

The Magic Corncob



By Cynthia Harmony
Illustrated by Mirelle Ortega

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Lucas smells his grandma's food.

Abuelita is cooking a special soup.



The kitchen smells like a holiday.

Lucas can't wait.

“Can we eat?” Lucas asks.

“Not until you set the table,”
says Abuelita.

Lucas puts the dishes down.

SMACK!

A corncob hits Lucas on the head.

“OUCH!” Lucas says.

But no one is around.

Lucas wonders what happened.



The corncob has four colors.
Lucas holds it up high.
It shines with magic.

Lucas closes his eyes.
Wind blows around him.
Then, Lucas opens his eyes.

“This isn’t Abuelita’s house!”
Lucas cries out.





Lucas blinks and blinks.

“Where am I?” he says to himself.

“A field, of course,” says a girl.

“Hi, I’m Jari.”



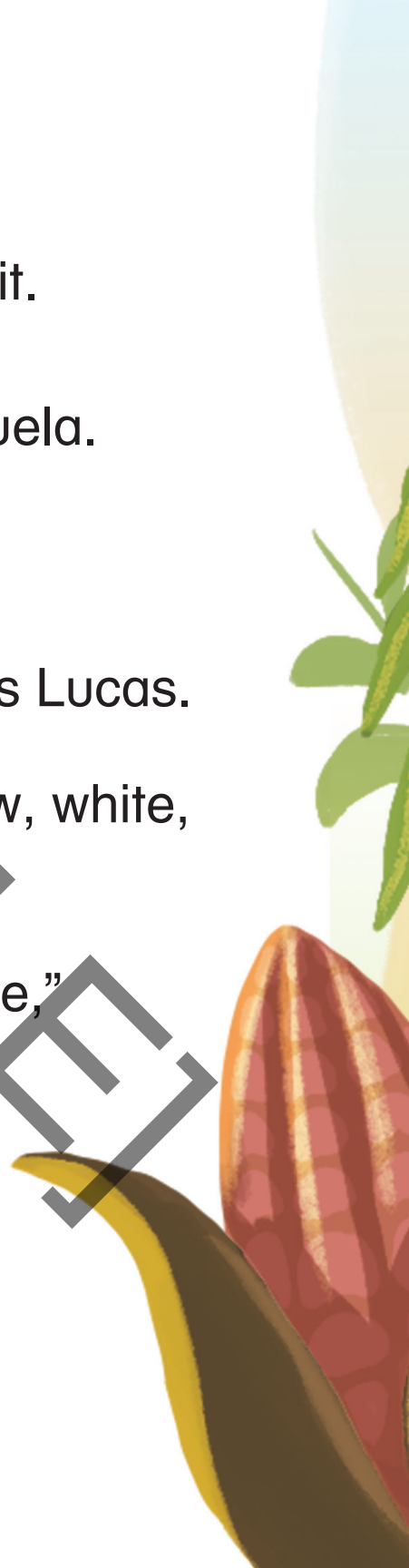
“Hi, I’m Lucas.”

Jari puts Lucas’s corncob in
her basket.

“This is a perfect day to visit.
Come with me,” says Jari.
“I’m getting corn for my abuela.
Today, we are cooking a
special meal.”

“Oh good, I’m hungry!” says Lucas.
Lucas helps Jari pick yellow, white,
red, and blue corn.

“This way to Abuela’s house,”
says Jari.





Jari and Lucas walk by a plaza.
Lucas sees lots of people
waving Mexican flags.
He hears music being played.

Jari and Lucas smile as the fiesta
fills the plaza.

“Let’s go see the best part,” says
Jari, and they walk on.







Jari and Lucas walk to the house.
They see Jari's abuela in the
kitchen. She is cooking.



She grills corn.
The kernels turn dark like the
night sky.

“Our family has made this meal for a long time,” says Jari.

“Grilled corn is my favorite food.”

“Abuelita puts corn in her soup too,” says Lucas.

“Oh no, Abuelita’s meal!
I have to go back home.
But thank you for showing me around.”

“Thank you for visiting,” says Jari.
She hands him the corncob.
It shines with magic once more.



When Lucas opens his eyes,
he is back with Abuelita.

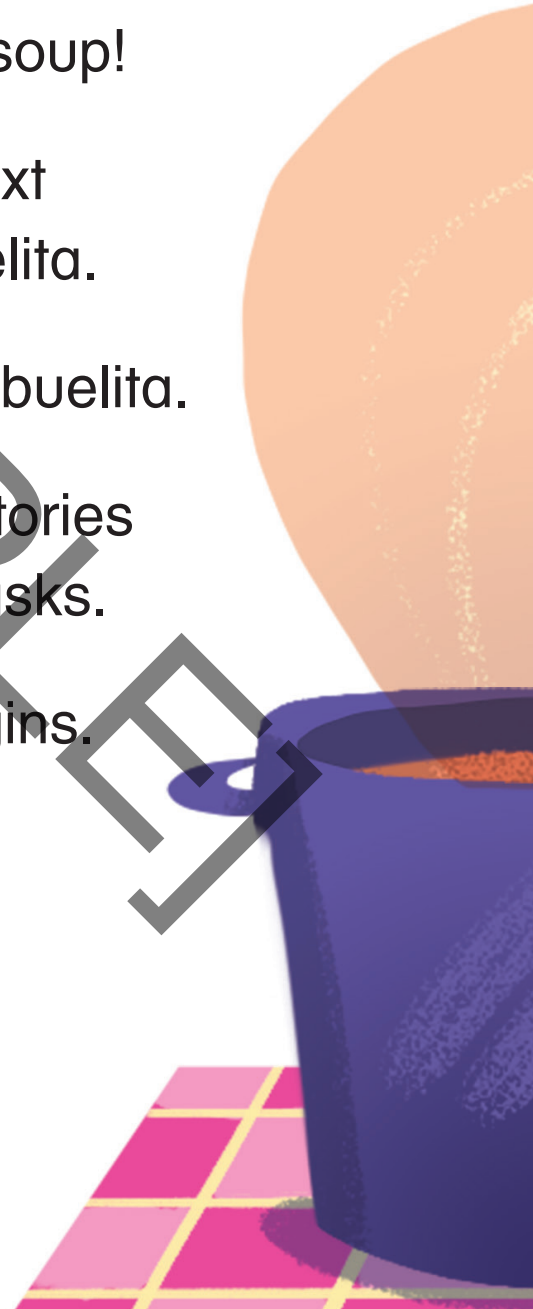
And just in time for her soup!

“Can I help you cook next
time?” Lucas asks Abuelita.

“Of course,” promises Abuelita.

“Will you tell me more stories
about Mexico?” Lucas asks.

Abuelita smiles and begins.





TSAMP

Consultant

Doug Dalton, M.A.Ed.

Elementary Teacher
Sierra Sands Unified School District, California

Publishing Credits

Rachelle Cracchiolo, M.S.Ed., *Publisher*
Emily R. Smith, M.A.Ed., *VP of Content Development*
Véronique Bos, *Creative Director*

Image Credits:

Illustrated by Mirelle Ortega

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Book Club Questions

- 1.** How do Lucas and Jari help their grandmas?
- 2.** What happens in the story to cause Lucas to want to go home?
- 3.** How do the illustrations give you more information about the story?

The Magic Corncob

One day, Lucas finds
a magic corncob!
It sends him on a
journey where he
meets a new friend
and learns more
about his own family.

Reading Levels
Guided Reading: K
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