



Little Juan and the Cooking Pot

A Tale from Puerto Rico

What tools does Little Juan's mother use to cook?

Once there was a boy named Little Juan, who lived with his mother. Like many children, Little Juan liked to play more than he liked to work.

One day, Little Juan was playing ball in the backyard. His mother came to find him.

"Little Juan, I am making a big stew for dinner. Please go over to your grandmother's house and borrow her big pot and cooking **utensils**."

Little Juan stopped playing and frowned at his mother. "Do I *have* to go to Abuela Carmen's house? I want to play ball!"

Mama sighed. "If you want dinner, you must go right now, Little Juan. You can play ball another time."

"Oh, all right," said Little Juan as he dropped his ball and walked slowly to the house.

Interactive Read Aloud

Oral Vocabulary

utensils

Define: *Utensils* are tools we use to make or cook something.

Example: We used different cooking *utensils* to make the cake.



Ask: Would you use *utensils* to help you get dressed? Why or why not?



ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

Build Background Ask children about things they have cooked or helped to cook at home. *What did you make? What did you use to help you cook? Did you like cooking? Why or why not?*

Intensive Vocabulary Support Use the routine on *How to Use the Interactive Read-Aloud Cards* to introduce the underlined words.



Unit 4 Week 1

Little Juan ran up the hill and down the hill all the way to Abuela Carmen's house. He pushed open the door and went to the kitchen. Delicious smells filled the room.

Little Juan loved Abuela Carmen's kitchen. She always wore her chef **uniform** when she cooked—an apron and her big chef's hat! She worked as a chef for people in town, so she had a great variety of cooking **equipment**. Abuela Carmen smiled as Little Juan came in and asked to borrow her big pot.

"Hello, Little Juan," she said. "You may borrow my pot, but please take good care of it." She also handed him a large spoon, a spatula, a pan, a measuring cup, and a potholder. Little Juan put all of these things inside of the pot.

"Are you sure you can carry all of those things, Little Juan? They're quite heavy," said Abuela.

"Don't worry, Abuela," said Little Juan. "I can do it."

Then Little Juan left and headed home with the heavy pot filling his arms.

Interactive Read Aloud

Oral Vocabulary

uniform

Define: A *uniform* is special clothing that some workers wear at their jobs.

Example: The members of our baseball team wear the same *uniform*.



Ask: Do you wear a *uniform* when you go to bed? Why or why not?

equipment

Define: *Equipment* is a special group of tools that someone uses to do something.

Example: We bought more *equipment* before our camping trip.



Ask: What kind of *equipment* have you seen in a doctor's office?

ELL

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

Ask Questions Ask children what Juan is carrying in the pot: *Do you think he will have trouble carrying the pot and everything else by himself? Why or why not?*



Unit 4 Week 1

Soon, Little Juan was very tired of carrying the pot. He set it on the ground and sat down next to it. He studied the pot closely and counted its legs.

“Pot, you have three legs and I have only have two. Why am I the one walking?”

The pot did not answer.

“You don’t have a mouth, so I don’t **expect** you to be able to talk,” said Little Juan, “but you have three legs, so you should walk.”

Little Juan took the utensils out of the pot and put them on the ground. Then he climbed into the pot. “Now Pot, please carry me home,” said Little Juan.

The pot did not move. Little Juan sighed as he thought about what to do next.

“I know!” he exclaimed. “Let’s have a race. Even though you have three legs and I only have two, I know I will win!”

So Little Juan ran up the hill and down the hill as fast as his legs could carry him. He never even looked back to see if the pot was close behind him.

Interactive Read Aloud

Oral Vocabulary

expect

Define: If you think something will happen, you *expect* it.

Example: I *expect* it to rain because there are large, dark clouds in the sky.



Ask: What do you *expect* to have for dinner tonight?



ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

Sequence Ask children to put the events of Little Juan’s walk home in the order they happened. Provide sentence frames to guide children, such as these: *First, Little Juan _____ . Then, Little Juan _____ . Next, he _____ . Finally, he _____ .*



Unit 4 Week 1

At last, Little Juan arrived home. He burst through the front door.

“Mama!” he cried, out of breath. “Did it beat me home?”

“Did what beat you home, Little Juan?” asked Mama. “And where are the cooking pot and utensils that Abuela Carmen gave you?”

Little Juan told Mama about his race with the pot.

Mama shook her head and sighed. “Oh, Little Juan. You know that you can’t have a running race with a pot! It’s not a real boy like you.”

Little Juan hung his head. “I’m sorry, Mama,” he said. “What about the stew? I’m very hungry.”

Mama took Little Juan’s hand. “Let’s go down the hill together and get the pot and the utensils. We will have a very late dinner tonight.”

“I hope the pot is not too hungry,” said Little Juan as he and his mother left the house. Mama smiled.

The pot and utensils remained where Little Juan had left them. He and his mother collected them and walked home with the heavy pot swinging between them.

Interactive Read Aloud

Oral Vocabulary

remained

Define: Something that *remained* in a place stayed there.

Example: We *remained* in the park during lunchtime.



Ask: If you *remained* at school, would you leave right away? Why or why not?

Retell

Help children use the pictures to retell the story.

Card 1: What is Little Juan doing? What does his mother ask him to do?

Card 2: Where is Abuela Carmen? What does she give to Little Juan?

Card 3: What does Little Juan do with the pot? Why are the utensils on the ground?

Card 4: What does Little Juan ask Mama? What do they find on the path?