

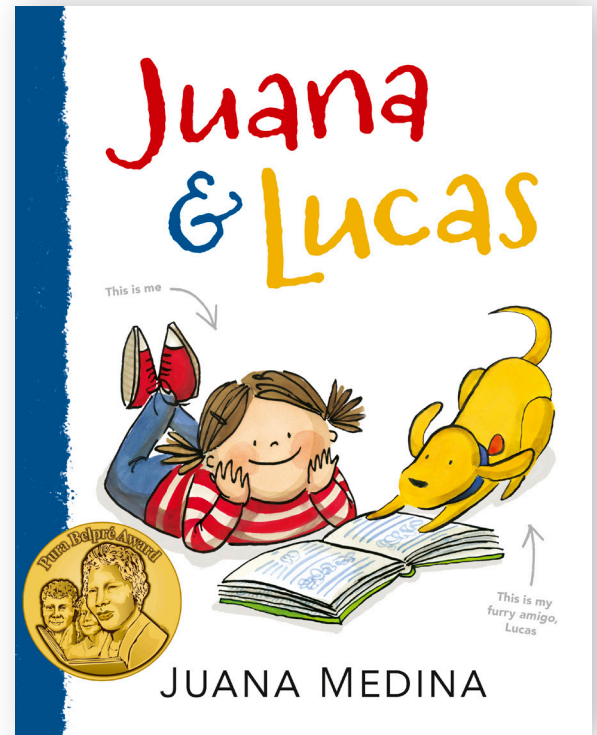
Winner of the 2017 Pura Belpré Author Award

# Juana & Lucas

by Juana Medina

Fans of Judy Moody and Clarice Bean will love Juana, the spunky young Colombian girl who stars in this playful, richly illustrated new series.

Juana loves many things: drawing, eating Brussels sprouts, and living in Bogotá, Colombia. Most of all, she loves her dog, Lucas, the best *amigo* ever. She does not love her itchy school uniform, math problems, or dance class. Above all, Juana does NOT love learning the English. Why is it so important to learn a language that makes so little sense? But when Juana's *abuelos* tell her about a special trip they are planning — one where the English will be very useful — Juana works *muy* hard at becoming a fountain of the English! Hilarious, energetic, and utterly relatable, Juana will win over *los corazones* — the hearts — of readers everywhere in her first adventure, presented by namesake Juana Medina.



HC: 978-0-7636-7208-9  
\$14.99 (\$21.00 CAN)  
96 pages · Ages 5–8

  
CANDLEWICK PRESS  
[www.candlewick.com](http://www.candlewick.com)

# A Q&A with author-illustrator Juana Medina

## What role does the city of Bogotá play in the book?

Bogotá plays a very important role! It provides the background for the unique details in Juana's life. For example, the fact that Bogotá is high up in the Andes Mountains makes for very cold mornings and warm afternoons, which explains Juana's uniform, with the heavy blazer for the cold mornings . . . and her stinky classroom with sweaty kids in the afternoon. Also, they speak Spanish and love soccer, two very important things for Juana in the story.



Young Juana Medina at a market in Bogotá

Bogotá is a diverse city, full of hidden stories. Small pockets of European immigrants settled in Colombia after or during periods of duress in their home countries. That's how the Sheldons make it into the book; they represent a number of neighbors and friends who were always sharing fantastic stories that filled my imagination when I was a child.

Bogotá is where I grew up, and it's a city I love deeply. Setting the story there was a small way to share this very special place with readers.

## How does Juana's family shape her experiences?

Juana's family, like any other family, is unique. Her father died when she was a baby, and she is very attached to her mother, her aunt Cris, and her *abuelos*. They shape her interests and feed her curiosity, which I find very empowering for children.

They each offer Juana a distinct point of view, and she enjoys learning from all of them. Especially when their lessons involve eating chocolate with Abue or singing at the tops of their lungs with Tía Cris.

## How did you decide to make Juana's dog, Lucas, a central character?

I grew up with a fantastic dog named Lucas. He loved me and protected me throughout my early childhood. I have very fond memories of playing with him, and they helped shape the Lucas in the book. For the story, I wanted to make sure there was a constant in Juana's life, a sidekick of sorts, but a character that would support Juana, let her be herself 100 percent, and perhaps add a bit of extra humor to the story (especially visually).

## How did you figure out how to depict Juana's progress learning English?

This is a story based on a real experience. The way it happened was somewhat different, but the overall feel was pretty much the same.

Juana has zero interest in learning English. She can't see why it is important or should matter to her at all. Through the people around her, she soon discovers plenty of reasons that learning a new language can be helpful, though she also discovers how things might not turn out as expected! I wanted to show the learning experience as something that doesn't just affect one individual, but how the community around that person plays an important role. For example, the Herrera brothers might not have known English, but they were supportive of Juana as she learned; the Sheldons might have had better things to do, but they allowed Juana to visit and read endless stories. I wanted to show different voices and an array of components to Juana's learning experience. Guaranteeing that there would be a community cheering on her attempt to learn was important to me, because learning tends to happen like this — not as an isolated experience, but through collective discoveries and common discussions.

It also allowed for me to show — in a teeny tiny way — the impact of a child's education in their community, without being tremendously didactic or preachy.

More importantly, and without wanting to give away the ending, we often go on a journey with one very specific goal in mind, only to discover later that the precise goal or the circumstances around it can change when we least expect it. This happens not just to children but to adults, too. I thought it would be good to explore this through Juana's eyes.



Juana Medina's *abuela* in her studio

## What advice do you have for students learning foreign languages?

There will be moments when you want to give up. We all go through those. Sometimes they'll happen due to frustration; sometimes you'll even get a headache from the effort it takes to remember all the words! But no matter what, don't give up. Learning a new language is always worth it.

## Do you create words or images first?

Ofentimes words come first, but I usually draw at least a couple of illustrations as I write to gain a bit more understanding of the characters. How they move, act, who they are . . . Drawing helps shape a few characteristics a little bit faster, which helps ease the writing. Then I write for a long, long time, and it's not until things are more fleshed out that I start drawing again.

## How was your experience of writing and illustrating a book different from illustrating another author's work?

This was a great experience. I learned a lot through the process of creating the book. It allowed me to decide what I wanted to share about the story through images and what I wanted to share in words. When I've illustrated books for other authors, this isn't something I could do.

This also made for an interesting ongoing conversation with my editor and the designer of the book. There was a lot to learn from them. It made for a very enriching process for me. As Juana learned "the English," I learned a lot about writing a book in English.

## Since you work in a variety of media, how did you decide what sort of images to create for this book?

Because *Juana & Lucas* is based in a personal story, I wanted it to have a very personal feel. I decided ink and watercolor would do that. The process was very slow, but enormously gratifying.

## What has been your favorite response to your work from a young reader so far?

I feel very fortunate to share my work with others — especially young readers — and get to hear their opinions. There are two responses I've enjoyed deeply: one, hearing that, based on my work, young readers are considering becoming writers or illustrators. That's huge! And two, about a year ago, during an event, I asked the audience to raise their hands if they were excited, and someone raised not only a hand, but *both* hands, as well as feet, to show how excited they were. What more can one ask for?



Young Juana Medina on her first day of school

## What were your favorite books when you were growing up?

Some of the books I remember most fondly are *Le petit Nicolas* by René Goscinny (beautifully illustrated by Jean-Jacques Sempé), *Me and My Sister Clara* by Dimiter Inkiow, and *Harriet the Spy* by Louise Fitzhugh.

I was an avid reader growing up. By age seven, I had devoured most of Jules Verne's books and was attempting to read the whole newspaper every morning. Since this was in Colombia during the 1980s, war was taking place, and this was something my mom wasn't thrilled about.

## What were the first English-language books that spoke to you?

Hard to say. I don't remember clearly which books I read in English and which in Spanish. The one thing I do remember moving me greatly was discovering that I could understand the lyrics to many songs. This was a mind-blowing discovery that had me listening very attentively to the Beatles, Pink Floyd, Simon & Garfunkel, Cat Stevens, the Doors . . . and a never-ending list of music my parents, aunts, and uncles listened to.



Silvia Baptiste © 2013

**Juana Medina** was born and raised in Bogotá, Colombia. She is the illustrator of *Smick!* by Doreen Cronin and the author-illustrator of *1 Big Salad: A Delicious Counting Book*. Juana Medina has studied and taught at the Rhode Island School of Design and now teaches at the Corcoran School of the Arts and Design at George Washington University. She lives in Washington, D.C.



"Medina's beautiful, vivid prose conjures the Colombian setting with tactile language. . . . Juana's narration is also peppered with easy-to-figure-out Spanish words."

— *The New York Times Book Review*

- ★ "Through this strong, adventurous, and smart female protagonist, Medina presents an extraordinary story about the many opportunities learning a new language can bring. Full-color illustrations provide excellent depictions of Juana's life in Bogotá and allow readers to connect with her character and culture. The artwork playfully interacts with dynamic text, which often arcs across the page, employs large fonts for emphasis, and smoothly incorporates Spanish words. Fans of Judy Moody and Lola Levine will absolutely love Juana. This upbeat new series for young readers is a must-buy."

— *Booklist* (starred review)

- ★ "As both author and illustrator, Medina is able to integrate the text and illustrations in unique ways, including spreads in which Juana tells us why, for example, she strongly dislikes her school uniform or why Mami is the most important person in her life. Font design is also used creatively, such as when Medina traces the arc of a soccer ball hit hard enough to be sent 'across the field.' An essential selection that creates multicultural awareness, has distinguished and appealing design elements, and has a text that is the stuff of true literature."

— *School Library Journal* (starred review)

- ★ "Both comfortably familiar (this will be an easy sell for fans of Pennypacker's Clementine, for instance) and keenly specific in its setting and characters, *Juana & Lucas* is much needed for the gap it fills in American children's literature, but it will be much beloved for its warmly depicted family relationships, eminently read-aloud-able high jinks, and sunny protagonist."

— *The Horn Book* (starred review)





# Juana & Lucas

## Spanish/English Flash Cards

el abrazo



la abuela



el abuelo



los abuelos



el agua



el amigo





# Juana & Lucas

## Spanish/English Flash Cards

grandmother

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

hug

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

grandparents

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

grandfather

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

friend

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

water

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina



# Juana & Lucas

## Spanish/English Flash Cards

anunciado  
(anunciar)



el apartamento



¡ayayay!



la cabeza/  
las cabezas



el calendario



caminando  
(caminar)





# Juana & Lucas

## Spanish/English Flash Cards

apartment

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

announced

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

head/heads

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

ouch!

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

walking

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

calendar

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina



# Juana & Lucas

## Spanish/English Flash Cards

cantar



la casa



la clase



comer



la conversación



el cordón





# Juana & Lucas

## Spanish/English Flash Cards

home

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

to sing

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

to eat

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

class

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

shoelace

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

conversation

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina



# Juana & Lucas

## Spanish/English Flash Cards

de



delicioso/a



detesto  
(detestar)



dos



durmiendo  
(dormir)



el elefante





# Juana & Lucas

## Spanish/English Flash Cards

delicious

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

of

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

two

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

detest

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

elephant

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

sleeping

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina



# Juana & Lucas

## Spanish/English Flash Cards

la empanada



entiendo  
(entender)



el espacio



Español



especialmente



explotado  
(explotar)





# Juana & Lucas

## Spanish/English Flash Cards

understand

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

savory pastry

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

Spanish

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

space

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

exploded

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

especially

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina



# Juana & Lucas

## Spanish/English Flash Cards

extraordinario/a



fantástico/a



favoritos



finalmente



frustrante



furioso/a





# Juana & Lucas

## Spanish/English Flash Cards

fantastic

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

extraordinary

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

finally

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

favorite (plural)

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

furious

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

frustrating

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina



# Juana & Lucas

## Spanish/English Flash Cards

el fútbol



hablando (hablar)



hablar



inmediatamente



la leche



el maletín





# Juana & Lucas

## Spanish/English Flash Cards

speaking

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

soccer

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

immediately

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

to speak

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

briefcase

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

milk

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina



# Juana & Lucas

## Spanish/English Flash Cards

la manzana



las matemáticas



el mercado



los minutos



mucho



muy





# Juana & Lucas

## Spanish/English Flash Cards

mathematics

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

apple

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

minutes

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

market

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

very

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

a lot

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina



# Juana & Lucas

## Spanish/English Flash Cards

nada



necesario/a



no



el océano



los parques



pensando  
(pensar)





# Juana & Lucas

## Spanish/English Flash Cards

necessary

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

nothing

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

ocean

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

no

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

thinking

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

parks

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina



# Juana & Lucas

## Spanish/English Flash Cards

perfecto/a



el perro



las planetas



por favor



primero/a



el problema





# Juana & Lucas

## Spanish/English Flash Cards

dog

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

perfect

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

please

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

planets

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

problem

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

first

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina



# Juana & Lucas

## Spanish/English Flash Cards

pronunciar



rápido/a



la respuesta



segundo/a



el silencio



la tía





# Juana & Lucas

## Spanish/English Flash Cards

fast

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

to pronounce

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

second

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

answer

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

aunt

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

silence

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina



# Juana & Lucas

## Spanish/English Flash Cards

todo



la tragedia



tres



triste



los unicornios



los uniformes





# Juana & Lucas

## Spanish/English Flash Cards

tragedy

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

all

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

sad

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

three

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

uniforms

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

unicorns

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina



# Juana & Lucas

## Spanish/English Flashcards

la ventana



el viaje



los volcanes



¡ya mismo!





# Juana & Lucas

## Spanish/English Flash Cards

trip

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

window

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

right now!

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina

volcanoes

Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina



# Juana & Lucas

## BIG PROBLEMAS

Activity  
Kit



HC: 978-1-5362-0131-4



### About the Book

Juana's life is just about perfect. She lives in the beautiful city of Bogotá with her two most favorite people in the world: her *mami* and her dog, Lucas. Lately, though, things have become a little less perfect. Mami has a new hairdo and a new *amigo* named Luis with whom she has been spending a LOT of time. He is kind and teaches Juana about things like photography and jazz music, but sometimes Juana can't help wishing things would go back to the way they were before. When Mami announces that she and Luis are getting married and that they will all be moving to a new *casa*, Juana is quite distraught. Lucky for her, though, some things will never change—like how much Mami loves her. Based on author-illustrator Juana Medina's own childhood in Colombia, this joyful series is sure to resonate with readers of all ages.

### About the Creator

photo by Silvia Baptiste



**Juana Medina** was born and raised in Bogotá, Colombia. She is the illustrator of *Smick!* by Doreen Cronin and *Lena's Shoes Are Nervous: A First-Day-of-School Dilemma* by Keith Calabrese. Juana Medina is also the author-illustrator of *1 Big Salad*, *Sweet Shapes*, and *Juana & Lucas*, which won the 2017 Pura Belpré Author Award. She currently lives with her family in Mexico.

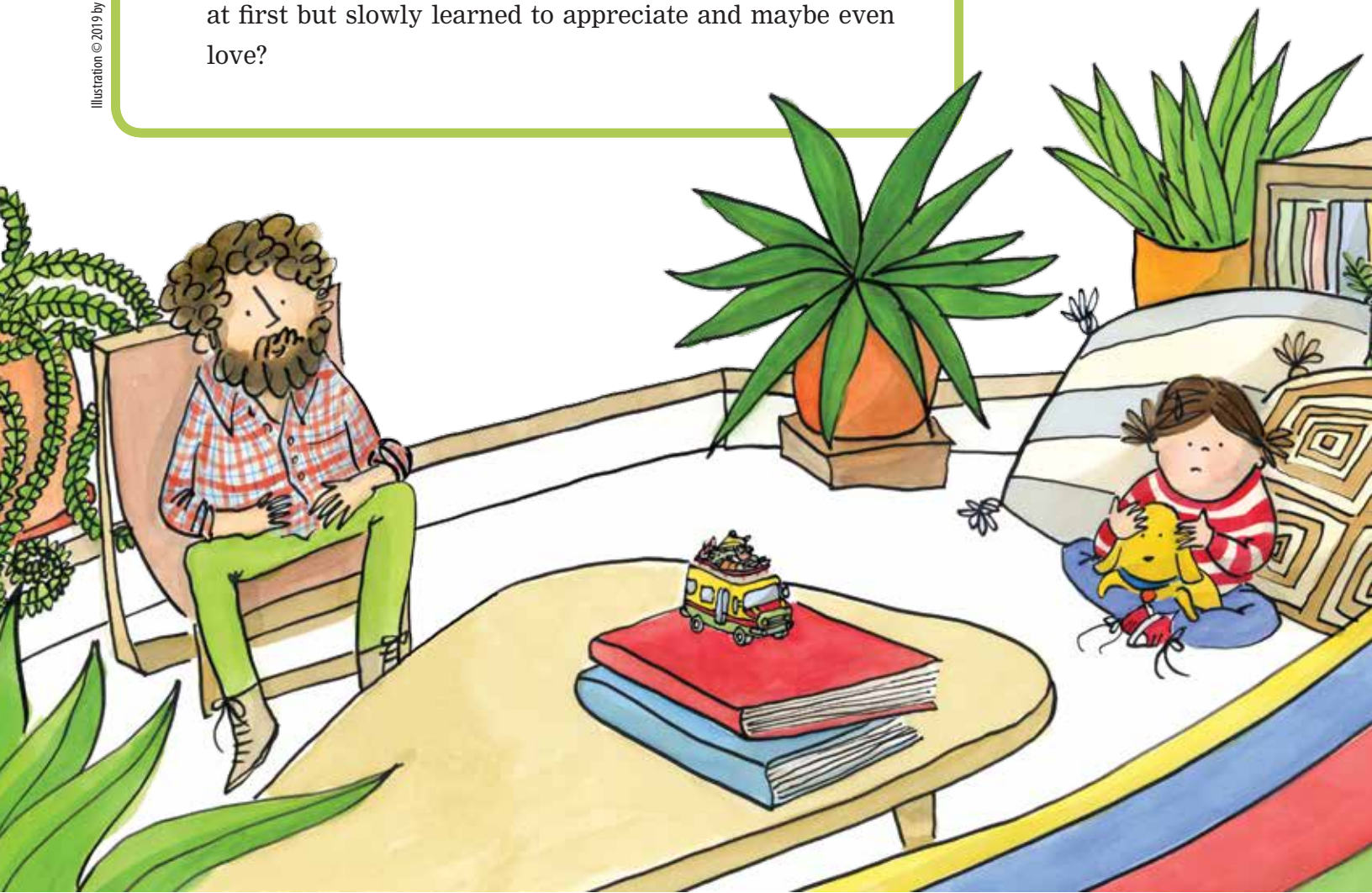


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Illustrations © 2019 by Juana Medina

## Discussion Questions

1. When the story begins, Juana describes why her life is perfect. What are the parts of her life that she loves most?
2. Some parts of Juana's life change during *Juana & Lucas: Big Problemas*. What are one or two things that shift throughout the story?
3. What are some Spanish words you learned while reading *Juana & Lucas: Big Problemas*? Were you able to figure out what they meant from the pictures or context clues?
4. How does Mami's new friend, Luis, make Juana feel? What are some things Juana likes about Luis?
5. Have you ever confronted a situation that you didn't love at first but slowly learned to appreciate and maybe even love?



## Group Activity

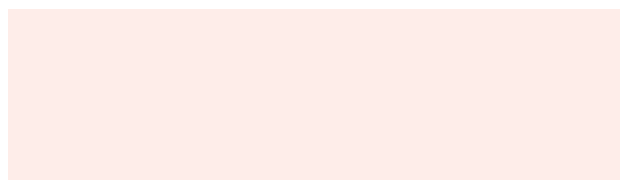
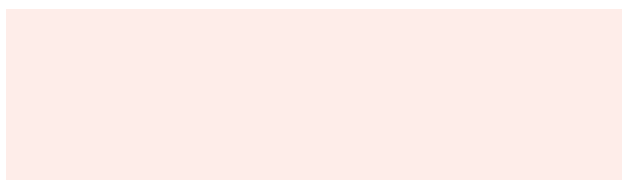
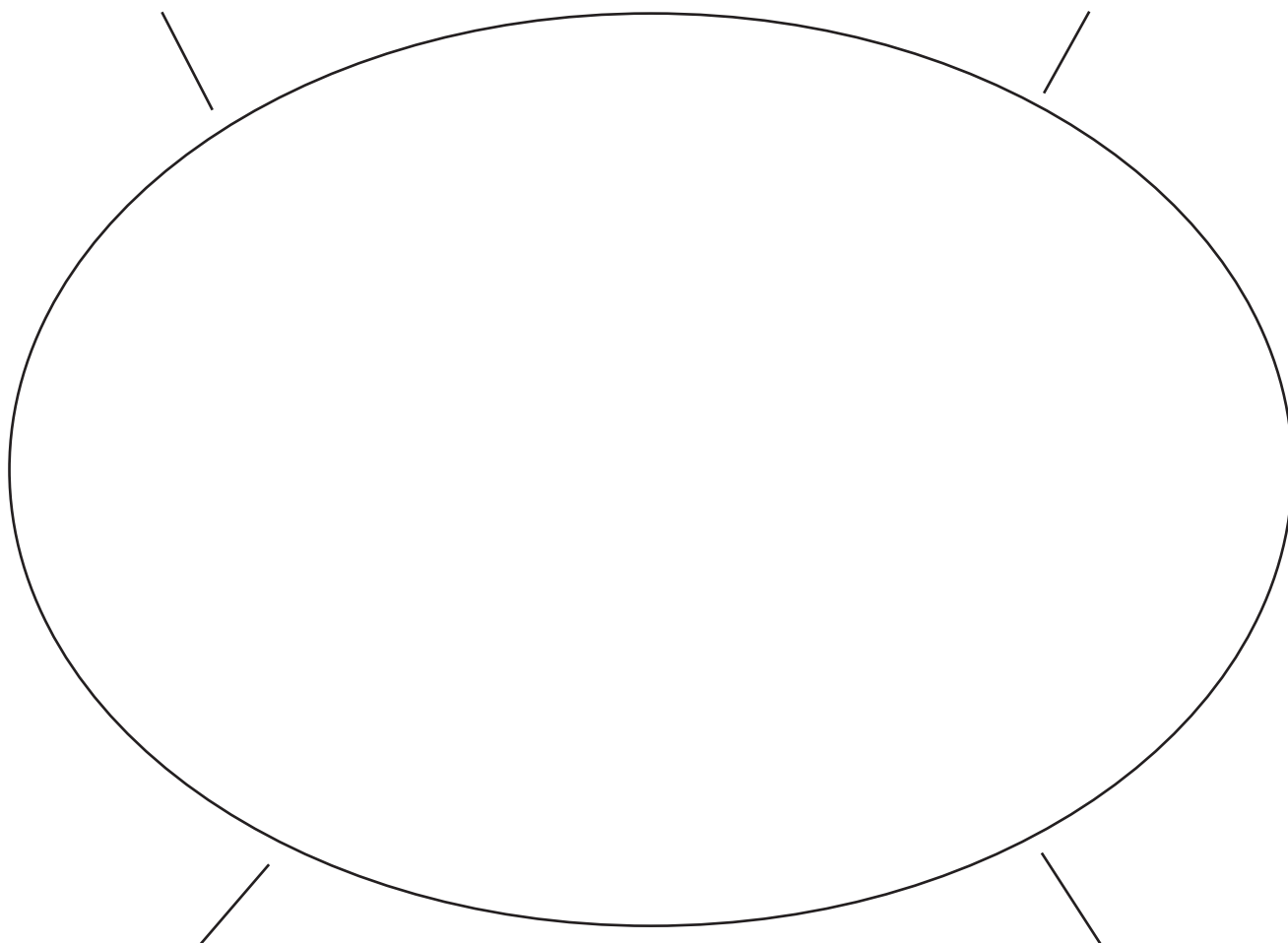
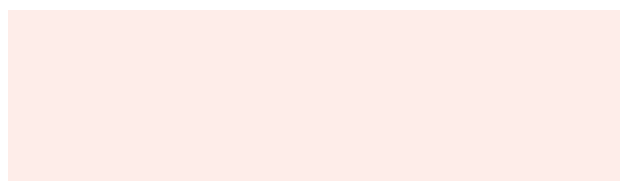
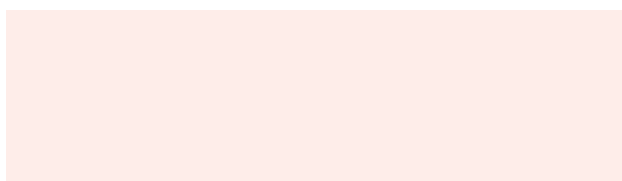


Juana loves her dog, Lucas; her *mami*; and the soup *ajiaco*.

As a group, talk about some of your favorite people or things in your life. What do you like about them? What makes them special?

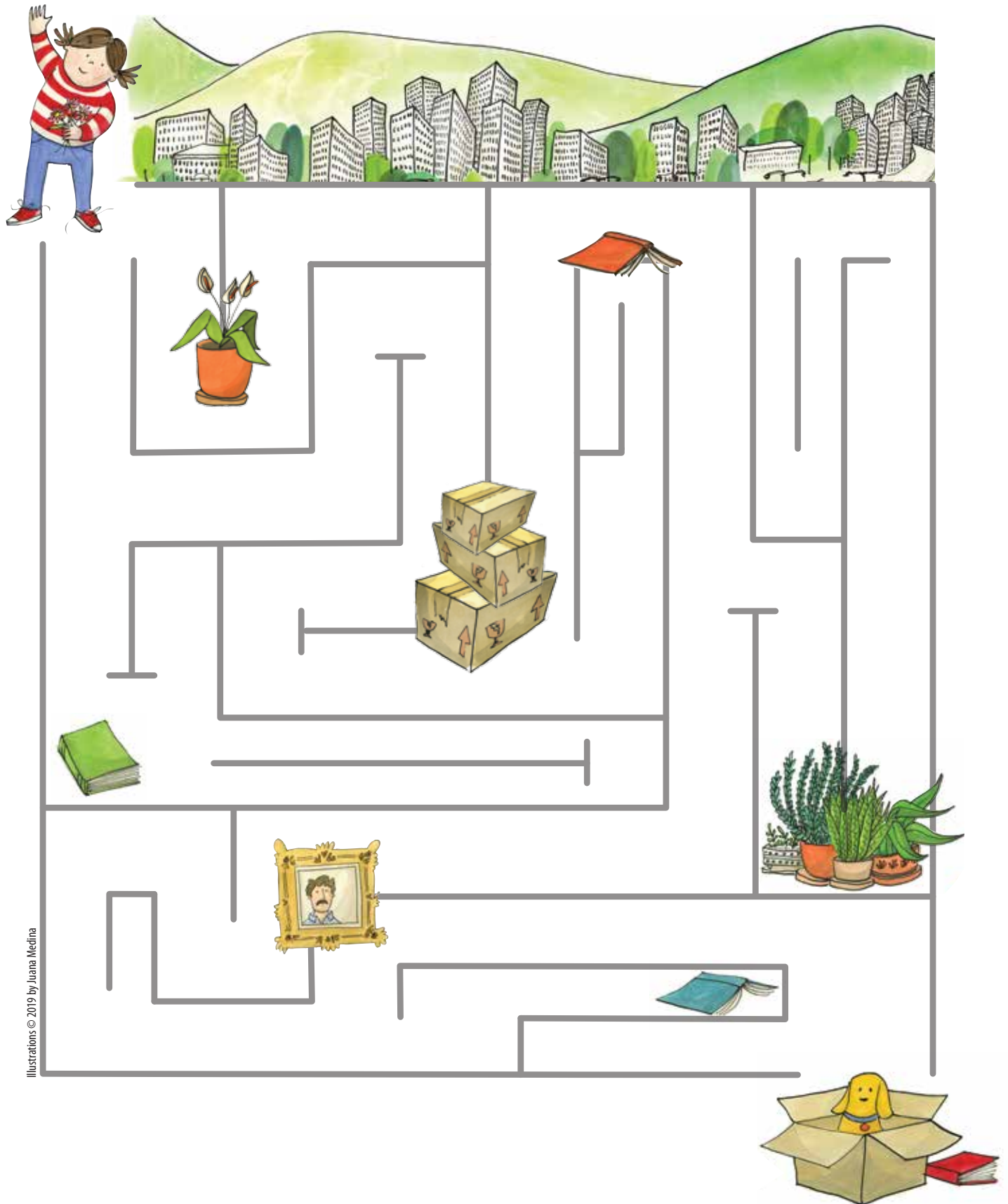
After your discussion, draw a picture of a special person or thing in your life and label it with what you like best about them or it.

\_\_\_\_\_ is the greatest!  
(Write the name of your special person or special thing.)



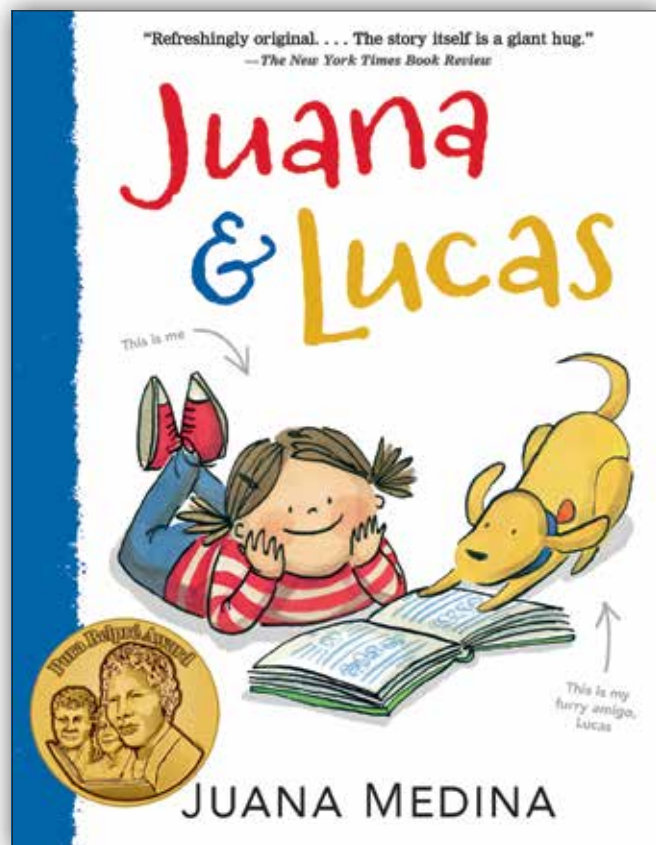
# Maze Fun

Help Juana find her way through the maze to get to Lucas.



# Don't miss the first book in the series!

## Winner of a Pura Belpré Author Award



HC: 978-0-7636-7208-9 • PB: 978-1-5362-0639-5

★ “Through this strong, adventurous, and smart female protagonist, Medina presents an extraordinary story about the many opportunities learning a new language can bring. . . . Fans of Judy Moody and Lola Levine will absolutely love Juana. This upbeat new series for young readers is a must-buy.”

—*Booklist* (starred review)



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—*The Horn Book* (starred review)



  
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# Juana & Lucas BIG PROBLEMAS

## Spanish/English Flash Cards

los abuelos



los amigos



la biblioteca



los buñuelos



las canciones



la casa





# Juana & Lucas BIG PROBLEMAS

## Spanish/English Flash Cards

friends

Illustration © 2019 by Juana Medina

grandparents

Illustration © 2019 by Juana Medina

fried dough balls

Illustration © 2019 by Juana Medina

library

Illustration © 2019 by Juana Medina

home

Illustration © 2019 by Juana Medina

songs

Illustration © 2019 by Juana Medina



# Juana & Lucas BIG PROBLEMAS

## Spanish/English Flash Cards

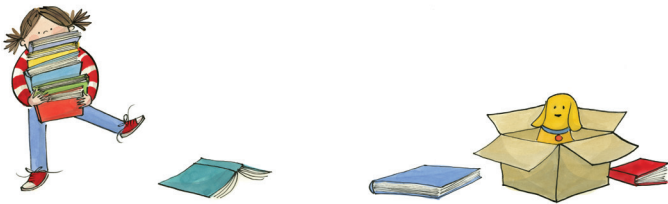
la ceremonia



la cosa



las empanadas



los esenciales



especialmente



la estatua





# Juana & Lucas BIG PROBLEMAS

## Spanish/English Flash Cards

thing

Illustration © 2019 by Juana Medina

ceremony

Illustration © 2019 by Juana Medina

the essentials

Illustration © 2019 by Juana Medina

savory pastries

Illustration © 2019 by Juana Medina

statue

Illustration © 2019 by Juana Medina

especially

Illustration © 2019 by Juana Medina



# Juana & Lucas BIG PROBLEMAS

## Spanish/English Flash Cards

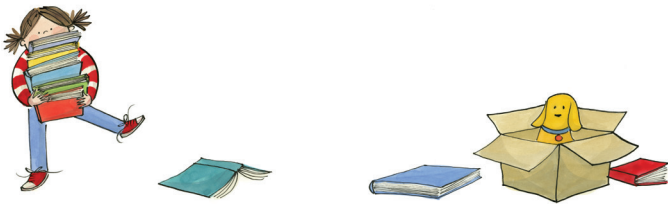
la familia



fascinante



el fútbol



el helado



inmediatamente



interesante





# Juana & Lucas BIG PROBLEMAS

## Spanish/English Flash Cards

fascinating

Illustration © 2019 by Juana Medina

family

Illustration © 2019 by Juana Medina

ice cream

Illustration © 2019 by Juana Medina

soccer

Illustration © 2019 by Juana Medina

interesting

Illustration © 2019 by Juana Medina

immediately

Illustration © 2019 by Juana Medina



# Juana & Lucas

BiG PROBLEMAS

## Spanish/English Flash Cards

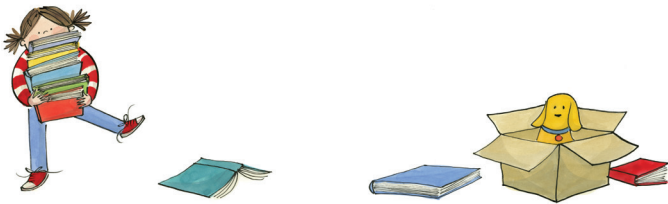
el maíz



Mami



mi



perfección



el perro



las preguntas





# Juana & Lucas BIG PROBLEMAS

## Spanish/English Flash Cards

Mom

Illustration © 2019 by Juana Medina

corn

Illustration © 2019 by Juana Medina

perfection

Illustration © 2019 by Juana Medina

my

Illustration © 2019 by Juana Medina

questions

Illustration © 2019 by Juana Medina

dog

Illustration © 2019 by Juana Medina



# Juana & Lucas BIG PROBLEMAS

## Spanish/English Flash Cards

los problemas



el queso



las repollitas



el tiempo



todo



las ventanas





# Juana & Lucas BIG PROBLEMAS

## Spanish/English Flash Cards

cheese

Illustration © 2019 by Juana Medina

problems

Illustration © 2019 by Juana Medina

time

Illustration © 2019 by Juana Medina

Brussels sprouts

Illustration © 2019 by Juana Medina

windows

Illustration © 2019 by Juana Medina

everything

Illustration © 2019 by Juana Medina



# Juana & Lucas BIG PROBLEMAS

## Spanish/English Flash Cards

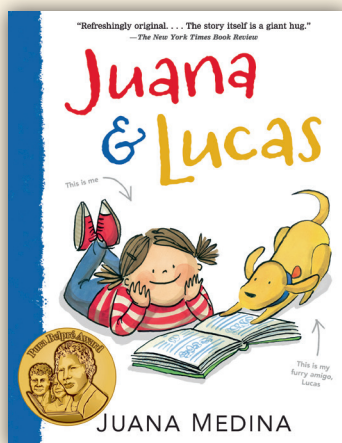
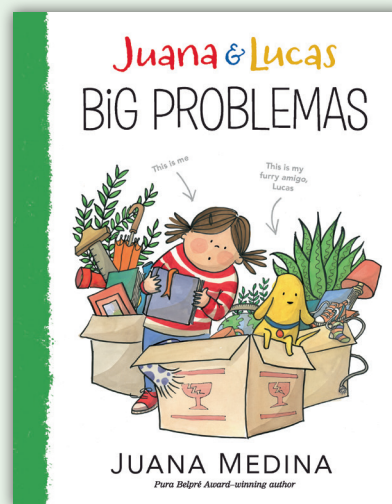
el vestido



la vida



los zapatos



#1 in the series

Winner of the 2017  
Pura Belpré Author  
Award

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Illustration © 2016 by Juana Medina



# Juana & Lucas BIG PROBLEMAS

## Spanish/English Flash Cards

life

Illustration © 2019 by Juana Medina

dress

Illustration © 2019 by Juana Medina



shoes

Illustration © 2019 by Juana Medina



photo by Silvia Baptiste

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