

# Juana & Lucas

## WRITING SHORT STORIES AT HOME



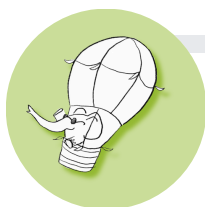
### MAIN IDEA

The main idea is the most important point or topic about the story.

**Sit down with someone and think about things you love or find interesting to come up with a main idea.**



One of the main topics that author Juana Medina picked for *Juana & Lucas* was learning how to speak English.



### STORY ELEMENTS

Story elements are the ingredients that make your story interesting.

**Create characters together with unique traits and names.**



Two of the main characters in *Juana & Lucas Big Problemas* are Juana and her Mother.

**Discuss a beginning (how the story starts), middle (what happens), and end (how it finishes).**



*Juana & Lucas* begins with Juana talking about the things she likes, such as drawing and Brussel sprouts.

**Draw or describe where and when the story takes place.**



Juana writes, "Bogotá has more neighborhoods than I can count. There's a financial district, a flower district, galleries, houses, little coffee shops, bookstores; it just never stops. There are a lot of parks in Bogotá, too!"



### SENSORY DETAILS

Sensory details are descriptive words using the five senses.

**Use your senses to imagine how things look, sound, feel, smell, and taste in your story.**



Juana further describes her city, "There are many trees, mostly old and almost as tall as buildings! In they daytime, they give shade from the incredibly strong son. At night, when illuminated from below by the streetlights, they make shadows of all shapes and sizes."



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## WRITING POETRY AT HOME



### CREATIVE DETAILS

Poems have many creative details that make them interesting.

**Find a poem that uses creative detail to bring the poem alive.**



Example: A poem about a dragon that has creative details describing its shimmering scales and fiery breath.



### IMAGINATION

Poetry uses imagination to create cool pictures and ideas.

**Find a poem that makes you think of other pictures and ideas.**



Example: A poem about a detective who has strange and fancy gadgets to help them solve mysteries.



### SPARKING INTEREST WITH TITLES

Titles are the names of poems that make people want to read them.

**Find a poem that sparks your interest just from reading the title.**



Example: A poem that is titled “The Magical Forest” makes you want to know more about what makes the forest magical.



### IMAGERY

Imagery means using words to create pictures in your mind.

**Find a poem that paints a clear picture in your mind.**



Example: A poem that clearly describes the sound of raindrops, the feel of the cold rain, and the smell of the wet dirt while it’s raining.



### VIVID DESCRIPTIVE WORDS

Descriptive words are like super-powered adjectives that describe things.

**Find a poem that uses a lot of descriptive words.**



Example: A poem that uses words like “sparkling”, “whispering”, and “gigantic” to describe a castle.



## FAMILY & AUTHOR (THATS YOU!) ACTIVITIES

Sit down with a family member and try these fun activities about poetry. Use the elements of poetry described in the beginning of this workshop. You will need something to write with, paper, and of course, a few poems to read for inspiration and ideas.

### CREATIVE DETAILS



**Read a poem together and identify interesting details like colors, sounds, or feelings.**

*Example: In a poem about a forest, notice details like chirping birds, rustling leaves, and cool shade.*

### IMAGINATION



**Brainstorm fun topics and use your imagination to write poems about them.**

*Example: Write a poem about a secret garden filled with enchanted flowers and talking animals.*

### INTERESTING TITLES



**Think of titles that make readers curious and eager to read your poem.**

*Example: "The Journey of the Star Seeker" is a title that hints at an exciting adventure.*

### IMAGERY



**Read poems aloud and draw what you imagine while listening or reading.**

*Example: Listen to a poem about a storm and draw lightning bolts, dark clouds, and raindrops falling.*

### DESCRIPTIVE WORDS



**Practice using descriptive words to make your poems vibrant and engaging.**

*Example: Use words like "mystical," "dazzling," and "murmuring" to add flair to your poem.*





# Juana & Lucas

## WRITING SKILLS AT HOME



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### CAPITALIZATION

Capitalization is using upper case letters at the beginning of certain words.

#### When do you capitalize a word?



- When we write the first word of a sentence
- When we use a proper noun (like the name of a person, place, organization, or thing)
- When we use initials or acronyms (taking the first letters of a group of words and putting them together, like USA for the United States of America)



### SPELLING

Spelling is the way we put letters together to make words.

#### What if you don't know how to spell a word?



- Never let the fear of spelling a word wrong stop you! A good place to start is by sounding out a word, and spelling it using the sounds you hear.
- Ask a family member or a teacher to check your spelling if you need help!



### PUNCTUATION

Punctuation are the marks that help us understand and organize our writing.

#### When do we use punctuation? Here are some examples:



- At the end of questions, we use a question mark
  - **Are you there?**
- Commas are used to separate words in a list or after an introduction
  - **First, we write a sentence.**
- Quotations marks show when someone is saying something
  - **"Hello there!"**
- At the end of sentences, we use a period
  - **It's a busy day.**



### WRITING STAMINA

Writing stamina is the ability to focus and write independently for extended periods of time without becoming distracted or giving up.

#### How do we build writing stamina?



Set a timer and write for 5-10 minutes. Practice this often, and see if you can extend the amount of time you write to 15 or 20 min.

