

Tell Me a Story by Alma Flor Ada



"Tell me a story, Abuelita," said Camila. "Tell me a story about long ago."

"What would you like to hear? Would you like to hear about your father when he was a *young* man?"

"No, Abuelita. Tell me about when you were a little girl."

"*Listen*, Camila, and I will tell you. When I was a little girl, my family did not own a car. We didn't ride places. We walked."

"That must have been hard, Abuelita. Did you stop to rest a lot?"

"It was fine, Camila. Walking is fun."

"Tell me more, Abuelita."

"We didn't have many of the things we have today. We had to use coal to **cook**."

"Did you **cook** with coal every day?"

"Of course we did, Camila. We had to **cook** every day, and we used coal."

"My friends and I had such fun! We played outside in *front* of the house. We liked to jump rope on the sidewalk."

"*Why* did you play in *front* of the house, Abuelita?"

"We played ther *because* it was the best place to play, Camila."

"What did you like *most* when you were *young*, Abuelita?"

"I liked flying kites. On windy days, the kites went so far up it was hard to see them. I let my dreams fly with the kites."

"I can *picture* all the kites! I would let my dreams fly up with kites, too!"

"What I liked *most* of all was the river in back of my Abuelita's house."

"The river, Abuelita? *Why* did you like the river?"

"There was a big tree at the side of the river. I would sit on a branch and look down. I could see ducks, fish, and bullfrogs. I kept looking for a crocodile, but all I saw were turtles."

"Bullfrogs? Didn't they scare you, Abuelita?"

"Oh, no, Camila. It was fun. I had the best time at the river."

"I made boats and sent them down the river. I would *picture* them landing on a beautiful island. I wished I could sail with them. I wished I could sail all the way to the sea."

"Weren't you scared, Abuelita?"

"No, Camila, I don't think so."

"I would sail with you, Abuelita! I wouldn't be scared!"

"I think we will sail, Camila. One day, we will sail."

Phonics Skill	Comprehension Skill	High-Frequency Words
Long Vowel /ī/ i-e	Alphabetize and Draw Conclusions	because, cook, front, listen, most, picture, why, young
Genre: Fiction		
In fiction, an author can tell a story through dialogue—or what the characters say to each other. Look for information that one character tells another character and clues to the characters' ideas in the <i>pictures</i> .		