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My Name is Martin



Short story based on “Crossing the Street”

We Speak NYC • Season 2

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SEASON 1

Short Stories

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My Name Is Lupe

Stay in School

My Name Is Sue

Love and Money

My Name Is Eddie

New Life Café

My Name Is María

Asthma: The Soap Opera

My Name Is Lucía

The Wedding

My Name Is Yumi

Respond to Domestic Violence

My Name Is Daniel

The Hospital

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SEASON 2

Short Stories

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Shumi's Pantry

My Name Is Gabriela

The Seed for a Good Life

My Name Is Silvia

Rolando's Rights

My Name Is Irina

Making New Friends

My Name Is Giddel

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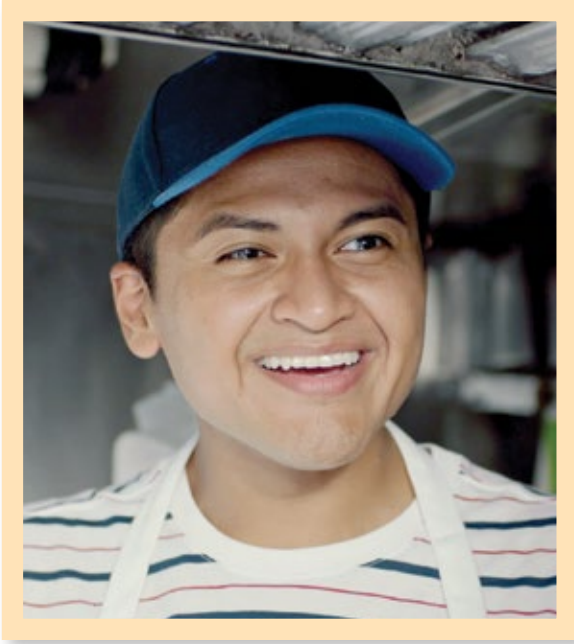
My Name Is Martin

Crossing the Street

My Name Is Alicia

Rafaela's Test

My Name is Martin



My name is Martin.

I am from Mexico.

I live in Sunset Park, Brooklyn.

I live with my mother, my sister, and my daughter.



**I like Sunset Park.
It is a diverse neighborhood.
There are people from many countries.**



I work in my family's food cart.

I work with my mother and my sister, Rafaela.



I like working with my family.

We help each other.

We support each other.



**I am a single parent.
My sister and my mother help me
raise my daughter.**



My daughter's name is Isabel.

She is 4 years old.

She will go to Pre-K.



Pre-K is school for 3-year-olds and 4-year-olds.

I am looking for a Pre-K school for Isabel.

I want to find a good school for Isabel.

Education is very important for her future.

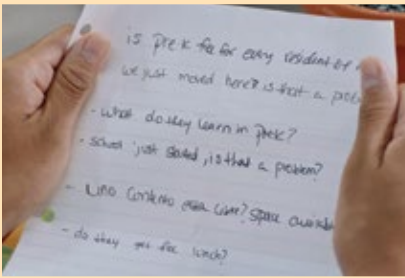


I heard about Family Welcome Centers.

**A Family Welcome Center helps you find
a good school for your children.**

**You can enroll your children in school at a
Family Welcome Center.**

Every borough has a Family Welcome Center.



**At the Family Welcome Center in Brooklyn,
I talk to a counselor.**

I have a list of questions:

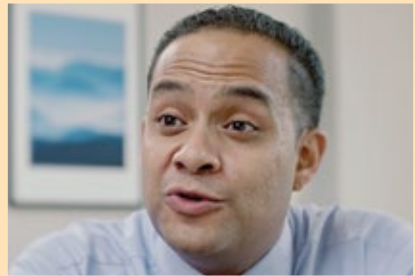
- ***Is Pre-K free?***
- ***What will Isabel learn in Pre-K?***
- ***Who are the teachers?***



The counselor helps me.

He tells me about Pre-K:

- *Pre-K is free for everybody who lives in New York City.*
- *Isabel will make friends in Pre-K.*
- *Isabel will learn about herself and the world around her.*
- *The teachers are very well-trained.*



**I know about a good Pre-K close to our apartment
with a lot of Spanish-speaking families.**

But, the counselor says that school is full.

He finds another great school for Isabel.

It is called the Sunrise Pre-K.



We visit the Sunrise Pre-K.

The director's name is Ms. Lin.

She is very helpful.

**She says, "We serve breakfast, lunch and snacks,
and it is all free."**

The school is not far from our home.

It looks like a very good choice for us.



**But, most of the families speak Chinese
in this school.**

I want Isabel to remember Spanish.

She needs to learn English too.



Ms. Lin says Isabel will learn English in the school.

And, there are some Spanish-speaking families there too.

It will be good for Isabel to learn about other cultures.

I think I will enroll Isabel in this Pre-K.



**The next day, I go to a Chinese bakery.
It is across the street from my family's food cart.
The food looks delicious.
It is all new to me!**



But, something is not new...

I recognize a worker in the bakery.

**She was meeting with the director, Ms. Lin,
when I arrived with Isabel.**



I say, “I think I saw you at the Sunrise Pre-K yesterday?”

She says, “You were with your daughter, I think.”

I ask her, “Are you a teacher?”

She says, “No. Maybe one day.”

She was meeting with Ms. Lin about becoming a Pre-K teacher in the future.



Her name is Lian.

And this is her aunt, Chunhua.

Lian works in Aunt Chunhua's bakery.

They come from China.



**I show Lian and Chunhua my family’s food cart
across the street.**

**I say, “Please come and visit sometime.
I work with my mother and sister.”**



Today is Isabel's first day of school.

We sign in.

Ms. Lin welcomes us.



She is very friendly.

She says to me, “Visit the class.

Join activities.

I want you and Isabel to feel at home here.”

She encourages me to get involved in

Isabel’s education.



**I leave Isabel at the Pre-K
and I go to work at the food cart.**

I talk with Rafaela about Isabel's school.



It's a busy day at work today.

It's good for business.

And, look who is here!



I make Lian and Chunhua a mix of things to try—
tacos, tostadas and other dishes.

Lian is curious about my culture.

I am very glad.



Lian and I talk about Pre-K.

She likes children.

**She says, “I am volunteering at a Pre-K with
a lot of families from Latin America.”**

She is patient and kind.

I think she can be a great teacher in the future.



Maybe I can be a teacher too.

**One day, I show the children at Isabel's Pre-K
some traditional Mexican toys.**

We have a lot of fun.



**I am curious about Lian's culture.
Tomorrow I will cross the street again.
I will visit Lian's bakery again.
Maybe she can teach me something
about her culture.
Maybe we can learn from each other.**

Words used in this story

- 3-year-olds, 4-year-olds
- across
- activities
- am, is, are, was, were (be)
- another
- apartment
- arrived (arrive)
- aunt
- bakery
- borough
- breakfast
- business
- busy
- children
- China, Chinese
- choice
- close
- counselor
- countries (country)
- cultures
- curious
- daughter
- delicious
- director
- dishes
- diverse
- each other
- education
- encourages (encourage)
- English
- enroll
- every
- everybody
- families (family)
- Family Welcome Center
- find
- first
- food cart
- free
- friendly
- friends, make friends
- full
- future
- get involved
- glad
- has (have)
- helps (help)
- helpful
- home
- kind
- Latin America
- learn
- like
- list
- live
- looks, looking (look)
- lunch
- maybe
- meeting
- Mexico, Mexican
- mix (*n*)
- mother
- needs (need)
- neighborhood
- parent, single parent
- patient
- people (person)
- Pre-K
- questions

-
- raise, raise my daughter
 - recognize
 - remember
 - saw (see)
 - school
 - serve
 - sign in
 - sister
 - snacks
 - someday
 - Spanish, Spanish-speaking families
- speak
 - street
 - support
 - tacos
 - talk
 - teach
 - teacher
 - tells (tell)
 - think
 - tostadas*
 - traditional
 - try
 - visit
- volunteering (volunteer)
 - welcomes (welcome)
 - well-trained
 - will
 - work
 - worker
 - world
 - yesterday

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