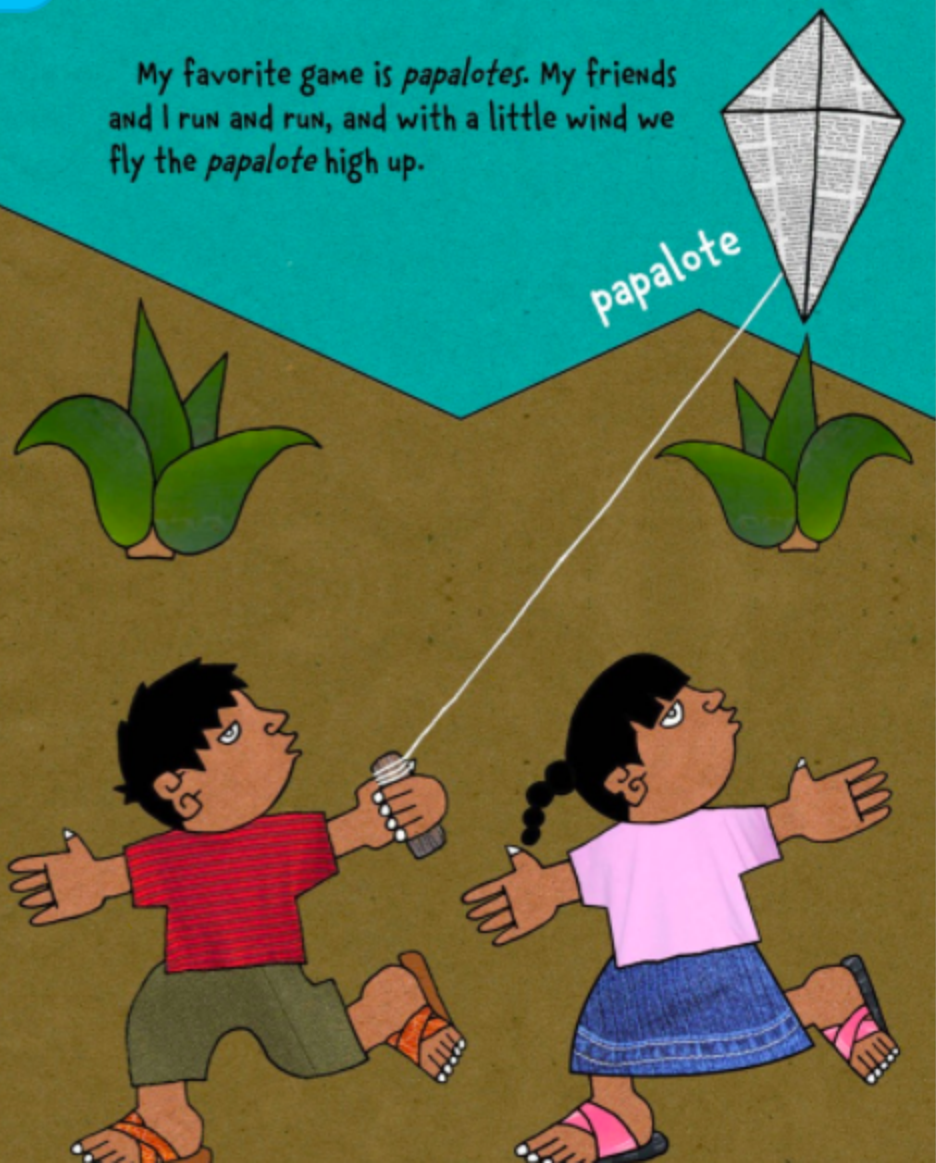
trompo



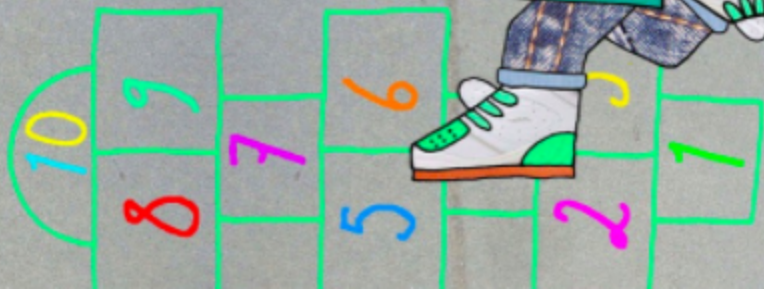
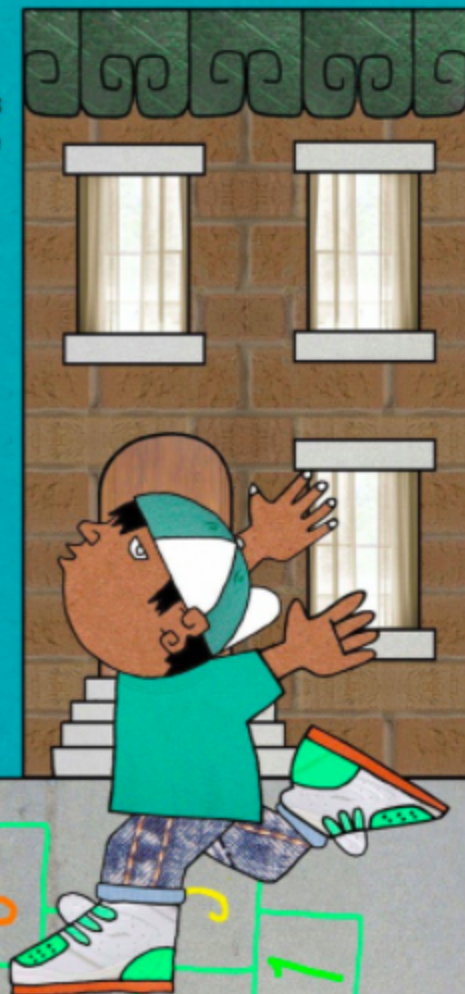
canicas



My favorite game is *papalotes*. My friends and I run and run, and with a little wind we fly the *papalote* high up.



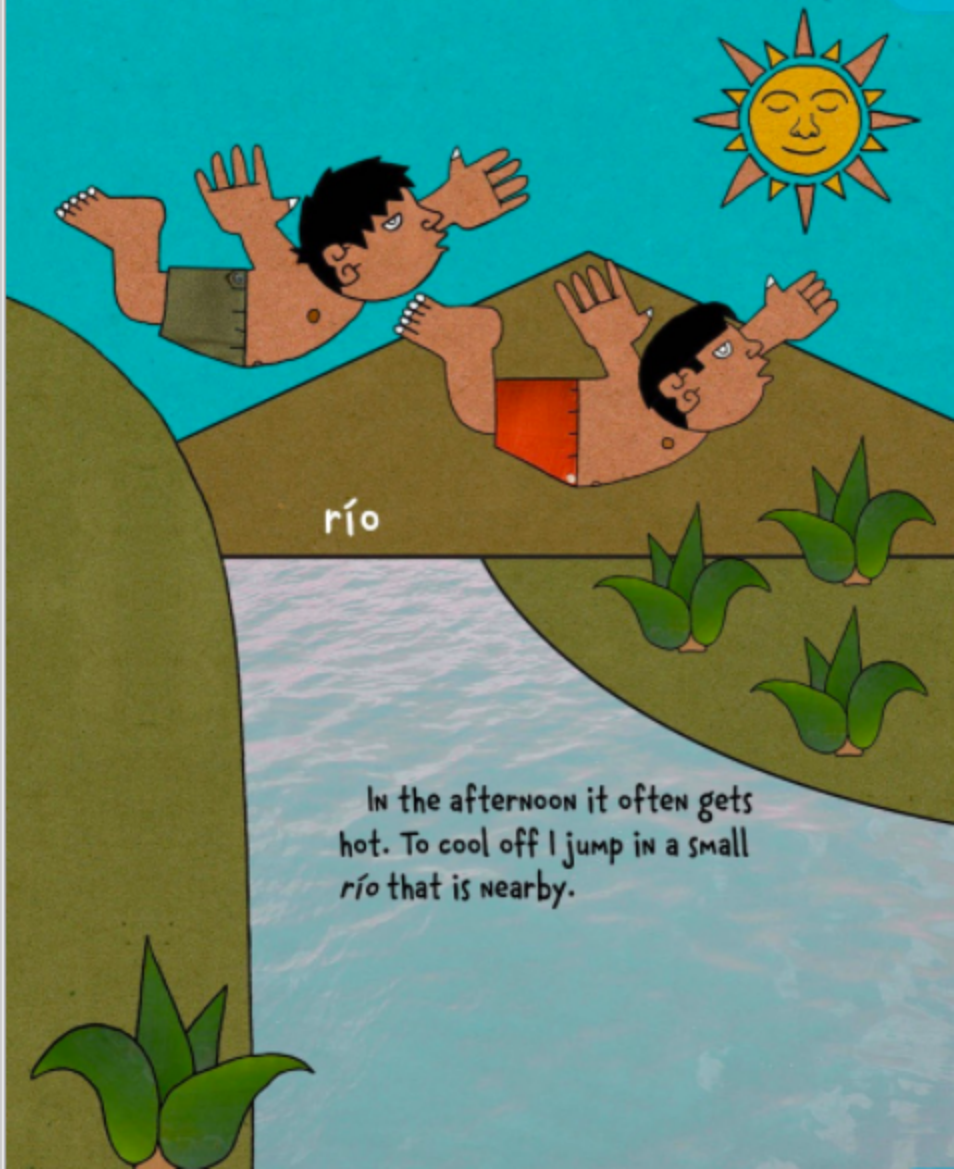
When I finish my homework, I play games with my friends from the building. We play by the stoop . . .





... and in each other's apartments,
too. I like going over to my friend's
home to play video games.



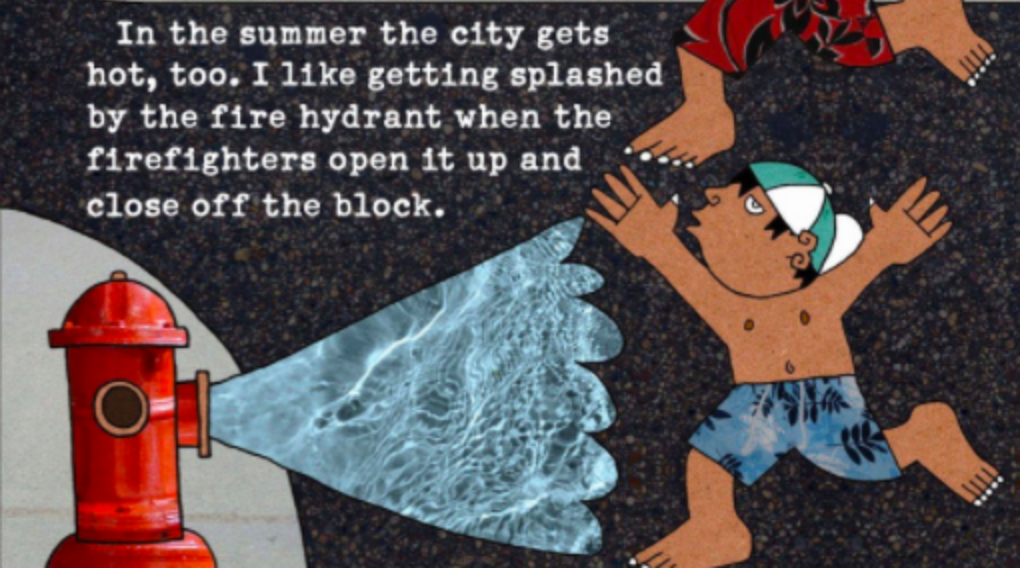


río

In the afternoon it often gets hot. To cool off I jump in a small río that is nearby.



In the summer the city gets hot, too. I like getting splashed by the fire hydrant when the firefighters open it up and close off the block.



On the weekend I go with my parents to the *mercado*, an open-air market in the town nearby. We sell *maíz* and *tunas*, a prickly fruit that we grow.



maíz



tunas





On the weekend I go with my mom to the supermarket. She brings a list—milk, toothpaste, soap—and I check off the items as we put them in our cart.



In the town from time to time they
have *fiestas* that last two or three days.
At night there are *cohetes* that light up
the sky and *mariachis* that play and play.

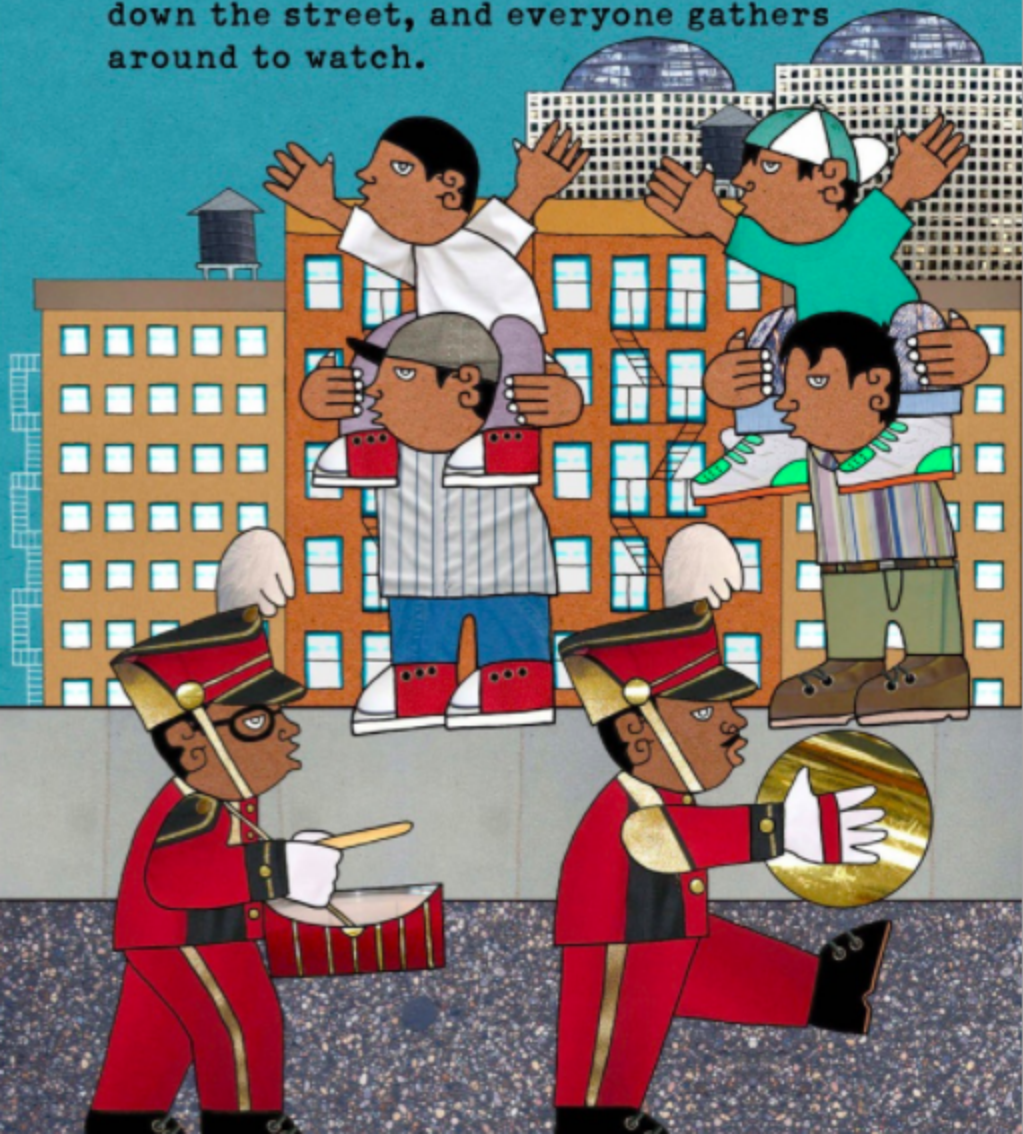
cohetes



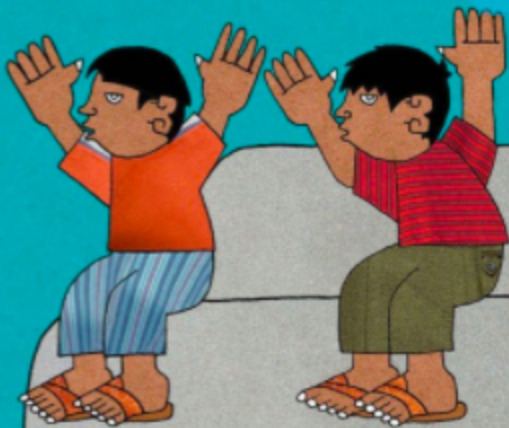
mariachis



In my city sometimes we have parades.
People in costumes and uniforms march
down the street, and everyone gathers
around to watch.



There are *charros* in Mexico that I wish you could see. They do tricks with their *caballos* and *reatas*.



charros



reata

caballo

On the streets here you can see break-dancers who do flips and spin on their heads.



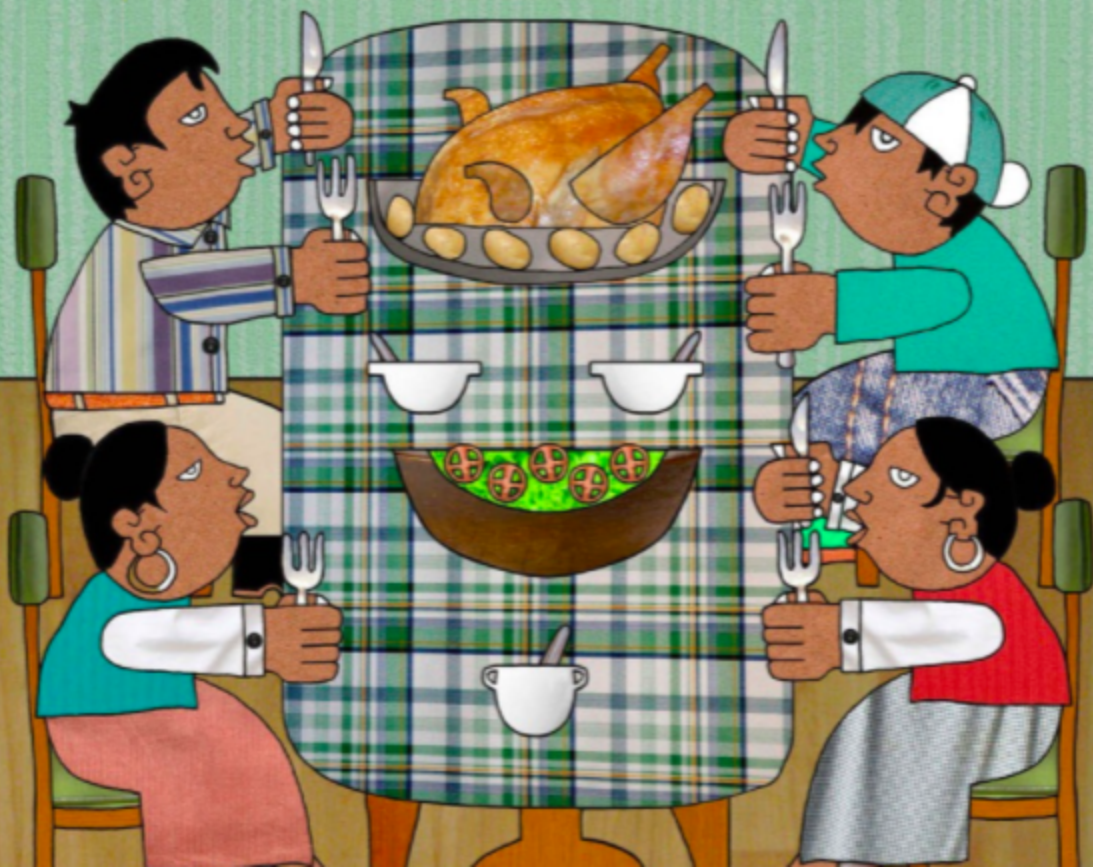
In Mexico we have so many traditions, such as the *Día de los Muertos*, the Day of the Dead.



My favorite tradition is attending the December parties called *Posadas*. At the end of each *Posada* there is a *piñata* filled with fruit. When someone breaks it, we all get to jump in.



In America we have traditions,
too, such as Thanksgiving, when
we eat turkey . . .



... and Halloween,
when we dress up and
go trick-or-treating.
But I have to stop
writing now. My mom
just told me I have to
brush my teeth and go
to bed.





I have

My primo should come visit me!





an idea!

My primo should come visit me!

