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 there 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.”

Keep this page at home as part of your at-home reading practice library.
“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.”

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<td>Long Vowel /i/ i-e</td>
<td>Alphabetize and Draw Conclusions</td>
<td>because, cook, front, listen, most, picture, why, young</td>
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**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 pictures.