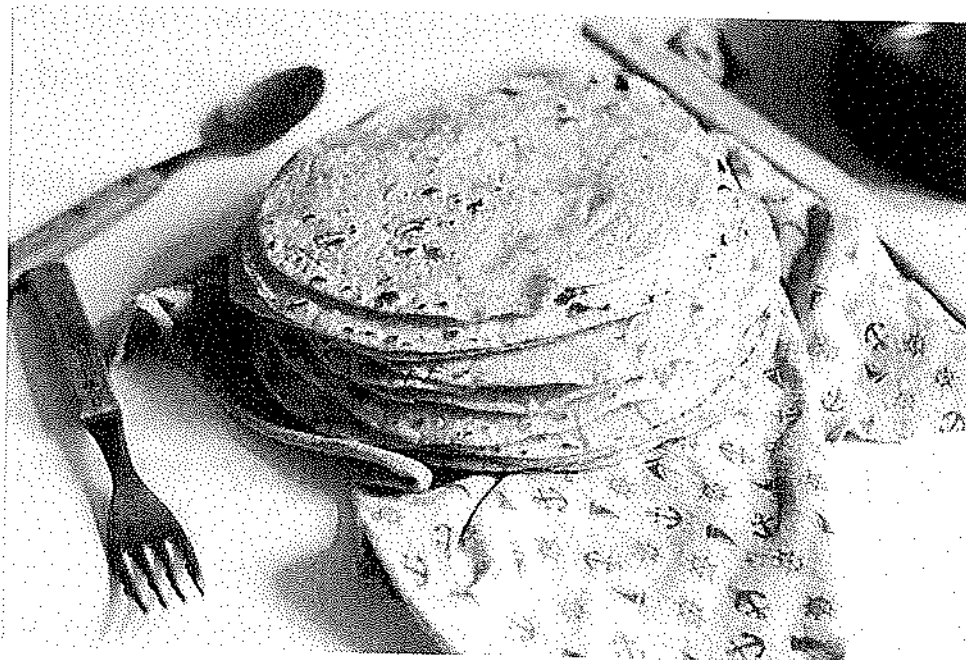


Tortillas for Tía Maria

by Betsy Loredó



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tortillas

Every Saturday, Tía Maria's tiny kitchen was crowded. The whole Garcia family worked together to make dinner. Lucy's mom and dad were there. Her uncles Ralph and Jorge were, too. Everybody was laughing and joking and cooking.

Lucy loved those sounds... and the delicious smells!

Lucy and her big brother Marcus were also in the kitchen. Marcus was nine years old. Lucy was seven. Sometimes Marcus treated Lucy like a baby. But in Tía's kitchen, they were a team. It was their job to make the tortillas for Tía to cook in her iron pan.

"Hand me that measuring cup," Marcus ordered Lucy. He poured in just enough *masa harina*. Next, he mixed the corn flour with water and salt. Soon, it formed a dough. Lucy had a job, too. She rolled pieces of dough

into perfect round balls. Then they took turns flattening each ball inside a machine called the tortilla press.

The press was made from smooth wood and had shiny metal hinges. Tío Jorge built it himself. Pushing a lever made the cover lift up and push down.

Lucy put a ball of dough inside. She pressed the cover down hard to make a flat circle.

"Make them nice and thin," Tía Maria instructed the kids. That way the tortillas would fry perfectly. Lucy loved tortillas with beans, rice, and chicken. Her favorite filling was pickled red onions. She always spooned on extra vinegar, pink from the onions. It tasted so good!

Every time they made dinner at Tía Maria's, Lucy and Marcus played a game. Each tried to eat more tortillas than the other. So far, Marcus always won.

"Maybe someday I'll win," Lucy thought, rubbing her happy tummy. But she didn't mind losing all that much. Somehow, eating the tortillas she and Marcus made together was just as fun as winning... and yummiier too!

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What does the Garcia family do together every Saturday? *Literal Recall*

- A. make dinner
- B. play card games
- C. listen to music

2. What is the setting of this story? *Literal Recall (story structure)*

- A. in Tía Maria's kitchen
- B. in Lucy's backyard
- C. at Lucy and Marcus' school

3. Read the following sentences from the text.

"Sometimes Marcus treated Lucy like a baby. But in Tía's kitchen, they were a team. It was their job to make the tortillas for Tía to cook in her iron pan."

What can you conclude about Marcus and Lucy based on this information? *(inference)*

- A. Marcus and Lucy don't see each other a lot, but they hang out in Tía's kitchen.
- B. Marcus is in charge of making the tortilla fillings, and Lucy makes the tortillas.
- C. Having a job to do together makes Marcus act differently towards Lucy.

4. Based on this text, how does Lucy feel about making tortillas for dinner with her *(inference)* family?

- A. She feels happy and excited about it.
- B. She feels sad and confused about it.
- C. She feels nervous and scared about it.

5. What is this text mostly about? *(main/central idea)*

- A. Lucy doesn't know how to make tortillas, but Marcus teaches her and then she can help out.
- B. Lucy and Marcus work together with their family to make delicious tortillas every weekend.
- C. Marcus makes the chicken and beans for the tortillas, while Lucy makes the rice, and together they make a great meal.

6. Read the following sentences from the text. (Context clues/vocabulary)

"Make them nice and thin," Tía Maria instructed the kids. That way the tortillas would fry perfectly."

What does the word **instructed** most closely mean as it's used here?

- A. told a story to someone
- B. told someone to do something
- C. celebrate with someone

7. Choose the word that best completes the following sentences. (grammar/language arts)

First, Lucy puts a ball of dough in the tortilla press. _____, she presses the cover down to make a flat circle.

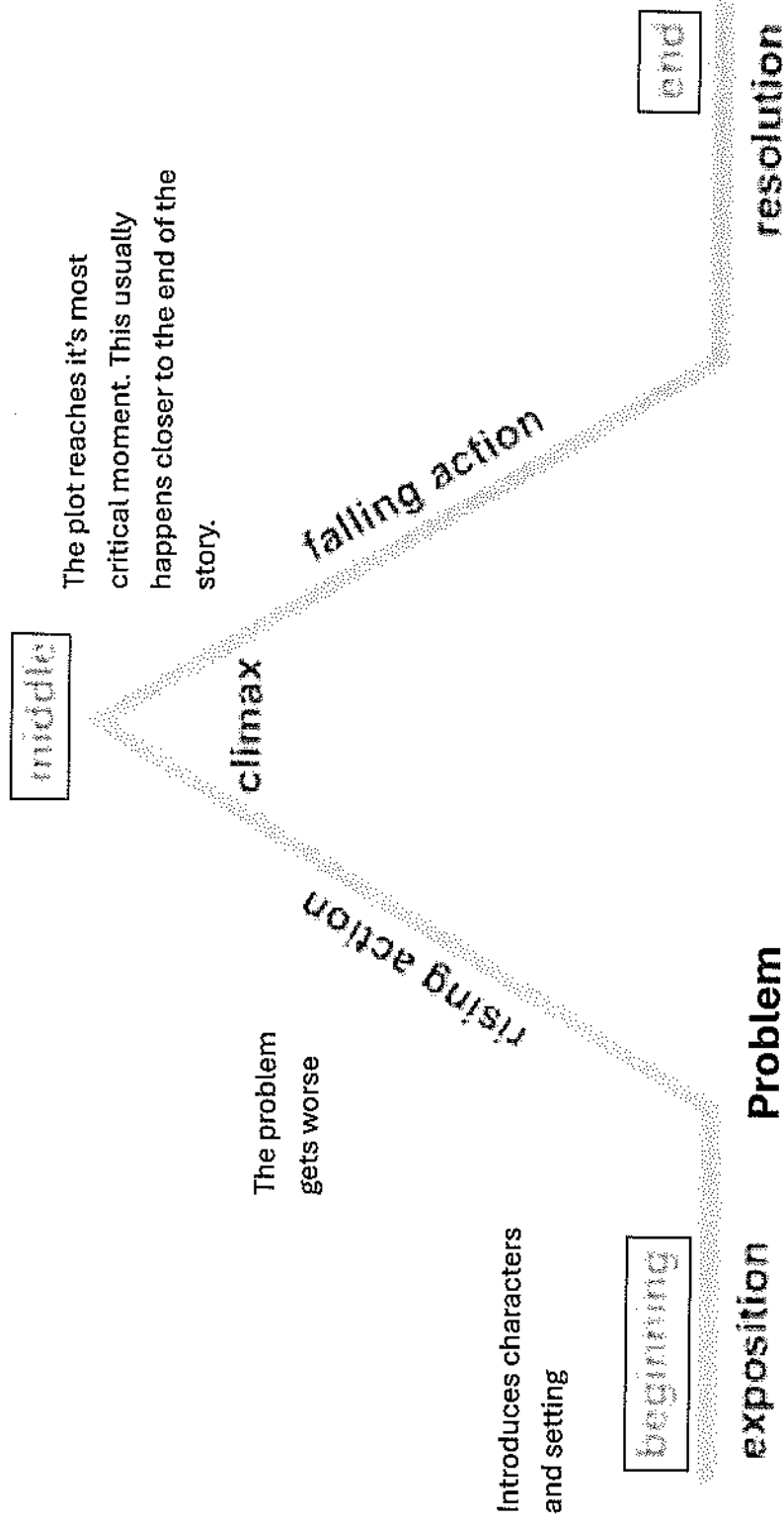
- A. Then
- B. But
- C. Because

8. What are Lucy's favorite things to put in a tortilla? *Literal Recall*

9. What game do Lucy and Marcus play together every week? *Literal Recall*

10. What is one of Lucy's favorite things about spending time with her family? *Both Literal recall and drawing conclusions*

Literary Story Structure (Fiction)





Context Clues

Type	Definition	Example
Definition	The definition of the word is incorporated into the text.	Carey was lethargic; she did not have enough energy to get out of bed and go to swim practice.
Synonyms	The author uses a word having the same or similar meaning to other words in a sentence.	Rebecca, my best friend, has been a companion to me for many years.
Antonyms	The author hints at the meaning by providing a non-example or opposite.	Kim was anxious about the test, but Christy was not worried at all.
Examples	The definition of the word is given in the form of an example.	Krystle will serve cold beverages, such as soda, tea, and juice, to the guests.
Inference	The reader is able to make an educated guess, use reasoning or background knowledge to determine the meaning of an unknown word.	You can speak candidly to Mrs. Dodd. She is an affable guidance counselor.

Word Relationships

Relationship	Definition	Examples
Synonym	Two words having the same or nearly the same meaning	strong : powerful tired : lethargic stroll : amble
Antonym	Two words having opposite meanings	hot : cold punctual : tardy gorgeous : grotesque
Homonym	Two words having the same pronunciation and spelling, but having different meanings	lie (untruth) : lie (prone) address (location) : address (speak to)
Homophone	Two words having the same pronunciation, but having different spellings and meanings	there : their to : too here : hear

