

# How Tia Lola Came To (Visit) Stay

Written by Julia Alvarez

Yearling

978-0-440-41870-2 | Trade Paperback  
160 pages | \$7.99 | Lexile: 740L



## OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

Julia Alvarez reveals Miguel's character through his actions, reactions, and interactions with other characters in *How Tia Lola Came to (Visit) Stay*. These craft moves make it necessary for the reader to infer and synthesize events through the story. Students will identify what preceded an action or reaction Miguel has in chapter one and provide a single word describing that character trait. Character trait words cannot be repeated; this challenges students to increase their understanding of complex characters and develop vocabulary.

## LEARNING TARGETS

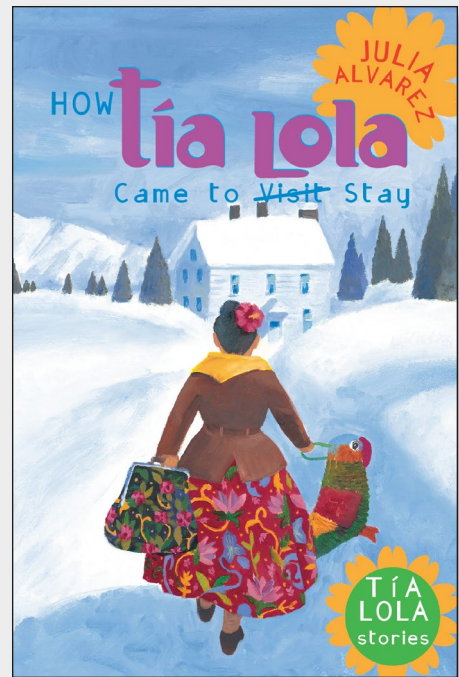
1. Students will be able to infer and identify what preceded an action or reaction taken by the main character, Miguel.
2. Students will use one word to describe what type of person Miguel is for each example.

## MATERIALS NEEDED

- *How Tia Lola Came to Visit Stay* by Julia Alvarez
- *Relationships Matter Analysis Chart*

## Finding Your Place in the World:

*Lessons for Reading and Writing*



## SUMMARY

Ten-year-old Miguel's Tia Lola travels to Vermont from the Dominican Republic to stay with him, his mom and his sister after his parents' divorce. Miguel is at first embarrassed by his colorful aunt, but he learns to love her.

## ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

- Step 1:** Reread chapter one of *How Tia Lola Came to Visit Stay*
- Step 2:** Introduce students to the Relationships Matter Analysis Chart
- Step 3:** Model a think aloud using the first example
- Step 4:** Have students practice with a partner for the second example
- Step 5:** Discuss what students have written
- Step 6:** Continue with a partner or independently

## Relationships Matter

Julia Alvarez reveals Miguel's character through his actions, reactions, and interactions with other characters in *How Tia Lola Came to Visit Stay*. For each of the examples below, explain what preceded Miguel's actions and come up with one word that describes his character in that situation.

Your character trait choice cannot be repeated.

Action   Reaction Interaction	Preceded by...	Character Trait Word
"Miguel kind of nods, kind of just jets his head to get his hair out of his eyes." p 2	His mom was upset about a memory connected to the blue bowl. Miguel does not want to make her upset about anything else.	Concerned
"So you don't have to worry about ghosts, Nita!" p 3		
"But even Miguel is getting tired of pizza and hotdogs with french fries on the side." p 4		
"He hasn't made one friend in three weeks." p 5		
"Miguel finds himself alone in a drafty kitchen with all the dirty bowls and plates to wash and the table to wipe." p 7		
"As nervous as Miguel is feeling about his aunt's visit and his new school and their move to Vermont, he thinks he wouldn't mind spending the next year all by himself in jail." p 8		
"With all the stuff popping out these days, he's going to have to get a brake for his mouth." p 11		