



### **Abuela**

ah-BWAY-la

This word means "Grandmother." Martina's **Abuela** plays an important role in the story. How does she help Martina find a good husband?

## adiós

ah-dee-OSE

This is Spanish for "good-bye."

### mi amor

mee ah-MORE

This term of endearment translates into English as "my love." **Pérez** calls Martina his **amor** after *she* passes the Coffee Test.

## café cubano

kah-FEH coo-BAH-noe

**Café cubano** means "Cuban coffee." You can tell from the name that this drink comes from Cuba. **Café cubano** is strong, yet tasty. People drink it in the morning, after meals, and when they visit with friends. Martina does the polite thing by offering her suitors **café cubano**, but there's nothing polite about splashing it on their shoes!

# "¡Caramba!"

kah-RAHM-bah

This word is an expression of surprise. In English, it might mean "wow!" or "goodness!" When you write an expression like this in Spanish, you use two exclamation points: one upside-down at the beginning of the word, and one right-side-up at the end. What effect do you think the extra exclamation point has? Does it make the expression more powerful?

# un consejo increíble

oon con-SEH-hoe een-creh-EE-bleh

**Consejo** means "advice," and **increíble** means "incredible" or "shocking." What **consejo increíble** does **Abuela** give to Martina? Why is it so very **increíble**?

### Don Cerdo

don SEHR-doe

**Don** is a title for very important men. It is like "Mr." in English, except **Don** shows even more respect and honor. Can you believe Martina spilled coffee on **Don Gallo, Don Cerdo** and **Don Lagarto**? Now **Abuela's** advice seems even more shocking! **Cerdo**, as you may have guessed, is the Spanish word for "pig." No wonder **Don Cerdo** is so sloppy!

### Don Gallo

don GUY-yoe

Gallo is the Spanish word for "rooster."

How do you think **Don Gallo's** name is reflected in his personality and the way he acts?

# **Don Lagarto**

don lah-GAHR-toe

Lagarto means "lizard." Don Lagarto certainly seems slithery enough to live up to his name!



# "¡Gronc! ¡Gronc!"

GRAHNK GRAHNK

This is the way a pig squeals in Spanish. Do you think it sounds anything like "oink oink?"

### Havana

hah-BAH-nah

**Havana** is the capital city of Cuba. **Havana** is rich in history, trade, and the arts, all of which are centered in a section called Old Havana. Old Havana is the core of the original city and the place where Martina makes her home.

### hola

OH-lah

This word-the opposite of adiós—means "hello." Remember not to say the "H" at the beginning of the word; it's silent.

## "¡Ki-ki-ri-kiiii!"

kee-KEE-ree-KEEEE

This is the way to say "Cock-a-doodle-doo" in Spanish. **Don Gallo** yells this when Martina spills coffee on his nice shoes.

### Mamá

mah-MAH

This is the Spanish word for "Mom" or "Mommy." It's similar to the English word "Mama." What are some other Spanish words from the story that look or sound like words you know in English?

#### una mantilla

OOH-na mahn-TEE-ya

A mantilla is a delicate scarf made of lace or silk. To dress up, a woman drapes it over her head and shoulders, wearing it along with a peineta. Doesn't Martina look beautiful in her mantilla and peineta?

### Martina Josefina Catalina Cucaracha

mar-TEE-nah hoe-seh-FEE-nah kah-tah-LEE-nah coo-kah-RAH-chah

This is the name of a beautiful Cuban cockroach in search of the right husband. But why is Martina's name so long? Traditionally, in Cuba and throughout Latin America, people gave their children two or three first names so that the children would be protected by many different saints. Nowadays, people may give their children several first names in order to honor family members. Cucaracha is the Spanish word for "cockroach." You may have heard it in a popular song.

# **El Morro**

ell MOH-roe

Morro is the name of a beautiful old fortress guarding the entrance to Havana Bay. In the second syllable of Morro you must roll the R's. Practice by placing the tip of your tongue on the roof of your mouth and roll an R sound. It sounds like a cat purring. Don't be discouraged if you can't do it at first! It takes some people a long time to master the rolled Rrrrrrrrrrr!

### muchacha

moo-CHAH-chah

This is the Spanish word for "girl" or "young woman."

## Papá

pah-PAH

Papá is the Spanish word for "Dad" or "Daddy."



# una peineta

OOH-nah pay-NET-tah

A **peineta** is a beautiful comb made of seashell. Traditionally, Latin American women wear **peinetas** in their hair at festive occasions such as weddings.

## Pérez

PEH-rezz

**Pérez** is the little brown mouse who wins Martina's heart in the end. The name **Pérez** is one version of the English name "Peter."

# el perico

ell peh-REE-coe

**Perico** is a word for small birds of the parrot family. Why do you think **Papá** sent **el perico** instead of another animal to spread the news about Martina? (Hint: What things can **el perico** do that the other animals can't?)

### El Prado

ell PRAH-doe

**El Prado** is a famous street in **Havana**. It runs from the sea all the way to the capitol building and is filled with music, shops, and cafes. **El Prado** attracts all kinds of people every day, from boys on skateboards to dancers and artists.

# "¡Psssst! ¡Psssst!"

This is the sound a lizard, such as **Don Lagarto**, might make in Spanish.

### señor

see-NYOHR

This is the Spanish term for a man or gentleman. It is polite to address a man as **Señor**, which is the Spanish equivalent of "Mr."

### señora

see-NYOH-rah

This is the Spanish term for a woman or lady. **Señora** is also the equivalent of "Mrs."

## señorita

see-nyoh-REE-tah

This is the Spanish term for a young woman. It is the equivalent of "Miss."

#### sí

SEE

Perhaps you've heard this common Spanish word before. Sí means "yes."

## Ti-ki-tin, ti-ki-tan

tee-kee-TEEN, tee-kee-TAHN

As you can see from the noises in the story like **Don Cerdo's "¡Gronc!,"** some sounds in Spanish are different from the ones in English. **Ti-ki-tin, ti-ki-tan** is a way to show the pounding of Martina's heart when she meets **Pérez** the mouse. In English, it might be something like "thumpity-thump" or "pit-a-pat."

### Tía Cuca

TEE-ah COO-cah

**Tía Cuca's** name is a pun: **Tía** means "aunt," and **Cuca** comes from the Spanish word for cockroach, cucaracha. But wait—**cuc**a can also mean "shrewd" or "crafty." Can you guess what kind of person **Tía Cuca** might be?