

LEVELED BOOK • J

Rent a Llama



MULTI
level
J•M•P

Written by Susan Lennox • Illustrated by David Miles

Rent a Llama



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Focus Question

How do Marcos's feelings about his new home change during the story? Why?

Words to Know

care

club

ranch

shyly

stalls

stroked

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Level J Leveled Book
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Correlation

LEVEL J	
Fountas & Pinnell	J
Reading Recovery	17
DRA	18



When Marcos slept, he dreamed.
He dreamed of Ecuador.
He dreamed of riding among sheep
and llamas.



When Marcos woke, he worried.
Life was so different in America.
Would it ever feel like home?



Marcos's mother worried, too.

She wanted him to be happy.

"Marcos, today is your class trip
to a **ranch**," she said one morning.



Marcos said, “We used to live
on a ranch, Mamá.”

“An American ranch will be
different,” she said.

“Yes, just like everything else here,”
Marcos sighed.



When Marcos got to school, he saw students excited about the trip.

Mr. Perkins chose seat partners for the bus ride.

Marcos sat with a boy named Ben.



“Have you ever been to a ranch?”
asked Ben.

“Only in Ecuador,” Marcos replied.

“I go to this ranch every week
to **care** for Mabel,” said Ben.

Marcos asked, “Who is Mabel?”

“You’ll see,” said Ben.



Soon they arrived at the ranch.
The class met Ms. Vega, the owner.
“Hello, everyone,” said Ms. Vega.
“And hi there, Ben,” she added.
Everyone looked at Ben.
How did Ms. Vega know him?



“Ben takes care of Mabel, one of our cows,” said Ms. Vega.

“I am in City to Farm,” Ben explained.

“It is a **club** where grownups help city kids learn about farms,” he added.



Ben continued, “I want to learn about cows, but I live in an apartment.”

“I can’t keep a cow there,” he joked. The class laughed.

Ben added, “Ms. Vega rents Mabel to me for free, and I care for her.”



“Let’s meet Mabel,” said Ms. Vega.
Ben led the class into a large barn
with many **stalls**.

When Marcos looked around,
he got a surprise.
In the second stall was a llama.

Llamas

Llamas are related to camels. Llamas are native to South America. They live in herds in the highlands of the Andes Mountains. People in Ecuador, Peru, and Chile raise llamas.

Llamas are pack animals. People use them to carry loads up and down mountains. Llama wool is woven to make cloth.





Marcos spoke softly to the animal
in Spanish.

The llama stretched its long neck
toward Marcos as if it understood.
Marcos **stroked** its fur.



Ms. Vega watched Marcos.

“Do you like llamas?” she asked.

Marcos nodded.

“Sí. I mean, yes,” he replied **shyly**.

“My grandfather had llamas

in Ecuador,” he added.

“Paco came from Ecuador, too,”

said Ms. Vega.



She smiled and asked, “Would you like to help care for him?”

“Like Ben takes care of Mabel?”

Marcos asked.

Ms. Vega said, “Exactly.”

Marcos’s heart sang.

Ranches were different here—
but llamas were the same!

Glossary

care (v.)	to help keep something healthy or in a good condition (p. 8)
club (n.)	a group of people who meet because they share a common interest (p. 10)
ranch (n.)	a large area of land usually used for raising livestock such as horses, cattle, or sheep (p. 5)
shyly (adv.)	in a timid or fearful way (p. 14)
stalls (n.)	spaces in a stable or barn, used for animals such as a horses or cows (p. 12)
stroked (v.)	gently moved one's hand over the surface of something (p. 13)

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A *Reading A-Z Level J Leveled Book*

Word Count: 382

Connections

Writing

Pretend you are Marcos. Write a postcard to your family in Ecuador to tell them about your field trip to the ranch. Include details about how the trip changed your feelings about your new home.

Social Studies and Art

Draw a picture to show three kinds of communities: rural, suburban, and urban. Which type of community do you live in? Share your answer with a partner.

The logo for Reading A-Z features the word "Reading" in a large, bold, red sans-serif font. The letter "R" has a small sun-like icon with rays above it. To the right of "Reading" is a large, stylized red letter "A-Z".

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