

LEVELED BOOK • J

Welcome, Carlos!



Written by Maribeth Boelts
Illustrated by Angela Kamstra-Jacobson

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Welcome, Carlos!

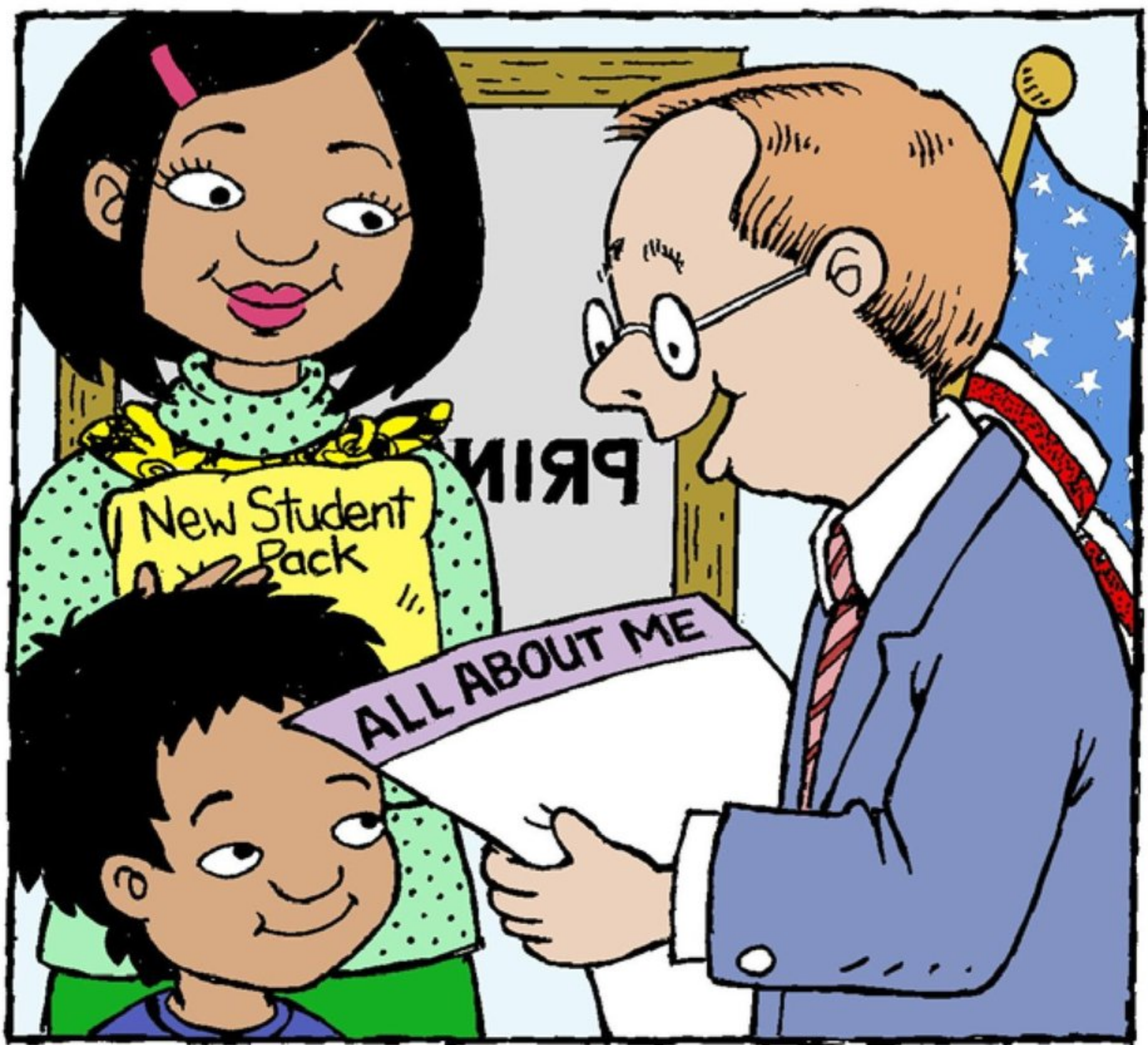


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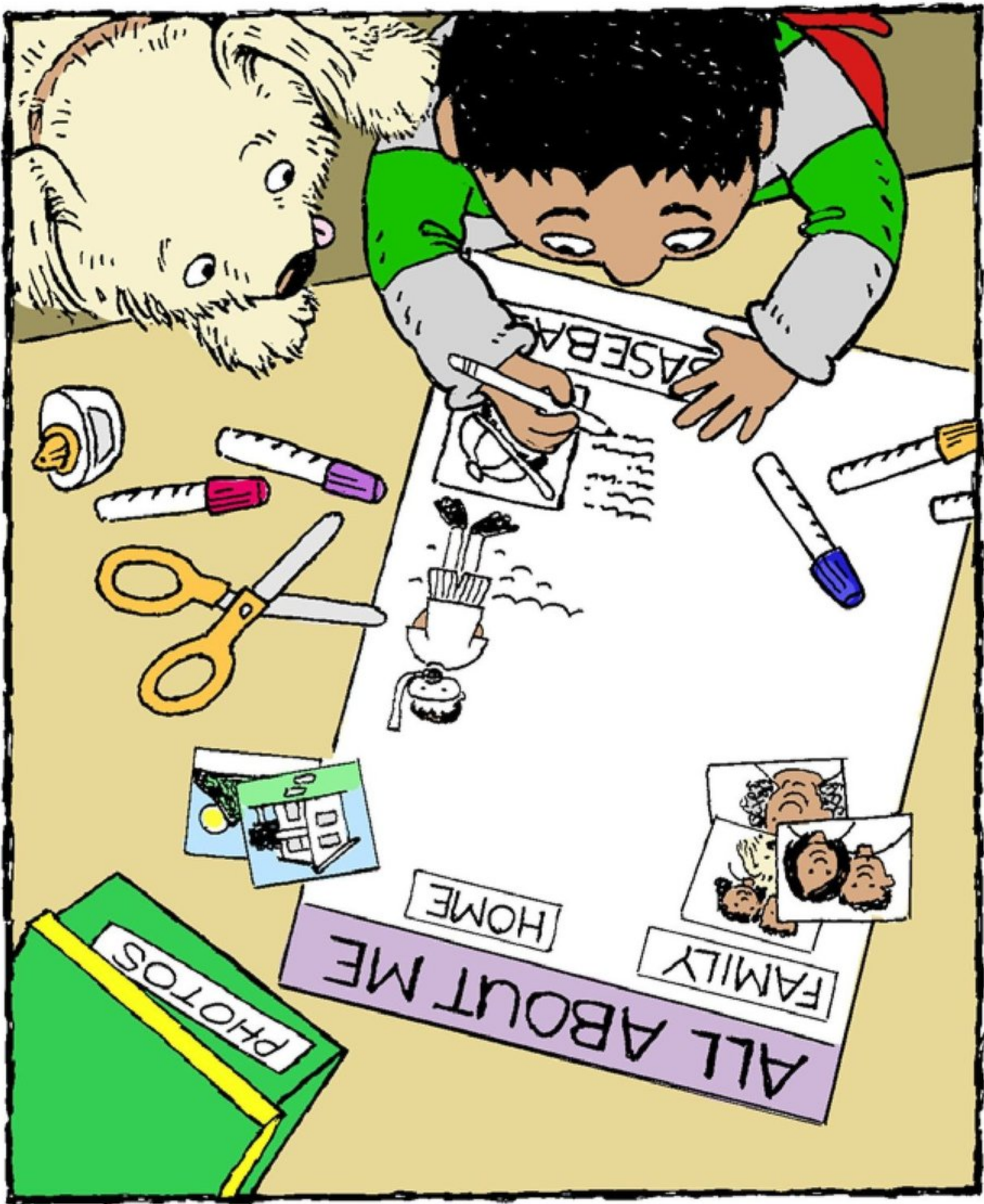
One late summer day,
Carlos sat at the kitchen table.
He wanted to begin his poster.
He had found paper, glue, and
colored markers.
He had a box of family photos.
But what should I put on it?
he thought.



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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