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# My Name is Lupe



Short story based on “Stay in School”

We Speak NYC • Season 1

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# My Name is Lupe



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



**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.**





**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

- advice
- afternoon
- apartment
- ask
- be
- book
- boy
- call
- can
- choice
- class
- college
- come home
- country
- day
- decide
- decision
- diploma
- do
- education
- encourage
- everything
- fail
- family:  
father, mother,  
parents, aunt,  
uncle, cousin
- friend
- fun
- future
- get
- give
- go
- going to
- guidance counselor
- have
- help
- homework
- information
- job
- learn
- life
- like
- listen
- live
- make
- money
- name
- need
- pass
- pay
- phone call
- play
- problem
- questions
- read
- rent
- right
- say
- school:  
elementary school,  
high school
- soccer
- stay
- take a walk
- take extra classes
- talk
- teacher
- tell
- test
- think
- today
- understand
- walk
- want
- will
- work
- year

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