

27 pgs.

MY NAME IS LUPE



A short story by Hillary Gardner

Based on “Stay in School”
From the TV series “We Are New York”

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WE ARE NEW YORK

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CREDITS

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**My name is Lupe.
I am seven years old.
This is my father.
His name is Juan.**



Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor

**Mayor's Office of
Adult Education**

Anthony Tassi
Executive Director





This is my mother.
Her name is Carmen.
We are from Mexico.
We live in New York City now.
This is our apartment in Sunset Park.



This is my school.
I go to elementary school in Sunset Park.
I like my school!
I like Sunset Park!



This is my cousin.

His name is Diego.

Diego calls my father, “Uncle Juan.”

He calls my mother, “Aunt Carmen.”



Today is Diego’s first day in New York.

We are happy.

Diego is going to live with us.

He is going to learn English.

He is going to high school in Sunset Park.



At first, Diego is happy.
Diego and I both like soccer.
We play soccer together.
We have fun together.



But soon, Diego has problems at school.
The high school is very big.
Diego doesn't have many friends.
Diego is afraid to ask questions.
Diego is afraid to ask for help.



**Diego can't understand his teachers.
He can't read the books.
Everything is in English.
Everything is difficult.
Everything is different from Mexico.**



**One day, my father gets a phone call.
The phone call is from Diego's teacher.
Diego is not in school.
Diego is not doing his homework.
Diego is failing his tests.**



My father and mother are worried.

Diego is a good boy.

Why isn't Diego in school?

They decide to talk to him.

They will listen to him.



That afternoon, Diego comes home.

He sees my parents are worried.

“What is wrong?” he asks.



**My father says,
“We got a phone call from your teacher.
What is going on?
Why aren’t you going to school?”**



**Diego says,
“I don’t want to go to school.
I have a job.
I want to help the family.
I can help you pay the rent.”**



My father is surprised.

“A job?

That is not why you are here.

You are here to go to school.

School is very important.”



My mother encourages Diego.

“It is hard to learn English.

It is hard to be in a new country.

It was the same for us.”



My father encourages Diego, too.

“Get an education.

You will have more choices.

You can get the job you want.

You can go to college.”



Diego takes a walk.

He thinks about his new life.

He thinks about his future.

He thinks about his decision.

It is not an easy decision.



Work or go to school?
Our family needs money.
New York City is expensive.
But, a diploma is important.



Diego decides to stay in school.
My father is very happy.
He is going to help Diego.
We are all going to help Diego.



Diego and my father talk to Diego's teacher.

She has good advice.

She tells Diego,

"You can take extra classes.

You can talk to the guidance counselor.

He can give you more information."



Diego and my father talk to the guidance counselor.

His name is Mr. Shamma.

He says,

"You have a right to a free education.

Classes are free and extra help is free.

You can get extra help after school."



Diego decides to stay in school.

He takes extra classes.

He gets extra help after school.

He makes friends from other countries.

They help Diego with his problems.



Now, Diego is passing his tests.

Diego is happy in school.

He can understand the teachers.

He can read the books.

Now, he wants to go to college.



I am proud of my family.

We worked together.

We helped Diego.

And, I am proud of Diego.

Diego made a good decision.

He is going to stay in school!

Words used in this story

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> advice | <input type="checkbox"/> friend | <input type="checkbox"/> play |
| <input type="checkbox"/> afternoon | <input type="checkbox"/> fun | <input type="checkbox"/> problem |
| <input type="checkbox"/> am, is, are, was | <input type="checkbox"/> future | <input type="checkbox"/> questions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> apartment | <input type="checkbox"/> get, got | <input type="checkbox"/> read |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ask | <input type="checkbox"/> give | <input type="checkbox"/> rent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> book | <input type="checkbox"/> go | <input type="checkbox"/> right |
| <input type="checkbox"/> boy | <input type="checkbox"/> going to | <input type="checkbox"/> say |
| <input type="checkbox"/> call | <input type="checkbox"/> guidance counselor | <input type="checkbox"/> school: elementary school, high school |
| <input type="checkbox"/> can | <input type="checkbox"/> have, has | <input type="checkbox"/> soccer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> choice | <input type="checkbox"/> help, helped | <input type="checkbox"/> stay |
| <input type="checkbox"/> class | <input type="checkbox"/> homework | <input type="checkbox"/> take a walk |
| <input type="checkbox"/> college | <input type="checkbox"/> information | <input type="checkbox"/> take extra classes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> come (home) | <input type="checkbox"/> job | <input type="checkbox"/> talk |
| <input type="checkbox"/> country | <input type="checkbox"/> learn | <input type="checkbox"/> teacher |
| <input type="checkbox"/> day | <input type="checkbox"/> life | <input type="checkbox"/> tell |
| <input type="checkbox"/> decide | <input type="checkbox"/> like | <input type="checkbox"/> test |
| <input type="checkbox"/> decision | <input type="checkbox"/> listen | <input type="checkbox"/> think |
| <input type="checkbox"/> diploma | <input type="checkbox"/> live | <input type="checkbox"/> today |
| <input type="checkbox"/> do, doing, did | <input type="checkbox"/> make, made | <input type="checkbox"/> understand |
| <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> money | <input type="checkbox"/> walk |
| <input type="checkbox"/> encourage | <input type="checkbox"/> name | <input type="checkbox"/> want |
| <input type="checkbox"/> everything | <input type="checkbox"/> need | <input type="checkbox"/> will |
| <input type="checkbox"/> failing (fail) | <input type="checkbox"/> passing (pass) | <input type="checkbox"/> work, worked |
| <input type="checkbox"/> family: father, mother, parents, aunt, uncle, cousin | <input type="checkbox"/> pay | <input type="checkbox"/> year |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> phone call | |

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