

Realistic
Fiction

Every Picture Tells a Story

by Iris Franks
illustrated by Vicki Bradley



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PAIRED
READ

Hidden Treasure

STRATEGIES & SKILLS

Comprehension

Strategy: Ask and Answer Questions

Skill: Point of View

Vocabulary

achievement, apologize, attention, audience, confidence, embarrassed, realized, talents

Vocabulary Strategy

Prefixes

Word count: 1,203



Education

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Essential Question

How can you use what you know to help others?

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Chapter 1

My Sketchbook

My name is Lila. I used to live in a village. I live in a big city now. I ride the bus to school. When I lived in the village, I used to walk to school. I knew everybody's name. As I walked to school, people greeted me. They asked how my family was.

On the bus, I take out my sketchbook. I draw pictures of the village where I lived.





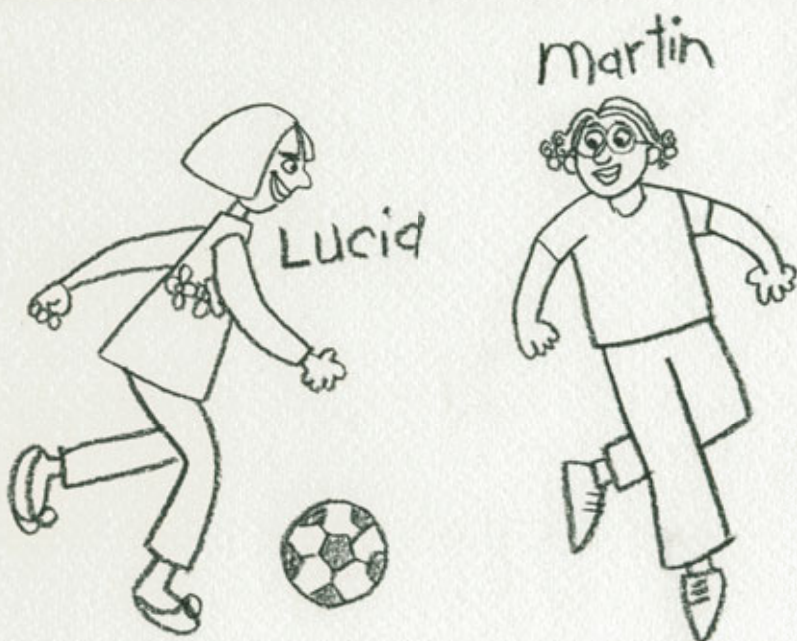
There is also a picture of my friend Max with his dog, Zolton. There are many pictures of my grandmother. I like the picture of her at the market. She is buying cacao beans for her special hot chocolate.

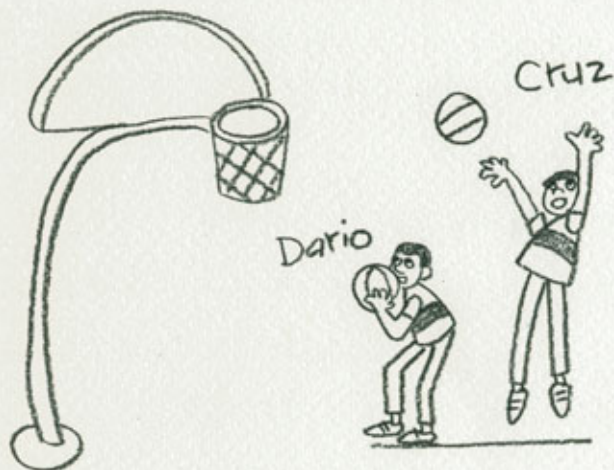


In my bag, I have a thermos of hot chocolate. Mama made it this morning. She used my grandmother's cacao paste. I know the chocolate will taste delicious. Making chocolate is one of my grandmother's special talents.

My school here in America is very big. I don't know many people. So far, I have met Martin and Lucia and the twins Dario and Cruz. They live near me and we wait together at the bus stop every morning. Sometimes I see them playing in the park.

I drew pictures to help me remember their names. I drew Martin and Lucia. They were both born in America.





I drew Dario and Cruz. They came from Mexico City with their family two years ago. They have been in America longer than me. I came with my mother, father, and brother two months ago.

Martin, Lucia, Dario, and Cruz all speak Spanish. They speak English, too. I speak some Spanish. I speak a little English. With my family I speak the language of our people. We are Mixtec Indians from a part of Mexico called Oaxaca.

STOP AND CHECK

Why did Lila draw pictures of her school friends?

Chapter 2

The Class Report

Before school, I see Lucia and Martin talking. I can only understand some of the words. They don't notice that they have an audience.

Lucia keeps saying the words “chocolate” and “cacao.” She looks very worried. Martin is holding a book about chocolate. He is reading from it while Lucia takes notes.



I know that Lucia has to present a report to the class this week. I think her report is about chocolate. I want to ask her if I can help, but I am embarrassed. What if Lucia does not understand me? I don't have confidence in my English. I am still learning.

I would like to tell Lucia and Martin that I know something special about chocolate. Wait! I have pictures!

I flip through the pages of my sketchbook. Near the end of the book I find what I am looking for.





Before I left, I drew some pictures of a day I spent with Grandmother. I was unhappy that day. I didn't want to leave.

“Lila,” she said, “I want to teach you something. It is an old skill. You will learn many new things in America. Don't forget, the old skills are good, too.”

That day, Grandmother showed me how to make chocolate from cacao beans. She made it from scratch. For each step, I drew a picture.

STOP AND CHECK

How does Lila think she can help Lucia?

Chapter 3

Making Chocolate

At lunch, I see Lucia. I'm feeling very shy, but I walk over to her.

"I know how to make chocolate," I say.

"Really?" says Lucia. "Can you help me? I am doing a report on chocolate, but I'm having trouble."

I open up the sketchbook. I start showing Lucia my pictures.





First, I show Lucia how my grandmother roasted the cacao beans over a wood fire in the backyard. She moved the beans around the pan with a dried corn husk.

The next picture shows how she rubbed the cacao beans to peel off the outer skin. It is like peeling the skin off roasted peanuts. I tell Lucia that I liked to help with that part.



We look at the picture of my grandmother grinding the cacao into a powder. Lucia points to the stone grinding table and asks about it. I tell her it is called a *metate*. There is a flame under the metate to heat it. The heat softens the ground cacao. Then my grandmother would add sugar and spices to make a thick paste.

In the next picture, Grandmother is whisking the chocolate paste into hot water. I point to the special wooden whisk that my grandmother always used. I tell Lucia that it is called a *molinollo*.

In the last picture, my grandmother is handing me a cup of hot chocolate.





Lucia looks at the pictures. As she looks at the last picture, I take out my thermos. I pour Lucia a cup of hot chocolate.

“My grandmother’s chocolate,” I say.

“Thanks, Lila. This is delicious,” says Lucia as she tastes the chocolate.

A few days later, Lucia is ready to give her report.

“My report is about chocolate,” says Lucia. “It is the story of the best cup of hot chocolate I ever tasted.”

At the end, Lucia says, “I would like to thank my friend Lila. She helped me with this report.”

The teacher copied some of my pictures to show to the class. I was embarrassed by the attention. At the same time, I realized something. I had made a friend.

STOP AND CHECK

What was in Lila's thermos?



Respond to Reading

Summarize

Use details from the story to summarize *Every Picture Tells a Story*. Your chart may help you.

Details

↓

Point of View

Text Evidence

1. How can you tell this story is realistic fiction? **Genre**
2. How does Lila feel about her grandmother? Use examples from the text to support your answer.
Point of View
3. What does the word *unhappy* on page 9 mean? **Prefixes**
4. Write about how the author shows Lila's point of view at the beginning of the story. **Write about Reading**

Compare Texts

Read about how Lila and her friends help a neighbor.

Hidden Treasure

One day, Lila was playing ball with Dario and Cruz in their yard. Cruz kicked the ball. It sailed over their neighbor's fence. Lila went to get it.

“Lost your ball?” said Mrs. Perez when she answered the door. “You’ll have to come and search for it. The yard is full of weeds.”

“Mrs. Perez,” said Lila, “we’ll come and clean up your yard.”



The next day, Martin and Lucia joined Lila, Dario, and Cruz at Mrs. Perez's house.

Martin loved plants. He even knew their names. If Lila wasn't sure, she pointed to a plant and asked Martin, "Plant or weed?"

Mrs. Perez came over to Lila. "Surely you can tell that's a weed, Lila. Get rid of it," she said.

Lila looked at the plant. It did look straggly and weed-like, but Martin said, "I'm sure that's a hollyhock."

"Nonsense, Martin, it's a weed," said Mrs. Perez. "Pull it out, Lila."

"Lila, trust me. That will be a beautiful plant. Don't pull it out," said Martin.

Mrs. Perez shrugged and walked away.

Some time later, Mrs. Perez saw Lila. She invited her into her yard to say thank you.

“What an achievement,” Mrs. Perez said. “I love my garden. And I have something special to show you. Remember that weed that Martin said we shouldn’t pull out?”

“Yes,” said Lila.

“Please apologize to Martin. Look at this!”

There, at the back of the garden, were tall spikes covered in flowers—hollyhocks! Lila took out her sketchbook and began to draw them to show the others.



Make Connections

How did Martin use his knowledge of plants to help Mrs. Perez? **Essential Question**

How was Lila’s talent for drawing useful? Use examples from *Every Picture Tells a Story* and *Hidden Treasure* to support your response. **Text to Text**

Focus on Genre

Realistic Fiction Realistic fiction stories are often set in the present. The characters are realistic. That means that they are like real people.

Read and Find *Every Picture Tells a Story* is set in the present, and Lila, her grandmother, Martin, and Lucia are realistic characters. What events in the story are things that could happen in real life?

Your Turn

Think of a problem that you have faced. Think of a skill that you have. Write a story about solving the problem as if you are the main character.

Fiction

Thinkmark

Characters

How would you describe Lila?
Is that the same way that Lila describes herself?

Sequence of Events

What happened in *Every Picture Tells a Story*?
What happened **first**, **then**, **next**, and **finally**?

Plot

Who needed help in *Every Picture Tells a Story*?

Conclusions

What conclusions can you draw about why Lila's sketchbook was so important to her?

Skills and Talents

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Grade 3 • Unit 4 Week 2

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