

RECURSO GRATIS • NIVEL PRINCIPIANTE

El regalo de Mateo

A warm A1 story about a birthday, a small budget, and a gift made with time, memory, and love.

READ

MAKE

GIVE

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ANTES DE LEER

Get ready

Mateo wants a special birthday gift for his grandmother, but he has very little money. Read to discover what he decides to give her.

Before you begin

What is a meaningful gift that does not cost much money? Write two ideas.

Meet Mateo**MATEO**

Mateo is 14 and lives with his mother and younger sister. His grandmother, Abuela Elena, is turning seventy on Sunday. She has always cared for the family.

Reading goal

Notice how Mateo plans, asks questions, and describes memories.

THE STORY · PART 1

Only eight dollars

On Friday afternoon, Mateo looks at the calendar. His grandmother's **birthday** is in two days.

'I need a **gift** for Abuela,' he tells his mother.

Mateo opens a small box under his bed. He counts his money: eight dollars.

At the store, he sees flowers for fifteen dollars and a soft scarf for twenty.

'Everything is too **expensive**,' he says.

His mother smiles. 'A good gift does not need to cost a lot. What does Abuela love?'

Mateo thinks. Abuela loves family dinners, old songs, and telling stories about Colombia.

She also loves looking at family **photos**.

Mateo has an idea. 'I can make something.'

At home, he finds an empty notebook, colored paper, glue, and markers.

'I will make a **memory** book,' he says.

His little sister, Luna, wants to help.

'Can I draw a picture for Abuela?'

'Yes. We can make the book together.'

THE STORY · PART 2

Pages full of memories

Mateo asks his mother for old family pictures. They **choose** twelve photos.

The first photo shows Abuela holding baby Mateo. Under it, he writes: Thank you for taking care of me.

Another photo shows the family cooking arepas.

'What should I write here?' Mateo asks.

His mother answers, 'Write about her cooking.'

Mateo writes: Your food brings our family together.

Luna draws yellow flowers and a large red heart. She writes her name very carefully.

Mateo calls his uncle and asks, 'What is your favorite memory with Abuela?'

His uncle tells him about a long bus trip when Abuela sang songs to keep the children happy.

Mateo writes the **story** on a blue page.

Then he asks three cousins to send short **messages**. Each cousin writes one thing they love about Abuela.

Mateo prints the messages at the library. It costs two dollars.

He uses six dollars to buy a simple blue **ribbon** for the book.

By Saturday night, every page is full.

The best present

On Sunday, the family meets at Abuela's house for a small **celebration**.

There are balloons in the kitchen and a chocolate cake on the table.

Everyone sings 'Happy Birthday.' Abuela closes her eyes and makes a **wish**.

After cake, the family gives her presents. Mateo waits until the end.

'This is from Luna and me,' he says. He gives her the book.

Abuela unties the ribbon and opens the first page. She reads slowly.

On the next page, she sees Luna's flowers. Then she reads the story from the bus trip.

Abuela laughs. 'I remember that day!'

She continues through every photo and message. Her eyes fill with happy tears.

'This is **beautiful**,' she says. 'You put our whole family in one book.'

Mateo hugs her. 'We wanted you to know how much we love you.'

Abuela places the book beside her chair. 'This is the best **present** I have ever received.'

Mateo spent all eight dollars, but the most important parts were free: time, attention, and love.

He learns that the value of a gift is not its price. It is the feeling it carries.

The best gifts tell someone: You are important to me.

Words for gifts and celebrations

Find each bold word in the story. Read the full sentence, then check the Spanish meaning.

birthday	cumpleaños
gift	regalo
expensive	caro/a
photos	fotos
memory	recuerdo
choose	elegir
story	historia
messages	mensajes
ribbon	cinta / lazo
celebration	celebración
wish	deseo
beautiful	hermoso/a
present	regalo

COMPREHENSION

Check your understanding

A. Choose the best answer

1. How much money does Mateo have?

- a) \$6 b) \$8 c) \$15

2. What does Abuela love to look at?

- a) Family photos b) Store windows c) New scarves

3. Who draws flowers?

- a) Mateo's mother b) His uncle c) Luna

4. Where does Mateo print the messages?

- a) At school b) At the library c) At home

5. Why does Abuela love the book?

- a) It is expensive b) It contains family memories c) It is very large

B. True or false

1. Abuela is turning seventy. **TRUE / FALSE**

2. Mateo buys the twenty-dollar scarf. **TRUE / FALSE**

3. The book has twelve photos. **TRUE / FALSE**

4. Mateo's cousins send messages. **TRUE / FALSE**

5. Abuela does not remember the bus trip. **TRUE / FALSE**

C. Gift vocabulary

Complete with: **gift • photos • ribbon • wish**

1. Mateo needs a _____ for Abuela.

2. They choose twelve family _____.

3. He ties the book with a blue _____.

4. Abuela makes a birthday _____.

COMPREHENSION

Think and use English

D. Answer in a complete sentence

1. Why does Mateo decide not to buy flowers or a scarf?

2. What does he write under the first photo?

3. How does the family help with the book?

4. Why is the gift meaningful to Abuela?

5. What makes a gift special to you?

E. Plan a meaningful gift

Write the person's name, the occasion, what you will make, and why they will like it.

ANSWER KEY

Review your work

A. Multiple choice

1. b 2. a 3. c 4. b 5. b

B. True or false

1. True 2. False 3. True 4. True 5. False

C. Gift vocabulary

1. gift 2. photos 3. ribbon 4. wish

D. Suggested answers

1. They cost more than the eight dollars he has.
2. He writes, 'Thank you for taking care of me.'
3. They share photos, drawings, a story, and messages.
4. It collects family memories and shows their love.
5. Answers will vary.

KEEP GOING

Tell someone: This gift is for you. I made it because you are important to me.

ENGLISH MADE CLEAR. PROGRESS MADE REAL.