

A Library Play for NLW

by | Terry Farish

Roles

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Juan Polanco: a boy, eight

Linda Rivera: a girl, seven

Juan and Linda and the Crying Baby

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[Juan and Linda are walking down a street together.]

Juan: Come on, let's go to the library, Linda.

Linda: What's at the library?

Juan: It's a place where you can borrow things.

Linda: I would like to borrow a new little brother. My old little brother cries too much.

Juan: You cannot borrow a little brother, but you can borrow books. They have football and dinosaurs and Henry & Mudge and monsters.

Linda: No one can read a book in my house. It is too loud. My baby brother, he is screaming: Wa! Wa! Wa! Wa! Wa!

Juan: We're here, Linda. Look! The library is big.

Linda: It is very big.

Juan: So many books!

Linda: Juan, can you read?

Juan: Sometimes I make up some of the words from the pictures.

Linda: Where are the dinosaurs? Where are the monsters?

Juan: I told you, they don't have real monsters. They have books *about* monsters. You can take ten.

Linda: Monsters?

Juan: Books.

Linda: They must cost a lot of money.

Juan: No, they are free! All you need is a library card. When your mom picks you up, she can come in, and sign you up and they will give you a library card. Then you borrow the books. You only have to pay if you don't bring the books back to the library in three weeks.

Linda: You can keep the books for three weeks?

Juan: Yes!

Linda: It's no use. I will get into bed with my ten library books and get ready to read, and then my little brother will go Wa! Wa! Wa! Wa! Wa—ohh, *[pause]* look at this place! I love it here. I will take one book when my mother gets me a library card.

Juan: Linda, what if you gave your little brother a Gameboy. Maybe the Gameboy would make him stop crying.

Linda: I tried a Gameboy, and he threw it on the floor and broke it.

Juan: What if you gave your little brother a cupcake with red sprinkles? Maybe that would make him stop crying.

Linda: Give my brother a cupcake? He would smear it over his face and his hands and his p.j.s, and then when it fell on the floor he would start crying again. Wa! Wa! Wa! Wa! Wa!

Juan: Did you think about a baseball mitt? What if you gave your brother a baseball mitt? Maybe that would make him stop crying?

Linda: I even tried a baseball mitt, and he chewed it, and ruined it. And then in no time he started crying again, Wa! Wa! Wa! Wa! Wa!

Juan: How about a cat, Linda. I bet you never tried a cat ...

Linda: No, Juan! I have an idea! I think I know what I will try to do tonight.
[Linda walks in a circle to express she got a card and a book and a night has passed.]

Juan: Hello, Linda! You came back to the library. I can't wait to hear what happened last night. Did your little brother stop crying?

Linda: I am beaming. Can you see? Even my feet are smiling. I found out how to make my brother stop crying!

Juan: What did you do? Did you get a big, big, big TV? Did you get him a big, big, big chocolate cake?

Linda: No. I waited 'til he was pretty sleepy. He was still going Wa Wa Wa Wa Wa, but softer. Then I sat beside him. I showed him the monster in the book. He climbed in my lap. I started to read out loud. Then he got real quiet. He was watching the monster.

Juan: You read him the story?

Linda: Yes! Juan, I think the monster in the library book is real. It scared the Wa Wa Wa Wa Wa right out of my little brother.

Juan: Now you don't want to borrow a little brother anymore, do you Linda?

Linda: No. I'll keep him.

Juan: That book was magic. Do you think they have a book about pizza? Maybe if we got a pizza book, it will bring the smell (mmmm!) of fresh-baked pizza with gooey cheese.

Linda
and Juan: Maybe we will be stuffed after we read the book!

Juan: It's late. We have to go. Quick! Pick a book.

Linda: You said we could have ten!

Juan: Get ONE. Tomorrow we'll come back. Come on! We're late! I'm gonna get in trouble.

Linda: I want *Arthur's Tooth, The Tortoise and the Hair, Winnie-the-Pooh, Scooby Do!*

Juan: Linda, we have to go.

Linda: I want to read *Amelia Bedelia, Nate the Great, Frog and Toad, The Cat in the Hat*, and ...
[They each have one book. Juan grabs Linda by the hand and he hurries her out of the library so they can get home on time.]



Terry Farish is the author of *The Cat Who Liked Potato Soup*, illustrated by Barry Root, and novels including *Talking in Animal*. She presents literacy programs for the Lawrence Public Library in Massachusetts. She's also working on a child-to-child literacy project in a Sister City collaboration between Amesbury, Massachusetts and Esabalu, Kenya. For more information, please go to www.terryfarish.com.