



ROBO
EN LA
NOCHE

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Robo en la noche



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A NOTE TO THE READER

This novel contains basic, level-one vocabulary and countless cognates (words that are similar in two languages), making it an ideal read for beginning students.

Essential level-one vocabulary is listed in the glossary at the back of the book. Keep in mind that many verbs are listed numerous times throughout the glossary, as most are listed in various forms and tenses. (Ex.: I go, he goes, he went, etc.)

Cultural words/phrases and any vocabulary that would be considered beyond a 'novice-mid' level are footnoted at the bottom of the page where each appears. Footnoted words are also listed in the glossary.

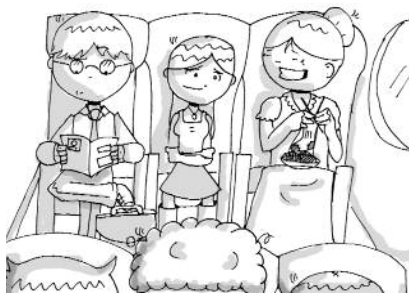
You may have already noticed that there are two versions to this story, a past-tense version and a present-tense version. You may choose to read one or the other, or both. Whatever version you choose, we encourage you to focus on enjoying the story versus studying the tense in which it is written.

We hope you enjoy the novel! ¡Pura vida!...

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Capítulo 1 ¡A Costa Rica!



Makenna y su padre, el Dr. David Parker, abordaron el avión¹ y se sentaron en los asientos² 7E y 7F. Makenna se sentó en el asiento 7F y miró por la ventana del avión. No miró a su papá. Miró por la ventana y pensó en su hermana, Alex. Su hermana no estaba con ellos y Makenna estaba triste por eso.

Su padre se sentó en el asiento 7E, y una

¹avión - airplane

²asientos - seats

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mujer vieja se sentó en el asiento 7D. Makenna continuó mirando por la ventana y pensó en su hermana y en su madre.

Su padre no habló. Leía una revista³ que se llamaba Bird World. No leía revistas normales como Reader's Digest o Sports Illustrated. Leía revistas muy diferentes. Leía revistas de ecología porque era ecólogo. Era experto en animales. Los humanos les causan problemas a los animales, pero el Dr. Parker pensaba en soluciones. Era profesor de ecología y era especialista en el hábitat de las aves⁴. Trabajó en la Universidad de Michigan State por trece años, pero tenía un trabajo nuevo.

El trabajo nuevo era en Costa Rica. El Dr. Parker iba a trabajar en Costa Rica como ecólogo. Por eso, estaban en el avión. Makenna no quería ir a Costa Rica y estaba muy triste. Quería estar con su hermana, que estudiaba en la universidad. También quería estar con sus amigos. Su padre le dijo que sus amigos podían visitarla en Costa Rica, pero ella pensaba que sus amigos no iban a ir a

³revista - magazine

⁴aves - birds

Costa Rica. No era probable porque sus amigos no tenían mucho dinero.

Makenna quería su teléfono celular. Normalmente, Makenna se comunicaba con sus amigos por textos, pero en Costa Rica no iba a tener un teléfono celular. Su padre dijo que podía comunicarse por correo electrónico, ¡pero sus amigos no se comunicaban por correo electrónico! En ese momento, Makenna estaba muy, muy triste. Quería estar con su hermana y con sus amigas.

Makenna no tenía mamá. La mamá de Makenna había muerto hacía tres años⁵, cuando Makenna tenía doce años. Había muerto en un accidente de carro. Makenna tenía preguntas sobre su mamá y el accidente, pero su padre no quería hablar de su madre. No le gustaba hablar de su esposa y no le gustaba hablar del romance en general. La hermana de Makenna, que se llamaba Alex, decía que su papá necesitaba romance, necesitaba una mujer. Él sólo tenía cuarenta y cuatro años. Era viejo, pero no muy viejo.

⁵había muerto hacía tres años - died three years ago

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Makenna no pensaba que era una buena idea. Su papá trabajaba mucho y no tenía mucho tiempo para el romance.

La situación estaba muy mal porque Makenna no tenía su caballo⁶, Bender. Makenna no tenía otros animales aparte de su caballo. Bender era un amigo. Cuando Makenna hablaba, Bender escuchaba. Bender era el caballo de su mamá y por eso, era muy especial. Su mamá lo llamó Bender porque su película⁷ favorita se llamaba "The Breakfast Club". Era una película vieja. Judd Nelson era uno de los actores principales en la película y su personaje se llamaba Bender. A Makenna le gustaban las películas viejas porque a su mamá le gustaban.

Cuando Makenna hablaba con Bender, ella imaginaba que su mamá escuchaba la conversación. Le gustaba imaginar que su mamá los miraba y los escuchaba. En ese momento, Makenna miró por la ventana y pensó en todo; pensó en su mamá, su hermana, sus amigas y su caballo.

⁶*caballo - horse*

⁷*película - movie*

Makenna no hablaba, sólo pensaba. En el silencio, su padre le preguntó:

- ¿Qué tal, hija⁸?
- No sé, papá. No quiero ir a Costa Rica. No tengo amigos en Costa Rica. ¿Por qué tenemos que ir⁹?
- Mija, es una buena oportunidad para mí profesionalmente. Y para ti también. Vas a hablar español. Y tú vas a tener muchos amigos cuando vayas¹⁰ a la escuela en septiembre.

Makenna no le respondió. Sólo miró por la ventana otra vez. Se sentó en silencio y pensó: “Estoy completamente sola”.

⁸mija - term of endearment: my daughter

⁹tenemos que ir - we have to go

¹⁰vayas - you go

Capítulo 2

Una casa nueva



Makenna miró por la ventana y vio San José, la capital de Costa Rica. Makenna notó que era una ciudad grande. Había muchos edificios¹, pero no había edificios altos. El padre de Makenna le explicó:

- Hay mucha actividad sísmica² en San José. A veces³ la actividad sísmica es muy violenta y por eso, no hay edificios

¹edificios - buildings

²actividad sísmica - seismic activity (earthquakes)

³a veces - sometimes

muy altos.

A Makenna le gustó la idea de sentir actividad sísmica. Emocionada, le preguntó a su papá:

– ¿Es probable que vayamos a sentir un temblor?

El piloto interrumpió la conversación: “*Bienvenidos⁴ a San José*”.

El avión llegó al aeropuerto y Makenna y su papá se bajaron del avión. Entraron al aeropuerto. Diez minutos pasaron y finalmente, vieron a un hombre que tenía un papel que decía: “Dr. Parker”. El Dr. Parker le dijo:

- Hola, soy David Parker.
- Bienvenido a Costa Rica, Doctor. Me llamo Cecilio Méndez. Soy guardia de seguridad de La Hacienda Amigos de las Aves.
- Mucho gusto⁵ Sr. Méndez. Le presento a mi hija, Makenna.
- Bienvenida a Costa Rica, Makenna. Mucho gusto.

⁴*bienvenido(s) - welcome*

⁵*mucho gusto - “nice to meet you”*

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– Igualmente, Sr. Méndez.

El Señor Méndez les dijo:

– Todos me llaman Cecilio. Estoy a su servicio.

El Dr. Parker dijo:

– Y todos me llaman David. *Doctor* es muy formal.

Cecilio les respondió:

– ¡Pura vida!⁶ Entonces, David y Makenna, ¿Quieren ver su casa?

– ¡Sí! –los dos respondieron.

– Cuando lleguemos, vamos a hacer un tour por la hacienda.

Cecilio puso todas sus cosas en el carro y ellos salieron del aeropuerto. Cecilio manejó⁷ por la ciudad y les explicó mucho sobre la vida en Costa Rica:

– Las personas de Costa Rica se llaman

⁶*¡Pura vida!* - *Pure life!* In Costa Rica, this is used as a greeting to indicate that you are doing well, as a general expression such as “ok” or “alright” and as a way of saying “goodbye.”

⁷*manejó* - *s/he drove*

«ticos». Hay mucha paz⁸ en Costa Rica y es una democracia. No tiene dictador, tiene un presidente. Hay muy buenas escuelas en Costa Rica y el 96% de las personas pueden leer.

El Dr. Parker escuchó con atención, pero Makenna no escuchó a Cecilio. Ella miraba por la ventana y observaba todo.



Pensó en su ciudad en Michigan y la comparó con San José. Makenna pensaba y Cecilio continuaba hablando:

- Costa Rica tiene muy buenos hospitales. Los doctores de Costa Rica son famosos

⁸paz - peace

y muchas personas vienen a Costa Rica por sus médicos y sus hospitales. Costa Rica es muy pequeño, pero hay muchos animales y plantas diferentes. Hay muchos parques naturales, montañas, ríos y volcanes. Por eso, el eco-turismo es muy popular. Muchas personas vienen a Costa Rica por una aventura ecológica. Otras vienen a ver uno de los tres océanos: el Océano Atlántico, el Mar Caribe, y el Océano Pacífico.

Cecilio era un hombre muy simpático. No había momentos de silencio con él. ¡Hablaba mucho! A Makenna le gustaba la personalidad de Cecilio. Él era un hombre muy bueno.

Cecilio también hablaba de su familia. Les dijo que tenía una esposa llamada Lilia. Tenían cuatro hijos y una casa pequeña que sólo tenía dos dormitorios. Cecilio tenía tres años trabajando en la hacienda. Antes trabajaba como jardinero en San José. Cecilio explicó que ahora la vida era difícil porque su mamá y papá eran viejos. Ellos necesitaban atención.

En diez minutos, llegó a Alajuela, donde estaba la hacienda. A Makenna le interesaba la hacienda. Cecilio puso todas las cosas en un carrito de golf. Entonces, él se sentó y les dijo:

– Soy chofer también. Vamos a hacer un tour por la hacienda.



Cecilio manejó por la hacienda e hizo un tour. La hacienda era muy bonita. Había muchas plantas y flores bonitas. También había muchos árboles⁹ de diferentes variedades de frutas. Makenna vio una *catedral* de bambú en el jardín y Cecilio le dijo que a veces las personas se casaban¹⁰ aquí porque era muy bonito. Había varias casas pequeñas y Makenna escuchó gritos que venían de las casas pequeñas y exclamó:

– ¡Ay caramba! ¿Quién grita?
– Ja ja ja... No es una persona que grita.

⁹árboles - trees

¹⁰se casaban - they got married

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¡Las aves gritan!

– ¿Por qué gritan? ¿No quieren estar en las casas pequeñas?

– Gritar es su forma de comunicación.

Realmente no gritan. ¡Hablan!

Estuvieron en el carrito por cinco minutos. Pasaron por la hacienda y entonces llegaron a una casa. Cecilio dijo:

– Ya llegamos. Aquí es su casa. No es grande, pero tiene de todo. En la mañana, pueden desayunar en la casa grande. Margarita, la señora de la hacienda, prepara el desayuno. ¡Hasta mañana!

Makenna entró en la casa. Había un dormitorio pequeño con una cama¹¹, una sala¹² con un sofá y un baño pequeño. Su papá puso sus cosas en el dormitorio y le dijo a Makenna:

– Vas a dormir en el dormitorio. Tú vas a dormir en la cama y yo voy a dormir en el sofá.

– Papá, tú no vas a dormir en el sofá.

¹¹*cama - bed*

¹²*sala - living room*

– Sí, hija, voy a dormir en el sofá. Está bien.

Makenna entró en el dormitorio y se sentó en la cama. Miró por la ventana. Vio a Cecilio. Él fue hacia la casa grande en el carrito de golf. Makenna pensó que Cecilio era un buen hombre. Ella imaginó que su familia era una familia muy unida. Ella imaginó que ellos estaban muy contentos.

Glosario

abrazó - s/he hugged	ayudaron - they helped
abrió - s/he opened	ayudan - they help
actividad sísmica - seismic activity (earthquakes)	ayudar - to help
adonde - to where	ayudarles - to help them
agarró - s/he grabbed	ayudarnos - to help us
agarrado - (a) hold	ayúdenos - help us
ahora - now	ayudó - s/he helped
ala - wing	baile - (a) dance (noun)
algo - something	baja - low, short
algún - some	baño - bathroom
alto(s) - tall	(se) besaron - they kissed (each other)
amigos - friends	besando - kissing
anoche - last night	bienvenido(s) - welcome
años - years	boca - mouth
apaga - turn off (<i>command</i>)	bonito(a) - pretty
apariencia - appearance	brazo - arm
arroz - rice	buscando - looking for
aquí - here	buscar - to look for
árboles - trees	caballo - horse
así que - so	cabañas - cabins, cottages
asientos - seats	calor - warmth, heat
a veces - sometimes	cama - bed
aves - birds	camina - s/he walks
avión - airplane	caminábamos - we were walking
ayer - yesterday	caminando - walking
ayuda - help (<i>noun</i>)	

Glosario

cara - face

carne - meat

casada - married

(se) casaron - they got married

(me) casé - I got married

casi - almost

(se) casó - s/he got married

carrito - cart

casa - house

celosa - jealous

cierra - s/he closes

ciudad - city

cocina - kitchen

come - s/he eats

comió - s/he ate

como si estuviera - as if s/he
were

con - with

conmigo - with me

contigo - with you

cortaba - s/he was cutting

cortaron - they cut

cortó - s/he cut

corto - short

cosas - things

creía - s/he, I believed

creo - I believe, think

cuando - when

cuánto - how much

Cuánto tiempo llevas - How
long do you have with...?
(How long have you
been together?)

cuarto - room

cuchillo - knife

cumpleaños - birthday

cuenta - s/he tells, counts

cuesta - it costs

cuida - s/he cares for

cuidaban - they were caring
for

cuidan - they care for

cuidar - to care for, to take-
care of

da - s/he gives

darte - to give to you

de - of, from

de nada - you are welcome

de nuevo - again (anew)

de repente - suddenly

debajo - under

decía - s/he, it said

dejamos - we leave alone;
we let

dejar - to leave (alone)

(no) dejen... - don't let them...

dentro - inside

desaparecieron - they disappeared	encontraba - s/he didn't find, wasn't finding
desayunar - to eat breakfast	enfrente - in front of
desayuno - breakfast	(se) enojó - s/he got angry
desesperado - desperate	enojada - angry
desordenado - disorganized, messy	entonces - then
después - after	entre - between
destruiste - you destroyed	enviar mensajes - to send messages
día - day	era - s/he, it was
dice - s/he says	éramos - we were
diciendo - saying	eran - they were
dientes - teeth	eres - you are
difícil - difficult	es - is
dijo - s/he said	esconde - s/he hides
dio - s/he gave	escondida - hidden
Dios - God	escuchando - listening
donde/dónde - where	escucho - I listen
dormía - s/he, I was sleeping	escuchó - s/he listened to
dormir - to sleep	esperando - waiting
dormitorio - bedroom	esperándote - waiting for you
duerme - s/he sleeps	esperar - to wait
edificios - buildings	está - s/he is
ellos - them, they	estás - you are
(me) embaracé - I got pregnant	estaba - s/he, it was
en - in, on	estaba casada - s/he was married
en contra - against	estoy - I am
encima de - on top of	

Glosario

- estuviera** - s/he was (*subjunctive*)
- estuvo** - s/he, it was
- felicita** - congratulate
- feo** - ugly
- flaco(a)** - thin
- frenética** - frenetic, frantic
- frijoles** - beans
- fue** - s/he, it was
- fue** - s/he went
- fueron** - they went
- fueron** - they were
- fuerte** - strong
- fuertemente** - strongly, forcefully
- fui** - I went
- fuiste** - you went
- gallo pinto** - typical dish of rice and beans
- gente** - people
- gritan** - they shout, yell
- gritando** - yelling
- gritaron** - they shouted, yelled
- gritos** - shouts (*noun*)
- guapo** - good-looking
- (le) gusta** - s/he likes (it is pleasing to him/her)
- (le) gustaba** - s/he liked (it was pleasing to him/her)
- (le) gustó** - s/he liked (it was pleasing to him/her)
- había** - there was, there were
- habla** - s/he talks, speaks
- hablaba** - s/he was talking, speaking
- hablaba** - they were talking, speaking
- hablar** - to speak, talk
- hablando** - speaking, talking
- habló** - s/he talked, spoke
- hace ___ años** - ___ years ago (It's been ___ years.)
- hacía ___ años** - ___ years ago (It was ___ years ago.)
- hacía calor** - it was warm, hot
- hacía sol** - it was sunny
- hacemos** - we do, we make
- hacer** - to do, to make
- hambre** - hunger
- hasta mañana** - until (see you) tomorrow
- hay** - there is, there are
- hermana** - sister

hijo(s) - sons, sons and daughters

hombre - man

horchata - a rice drink mixed with cinnamon and sugar which is typical in Costa Rica

hoy - today

huevo frito - fried egg

huevo(s) - egg(s)

iba - s/he was going

ir - to go

jaulas - cages

joven - young

juez - judge

juntos- together

leer - to read

leía - s/he was reading

(se) levantó - s/he got up, s/he stood up

levantarme - to get (myself) up, to stand (myself) up

levantarse - to get (oneself) up, to stand (oneself) up

(se) levantó - s/he got up

libre - free (pertaining to liberty, freedom)

linterna - flashlight

lo siento - I am sorry

lugar - place

luna - moon

(se) llama - is called (his/her name is)

(se) llamaba - was called (his/her name was)

llegó - s/he arrived

llegamos - we arrive; we arrived

llegaron - they arrived

lleguemos - we arrive (*uncertain time of arrival*)

lleva - s/he takes, brings, carries

llevaba - s/he was taking, bringing, carrying

llevamos - we carried, brought, took

llevó - s/he carried, brought

lloraba - s/he was crying

llorando - crying

lloró - s/he cried

mal (malo/a) - bad

maneja - s/he drives

mano - hand

mañana - morning, tomorrow

más - more

matar - to kill

Glosario

me encanta - it enchants me
(I love it!)

mejor - best

mesa - table

meses - months

miedo - fear

mientras - while

mija - term of endearment: my
daughter

MINAE (Ministerio de Ambiente y Energía) - Ministry (Department) of Environment and Energy: Governmental organization which oversees wildlife and environmental issues in Costa Rica.

mira - look (*command*)

miraba - s/he was looking at

mirando - looking at

mochila - backpack

movió - s/he moved

mucho gusto - "nice to meet
you"

mueve - s/he moves

mujer - woman

(se) murió hacía tres años -
she died three years ago

nadie - no one, nobody

Navidad - Christmas

necesita - s/he needs

necesitaba - s/he needed

negro(a) - black

noche - night

nosotros - we

novia - girlfriend / fiancée /
bride

nuestro - our

nuevo - new

nunca - never

ojos - eyes

otra vez - again

oyó - s/he heard

oyen - they hear

oyeron - they hears

padres - parents

país - country

para - for

para que no tengan - so that
they do not have

pata - leg or foot of an animal
or bird

paz - peace

pega - s/he hits

pegues - you hit (Don't hit
me.)

película - movie

peligrosos - dangerous

pelo - hair

pensaba - s/he was thinking

pensar - to think

pensó - s/he thought

pequeño(a) - small

pero - but

perro(s) - dog(s)

pescado - fish

plátano frito - fried banana

plumas - feathers

pobre - poor

poco - (a) little

podía - s/he could, was able

pollo - chicken

por eso - therefore, for that
reason

porque - because

pregunta - a question, s/he
asks

preguntó - s/he asked

preocupada - preoccupied,
worried

pronto - soon

puerco - pork

pues - well (conjunction)

pudo - s/he could, was able

puede - s/he can, is able

puedo - I can, I am able

puerta - door

¡Pura vida! - Pure life! In

Costa Rica, this is used
as a greeting to indicate
that you are doing well,
as a general expression
such as "ok" or "alright"
and as a way of saying
"goodbye."

que le pasó - what happened
to him, what's wrong
with him

queremos - we want

quería - s/he wanted

quién - who

¿quiénes eran? - who were
they?

quiere - s/he wants

quince - fifteen

quitar - to take off

quitó - s/he took off

raro - rare or strange

regresa - s/he returns

regresar - to return

regreso - I return, I am re-
turning

regresó - s/he returned

revista - magazine

(se) ríe - s/he laughs

Glosario

robadas - stolen (robbed)

roban - they steal

robaron - they robbed

robaste - you stole, robbed

rojas (rojo/a) - red

ropa - clothing

rota - broken

sabe - s/he knows (a fact, something)

sabía - s/he knew (a fact, something)

sala - living room

sala del tribunal - courtroom

salieron - they left

salga - s/he leaves

salieron - they left (a place)

salió - s/he left (a place)

sé - I know (a fact, something)

selva - jungle

semana - week

señal - signal

ser - to be

siempre - always

siguiente - following, next

silla - chair

simpático - nice

sin - without

soga - rope

sol - sun

soltar - to leave (something), to free, to let loose

sonríe - s/he smiles

sonrisa - a smile

sorprendida - surprised

suelo - ground / floor

sentir - to feel

sienta - s/he sits

siente - s/he feels

son - they are

soy - I am

su(s) - his, her, their

también - too, also

tampoco - neither, either

tarde - late

temblando - trembling, shaking

tenemos que ir - we have to go

tener - to have

tengo - I have

tengo que dar - I have to give

tenía - s/he had

tenía hambre - s/he had hunger (was hungry)

tenía agarrado - had hold of

tiempo - time

tiene - s/he has

tiene ___ años - s/he has ___ years; (is ___ years old)	vas - you go, you are going
tiene que ver con - has to do with	vayas - you go
tienen - they have	vea - s/he sees
tipo - type	vemos - we see
toalla - towel	vean - they see (<i>subjunctive</i>)
tocó a la puerta - s/he knocked on the door	ven - they see
todo - all	venden - they sell
toma - s/he takes	vengan - come (<i>command</i>)
tomar - to drink	ventana - window
tonta - silly / dumb	veo - I see
trabajamos - we work	ver - to see
trabajo - work, job	verdad - true
treinta y dos - thirty-two	vi - I saw
tribunal - trial	vida - life
triste - sad	viejo(a) - old
tristeza - sadness	vienen - they come, they are coming
tuvo - s/he had	vieron - they saw
unida - close, united	vio - s/he saw
usted - you (formal)	vimos - we saw
va - s/he goes	vinimos - we came
valen - they are worth (are val- ued at)	vio - s/he saw
vámonos - Let's go!; Let's get going!	visitaste - you visited
vamos - we go, let's go	vive - s/he lives
	vivía - s/he lived, was living
	vivimos - we live(d)
	vivir - to live
	volar - to fly
	volaron - they fly

Glosario

voy - I go, am going

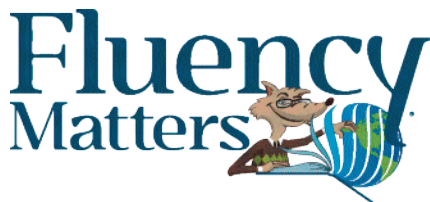
voz - voice

ya - already

ya no - anymore

yo - I

More compelling reads from...



NEW TITLES



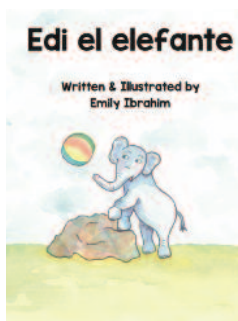
Leyendas Impactantes

Novice and Intermediate versions

(Two versions under one cover!)

6 traditional legends, from 6 different Latin American cultures, each told twice to make them accessible for both novice and intermediate students! Students will enjoy tales of love, mystery, intrigue, deception, helpful and dangerous dieties, demons and curses!

Available July 2018!



Edi el elefante

Perfect picture book for beginners!

Present & Past Tense - 55 unique words

Edi is a talented elephant, but he is very small. Edi does not want to be talented or small; he wants to be BIG! One day, Edi discovers that a small animal can solve a big problem and that being small is not so horrible after all.

Brandon Brown Series



Brandon Brown dice la verdad

Present Tense - 75 unique words

Brandon quickly discovers that not telling the truth can create big problems and a lot of stress! Will he win in the end, or will he decide that honesty is the best policy? (Also available in French)



Brandon Brown quiere un perro

Present Tense - 103 unique words

Determined to get a dog, Brandon will do almost anything, but will he do everything it takes to keep one... a secret? (Also available in French, Italian, Latin, Chinese & German)



Brandon Brown versus Yucatán

*Past & Present Tense - 140 unique words
(Two versions under one cover!)*

In Mexico, bad decisions and careless mischief can bring much more trouble than a 12-year-old boy can handle alone. Will he and his new friend, outwit their parents? (Also available in French)



El nuevo Houdini

*Past & Present Tense - 200 unique words
(Two versions under one cover!)*

Brandon is dying to drive his father's T-bird while his parents are on vacation. Will he fool his parents and win the girl of his dreams in the process? (Also available in French & Russian)

Additional Titles



El Ekeko: Un misterio boliviano

Present Tense - 190 unique words

Paco is disappointed when his mother suggests that he replace his worn out shoes with his grandfather's old boots. He reluctantly goes to the closet and gradually realizes that the closet holds much more than his grandfather's old boots and a box of letters. Hidden among his grandfather's possessions is a gift that has potential to bring some startling surprises and unexpected consequences.



Frida Kahlo

Past Tense - 160 unique words

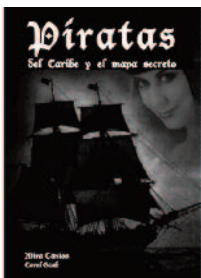
Frida Kahlo (1907-1954) is one of Mexico's greatest artists, a remarkable achievement for someone who spent most of her relatively short life wracked with pain. Frida expressed her pain through her art, producing some 143 paintings, 55 of which were self-portraits. To this day, she remains an icon of strength, courage and audacity. This brief biography provides a glimpse into her turbulent life and her symbolic art.



Bianca Nieves y los 7 toritos

Past Tense - 150 unique words

Bullfighting is a dangerous sport, and there is nothing more menacing than facing a raging bull in the middle of the ring. All eyes are on the great torero, 'El Julí,' as he faces off against the most ferocious bull in the land, but nobody, aside from his daughter, Bianca, seems to notice that his greatest threat walks on two legs, not four. In her attempt to warn and save her father, Bianca soon realizes that fighting an angry bull is much safer than battling greed and deception.



Piratas del Caribe y el mapa secreto

Present Tense - 180 unique words

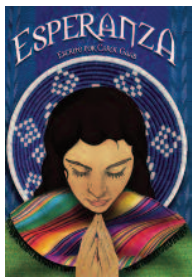
The tumultuous, pirate-infested seas of the 1600's serve as the historical backdrop for this fictitious story of adventure, suspense and deception. Rumors of a secret map abound in the Caribbean, and Henry Morgan (*François Granmont, French version*) will stop at nothing to find it. (Also available in French)



Felipe Alou: Desde los valles a las montañas

Past Tense - 150 unique words

This is the true story of one of Major League Baseball's greatest players and managers, Felipe Rojas Alou. When Felipe left the Dominican Republic in 1955 to play professional baseball in the United States, he had no idea that making it to the 'Big League' would require much more than athleticism and talent. He soon discovers that language barriers, discrimination and a host of other obstacles would prove to be the most menacing threats to his success. (Also available in English & French; unique word count approximately 300.)



Esperanza

Present Tense, 1st person - 200 unique words

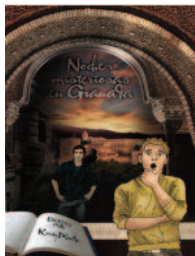
This is the true story of a family caught in the middle of political corruption during Guatemala's 36-year civil war. Tired of watching city workers endure countless human rights violations, Alberto organizes a union. When he and his co-workers go on strike, Alberto's family is added to the government's "extermination" list. The violent situation leaves Alberto separated from his family and forces them all to flee for their lives. Will their will to survive be enough to help them escape and reunite?



Piratas del Caribe y el Triángulo de las Bermudas

Past Tense - 280 unique words

When Tito and his father set sail from Florida to Maryland, they have no idea that their decision to pass through the Bermuda Triangle could completely change the course of their voyage, not to mention the course of their entire lives!



Noches misteriosas en Granada

Present Tense - Fewer than 300 unique words

Kevin leaves for a summer in Spain, and his life seems anything but perfect. He escapes into a book and enters a world of long-ago adventures. As the boundaries between his two worlds begin to blur, he discovers that nothing is as it appears...especially at night! (Also available in French)



Robo en la noche (Prequel to Noche de Oro)

Past & Present Tense - 380 unique words

Fifteen-year-old Makenna Parker had reservations about moving to Costa Rica, but didn't know that missing her home would be the least of her worries. She finds herself in the middle of an illegal scheme, and it's a race against time to save the treasured macaws. (Present tense version available in French)



Noche de oro

Past Tense - 290 unique words

Now a college student, Makenna Parker returns to Costa Rica as a volunteer and finds unexpected romance that lands her in the middle of a perilous scheme. Does Martín really have good intentions, and what are he and his stepfather up to? Will Makenna discover the truth before it's too late?



Vidas impactantes

Past tense - 250 unique words

Explore the fascinating stories of six influential and inspirational Spanish-speakers whose lives have been impactful. A baseball star who gave his life helping others, a Cuban exile turned superstar, a mother who never gave up the search for her missing son, a paralyzed soccer star who fought his way to the top in a new profession, a woman who revealed the secrets of history, and a shift supervisor in a mine who didn't realize his shift would last 70 days! You may have heard of these impactful individuals, but after reading their stories you are sure to feel inspired.



Santana

Past tense - 210 unique words

Carlos Santana is a legendary Mexican American musician. He started out as a poor child in a tiny Mexican village and transformed himself into an icon of Rock 'n' Roll. His story illustrates the ups and downs inherent in any journey of success and the power of perseverance. Whether or not you are a fan of Santana, his story will leave you inspired!



Problemas en Paraíso

Past Tense - 250 unique words

Victoria Andalucci and her 16-year-old son are enjoying a fun-filled vacation in Mexico. A typical teenager, Tyler spends his days on the beach with the other teens from Club Chévere, while his mother attends a conference and explores Mexico. Her quest for adventure is definitely quenched, as she ventures out of the resort and finds herself alone and in a perilous fight for her life! Will anyone be able to save her? (Also available in French)



La Llorona de Mazatlán

Past Tense - Fewer than 300 unique words

Laney Morales' dream of playing soccer in Mexico soon turns into a nightmare, as she discovers that the spine-chilling legends of old may actually be modern mysteries. Why does no one else seem to hear or see the weeping woman in the long white dress? Laney must stop the dreadful visits, even if it means coming face to face with...La Llorona.



Rebeldes de Tejas

Past Tense - Fewer than 280 unique words

When Mexican dictator, Santa Anna, discovers that thousands of U.S. citizens have spilled into the Mexican state of Texas and seized the Alamo, he is determined to expel or kill all of them. What will happen when Mexican Juan Seguín finds himself fighting for Texas and against his country's dictator?



Los Baker van a Perú

375 unique words

(Past & Present Tense - 2 versions under one cover!)

Are the Baker family's unfortunate mishaps brought on by bad luck or by the curse of the shrunken head? Join the Bakers as they travel through Peru and experience a host of cultural (mis)adventures that are full of fun, excitement and suspense!



La maldición de la cabeza reducida

375 unique words

Hailey and Jason think they have rid themselves of the cursed shrunken head now that they are back home from their family trip to Peru. Their relief quickly gives way to shock, as they realize that their ordeal has only just begun. Returning the head and appeasing the Jívaro tribe become a matter of life and death! Will Hailey and Jason beat the odds?



Hasta la sepultura

Past tense - Fewer than 400 unique words

In 1500, Queen Isabella issued an official decree permanently closing the secret passageways that lie below the city of Salamanca... Nico and Adriana decided to explore them and it will prove more dangerous than either imagined. They discover that the legendary evil that lurks below Salamanca is not so mythical after all...



Vector

Past tense - Fewer than 400 unique words

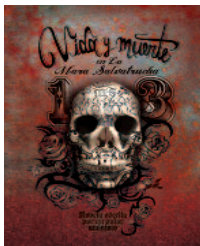
A vector of venom infects Antonio, a Panamanian teenager, with an illness that has far-reaching consequences. He is transported back in time to work on the construction of the Panama Canal. Is his eerie displacement reversible or will he finish his life working on one of the most dangerous construction sites in history?



La hija del sastre

Past tense - Fewer than 500 unique words

Growing up in a Republican family during Franco's fascist rule of Spain, Emilia Matamoros discovers just how important keeping a secret can be! After her father, a former captain in the Republican army, goes into hiding, Emilia not only must work as a seamstress to support her family, she must work to guard a secret that will protect her father and save her family from certain death. Will her innocence be lost and will she succumb to the violent tactics of Franco's fascist regime?



Vida y muerte en La Mara Salvatrucha

Past tense - Fewer than 400 unique words

This compelling drama recounts life (and death) in one of the most violent and well-known gangs in Los Angeles, La Mara Salvatrucha 13. This is a gripping story of one gang member's struggle to find freedom.



La Calaca Alegre

Past tense - Fewer than 425 unique words

Does Carlos really suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, or are his strange sensations and life-like nightmares much more real than anyone, including Carlos, believes? Determined to solve the mystery of his mother's disappearance, Carlos decides to return to Chicago to face his fears and find his mother, even if it means living out his nightmares in real life. As he uncovers the mystery, he discovers the truth is much more complex and evil than he ever imagined.



La Guerra Sucia

Past tense - Fewer than 600 unique words

American Journalist and single mother, Leslie Corrales travels to Argentina to investigate the suspicious disappearance of 'Raúl,' the son of Magdalena Casanovas. When Leslie discovers that Raúl, along with 10's of thousands of other suspected dissidents, has suffered horrific atrocities at the hands of the Argentine government, she finds herself in a life-altering series of events. Will she escape with her life and with the information she needs to help the Argentine people?