

One sunny afternoon, Maria walked to school with her mother, Lisa. Maria's little brother would be starting kindergarten in the fall, and her mother had to go to the school and register him. Lisa spoke only Spanish. Maria came with her to the school to help translate. Maria spoke both Spanish and English. She spoke Spanish with her family and English with her friends at school. She didn't like to speak Spanish around her friends because she thought they wouldn't understand her. Her family told her to be proud that she was bilingual, but it made her feel different from her friends and she didn't like that.

When Maria and her mom arrived at the school, Maria saw her friend Sara standing in the office with her family. She realized that she would have to speak Spanish in front of them. She felt butterflies in her stomach. She smiled shyly at Sara as she walked to the front counter. Maria asked the secretary for the enrollment forms and carried them to her mother. Then, she started reading the directions to her mother in Spanish. She tried to read quietly and hoped that Sara wouldn't be able to hear. She glanced at Sara. Her eyes were wide with shock.

"Oh great," Maria thought. "She probably has no idea what I'm doing." She helped her mother fill out the paperwork and handed it to the secretary. As she was leaving the office, she waved nervously at Sara and her family. Then, Sara came running up to her and said "That was amazing, Maria. I had no idea you spoke Spanish!" She asked if Maria could teach her some Spanish words sometime. Maria grinned and nodded. She was relieved to find out that Sara appreciated her talent.