

The Little Red House

(Una Casita Roja)

Once upon a time, there was a little girl named Maria. Maria had her favorite toys, and she had a big back yard with a garden where she liked to play. One day, she was tired of doing the things she usually did, and she wanted to do something different.

So, Maria went to her mother and asked, "Mamá, what can I do?" Maria's mother thought for a minute, and then she said, "I know what you can do. You can try to find a little red house (usa casita roja), with no windows and no doors, but with a star (una estrella), inside? How can I find something like that?" asked Maria.

"Yes (sí), Maria, there is." Answered her mother, "and I know that you can find it, if you look."

Maria thought and thought about what her mother had said, but she didn't know where to find a house like that. So, she went to her big brother, Paco, and asked him, "Paco, do you know where I can find a little red house (una casita roja), with no windows and no doors, but with a star (una estrella), inside?"

"Maria," Paco said, "I have never heard of a little red house, una casita roja, with no windows, no doors, but with a star (una estrella), inside. I cannot help you. Why don't you go ask Papá?"

So she went to the back yard, where her father was working in the garden, and asked him, "Papá, do you know where I can find a little red house (una casita roja), with no windows and no doors, but with a star (una estrella), inside?"

Papá looked at Maria, and smiled, and said, "Our house is red (roja), but it has doors and windows, and I don't think there is a star (una estrella), inside. I'm afraid I can't help you, Maria."

Maria was getting a little tired of looking by now, so she sat down in her favorite back yard spot, under the apple tree, to rest and to think. Her cat, Chica, came and sat in her lap. Maria stroked Chica's soft fur and asked, "Chica, so you know where I can find a little red house (una casita roja), with no windows and no doors, but with a star (una estrella), inside?" Chica didn't answer. She just went on ouring her soft purr.

Maria thought to herself, "I'm not having much luck. I might as well ask the wind." So she did. "Señor Wind, can you help me? I am looking for a little red house (una casita roja), with no windows and no doors, but with a star (una estrella), inside." Just then, the wind began to blow gently, and down from the tree fell a bright, shiny red apple. Maria picked up the apple, and went to her mother to tell her that she just could not find the little red house (una casita roja).

When Maria's mother saw her walking in the door with the apple, she said, "Maria, I see you found the little red house (una casita roja), with no windows and no doors, but with a star (una estrella), inside." Maria was puzzled, but followed her mother into the kitchen, where she took out a knife, and cut the apple in half and....

THERE WAS THE STAR! (UNA ESTRELLA!)

(Cut the apple through the center perpendicular to the core.)

una - oo' na
estrella - ess tray' ya

casita - cas ee' ta
señor - seen yore'

roja - ro' ha
sí - see