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ECUADORIAN LEGENDS Reading Comprehension Exercises for Beginners

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INTRODUCTION

Ecuadorian Legends is the first book from the ESL Meet Ecuador series. During these passages, the reader will be able to learn about Ecuadorian history while practicing English language reading comprehension.

This first book includes a set of ten stories, taken from famous legends, from all around Ecuador. In this book, the reader will find fantasy, magic, and drama together with a pair of comprehension exercises that will help in the English language learning process.

Each story narrates a famous Ecuadorian legend in English language. After the passage, the learner will find two exercises to reinforce comprehension skills. The first exercise is a mix of vocabulary words to be matched with their correct meaning or synonym. The second exercise, involves a questionnaire with True and False options. At the end of the book there is an answer key for self-check purposes.

This book aims to encourage reading comprehension skills at A1 and A2 levels, according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

The main goal of this book is to promote Ecuadorian culture by sharing its legends and history, meanwhile you can learn and practice English.

We wish you a pleasant journey through Ecuador's heart.

The authors

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This legend is considered a <u>horror story</u> because the main character, Maria Angula, stole something creepy from a graveyard. Can you predict what it was?

Once upon a time, there was a <u>teenage girl</u> named Maria Angula. She was fourteen years old, and she had a very strong character. She didn't like to be bossed around. Her mother was a street vendor, she offered food such as rice with beans, roast beef, and "Tripa asada" which was a famous Ecuadorian dish prepared with sausages made of <u>viscera</u>.

One day, Maria's mother asked her daughter to go to the store to buy sausages and viscera for the next day. As Maria Angula had a willful character, she decided to ignore her mother's request as she wanted to be with her friends. She also used her mother's money and bought some candy to share with her friends!

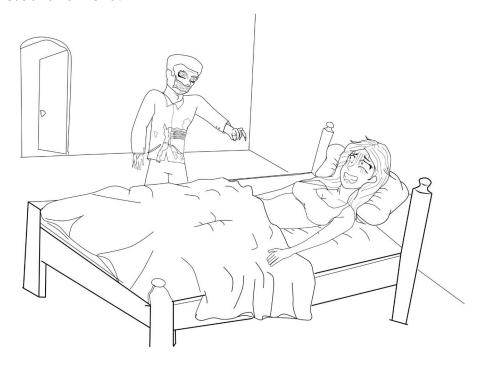
As the day passed, Maria Angulo realized she did things wrong. Her behavior was not appropriate, and she feared her mother would ground her. For that reason, Maria decided to go home. While walking, she had a feeling of worriedness, and she decided to go to Quito's graveyard. This cemetery was awful! She decided to stay there until early night.

When the night arrived she went inside the cemetery and took some viscera from recently dead bodies. She was very <u>scared</u> but she had to be strong. When the plan was done, she decided to go home. When Maria Angula arrived home she <u>greeted</u> her mom. Obviously, her mother was upset because she had disappeared all the afternoon. Maria said: "Hi, mom. I am sorry I am late. Here are the sausages and viscera you asked for."

Maria was worried thinking her mother would ground her. She knew she was wrong because her attitude was not the right one. Fortunately, her mother did not ground her. She felt <u>relieved</u> and wanted to go to bed immediately. Maria was in the bedroom and her mom was outside selling food, which is a very common practice in Ecuador. Some people sell food, snacks, ice cream, and more in their garage or patio. That specific night the food in Maria's mom business was a huge success! They sold every single sausage (and viscera!).

Later that night, Maria was <u>hanging out</u> in her room and she could not stop thinking about the awful thing she had done! Maybe there was another alternative, but she decided to do it anyway. Later, alone in her room, she kept on thinking about the terrible thing she had done. At midnight, when she was finally falling asleep there

was a loud knock on her door! For Maria Angula this was something unusual and weird.



Again and again, someone kept knocking loudly on her door! But everyone was asleep, so who could it be? Maria Angulo did not know who was <u>slamming</u> on the door. She froze for a moment because she heard something even stranger. Suddenly, she heard a voice. Someone was whispering in the bedroom. She was terrified! When she tried to understand what the voice was saying, she heard:

"Maria Angula: give me back my viscera... the organs you stole from me in the cemetery, give them back to me..."

Each time the voice grew louder and louder. The voice was sounding in all the bedroom. Then, she heard footsteps. Maria could feel someone coming up the stairs and crawling to her room.

She became anxious and terrified at the same time, she thought the groaning came from the spirits of the death people she had stolen the organs from.

With all these terrible feelings and emotions, Maria looked for a pair of scissors. She had decided to extract her viscera and pay her debt. She wanted to remove her organs and be free from all this suffering.

The next day, Maria Angula's mother found her dead on her bed. At that moment, her mother realized that Maria had done something terrible, something that was so risky that she took her own life.

VOCABULARY

Match the vocabulary word or phrase with a synonym or description.

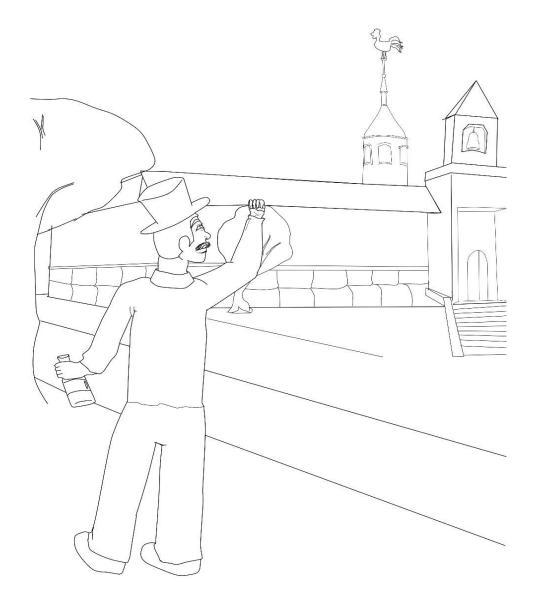
1.	horror story	a. Tales that produce fear.
2.	teenage girl	b. Shutting (a door or window) with
	force.	
3.	Viscera	c. The internal organs of the body.
4.	behavior	d. Spending time relaxing.
5.	worriedness	e. The way in which one acts.
6.	scared	f. No longer feeling anxious.
7.	greeted	e. The state of being worried.
8.	relieved	f. Fearful; frightened
9.	hanging out	g. Gave a sign of welcome
10	. slamming	h. Between 13 and 19 years of age

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Read the statements. Check (\checkmark) "True" or "False" on each.

Sentences	True	False
1. This legend talks about a funny event in Maria's life.		
2. The characters are Maria Angula and her mother.		
3. Maria was an adult woman.		
4. Maria Angula's mother sold food outside her home.		
5. "Tripa asada" is a typical food made from viscera.		
6. Maria's mother wanted to get some rice and beans.		
7. Maria spent all the money on candy for her friends.		
8. Maria stole some organs from the cemetery.		
9. At midnight she heard people hanging out in her room.		
10. Maria felt miserable and terrified.		

The Cathedral's Rooster



This is a very brief legend that happened in the city of Quito. The story begins with Mr. Ramón Ayala y Sandoval, a very popular gentleman from town. Mr. Ramón was famous for his fortune (and terrible drinking habits). He really enjoyed having a good life and also a night life. His typical day began by waking up very late and having a delicious breakfast served with hot chocolate, Ambato's bread, cheese made in Cayambe, and fruit jam. Lunch time was another spectacle of food and wine!

After lunch, he enjoyed going to his library and reading his favorite literature. Then, he would take a well-deserved <u>nap</u>, after all, he was the owner of a very large farm. In general, he felt like a king!

After his nap, he would take a bath and <u>spray</u> some expensive perfume on himself. Now, he was ready to take a walk. Mr. Ramón Ayala y Sandoval used walk down to the Santa Catalina Church on his way to a club, his favorite place to have fun and drinks. As a man with a lot of activities to do, he loved playing the guitar surrounded by his friends. People said that Mr. Ayala y Sandoval's heart belonged to a lovely young woman named Mariana, whose nickname was "la Chola". She also used to go to that club.

Mr. Ramón Ayala y Sandoval liked to drink, and he used to drink A LOT every day in the club. As the night passed, he felt <u>dizzy</u> and decided to go home. As he was walking back home, he <u>stared</u> at the rooster on the top of the church. He felt as if the rooster was bragging as being tougher than Mr. Ramón. Of course, this was just his imagination (and the excess of alcohol in his body), but he continued watching the rooster and having an imaginary conversation with the metal animal. On the street, people heard terrible insults and threats being said by Mr. Ramón. The neighbors covered their ears to not hear all the terrible things being said by a drunk person on the street:

"Do you think you are the best in town?" "I am the toughest, biggest, and bravest on this street!"

And this scene was repeated night after night in front of the church. But on one particular night something different happened. Mr. Ramón had had his usual rounds of drinks and on his way back home he began insulting the rooster on the top of the church

building. This time, he <u>ran across</u> a real rooster, a game chicken, and the rooster invited Mr. Ramón to a real fight.

The millionaire was very afraid and he suddenly felt a beak tapping on his head. "What? That's scary!" Thought the millionaire. At that moment, he realized that the rooster was real and he was planning to attack. So, Mr. Ramón apologized to the rooster, and at the same he begged for forgiveness for all his insults over the last few days.

Without hesitation, the rooster claimed:

"I will forgive you, with only one condition. You must stop drinking so much alcohol, if you don't, I will have no mercy and will have to kill you."



And he sure did! From that day on, Mr. Ramón Ayala y Sandoval <u>complied</u> with his offer, he did exactly what he had promised.

Until one day Mr. Ramón went to at a birthday party <u>celebration</u>. At first things seemed to be going well and everybody was having fun until a friend offered Mr. Ramón a glass of wine. He was unable to resist and accepted. From that moment on, he started drinking and drank all night. The legend says that since that night, no one has seen Mr. Ramón again. He just <u>disappeared</u> without a trace.

VOCABULARY

Match the vocabulary word or phrase with a synonym or description.

 night life 	a. Met (by chance)
2. nap	b. Vanished
3. spray	c. Dispersed
4. nickname	d. Followed
5. dizzy	e. Observed
6. stared	f. Off-balance
7. ran across	e. Entertainment at night
8. complied	f. Familiar name
9. celebration	g. Important occasion
10. disappeared	h. Rest

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Read the statements. Check (\checkmark) "True" or "False" on each.

Sentences	True	False
1. Mr. Ramón Ayala y Sandoval was a very popular		
person.		
2. He felt like a poor soldier.		
3. He loved playing the guitar surrounded by his friends		
4. Mariana's nickname was "La Alta".		
5. On his way back home, Mr. Ramón used to insult the		
rooster.		
6. Mr. Ramón Ayala y Sandoval liked to brag.		
7. One night, a big pigeon tried to hit Mr. Ramón		
8. The animal asked Mr. Ramón to stop drinking.		
9. Mr. Ramón promised to stop eating delicious		
breakfasts.		
10. As he did not keep his promise, Mr. Ramón suddenly		
disappeared.		

The Witches from Ibarra



This legend took place in the city of Ibarra, also known as The White City, where all the houses and shops are painted white. There are many places to visit and there is also a lot of Ecuadorian history. If you go way up high, close to the Ibarra Park, there is an old Ceibo tree that was planted after the 19th century earthquake. The city inhabitants say that its branches had walked an entire block. The nights were peaceful. The moon was bright, but it could not reflect the shadows passing by. Who looked at Ibarra asleep? Who had the privilege of gazing at its very white walls in the moonlight? Who passed on a low-level flight as if they were night birds? Who would sit near the bells of the Cathedral to look at the green tiles and the tops of the trees?

Old people in the city say that years ago they could see people flying in the sky. These people had the shape of women in very long, thick dresses. They used to scream, laugh, and sob in the early hours scaring people. Unlike a typical image of a witch, these creatures had long white <u>starched</u> dresses. They were very rigid, so when flying close to a roof over the street, they scratched it. Some people who did not believe in them and made fun of these witches, ended up turned into mules or roosters.

Apparently, this happened to Rafael Miranda, a recognized doctor from Ibarra. People said that Dr. Miranda one day disappeared without a trace. His friends looked for him everywhere and his family were desperate. Time passed and all his family and friends kept looking for him, until something strange happened. One afternoon, an <u>acquaintance</u> of Dr. Miranda was walking in the park, close to the big Ceibo tree, he observed a man with a hoe (a shovel-like digging tool).

This man was a complete mess, his clothes were very dirty clothes and his hair was untidy, as if the wind had blown hard around him. As the observer got closer to the <u>ragged</u> man, he recognized Dr. Miranda! He took the doctor home to his family, and after prodigious cures he returned to his normal state because he had been crowing and shaking his head like a rooster at all times.

The witches used to give people a potion called "Tardón". It was a drink that with a single sip one ended up talking nonsense or unconscious. Politicians and local famous people were victims of the witches. It took a really long time to realize that they drank "Tardón". They were attached to wooden chairs. They could smell brandy (one of the ingredients of this secret potion). When they woke up and tried to get up, they realized that they were dirty and stinky; they also discovered that were alone in the forest. Others woke up eating inexplicable things. Some people had the opportunity to <u>come back</u> home. They felt happy but they also

ended up with a certain degree of madness, and others are still missing.



This story was also used by many people as an excuse. One day, Juan José Mejia, a popular dentist from Carchi and Imbabura, said that the witches had been after him to avoid explaining to his wife about a three-day party he had been at. When they asked him why he had not arrived at the house, he answered without any doubt: "I was walking around the park and suddenly I got tied to the leg of a bed. I do not remember what else happened but when I was conscious again I saw many witches hiding in the other room, so I escaped".

"From town to town and from beam to beam, without God and without Mary Saint"

This was heard by some inhabitants just before watching these happy witches were taking a flight. These were their magic words to get to the sky.

VOCABULARY

Match the vocabulary word or phrase with a synonym or description.

1.	inhabitants	 a. Brilliant
2.	bright	 b. Contemplating
3.	gazing	 c. Resident
4.	starched	 d. Animal
5.	mules	 e. Colleague
6.	acquaintance	 f. Rigid
7.	ragged	 e. Return
8.	come back	 f. With holes
9.	missing	 g. Awake
10	conscious	h. Disappeared

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Read the statements. Check (\checkmark) "True" or "False" on each.

	Sentences	True	False
1.	Ibarra is also recognized as the Bright city.		
2.	People used to see creatures with no shadows in the		
	sky.		
3.	The witches flew over the streets and house tiles.		
4.	The witches of Ibarra were different from other		
	witches.		
5.	People who did not believe in them turned into mules		
	or monkeys.		
6.	Dr. Rafael Miranda was a person who disappeared.		
7.	Dr. Miranda could return home, very safe and		
	healthy.		
8.	The witches used to give their victims a soup called		
	"Poseidón".		
9.	Everybody who disappeared returned home.		
10	. People used this story as an excuse to escape from		
	personal problems.		

The Boy with the Black Hand



This story about a boy called Toribio, is an Ecuadorian legend. He was born with a condition. Toribio did not have a right hand. The family was <u>devastated</u> and his parents decided to offer their <u>prayers</u> to the *Virgen del Soto*. This church was famous for granting graces to devoted people. His parents asked for a miracle: to grant the grace of giving their son, a right hand.

As Toribio grew up, he was a happy kid. He never felt sad or <u>timid</u> because he did not have his right hand. He was one of the kids who received lots of love and care in the neighborhood. He also showed love and cared for people in need, he lived surrounded by poor people. Every time a person showed up to his house asking for food or money, Toribio tried his best to help them.

One day, an old lady with a little boy knocked on the door and begged for food. As Toribio had a big heart, he fed the visitors and also filled a <u>basket</u> with fruit for them to have something extra to eat

at home. The old lady was grateful and the little boy felt very happy. In return, the old lady told Toribio:

"Thank you for being so kind. I will pray for you. You know? I think tomorrow you will receive a surprise".

The next day, Toribio's parents were woken with an <u>unusual</u> sound. They heard Toribio screaming and his parents did not know what was happening! Their son was shouting, laughing, and jumping on the bed. They ran to Toribio's bedroom and they could see their son was really excited. He cried out:



"Mom, Dad... Look! I have a right hand, A RIGHT HAND!"

When Toribio showed them his new hand they were <u>silent</u> for a few seconds and looked at each other with surprise. No one said a

word, his parents could not believe their eyes. Toribio did have a new hand, but this hand was different. It was completely black. After the shock, the parents realized it was a gift from heaven. They prayed and thanked God for the <u>miracle</u>. They knew this miracle was a grace from the *Virgen del Soto* who they were devoted to.

Toribio was so happy. He did not care about the color of his brand new hand. He could do everything he wanted to do, just like the kids who played with him. Now he could grab and play with both hands. He could climb trees and help at home. Toribio continued his life being a generous teenager and a <u>courageous</u> adult. He never forgot what the lady said and the gift he received.

Some people say that Toribio also fought against some <u>pirates</u> who arrived to Guayaquil. He was a brave citizen and he had a large family. From time to time people used to ask him about the color of this hand, he only replied "this was a gift from the Virgen del Soto". The legend also says that after Toribio's death, they had to exhume his body due to a Municipal decision. People who were present that day observed that inside the coffin there was <u>bone ash</u> and a black hand. The mystery of the Black Hand has never been revealed. Why do you think the Black Hand was not converted into ashes?

VOCABULARY

Match the vocabulary word or phrase with a synonym or description.

1.	devastated	a. Destroyed or ruined
2.	prayers	b. A container to carry things
3.	timid	c. An extraordinary event
4.	basket	d. Requests to God
5.	unusul	e. Valiant
6.	silent	f. Interesting because it is different
7.	miracle	e. People who rob ships at sea
8.	courageous	f. Mineral residue of calcined bone
9.	pirates	g. Lack of courage or confidence
10.	bone ash	h. Not speaking

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Read the statements. Check (\checkmark) "True" or "False" on each.

Sentences	True	False
Toribio was born with a health condition.		
2. He did not have his right leg.		
3. Toribio's parents were devoted to the Virgen del		
Soto.		
4. The boy was a generous person.		
5. A fairy gave Toribio a magic hand.		
6. Toribio's hand was different.		
7. The boy could play and climb trees with his new		
hand.		
8. The family thought this event was a miracle.		
9. Toribio used his hand to fight against robbers.		
10. The black hand remained intact even after his death.		

The Lady in High Heels

This Ecuadorian legend comes from a town in the province of Esmeraldas. This happened many years ago on a night with a full moon. This place is known as *Tacona de Esmeraldas*, where a young woman with long <u>blond hair</u> used to live. Like any other girl at that age, she decided to go out to have some fun.

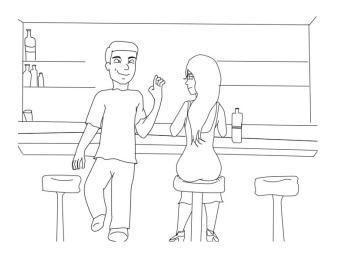
She was walking down the street, longing to meet her friends and have a great night. But things were different that night. The young blonde, while <u>wandering</u> along a short street, saw a man who <u>approached</u> her. He tried to have a conversation with the lady, but she refused to talk. This man was a stranger and she had no interested in having a conversation.



The man <u>insisted</u> and walked behind her, trying to catch her attention. When he realized that the lady was not going to turn around, he <u>grabbed</u> her and took her to a corner of the street and started kissing her. People around them only saw when the lady was running back to her house and they hoped she was safe. They observed that the young woman had returned home with her dress torn and tears in her eyes. She looked scared!

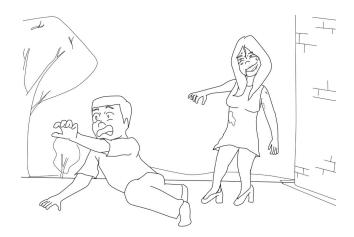
At her house, she went to the bathroom to wash herself, meanwhile swearing that no other man would ever take advantage of her. She tried to calm herself down. But something curious happened a few minutes later. The lady felt different and had a different look in her eyes. She was not afraid anymore, she looked confident and also very, very decided to do something about it.

She went to her close and selected a <u>stunning</u> red dress and also wore a pair of stunning <u>high heels</u>. She combed her hair and put on some make-up and red lipstick. She was determined to go out again. She wanted to go to a place to have a few drinks, maybe this would help her forget about what happened earlier with that man.



In the club, as the beautiful young woman she was, she did not go <u>unnoticed</u>. Many men were staring at her, admiring her beauty and gave her the nickname "Lady Heels", because of the stunning high heels she was wearing while dancing.

Then, a man dared to invite her to dance and at the end of the dance, he asked if they could go to the beach to talk more calmly. The young woman accepted the proposal and while walking along the seashore, the man hugged her tightly by the waist and struggled to kiss her forcibly. She tried to say that she was not interested, but the man did not pay any attention to her.



He wanted to kiss her, but before he touched her lips, he saw that the young woman had turned into a hideous and cold <u>corpse</u>. There was no beautiful lady anymore, she was a horrible corpse! The man ran away trying to escape from her. People in town saw the man crying out desperately:

"She is not human; Lady Heels is a corpse!

Legend has it that the beautiful lady, before going back to the club, made a deal with death. She wanted to have her revenge on

anyone who approached her wanting to harm a woman. From that day on, Lady Heels is out and about on the streets and dances in some clubs trying to attract more victims, but any man who has heard this story never asks her to dance.

VOCABULARY

Match the vocabulary word or phrase with a synonym or description.

1.	blond hair	a. Walking
2.	wandering	b. Demanded something forcefully
3.	approached	c. Ragged
4.	insisted	d. Shoes with tall, thin heels.
5.	grabbed	e. Not attracting any attention
6.	torn	f. A dead body
7.	stunning	e. Impressive
8.	high heels	f. Took by force
9.	unnoticed	g. Came near
10.	corpse	h. Yellow hair

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Read the statements. Check (\checkmark) "True" or "False" on each.

	Sentences	True	False
1.	The lady in this story is recognized by her long red hair.		
2.	That night, she wanted to go out to a restaurant with friends.		
3.	When walking along the street, a man tried to grab her.		
4.	Lady Heels returned home crying and feeling terrible.		
5.	She pretended to go back to the club.		
6.	She wore a stunning dress with a pair of sandals.		
7.	While dancing she was trying to get the attention of all men there.		
8.	A man decided to take her to a restaurant near the sea shore.		
9.	When they tried to kiss, the man saw a horrible corpse!		
10	. Lady in Heels made a pact with death to revenge her tragedy.		

FATHER ALMEIDA



During the 1900s in the Capital of Ecuador, Quito, a man named Manuel Almeida decided to enter the San Diego Monastery because he had suffered greatly from a bad love affair. As soon as Manuel arrived to the Monastery, he met up with some friends who had begun studying there before his arrival.

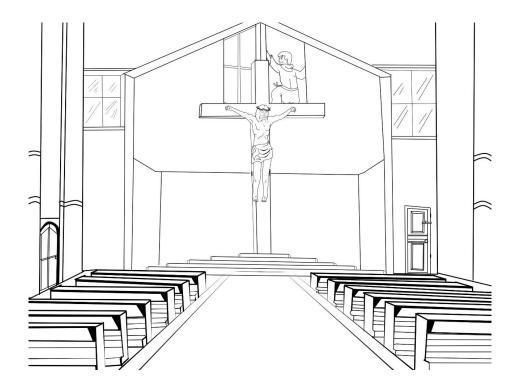
After some months of being in the Monastery while Manuel and his friends were praying in the church he was invited him to go out with them that night, and he agreed. In the middle of the night, Manuel and his friends climbed over one of the walls to get out and then they sneaked quietly along the streets of Quito so as not to be seen by the neighbours.

Not long after, Manuel and his friends got to a night club that was located near a creek. There they joined the people who were drinking and having fun. That night Manuel distinguished himself by playing the guitar and singing really well with his tenor voice. Every

night after that Manuel and his friends climbed over the wall and went to the night club to have fun and enjoy themselves.

One day, the Abbot of San Diego's Monastery heard rumours that some of his Friars were going out at night to the club. The Abbot immediately decided to increase the height of the walls to stop the Friars' from leaving the Monastery.

Meanwhile, Manuel did not want to stop going to the night club and he pushed his friends to do the same, but they refused to keep going because they did not want to be caught by the Abbot. Manuel wanted to leave and looked for a way to get out.



One night while Manuel was praying in the church, he looked at the large crucifix hanging on the wall, and further up the wall, he realized there was a big window. He immediately thought it would be a good idea to climb up the crucifix to reach the window to get out.

That night, Manuel climbed up the crucifix and reached the window through which he was able to leave the Monastery. He went to the night club to dance, drink, sing and play the guitar. Manuel really enjoyed being in the club dancing and drinking alcohol even though he knew he had to return to the Monastery before 5 o'clock in the morning.

Manuel continued leaving the Monastery and the people started whispering about a Friar who spent his time in a night club, but Manuel did not care about that because he felt happy going to the club. One night, as Manuel was climbing up the crucifix, he heard a voice that asked, "How many more nights are you thinking about leaving the Monastery?" and Manuel answered "as many as I can continue drinking, Sir."

Manuel did not care about what he had heard and went to the club. That night he danced and drank too much, he could not keep standing but he was happy. He left the club shortly after 5 a.m.

On his way back to the Monastery he could not walk straight because he was so drunk. While Manuel was walking along the streets, he saw some men carrying a coffin, he thought it was the strange that all the men were wearing black cassocks. He approached and asked one of the men who the person in the coffin was and he smiled at Manuel and said, "It is you!" Manuel smiled back at him and thought the man was joking until he looked inside and saw that it was his dead body inside the coffin.

Terrified, Manuel ran quickly back to the Monastery and entered the church, he knelt down and with tears on his cheeks he promised to never drink again and he devotedly started praying.

VOCABULARY

Match the vocabulary word or phrase with a synonym.

1.	Cassock	a. Quietly
2.	Coffin	b. Monk
3.	Monastery	c. Citizen
4.	Near	d. Stream
5.	Abbot	e. Priest
6.	Friar	f. Convent
7.	Neighbour	g. Robe
8.	Creek	h. Close
9.	Father	i. Casket
10	Sneakina up	i Archimandrite

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Sentences	True	False
Manuel went to the convent because he wanted to be a Priest.		
2. Manuel was a friendly person.		
3. Manuel invited his friends to go out.		
4. Manuel and his friends went out in the morning.		
5. Manuel used to play the guitar very well.		
6. Manuel went to the night club to talk about God.		
7. The night club was located close to the bank.		
8. In the coffin, Manuel saw one of his friends.		
9. The men carrying the coffin were wearing white cassocks.		
10. Manuel promised to never drink again.		

Cantuña Myth

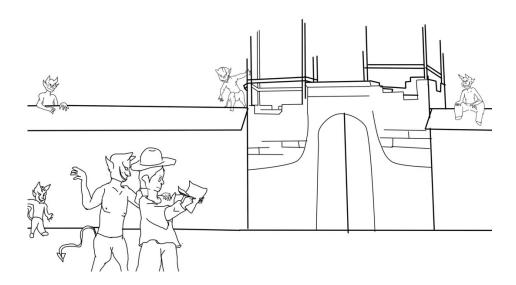
A long time ago, in the capital of Ecuador, Quito, there was an indigenous man well-known for his job as a stonemason named Cantuña. The Franciscan Religious Fathers who lived in the country, looked for him to ask if it was possible for him to build them a Catholic Church in the city.

The wily man Cantuña agreed to build the church and he promised the Franciscans to complete the construction in just six months. After a few days, the indigenous Cantuña went to look for the Franciscans and told them that there was a condition to his building the church, and it was that at the end of the construction, they would give him a large amount of money and the Franciscans agreed with that.

However, the Franciscans thought that it was difficult to build a church in only six months although he would be working with other masons, and in that way the church would not be completed in the agreed time.

Time was running quickly and they were soon in the fourth month but the church was not even 50% completed. Cantuña began to worry about that and convinced his friends to work morning and night to finish, but they did not find the solution.

After the fifth month working day and night, the church was about 60% built and Cantuña began to feel frustrated and disappointed because the church would not be finished, and he would not be paid by the Franciscans. Cantuña could not sleep well, he was angry and constantly shouted at his friends to work harder. The time to finish the church was almost over, without any solution.



On the eve of the night before the agreed day to finish the construction of the church, Cantuña heard a voice calling him, "Cantuña why are you frustrated? Cantuña I can help you if you want. I am here to help you. I know what is happening, I am going to help you to build the church, but in exchange, you must give me your soul."

Cantuña was very afraid and did not really think about how dangerous it would be to have an agreement with Lucifer, but anyways, he said yes to the proposal between him and Lucifer. Cantuña had just one condition that all the stones had to be used in the construction. The devil accepted that condition because he thought it was simple to do.

The Devil's people immediately started working to complete the church and before midnight the church was finished and Lucifer smiled at Cantuña.



Then something strange happened, Cantuña spoke out loudly to Lucifer, "Just a moment! The agreement between us has not been completed, I told you that all the stones had to be used but you did not use them all", and Cantuña removed a stone from his pocket and showed to Lucifer.

Lucifer was furious because he wanted Cantuña's soul and he said "I will be waiting for your soul, I have a lot of time to wait for you." Cantuña was happy because the church was finished within the time agreed upon and the devil did not take his soul.

If you go to Quito – Ecuador, you can see a small hole in one of the church walls where any type of stone can be placed into.

VOCABULARY

Match the vocabulary word or phrase with a synonym.

1.	Нарру	a. Builder
2.	Wily	b. Exasperate
3.	Stone	c. Kirk
4.	Frustrated	d. Scheming
5.	Disappointed	e. Employ
6.	Job	f. Dissatisfied
7.	Franciscans	g. Scream
8.	Stonemason	h. Pleased
9.	Church	i. Rock
10.	Shout	j. Friars

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Sentences	True	False
1. Cantuña was a teacher.		
2. Cantuña's friends worked in the afternoon to build the church.		
3. A day before the 6 months, Cantuña was happy.		
4. Cantuña heard Lucifer's voice at noon.		
5. Lucifer agreed on taking Cantuña's house after finishing the church.		
6. The church was finished after midnight.		
7. Lucifer's people used all the stones in building the church.		
8. Cantuña agreed on building the church in 6 months.		
9. Cantuña will receive food when he finished the church.		
10. Cantuña took a piece of stone from his pocket.		

The Lady with the Veil



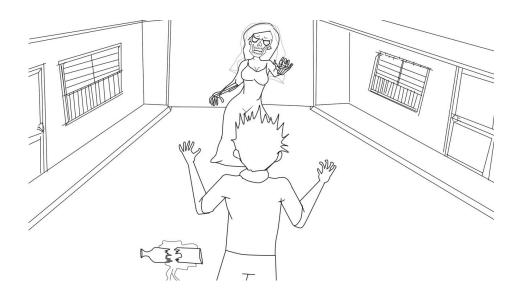
A long time ago Ecuadorian people talked a lot about The Lady with the Veil, nobody really knew what she looked like, but everybody was fearful of her and no one wanted to meet up with her.

The story tells about a girl with a sculptural model like body, but nobody has actually seen her face because she wears a veil covering it. She dressed very elegantly and always carried a black umbrella. She used to wear a long black dress with black gloves in her hands.

Some people say that when there is a handsome man close to her, she starts to expel the scent of perfume that makes men crazy about her and they start following her everywhere.

According to the people interviewed they said that the fragrance coming from the Lady with the Veil is seductive and it bewitches all men who smell it. By using this fragrance, the Lady in the Veil guides

the men where nobody can see, hear or help them, especially to dark places where the lights are not working.



Then when the Lady in the Veil and the man chosen by her are so far away nobody can see them, she remains standing across from him and lifts her veil to uncover herself to him. Immediately, the Lady in Veil emanates a putrefied smell of a decomposing body. When the man finally sees her, he immediately has a heart attack and dies. A lot of men have been found lying dead from a heart attack on the streets, very few of them have been found still alive.

There are a few people who have been saved from the Lady in the Veil after seeing her face. However, most of the men that have escaped from her are living in Psychiatric Centres because they suffered such terrible mental problems after having seen the Lady's face.

The men living in the Psychiatric Centres do not receive visits from women as they immediately start to shouting for help when they see one next to them, they are fearful that the Lady in the veil will visit them.

According to some family members and relatives some men have done away with themselves. This happened because in those times the people who lived in the Psychiatric centres were visited by nuns and priests. The nuns used to wear robes and this type of dressing remind them of the Lady in the veil.

Vocabulary

Match the vocabulary word or phrase with a synonym.

1.	Lady	a. Perfume
2.	Elegant	b. Dusky
3.	Handsome	c. Sister
4.	Fragrance	d. Woman
5.	Seductive	e. Oust
6.	Bewitch	f. Keep safe
7.	Dark	g. Slinky
8.	Expel	h. Fashionable
9.	Save	i. Charm
10.	Nun	j. Attractive

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

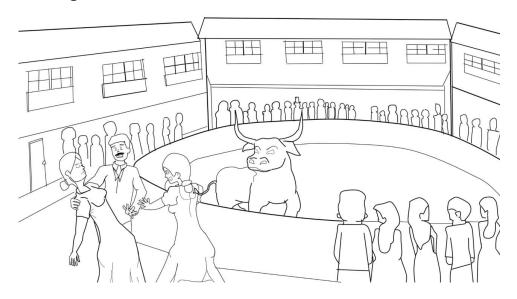
Sentences	True	False
The Lady in the veil looks like a model.		
2. The Lady in the veil did not cover her face.		
3. The Lady in the veil wears short colourful dresses.		
4. All the men who saw the Lady in the veil died.		
5. The Lady in the veil met her victims around the parks.		
6. The Lady in the veil expelled a sweet fragrance.		
7. The places where the Lady in the veil attacked her victims were dark.		
8. The men who lived in the Psychiatric centres felt happy when they saw women visiting them.		
Some of the men who lived in the Psychiatric centres did away with themselves because they used drugs.		
10. Some nuns used to visit them.		

The Beautiful Aurora

Once upon a time, there was a girl called Aurora, but people used to call her The Beautiful Aurora or Belle Aurora. She was a beautiful and intelligent woman who lived in a village close to Quito, the capital of Ecuador.

Aurora was a beautiful young girl that was born in a rich home. Her parents were the most well-known people in the village and around Quito. They lived wealthy, serene lives with no worries about food, clothes, or education.

As time passed the beautiful Aurora had more and more admirers around the village who wanted to conquer her heart and marry her. Although she was so beautiful that she could afford to refuse almost any of the young men of the village she was also demanding, she wished to marry someone with her same status and social economic standing.



One lovely sunny Sunday afternoon, she decided to go to the bullfight at the Independence Square in the city, as she really enjoyed watching the men and bulls fighting and killing each other. The Taurina party was well known in Ecuador and around the world. The Taurina party always had many people attending. The beautiful Aurora was sitting in a row close to the field where everything was delightfully enjoyable until the door opened and a big black bull with glistening fur emerged, its eyes were two big balls of fire, and hot steam was coming out of his nostrils and his mouth was covered with white foam.



The big strong animal saw the beautiful Aurora and it ran across to her. When the girl saw the bull coming towards her she started running away, shouting out in terror but she couldn't escape the big animal who ran into her and, she knocked her over and she lost consciousness.

She was taken home where she remained unconscious for a while. At first her parents were afraid she was dying as she Aurora was so weak and still unconscious. They laid her down in the bed and left her resting in her bedroom. After a few hours of resting Aurora opened her eyes and sat up, then she hugged her parents and started crying.

A few hours later everybody in Aurora's room heard some loud thunderous noises and then the bedroom walls fell on Aurora. Her parents ran away. Aurora wanted to run and started to shout out but she couldn't walk and as she remained there, she saw the big black bull with its glistening fur. Then the animal attacked her with its horns and the girl was instantly killed.

Some people said that the bull was bewitched because it was impossible to follow her from the Square to the house. Another important factor was that the animal attacked only Aurora, nobody else there was attacked by the bull.

Aurora's parents eventually ran back to her room to see Aurora but, unfortunately, they found her dead on the floor. The animal instantly disappeared and was never seen again.

Vocabulary

Match the vocabulary word or phrase with a synonym.

1.	Beautiful	a. Charm
2.	Intelligent	b. Take
3.	Refuse	c. Go on
4.	Daughter	d. Go away
5.	Shout	e. Frightened
6.	Catch	f. Smart
7.	Afraid	g. Scream
8.	Bewitch	h. Pretty
9.	Follow	i. Reject
10	Disappear	i Child

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Sentences	True	False
The Beautiful Aurora did not have any money.		
2. She wanted to marry a poor boy.		
3. She used to watch bullfighting.		
4. The bull was black and white.		
5. The bull was big.		
6. The Beautiful Aurora went to the Taurina party with her parents.		
7. The Beautiful Aurora was taken to the hospital after her attack.		
8. Aurora was helped by some people.		
9. People around Aurora's house saw the bull leaving the house.		
10. After Aurora's death, her parents found the bull.		

The Panecillo Hill



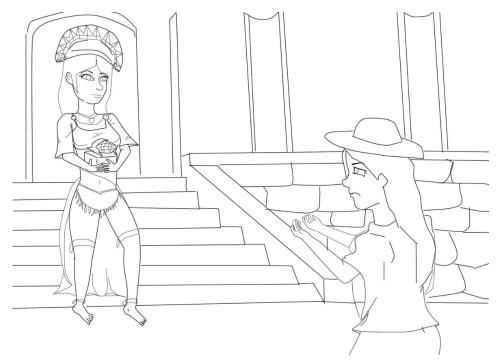
The myth about the Panecillo Hill took place in Quito, the capital of Ecuador, many years ago. The people who live in the city tell the story every time someone asks about it.

A long time ago, there was a poor woman who lived in Quito, she did not have money or a job, she only had a cow, and that cow was her whole life. The cow produced milk and the old woman used to sell it to have money to buy food to eat.

She used to take the cow to the Panecillo Hill to eat grass as there was nowhere else to take it to eat as she did not have money to buy food for the animal.

One day, she took the cow to the Hill as she always did. It was a sunny but windy day. She was so tired that she went to sit under a tree and a few minutes later, she fell fast asleep. After an hour she woke up and immediately looked for her cow, but she could not find her cow. She started to call out to the animal, but nothing happened.

The hours passed, but she did not find her cow. She was afraid and could not stop crying, she started to walk down the other side of the hill. While the poor woman was walking, she saw a beautiful Palace, it was large and beautiful, very clean with big doors. As the doors were open, she entered the Palace and she heard some noises inside and the poor woman thought it was her cow, but instead of finding her cow, she met a Princess who was sitting on a big beautiful throne.



The Princess saw the woman and with a smile she asked: "Why did you come to visit me?" The poor woman answered, "I did not come to visit you my beautiful Princess, and I am embarrassed to be seen dressed in these dirty old clothes. I am looking for my cow because I lost it a few hours ago, I could not find it and that animal means everything to me."

While she was telling her story, she could not stop crying. After the Princess listened to tale, she gave the poor woman a corn and a block of gold, trying to calm the woman, she said to her "do not cry,"

I am sure when you return to your house, your cow will be there waiting for you." The poor woman was so happy for the gifts and the Princess' words, that she stopped crying and began to smile. She left the Palace and when she was close to her house, she saw the cow and ran to it and hugged it, the poor woman found the cow.

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary

Match the vocabulary word or phrase with a synonym.

1.	Myth	a. Huge
2.	Hill	b. Castle
3.	Come back	c. Kind
4.	Poor	d. Present
5.	Beautiful	e. Shame
6.	Palace	f. Knoll
7.	Embarrass	g. Attractive
8.	Туре	h. Return
9.	Big	i. Story
10.	Gift	j. Meager

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Sentences	True	False
1. The poor woman had money.		
2. The poor woman had a cow.		
3. The poor woman fed the animal in her house.		
4. The poor woman slept under a tree.		
5. The poor woman found a Palace.		
6. There was a Princess and a King in the Palace.		
7. The Princess gave the poor woman some gold.		
8. The poor woman wore clean clothes.		
9. The poor woman found her cow on the Hill.		
10. The poor woman found her cow in her house.		

MARIA ANGULA

Match the vocabulary word or phrase with a synonym or description.

- 1. a
- 2. j
- 3. c
- 4. e
- 5. g
- 6. h
- 7. i
- 8. f
- 9. d
- 10. b

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Sentences	True	False
This legend talks about a funny event in Maria's life.		V
2. The characters are Maria Angula and her mother.	J	
3. Maria was an adult woman.		✓
4. Maria Angula's mother sold food outside her home.	V	
5. "Tripa asada" is a typical food made from viscera.	V	
6. Maria's mother wanted to get some rice and beans.		V
7. Maria spent all the money on candy for her friends.	V	
8. Maria stole some organs from the cemetery.	\	
9. At midnight she heard people hanging out in her		✓
room.		
10. Maria felt miserable and terrified.		

THE CATHEDRAL'S ROASTER

Match the vocabulary word or phrase with a synonym or description.

- 1. g
- 2. j
- 3. c
- 4. h
- 5. f
- 6. e
- 7. a
- 8. d
- 9. i
- 10. b

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Sentences	True	False
1. Mr. Ramón Ayala y Sandoval was a very popular	\	
person.		
2. He felt like a poor soldier.		√
3. He loved playing the guitar surrounded by his friends	\	
4. Mariana's nickname was "La Alta".		✓
5. On his way back home, Mr. Ramón used to insult the	√	
rooster.		
6. Mr. Ramón Ayala y Sandoval liked to brag.	√	
7. One night, a big pigeon tried to hit Mr. Ramón		✓
8. The animal asked Mr. Ramón to stop drinking.	V	
9. Mr. Ramón promised to stop eating delicious		✓
breakfasts.		
10. As he did not keep his promise, Mr. Ramón suddenly		
disappeared.		

THE WITCHES FROM IBARRA

Match the vocabulary word or phrase with a synonym or description.

- 1. c
- 2. a
- 3. b
- 4. f
- 5. d
- 6. e
- 7. h
- 8. g
- 9. j
- 10. i

QUESTIONS

	Sentences	True	False
1.	Ibarra is also recognized as the Bright city.		V
2.	People used to see creatures with no shadows in the sky.	J	
3.	The witches flew over the streets and house tiles.	√	
4.	The witches of Ibarra were different from other witches.	V	
5.	People who did not believe in them turned into mules or monkeys.		/
6.	Dr. Rafael Miranda was a person who disappeared.	√	
7.	Dr. Miranda could return home, very safe and healthy.		\
8.	The witches used to give their victims a soup called "Poseidón".		V
9.	Everybody who disappeared returned home.		✓
10	. People used this story as an excuse to escape from personal problems.	J	

THE BOY WITH THE BLACK HAND

Match the vocabulary word or phrase with a synonym or description.

- 1. a
- 2. d
- 3. i
- 4. b
- 5. f
- 6. j
- 7. c
- 8. e
- 9. g
- 10. h

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Sentences	True	False
 Toribio was born with a health condition. 	V	
2. He did not have his right leg.		V
 Toribio's parents were devoted to the Virgen del Soto. 	J	
4. The boy was a generous person.	V	
5. A fairy gave Toribio a magic hand.		✓
6. Toribio's hand was different.	✓	
7. The boy could play and climb trees with his new hand.	V	
8. The family thought this event was a miracle.	V	
9. Toribio used his hand to fight against robbers.		√
10. The black hand remained intact even after his death.		✓

THE LADY IN HIGH HEELS

Match the vocabulary word or phrase with a synonym or description.

- 1. j
- 2. a
- 3. i
- 4. b
- 5. h
- 6. c
- 7. g
- 8. d
- 9. e
- 10. f

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Sentences	True	False
 The lady in this story is recognized by her long red hair. 		V
2. That night, she wanted to go out to a restaurant with friends.	\	
3. When walking along the street, a man tried to grab her.	V	
4. Lady Heels returned home crying and feeling terrible.	V	
5. She pretended to go back to the club.	√	
6. She wore a stunning dress with a pair of sandals.		✓
7. While dancing she was trying to get the attention of all men there.	V	
8. A man decided to take her to a restaurant near the sea shore.		V
9. When they tried to kiss, the man saw a horrible corpse!	J	
 Lady in Heels made a pact with death to revenge her tragedy. 	J	

FATHER ALMEIDA

Match the vocabulary word or phrase with a synonym.

- 1. g
- 2. i
- 3. f
- 4. h
- 5. j
- 6. b
- 7. c
- 8. d
- 9. e
- 10. a

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Sentences	True	False
Manuel went to the convent because he wanted be a Priest.	ot to	V
2. Manuel was a friendly person.		
3. Manuel invited his friends to go out.	V	
4. Manuel and his friends went out in the morning.		V
5. Manuel used to play the guitar very well.	V	
6. Manuel went to the night club to talk about God.		V
7. The night club was located close to the bank.		V
8. In the coffin, Manuel saw one of his friends.		V
The men carrying the coffin were wearing who cassocks.	hite	J
10. Manuel promised to never drink again.	V	

CANTUÑA MITH

Match the vocabulary word or phrase with a synonym.

- 1. h
- 2. d
- 3. i
- 4. b
- 5. f
- 6. e
- 7. j
- 8. a
- 9. c
- 10. g

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Sentences	True	False
1. Cantuña was a teacher.		\
Cantuña's friends worked in the morning and at night to build the church.	V	
3. A day before the 6 months, Cantuña was happy.		>
4. Cantuña heard Lucifer's voice at noon.		<
Lucifer agreed on taking Cantuña's house after finishing the church.		V
6. The church was finished before midnight.	V	
7. Lucifer's people used all the stones in building the church.		J
8. Cantuña agreed on building the church in 6 months.	V	
Cantuña will receive food when he finished the church.		J
10. Cantuña took a piece of stone from his pocket.	V	

THE LADY WITH THE VEIL

Match the vocabulary word or phrase with a synonym.

- 1. i
- 2. f
- 3. h
- 4. j
- 5. g
- 6. b
- 7. e
- 8. c
- 9. a
- 10. d

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Sentences	True	False
The Lady in the veil looks like a model.	V	
2. The Lady in the veil did not cover her face.		√
3. The Lady in the veil wears short colourful dresses.		\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \
4. All the men who saw the Lady in the veil died.		7
5. The Lady in the veil met her victims around the parks.		V
6. The Lady in the veil expelled a sweet fragrance.	V	
7. The places where the Lady in the veil attacked her victims were dark.	V	
8. The men who lived in the Psychiatric centres felt happy when they saw women visiting them.		7
Some of the men who lived in the Psychiatric centres did away with themselves because they used drugs.		\
10. Some nuns used to visit them.	V	

THE BEAUTIFUL AURORA

Match the vocabulary word or phrase with a synonym.

- 1. h
- 2. f
- 3. i
- 4. j
- 5. g
- 6. b
- 7. e
- 8. a
- 9. c
- 10. d

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Sentences	True	False
The Beautiful Aurora did not have any money.		\
2. She wanted to marry a poor boy.		\
3. She used to watch bullfighting.	V	
4. The bull was black and white.		√
5. The bull was big.	√	
6. The Beautiful Aurora went to the Taurina party with her parents.	V	
7. The Beautiful Aurora was taken to the hospital after her attack.		\
8. Aurora was helped by some people.		✓
People around Aurora's house saw the bull leaving the house.	V	
10. After Aurora's death, her parents found the bull.		\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \

THE PANECILLO HILL

Match the vocabulary word or phrase with a synonym.

- 1. i
- 2. f
- 3. h
- 4. j
- 5. g
- 6. b
- 7. e
- 8. c
- 9. a
- 10. d

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Sentences	True	False
1. The poor woman had money.		V
2. The poor woman had a cow.	V	
3. The poor woman fed the animal in her house.		V
4. The poor woman slept under a tree.	V	
5. The poor woman found a Palace.	V	
6. There was a Princess and a King in the Palace.		V
7. The Princess gave the poor woman some gold.	V	
8. The poor woman wore clean clothes.		V
9. The poor woman found her cow on the Hill.		✓
10. The poor woman found her cow in her house.	V	

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Italo Carabajo Romero was born in Milagro – Ecuador, he works at Univesidad Estatal Peninsula de Santa Elena ubicated in La Libertad. He holds a Master's degree in Docencia y Gerencia en Educación Superior. He also holds International certifications such as PET, ICELT, TKT CLIK, and TKT KAL. His professional goals are focused on motivating students to learn a second language as English, and in writing journals and books to help students to learn and develop the language.

Eliana G. León Abad was born in Cuenca - Ecuador on February 27, 1981. She is an Engineer in International Business Management and holds a Master's degree in Higher Education, both degrees were obtained at UCSG. She has been recognized for her outstanding performance as a teacher and as a master's student. In addition to that, she has obtained international certifications in foreign languages, TEFL certification awarded by the Casa Grande University, and FCE Certification. She had the opportunity to be trained by Margarita Amestoy de Sánchez in procedural lessons that are developed in her series of books "Aprender a pensar" and "Desarrollo de Habilidades del Pensamiento", which became a huge success at schools in Guayaquil.

She's a teacher with +17 years' experience teaching children, teenagers, and adults; with a passion for education and a strong commitment to optimizing student and academy success. She's been tutoring undergraduate degree thesis and also has served as a trainer in English language certifications.

In another field, she is also part of a team of translators in administrative, legal, e-commerce, websites, and government projects.

She is currently a member of the TESOL International Association, and has conducted research related to language teaching. Her last achievements include publishing research papers and being a lecturer for national and international conventions in education.

Sara Dolores González Reyes She was born in Ancon – Santa Elena – Ecuador in December 04, 1970, she graduated in Science of Education - English Major in the Universidad Particular de Loja. She also had a Diplomado Superior en Pedagogía de la Educación Técnica y Profesional for an agreement of UPSE and Instituto Héctor Pineda Zaldívar from Cuba. After that, she finished the Master Degree in Gerencia de Innovaciones Educativas at Universidad Técnica Estatal de Quevedo in 2012. She has more than 25 years of experience teaching English as a foreign language. Started working in Universidad Estatal Peninsula de Santa Elena (UPSE) since 2005 as a teacher in the Language Center and in the Teaching English Major with subjects as English, Curriculum Design, Testing and Teaching English as a Foreign Language. Also, she was a tutor for thesis of undergraduated students and as a member of Board of Examiners. For almost 5 years she was in charge of the Language Center of UPSE, planning courses for UPSE students and for the community of Santa Elena. In 2018, she became the Director of Pedagogía de los Idiomas Nacionales y Extrajeros Major and in 2019 is in charge as a Dean of the Faculty of Science of Education and Languages. After many years of experience, she recommends to read and use this textbook that has relevant material to be applied for students. This material is a resource that will help teachers to develop skills in a pedagogical and motivational way.

Tatiana García Villao was born in Santa Elena – Ecuador. She graduated at Universidad Espíritu Santo as an Engineer in Business Studies and completed a master's program in Education at Universidad Empresarial de Guayaquil, UTEG. She is a professional with extensive experience in the field of higher education working with adolescents and adults and is currently a professor at Universidad Estatal Península de Santa Elena, UPSE in the Career of Pedagogía de los Idiomas Nacionales y Extranjeros, which prepares students to become English teachers. She is also part of the staff of teachers of the UPSE Language Center in charge of providing English modules to the other University careers.









