

LEVELED READER • J



# Welcome, Carlos!



Written by Maribeth Boelts  
Illustrated by Angela Kamstra-Jacobson

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One late summer day,  
Carlos sat at the kitchen table.  
He wanted to begin his poster.  
He had found paper, glue, and  
colored markers.  
He had a box of family photos.  
*But what should I put on it?*  
he thought.



Soon, Carlos would start school  
in a new town, in a new country.  
He had just met his new school  
principal.

"You can bring this poster on  
the first day of school, Carlos,"  
his principal had said.  
"This will help the kids get to know you."



Carlos picked photos of his family.  
He added one of their old home  
in Monterrey, Mexico.  
He wrote about the books, sports,  
and foods he liked.



He carried his poster across the hall  
of his apartment building.

He knocked on the door, and  
a smiling girl opened it.

*"Hola, Carlos!"* said Maria.



"Hola, Maria," said Carlos.

"Do you want to see my poster?  
It's for the first day of school."

"Oh, yes!" said Maria.



Carlos spread out the poster.  
“This is a photo of my parents,”  
Carlos explained.  
“This is our house. These are the  
mountains in Monterrey.”



"My padre works for a big solar energy company from Monterrey. They moved us to the United States to open a new factory here."



"Monterrey looks beautiful, Carlos,"  
said Maria.

"It was sunny and a great place  
to do things outdoors," Carlos said.

"Was it hard to leave your relatives?"  
Maria asked.

"Yes, but we'll go back during the  
holidays to visit them," said Carlos.



Maria looked at another photo.

"That's my older brother, Mateo.  
This is my little sister, Selena,"  
Carlos said.

"My abuela will come to live  
with us soon, too."



Maria read that Carlos liked to play baseball.

"You could join our baseball team!" said Maria.



"That would be fun," said Carlos.  
He showed Maria his best  
batting swing.

"That's a good hit, for sure!"  
laughed Maria.



Then Maria brought out crayons  
and markers.

Together they colored the rest  
of the poster.

"There's something I want to add,"  
said Carlos.



Carlos drew a picture  
of a smiling girl.

She had long, soft hair.

"Is that your friend in Monterrey?"  
asked Maria.



🔊  
“No, it’s my first friend in America!”  
said Carlos.

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