

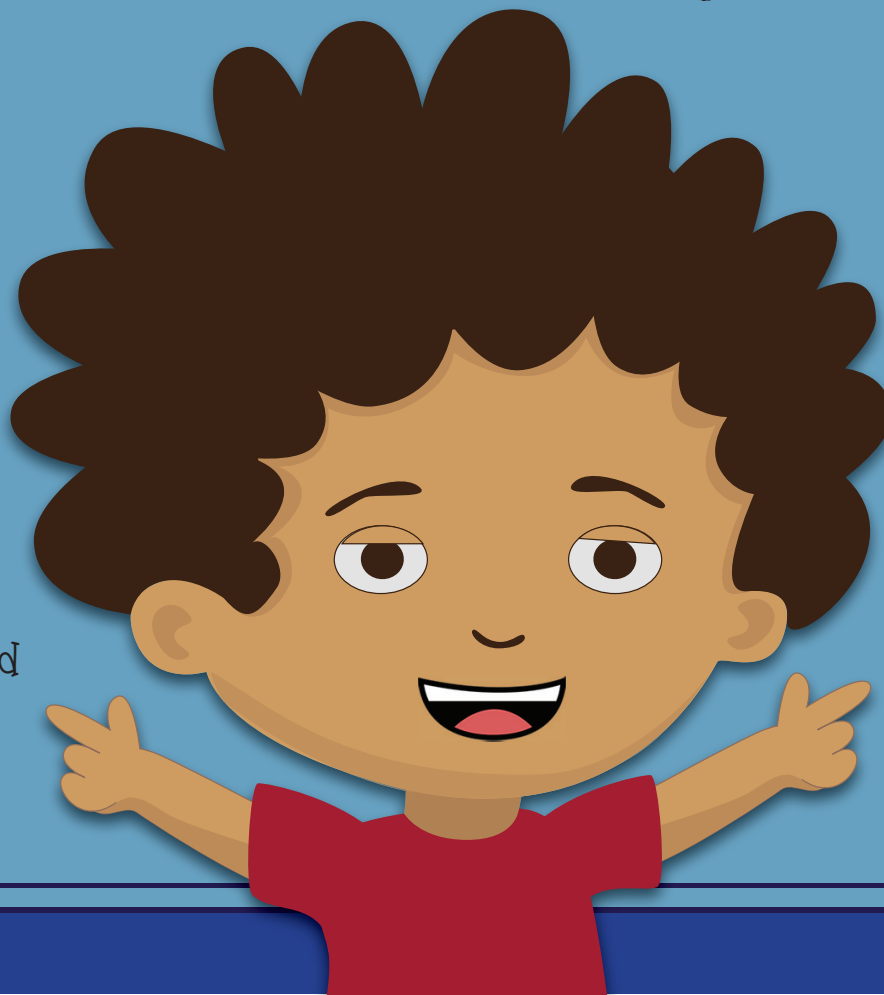


Mi Noche Buena

by

MATEO MOORE

A cultural story
written and illustrated
by
Gisela Moore



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It is a bright sunny morning!
The perfect start to *celebrar*
Matéo's favorite *día*!



Matéo is sleeping in his bed.
He is dreaming of his holiday
favorito!



Buenos días!
My name is Matéo!

I am so excited!
Today is *Noche Buena*, it is my
favorite holiday!



Noche Buena is celebrated on December 24th in many Latin American countries.



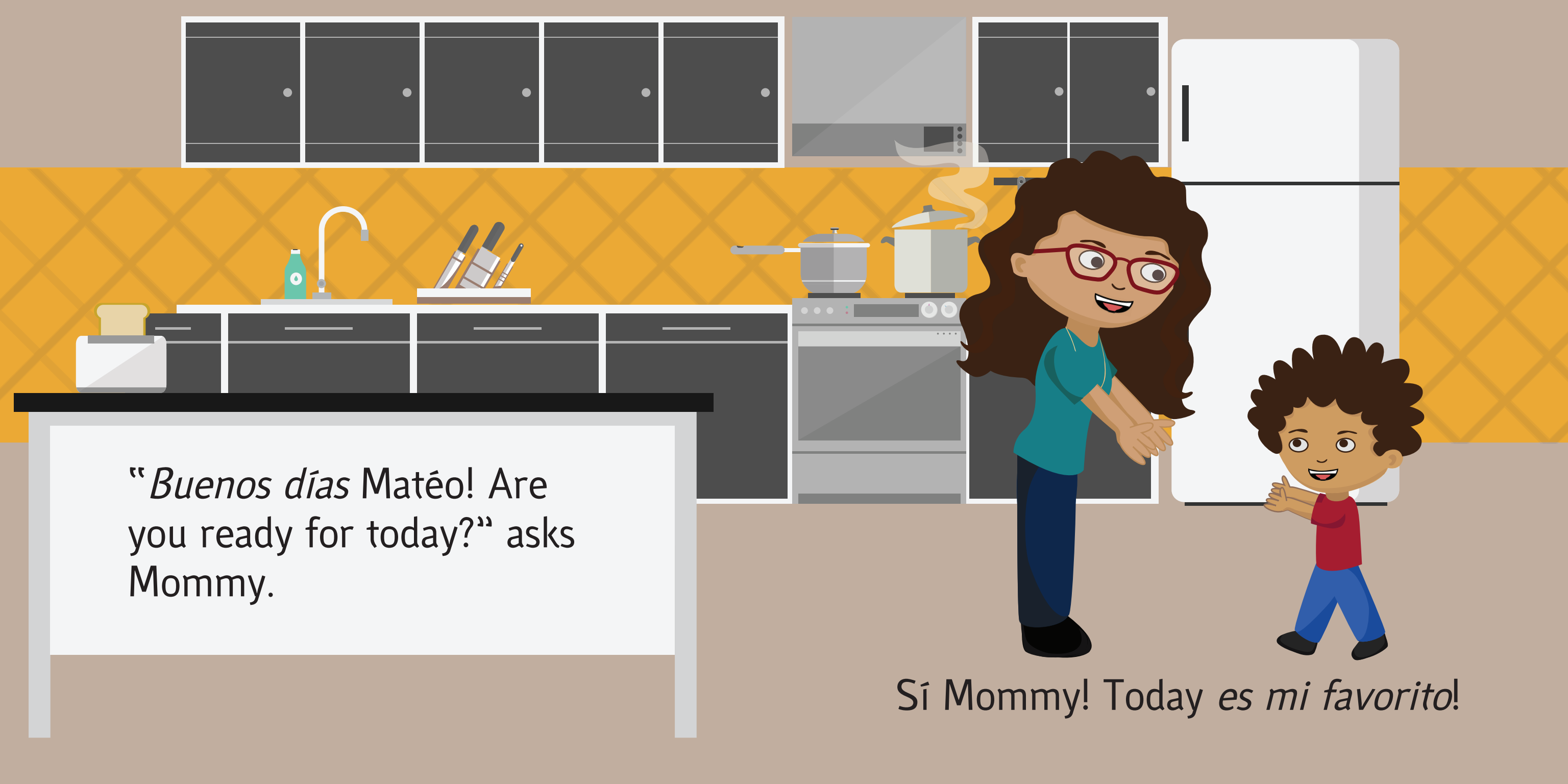
My *mamita* is from El Salvador, she is my *abuela*. We celebrate *Noche Buena* with all our *familia*.



“Good Morning
Matéo! Are you
ready for today?”
asks Daddy.

Yes Daddy! Today
is my favorite!



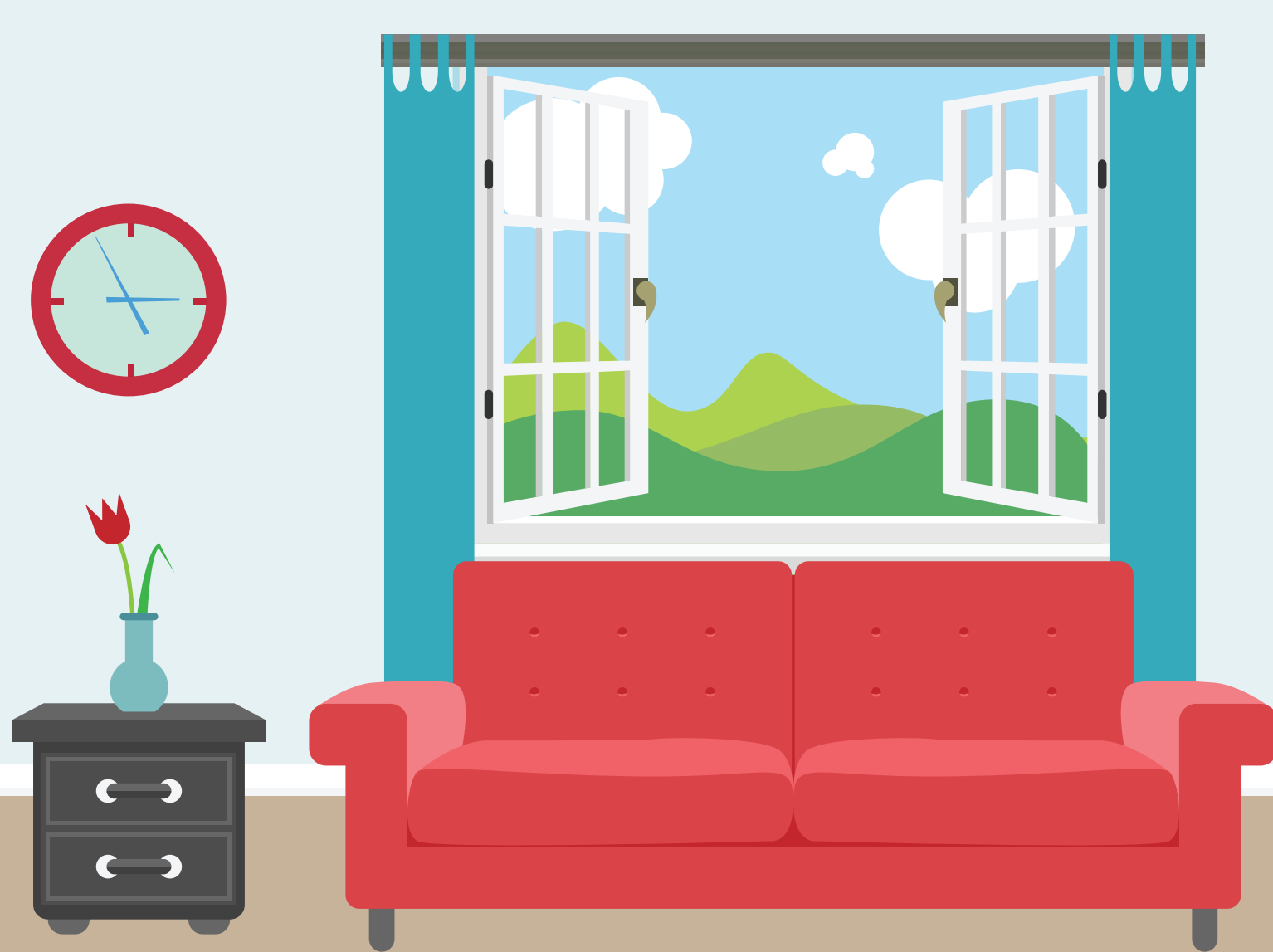


"Buenos días Matéo! Are you ready for today?" asks Mommy.

Sí Mommy! Today es mi favorito!

I help my mommy
cook. We make
tamales for *Noche
Buena*, just like
mamita taught us.





In the living room is our *árbol*. It is decorated with lights and *adornos*.



Daddy and I decorate the tree together. He puts me high on his shoulders and helps me reach the top of our *árbol*.





We decorate the outside of our
casa with *luces*.

I love the way they sparkle at night!

La cena has begun!
Our table is set,
there is delicious
food for everyone!

¡Que Rico!





We dance and sing to our favorite *canciones*, while daddy plays *musica* - *bachata, salsa, merengue* and *cumbia*!

At midnight a special treat, we
all gather around to sing *feliz
cumpleaños* to my *papito*, he
is my *abuelo*, who is in heaven
watching down.





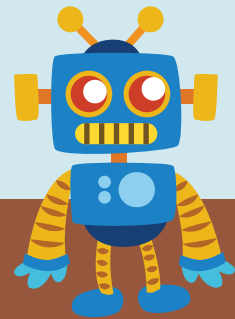
Regalos are waiting under the tree!
We all take turns opening gifts for
all to see!

I give *besos y abrazos* to everyone
in my family, to say *gracias* for all
the wonderful gifts given to me!



All our family has left, *Noche Buena* has come to an end.

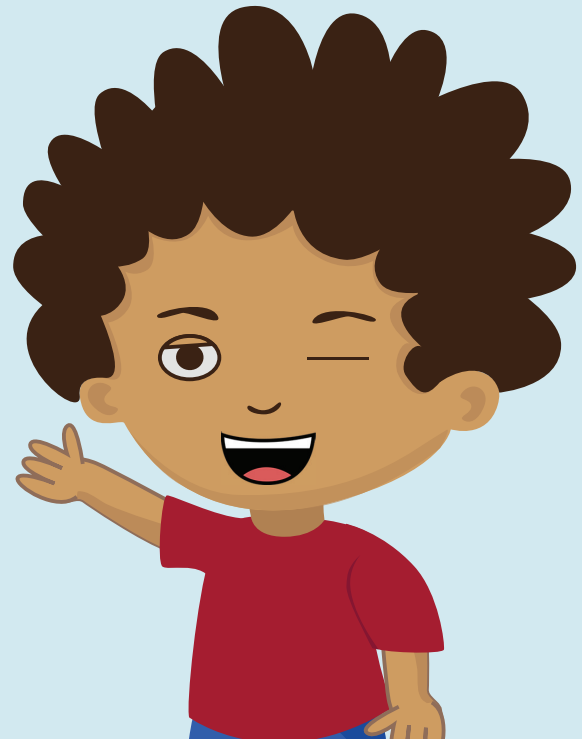
“*Buenas noches* Matéo, we love you,” say mommy and daddy. “Tomorrow we go to grandma's house to celebrate Christmas!”



I love my *tradiciones*, *Noche Buena* and Christmas.

I love my *familia* and being part of two beautiful *culturas*.

Feliz Navidad, and to all a good night!



This book is dedicated to my son, Matéo — you inspire me everyday!

I love you and I thank God for allowing me to be your mommy.

I pray that you will forever cherish our family traditions and both
of your beautiful cultures that make you so special.

You are Mommy and Daddy's blessing!