

Learning Words with Abuela

by Betsy Loredó

Tim **grew** up in Montana. He did not know how to speak Spanish. He knew just one word in Spanish: *abuela*. That was the word for grandmother.

Tim's abuela **grew** up in Mexico. She came to live in Tim's home when she was very old. She did not know many English words.

One day, Abuela showed Tim her *lotería* cards. *Lotería* was a **game** from Mexico. The cards had pictures and Spanish words.

Tim picked one with a picture of the moon.

"*La luna*," he read. "Does that mean moon?"

"Moon!" Abuela said.

Each day, they learned a word. Soon, there were no new cards left.

But Tim had a **surprise**. He took something from his pocket. He had made a new card. Abuela saw the picture. She read the word. "Cat!"

Tim showed Abuela paper and crayons. She knew what to do. Abuela wrote on the card: *el gato*.

There could be more cards. There could be more words!

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Tim speaks English. What language does Abuela speak?

- A. Spanish
- B. English
- C. Russian

2. What happened after Abuela came to live with Tim's family in Montana?

- A. Abuela went back to her home.
- B. Abuela showed Tim her *lotería* cards.
- C. Abuela and Tim read a book together.

3. Read these sentences from the text.

"Tim picked one with a picture of the moon.

'La luna,' he read. 'Does that mean moon?'

'Moon!' Abuela said."

What do you know about Tim and Abuela based on this information?

- A. Tim and Abuela both learnedg new words from the cards.
- B. Only Abuela learned new words from the cards.
- C. Tim didn't know what the picture on the card is.

4. What is the main idea of this story?

- A. Tim and Abuela learn words in Spanish and English through *lotería* cards so they can talk more to each other.
- B. Tim grew up in Montana, which is a state in the northwest of the United States with many mountains.
- C. Abuela brought*lotería* cards from Mexico to Montana, and the cards have pictures and words on them.

5. What did Tim make when there were no more *lotería* cards for him and Abuela?

Tim made _____.

6. What did you learn from "Learning Words with Abuela?"

7. Class Discussion Question: How does Tim and Abuela's relationship change throughout this story? How did the *lotería* cards help Tim and Abuela?

8. Draw a picture of Abuela and Tim using the *lotería* cards together.