



**Reading  
Released Test  
Questions  
2010**

**GRADE**

**7**

## At the Beach Abuelito's Story

by  
Lulu Delacre



- 1 I remember those evenings well when I was a young boy in Cuba, those balmy island nights before a trip to Guanabo Beach. The spicy aroma of *tortilla española*<sup>1</sup> that Mami had left to cool would waft through the house as I lay in my bed. But I was always too excited to sleep. All I could think about was the soft white sand, the warm foamy water, and Mami's delicious *tortilla*. Ahhh. A day at the beach. It was full of possibilities.
- 2 One Saturday in May, I was awakened at the crack of dawn by sounds of laughter. My aunts, Rosa and Olga, had arrived with hammocks, blankets, and an iron kettle filled with Aunt Rosa's steaming *congrí*<sup>2</sup>. And best of all, they had arrived with my cousins: Luisa, Mari, and little Javi. Uncle Toni had come, too.
- 3 While the grown-ups unloaded the car, we eagerly jumped out and ran toward the sea, peeling off our clothes along the way.
- 4 When we reached the edge of the ocean, the water felt cold. I waded farther in and went under to warm up quickly. When I emerged I saw Luisa, Mari, and little Javi, all standing still in the clear water. They were watching the schools of tiny gold-and-black striped fish rush between their legs. Then they swam over to join me and together we rode the big waves.
- 5 I was getting very hungry, and for a moment I thought of returning with him<sup>3</sup> to sneak a bite of Mami's *tortilla*. But then I had a better idea.
- 6 "Let's explore the reef!" I said.

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<sup>1</sup> *tortilla española*—a Spanish omelet eaten at breakfast or as a light dinner, and often served at picnics

<sup>2</sup> *congrí*—a Cuban dish of red beans and rice

<sup>3</sup> *him*—The narrator, Fernando, was walking with Uncle Toni as he approached the other children.

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7 “¡Sí!” everyone agreed. “Let’s go!”

8 When we got to the marbled rocks, Luisa looked concerned. “Our moms told us not to come this far,” she said.

9 “I know the way well,” I replied. “Besides, nobody will notice. They’re too busy talking.”

10 I looked in the distance and saw Mami and my two aunts in the shady spot they had picked. They had set up a nice camp. The hammocks were tied to the pine trees, the blankets were spread over the fine sand. No one would miss us for a long time.

11 “Watch out for sea urchins!” I warned as I led the group on our climb. The spiny black sea urchins hid inside the crevices and crannies of the rough boulders. It was very painful if you stepped on one. Luisa and Mari followed behind me. They were careful to only step on the rocks I stepped on. Little Javi came last. He stopped constantly to look at the *cobitos*, the tiny hermit crabs that scurried around on the rocks, and at the iridescent tropical fish that were concealed in the deepest tide pools. I had to keep checking behind me to make sure he didn’t stray from our path.

12 Just then, I turned around to watch helplessly as Javi slipped on an algae-covered rock. “¡Cuidado!” I warned. But it was too late.

13 “¡Ay!” he shrieked, and then began to cry uncontrollably.

14 Cautiously, we all hurried back to help Javi. Luisa and Mari crouched down to examine his foot.

15 “He stepped on a sea urchin!” Mari cried. “Now what are we going to do?”

16 “We should have never followed you,” Luisa lamented. “We’ll all be punished.”

17 At that moment I did not want to think of what the punishment would be. What if we couldn’t have any of Mami’s *tortilla*? All I knew was that we had to help Javi right away. I looked around and found a piece of driftwood.

18 “Luisa,” I ordered. “Hold his leg still while I remove the urchin from his foot.”

19 Luisa held Javi’s leg still as Mari held his hand and tried to comfort him. But Javi’s desperate cries were now drowning out the sound of the sea.

20 I pulled and tugged, but the urchin wouldn’t budge. It was stuck to Javi’s foot by the tips of its spines. Javi was scared and in pain. And we were too far from our parents to ask for help. What if we couldn’t get Javi back? I struggled relentlessly until I was finally able to remove the spiny creature from his foot.

21 Gently, Luisa poured some sea water over Javi’s foot. That was when she noticed there was still a piece of the sea urchin’s spine lodged in it. Javi wasn’t going to be able to walk back and he was much too heavy for us to carry. We had to remove that piece of spine so that he could walk on his own.

22 “I have an idea,” said Luisa suddenly. She removed her hair barrettes and held them like tweezers. Then, with the smallest movement, she pulled the broken spine out. With that solved, we started back.

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- 23 I helped Javi walk on his sore foot. He wept and limped with every step. Our walk back seemed endless. As we got closer I realized that we would have to explain how it was that we went to the reef in the first place. I would surely end up with no *tortilla* if we told the truth.
- 24 “What will we do now?” Mari asked.
- 25 “We’ll have to tell our parents what happened,” said Luisa matter-of-factly.
- 26 “No!” I said emphatically. “We’ll be punished for sure.”
- 27 We walked the rest of the way in silence. The sound of crashing waves, children playing, and seagulls’ calls became a background drone to Javi’s cries.
- 28 When we finally reached our parents, Javi was crying louder than ever. Aunt Olga took one look at him and gasped. “¡Niños! Children! What’s happened to Javi?”
- 29 Mari looked at Luisa. Luisa looked at me. Javi cried even louder.
- 30 “Well . . . ,” I hesitated. By now everyone was staring at me. “We were walking along the beach looking for cockles and urchin shells,” I began, “when I found a live sea urchin attached to a piece of driftwood. So I called the others. Javi came running so fast that he stepped on it by accident.”
- 31 Luisa and Mari stared at me in disbelief. I didn’t think they liked my story.
- 32 “Let me see your foot, Javi,” Aunt Olga said, kneeling next to her son.
- 33 Mami and Aunt Rosa looked on as Aunt Olga examined Javi’s foot closely. Then she gave him a big hug and a kiss. “He’s fine,” she said at last. “It looks like the children were able to pull it out.”
- 34 And at this good news, Javi’s tears disappeared and were replaced by a big broad smile. “I’m hungry,” he said.
- 35 “Then let’s have lunch,” Aunt Olga suggested.
- 36 I was dumbfounded. Not only had they believed me, but we were also going to eat Mami’s *tortilla*!
- 37 Mami handed me a plate filled with my favorite foods. The *tortilla* smelled delicious. But I was unable to eat. I looked up at Luisa and Mari who were quietly picking at their food. I watched Mami as she served herself and sat next to my aunts. I looked at my plate again. How could I enjoy my food when I knew I had done something I wasn’t supposed to do? There was only one thing I could do now. I stood up, picked up my plate, and went right over to Mami.
- 38 “What’s wrong, Fernando?” Mami asked.
- 39 I looked back at Luisa and Mari and swallowed hard. Then, I handed Mami my untouched plate.
- 40 “You wouldn’t have given me this if I had told you the truth,” I said.
- 41 Mami looked puzzled. The whole group grew silent and watched me struggle. I was very embarrassed.
- 42 “It was my fault,” Luisa said. “I should have stopped them.”

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43 “And I went along,” said Mari.

44 “No, no, it was my idea to go to the reef,” I said. Then I told everyone about our adventure at the reef. When I was finished, Mami looked at me with tear-filled eyes.

45 “You are right, Fernando,” she said. “I should punish you for doing something you knew not to do. Somebody could have been seriously hurt.”

46 “I know,” I whispered, “and I’m sorry.” But then the glimmer of a smile softened Mami’s expression. She slid her arm over my shoulders as she said, “You know, Fernando, anyone can make mistakes. But not everyone has the courage to admit it. *Gracias*. Thank you for telling the truth.”

47 That afternoon, under the shade of the pine trees, the nine of us sat down on the old blankets for lunch. We had *congrí*, bread, and Mami’s famous *tortilla española*. And do you know something? That day it tasted better than it ever had before.

## **Acknowledgments**

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<b>07.III.B.5M</b>	Literature and Media: Content Standard III: 5-8 Benchmark B: Performance Standard 5M: Determine how the use of literary devices such as personification, metaphor, simile, and alliteration convey the author's intent.
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1. In what way could the author's description of *tortilla española* in paragraph 1 of the story be considered foreshadowing?
- A** It indicates that the author knows how *tortilla española* tastes and smells.
  - B** It suggests that *tortilla española* will be important to the plot of the story.
  - C** It explains why family traditions are important to the action in the story.
  - D** It shows that the author is interested in foods made by different cultures.
- 
- A** *The knowledge of the taste and smell of tortilla española does not provide foreshadowing.*
  - B** *Correct Answer — Option indicates knowledge of the literary device of foreshadowing.*
  - C** *The description of tortilla española does not explain the importance of family traditions to the action of the story.*
  - D** *The description of tortilla española does not show that the author is interested in foods made by different cultures.*

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<b>07.I.B.2</b>	Reading and Listening for Comprehension: Content Standard I: 5-8 Benchmark B: Performance Standard 2: Interpret and synthesize information by responding to information that is read, heard, or viewed.
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2. How can the reader tell that Fernando has been to the beach many times?

- A** He knows the way along the reef.
- B** He enjoys eating Mami's *tortilla española*.
- C** He thinks the adults' camp looks nice.
- D** He swims farther and faster than his cousins.

- A** *Correct Answer — Fernando's familiarity with the reef shows he has been to the beach many times.*
- B** *Fernando's enjoyment of Mami's tortillas does not show he has been to the beach many times.*
- C** *Fernando's opinion of the adults' camp does not signify he has been to the beach many times.*
- D** *While Fernando's swimming skills show familiarity with being in the water, they do not show he has been to the beach many times.*

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07.III.B.3

Literature and Media: Content Standard III: 5-8 Benchmark B: Performance Standard 3: Critique the credibility of characterization and the degree to which a plot is contrived or realistic.

3. How does the author *best* reveal Luisa's character?

- A By emphasizing her desire to tell the truth
- B By providing a list of supplies she brings to the beach
- C By explaining how she helps the adults set up camp
- D By noting the type of barrettes she wears in her hair

- A *Correct Answer — Luisa's desire to tell the truth reveals her character.*
- B *The author provides a list of the supplies brought by the aunts, not by Louisa.*
- C *Louisa explored the seaside and did not help set up the camp.*
- D *Louisa's barrettes do not reveal her character.*

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07.III.B.3

Literature and Media: Content Standard III: 5-8 Benchmark B: Performance Standard 3: Critique the credibility of characterization and the degree to which a plot is contrived or realistic.

4. How does the author show that Luisa and Mari's opinion of Fernando changes when he tells his version of what happened to Javi?

- A Luisa and Mari add details to the story.
- B Luisa and Mari stare at Fernando in shock.
- C Luisa and Mari tell the truth about what happened.
- D Luisa and Mari tell Fernando how they feel about the story.

- A *Luisa and Mari do not add details to Fernando's story.*
- B *Correct Answer — Luisa and Mari "Stare at [Fernando] in disbelief" and do not appear to like his story.*
- C *Luisa and Mari do not contradict Fernando.*
- D *Luisa and Mari do not express how they feel.*

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<b>07.III.B.6M</b>	Literature and Media: Content Standard III: 5-8 Benchmark B: Performance Standard 6M: Interpret universal themes, values, and conflicts in a selection.
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5. Which of these *best* describes Fernando's conflict in the story?

- A** A conflict between past and present
- B** A conflict between right and wrong
- C** A conflict between self and community
- D** A conflict between innocence and experience

- A** *A conflict between past and present does not describe Fernando's conflict in the story.*
- B** *Correct Answer — Fernando must decide whether or not to tell the truth.*
- C** *Fernando's conflict is not best described as a conflict between self and community, though he does have a conflict with his cousins.*
- D** *Fernando's conflict is not between innocence and experience.*

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07.I.D.3

Reading and Listening for Comprehension: Content Standard I: 5-8 Benchmark D: Performance Standard 3: Accurately identify author's purpose and perspective.

6. What is the main purpose of this story?

- A To inform the reader about dangers at the beach
- B To make the reader feel sad about a young boy's actions
- C To entertain the reader by describing a day at the beach
- D To teach the reader new games to play with friends and family

- A *While the dangers of the reef appear in the story, that is not the story's main purpose.*
- B *The purpose of the story is not to make the reader sad—the reader should be inspired by Fernando's eventual honesty.*
- C *Correct Answer — The story is meant to entertain.*
- D *The story does not teach the reader new games to play.*

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07.I.C

Reading and Listening for Comprehension: Content Standard I: 5-8 Benchmark C: Apply critical thinking skills to analyze information.

7. Which of these events from the story *best* shows that Mami is an understanding person?
- A She makes delicious *tortilla española*.
  - B She finds a shady spot on the beach that will make a nice camp.
  - C She lets Fernando have *tortilla española* for lunch.
  - D She watches Aunt Olga examine Javi's injured foot.
- A *Mami does make delicious tortilla española, but this does not show she is an understanding person.*
- B *Finding a shady spot to make camp may show Mami is considerate or practical, but not understanding.*
- C *Correct Answer — Allowing Fernando to eat the tortilla española shows Mami forgives him and appreciates that he told the truth, which demonstrates she is understanding.*
- D *Watching Aunt Olga examine Javi's foot does not demonstrate Mami's understanding personality.*

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<b>07.I.C.1.a</b>	Reading and Listening for Comprehension: Content Standard I: 5-8 Benchmark C: Performance Standard 1.a: Use the problem-solving process to refine understanding by: analyzing problems and solutions within various texts and situations.
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8. Explain how Luisa helps solve Javi's problem with the sea urchin. Give one detail from the story to support your answer.

**Scoring Guide**

Score	Description
2	The student explains how Luisa helps solve Javi's problem and gives one example from the story to support the response. The student may give one of the following examples (other responses from the story should be acceptable as well, as long as the example supports the explanation of how Luisa helps solve Javi's problem): <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Luisa holds Javi's leg still while Fernando pulls on the sea urchin.</li><li>• Luisa pours sea water over Javi's foot.</li><li>• Luisa figures out how to use her hair barrettes as tweezers to take out the last piece of sea urchin.</li></ul>
1	The student explains how Luisa helps solve Javi's problem, but does not give an example from the story to support the response, or vice versa.
0	The response is incorrect or irrelevant.

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SCORE POINT 2

8. Luisa helps with the sea urchin problem by using her barrets as tweezers and pulled out the part of the sea urchin that was stuck in Javi's foot.

SCORE POINT 1

8. Luisa helped solve Javi's problem by getting one of her hair clips and using it like tweezers.

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SCORE POINT 0

8. Luisa helps solve Javi's problem with the sea urchin, because in the story she helps by providing a list of supplies she brings to the beach.

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**07.III.B.3**

Literature and Media: Content Standard III: 5-8 Benchmark B: Performance Standard 3: Critique the credibility of characterization and the degree to which a plot is contrived or realistic.

9. Explain whether or not the description of Javi’s crying is realistic. Give one detail from the story to support your answer.

**Scoring Guide**

Score	Description
<b>2</b>	<p>The student explains whether or not the description of Javi’s crying is realistic and gives one detail from the story to support the response. The student may give one of the following details (other responses from the story should be acceptable as well, as long as the example supports the explanation of whether or not Javi’s crying is realistic):</p> <p>Javi’s crying is realistic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He cries after he steps on the sea urchin because it hurts.</li> <li>• He is held down while the sea urchin is being removed from his foot, and he is scared and in pain.</li> <li>• At first the sea urchin would not come out. After it was removed, Luisa poured water over Javi’s foot, which burned because of the salt in the water.</li> </ul> <p>Javi’s crying is unrealistic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Javi cries “uncontrollably.”</li> <li>• Javi’s crying is “drowning out the sound of the sea.”</li> <li>• The other sounds of the beach “became a background drone to Javi’s cries.”</li> </ul>
<b>1</b>	The student explains whether or not the description of Javi’s crying is realistic, but does not give a detail from the story to support the response, or vice versa.
<b>0</b>	The response is incorrect or irrelevant.

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SCORE POINT 2

9. Javi's crying is not very realistic because in the story it said that his desperate cries were drowning out the sea. The ocean is pretty loud so his crying shouldn't be loud enough to cover the noise.

SCORE POINT 1

9. Javi's cry was real because he was in a lot of pain with his foot.

SCORE POINT 0

9. he was not cry, they all said lets go

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**07.III.B.2**

Literature and Media: Content Standard III: 5-8 Benchmark B: Performance Standard 2: Identify recurring themes in literary works.

10. In the story, the author emphasizes the importance of family relationships. Explain how Fernando comes to better appreciate his family and learns to be more considerate of other people. Use details from the story to explain your answer.

**Scoring Guide**

Score	Description
4	<p>The student gives a thorough explanation of how the author emphasizes the importance of family relationships, and explains how Fernando comes to better appreciate his family and learns to be more considerate of other people. The student includes details to support the answer. Details may include, but are not limited to, the following:</p> <p>The author emphasizes the importance of family relationships by showing what it is like to be part of a large family that participates in activities together and shares family traditions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fernando comes to better appreciate his family for their traditions and their love and acceptance of one another.</li> <li>• Fernando learns to be more considerate of other people after experiencing Javi's accident and working with his cousins to resolve the situation.</li> <li>• Fernando learns to be more considerate of other people after seeing his cousins' reactions to his telling a lie about going to the reef.</li> <li>• Fernando learns to be more considerate of other people after seeing how his family accepts him even after he admits to telling a lie.</li> </ul>
3	<p>The student gives an adequate explanation of how the author emphasizes the importance of family relationships, and explains how Fernando comes to better appreciate his family and learns to be more considerate of other people. The student includes some details for support. The response is not as complete or in-depth as a score point 4 response.</p>
2	<p>The student gives a partial explanation of how the author emphasizes the importance of family relationships, and explains how Fernando comes to better appreciate his family and learns to be more considerate of other people, but support is skeletal and lacks organization.</p>
1	<p>The student gives a bare explanation of how the author emphasizes the importance of family relationships, and explains how Fernando comes to better appreciate his family and learns to be more considerate of other people, but includes little or no detail for support.</p>
0	<p>The student demonstrates no attempt to address the prompt, or the response is incorrect or irrelevant.</p>

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SCORE POINT 4

10. Fernando comes to better appreciate his family and learns to be more considerate of other people because of the accident Javi had. Also Fernando appreciates his mami more because she thought that he was courageous for telling the truth. Fernando also probably appreciates Luisa more because she thought fast to use her baretts as tweezers for Javi's foot. Another reason I think Fernando appreciates his family is just that now he knows that he can count on his family if he ever gets hurt. This is why Fernando comes to better appreciate his family and to be more considerate of others.

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SCORE POINT 3

10. Fernando comes to better appreciate his family and learns to be more considerate of other people when he told Mami what he did and she forgave him. It says "But then the glimmer of a smile softened Mami's expression. She slid her arm over my shoulders as she said, "You know Fernando, anyone can make mistakes. But not everyone has the courage to admit it. Gracias. Thank you for telling the truth."

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SCORE POINT 2

10. Fernando comes to appreciate his family more because he told the truth. Because he told the truth his family was understanding about what happened to Javi. He was able to enjoy and appreciate his tortilla española more than ever.

SCORE POINT 1

10. Fernando learns to appreciate his family and tell the truth because of what had happened to Javi.

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SCORE POINT 0

10.

He did so by agreeing with mami  
that she had the right to push him.

## Grade 7 English Reading Released Item Information

Released Item Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>Strand<sup>1</sup></b>	III	I	III	III	III	I	I	I	III	III
<b>Benchmark</b>	B	B	B	B	B	D	C	C	B	B
<b>Performance Standard</b>	5M	2	3	3	6M	3	-	1a	3	2
<b>Depth of Knowledge</b>	3	2	3	2	3	3	2	2	3	2
<b>Item Type<sup>2</sup></b>	MC	MC	MC	MC	MC	MC	MC	SA	SA	OE
<b>Answer Key</b>	B	A	A	B	B	C	C			
<b>Total Possible Points</b>	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	4

<sup>1</sup>Strand: I = Comprehension, III = Literature

<sup>2</sup>Item Type: MC = Multiple Choice, SA = Short Answer, OE = Open Ended