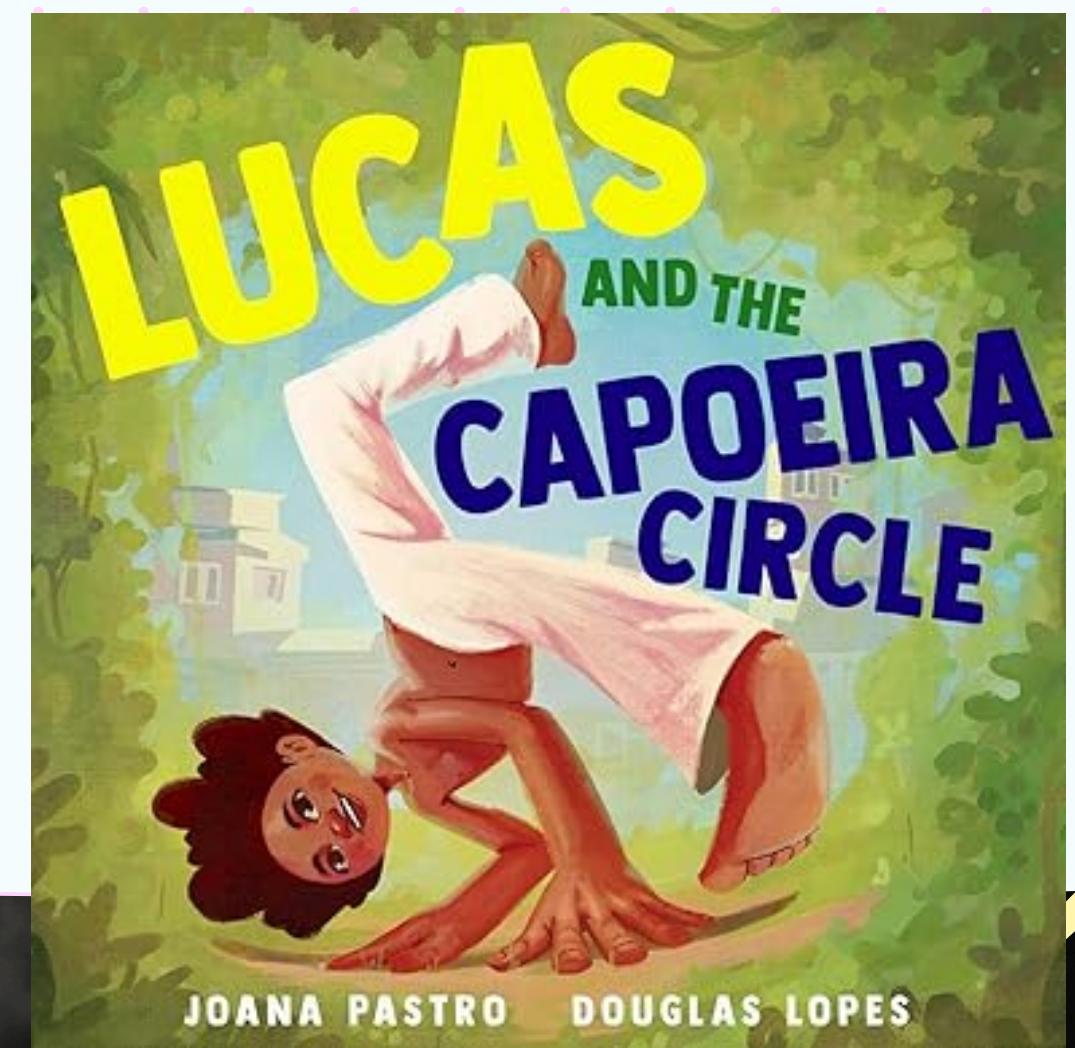
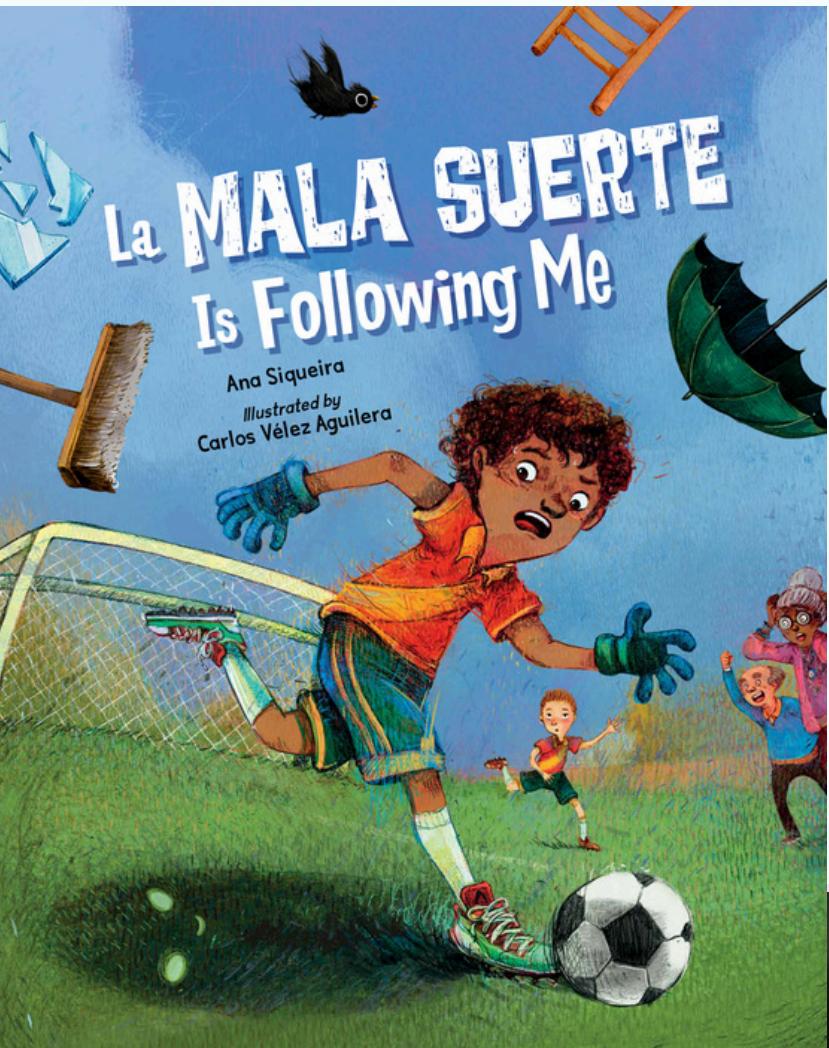
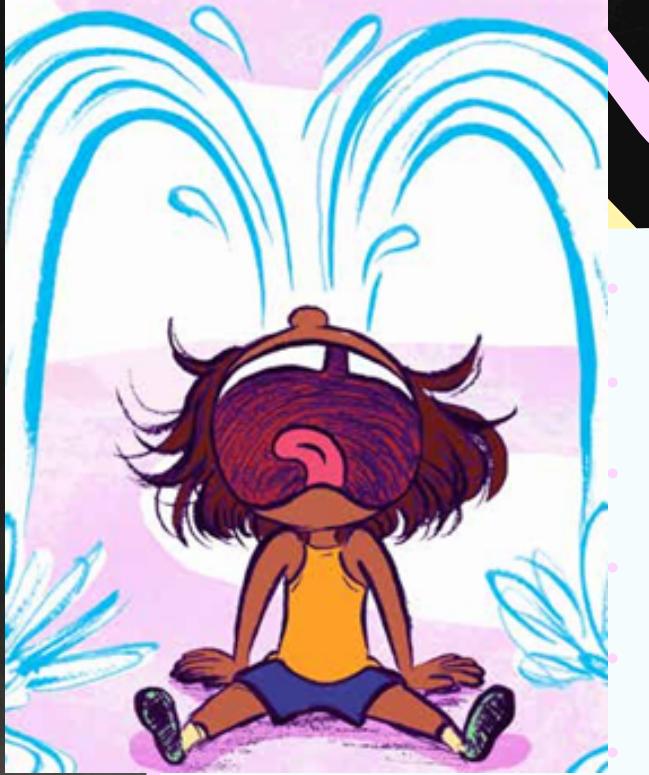


Ana Siqueira

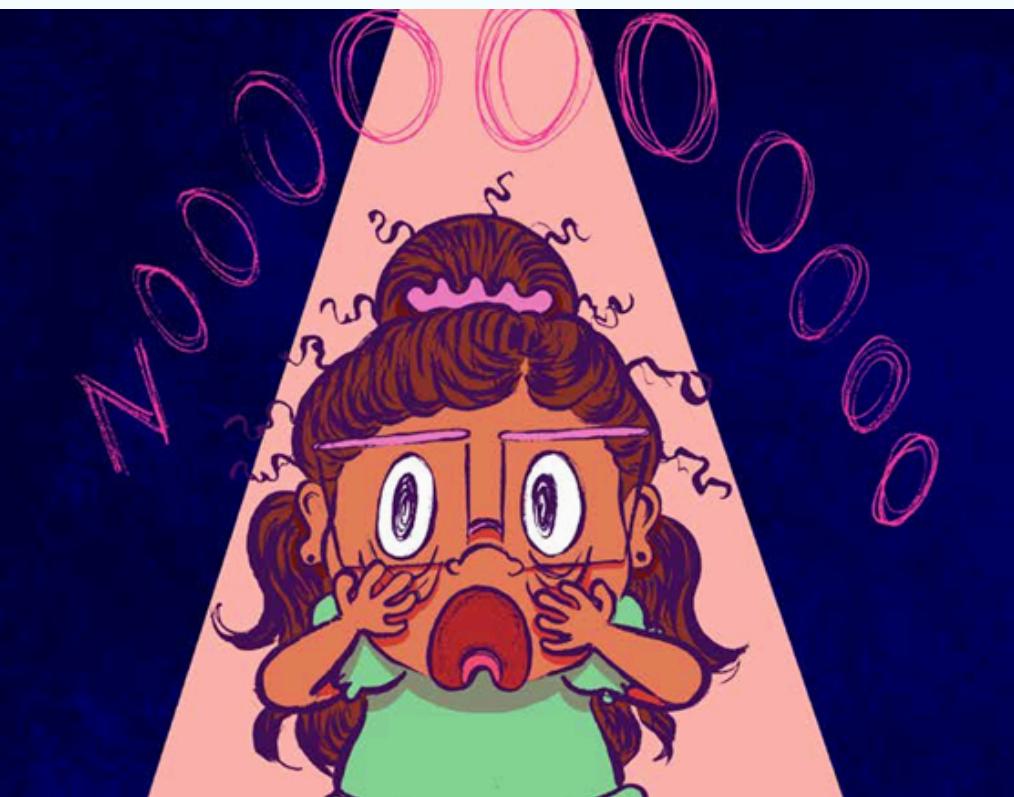
ADDING TENSION



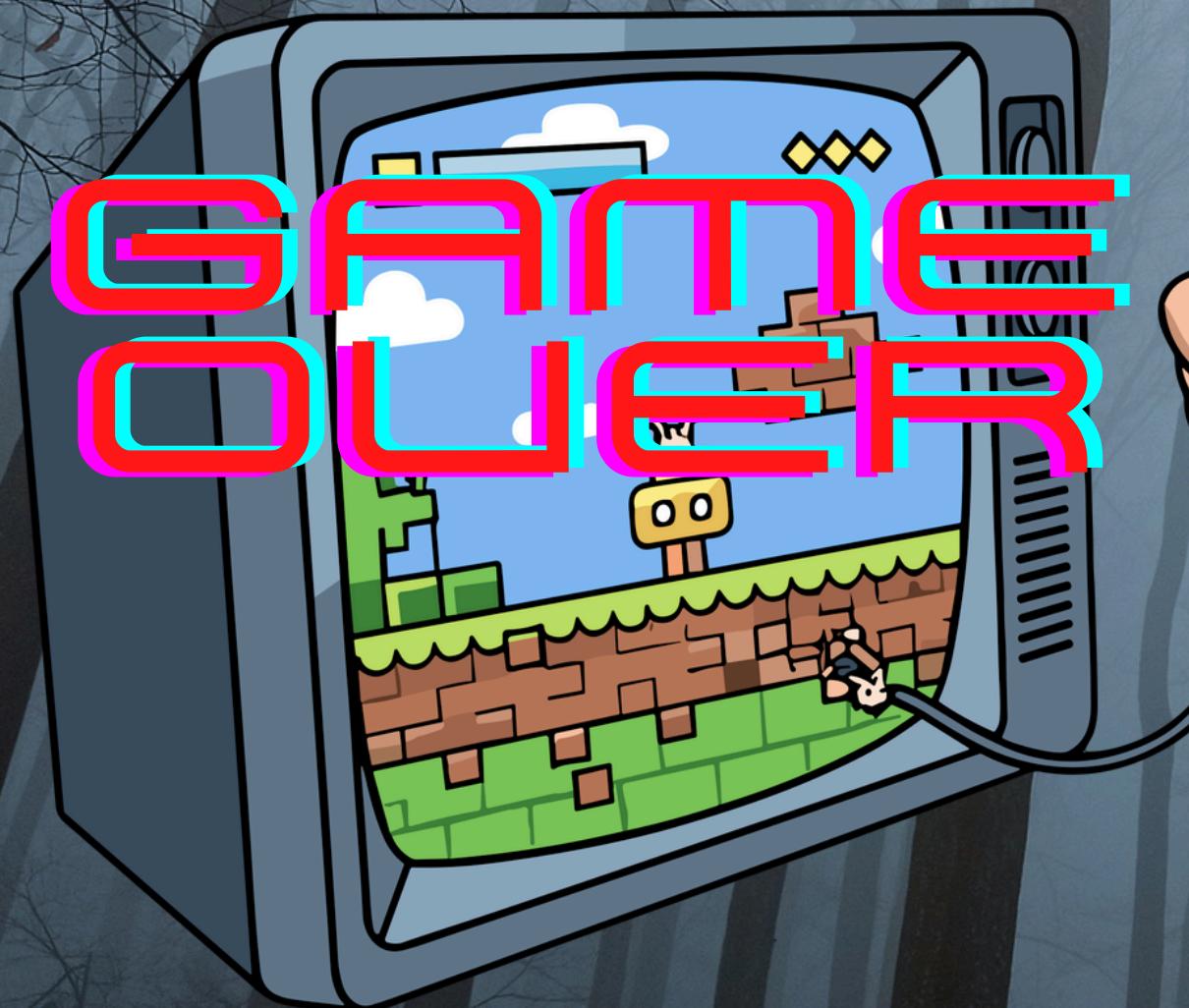


Ana Siqueira

1. What's at stake?
2. The more your character get in trouble (or suffer), the better
3. Page turners/ cliff hangers
4. Writing tips - short sentences, strong verbs.



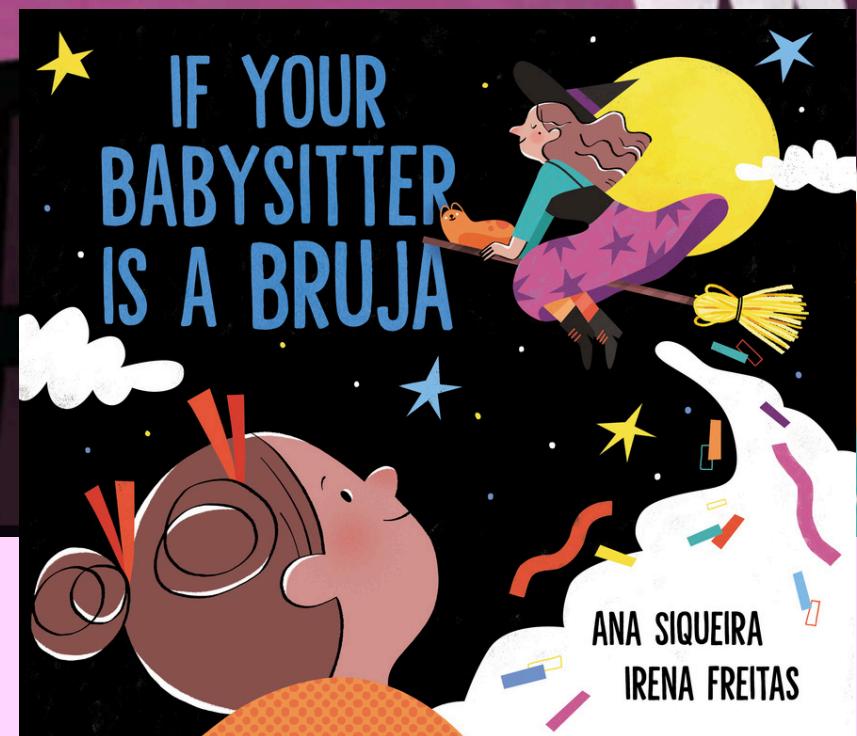
What's at stake?



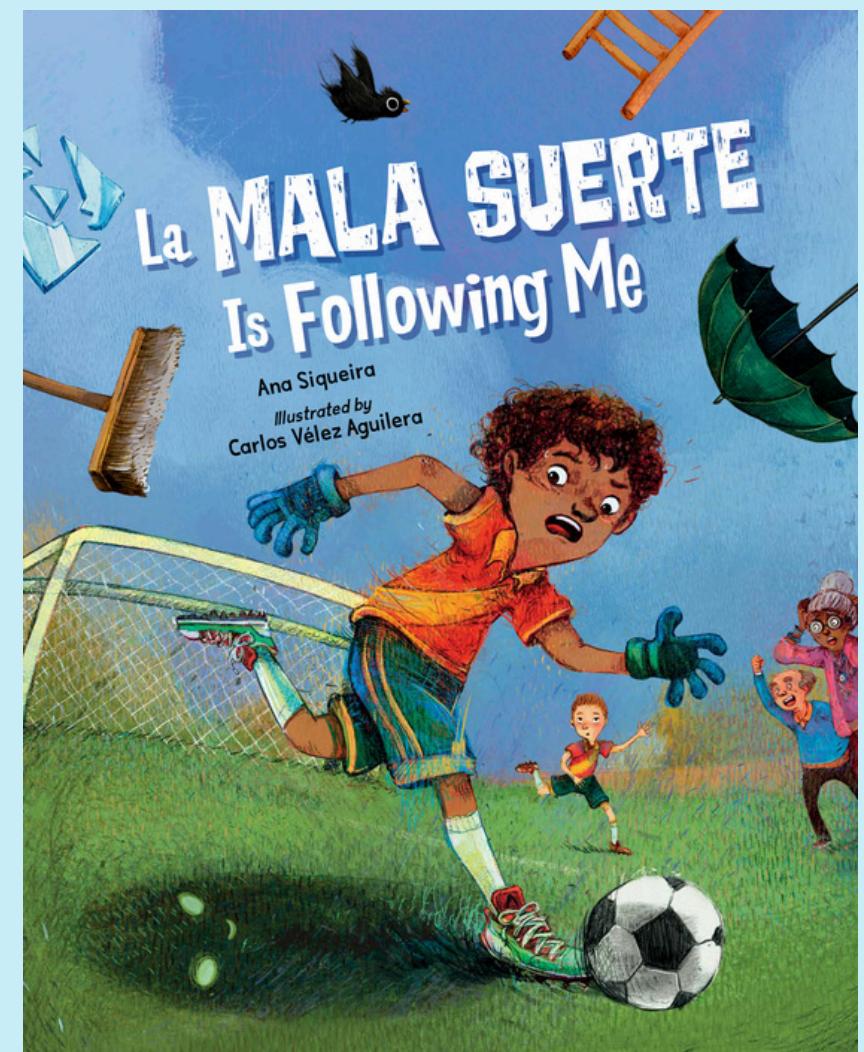
What's at stake – her babysitter might be a witch

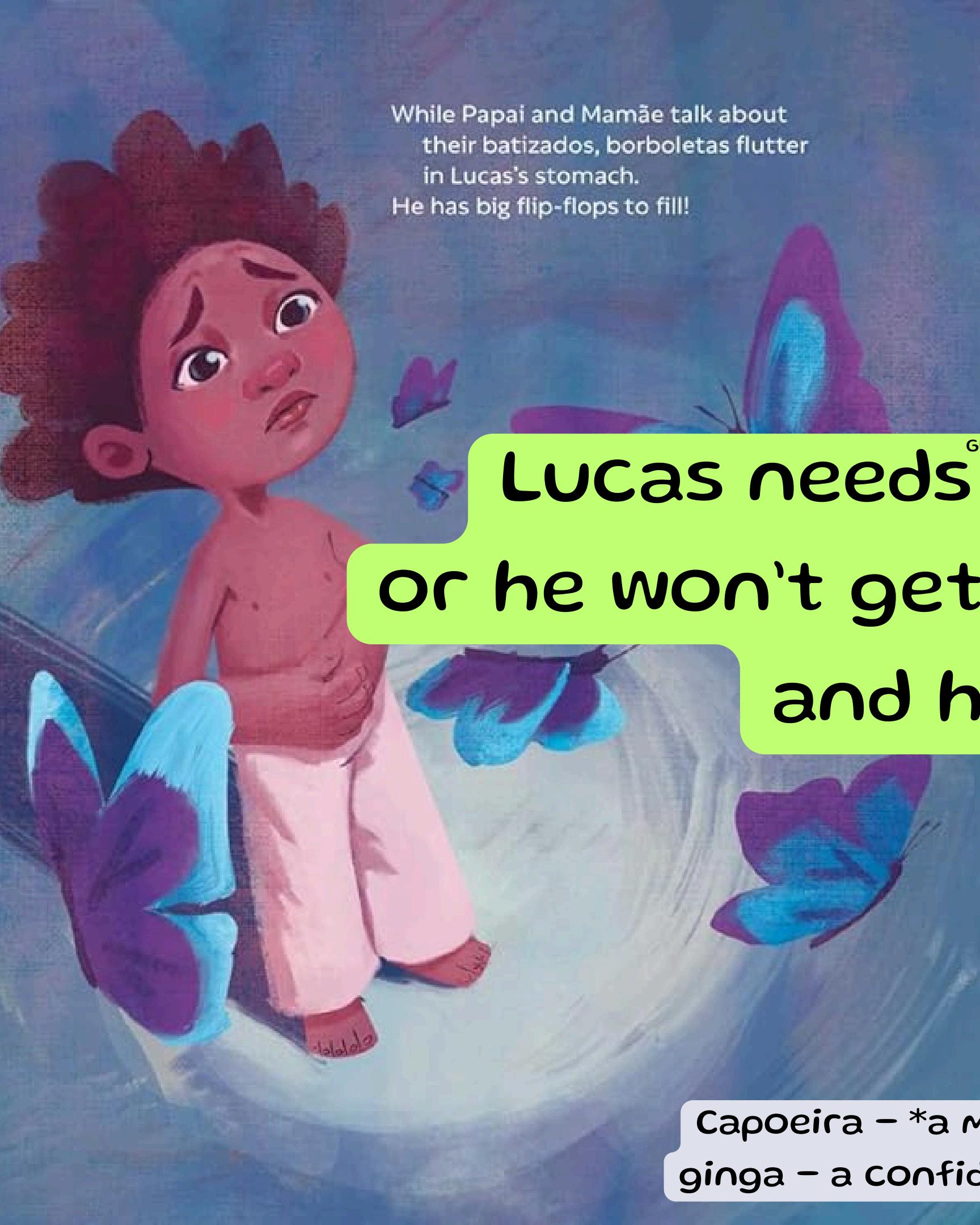


Witches can be mean!



La Mala Suerte (Bad Luck) is Following Miguel
His life is a disaster.





While Papai and Mamãe talk about
their batizados, borboletas flutter
in Lucas's stomach.
He has big flip-flops to fill!

At the park, friends in their abadás gather
around the roda—the capoeira circle.

Lucas's smile wobbles with worry....
What if something goes wrong?
What if everyone laughs at me?

Lucas needs^{Gluten} to show his ginga*
or he won't get his new Capoeira belt
and his nickname,

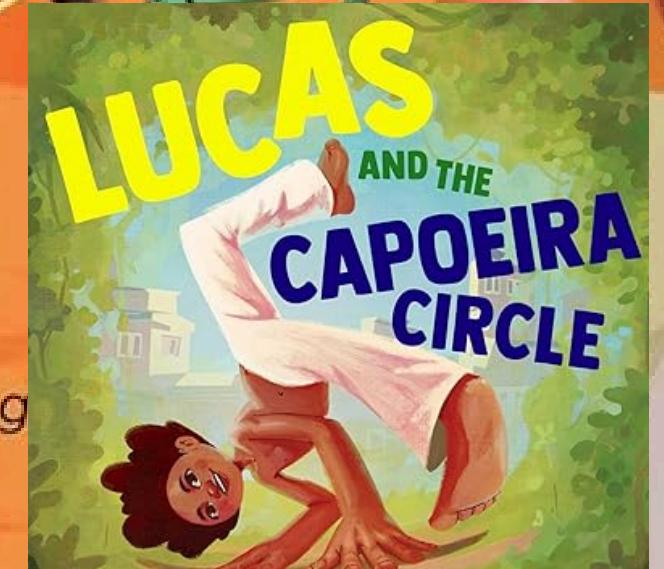


What if...

GULP!...

I lose my g

Capoeira – *a martial art/dance from Brazil
ginga – a confidente way of moving, swaying.



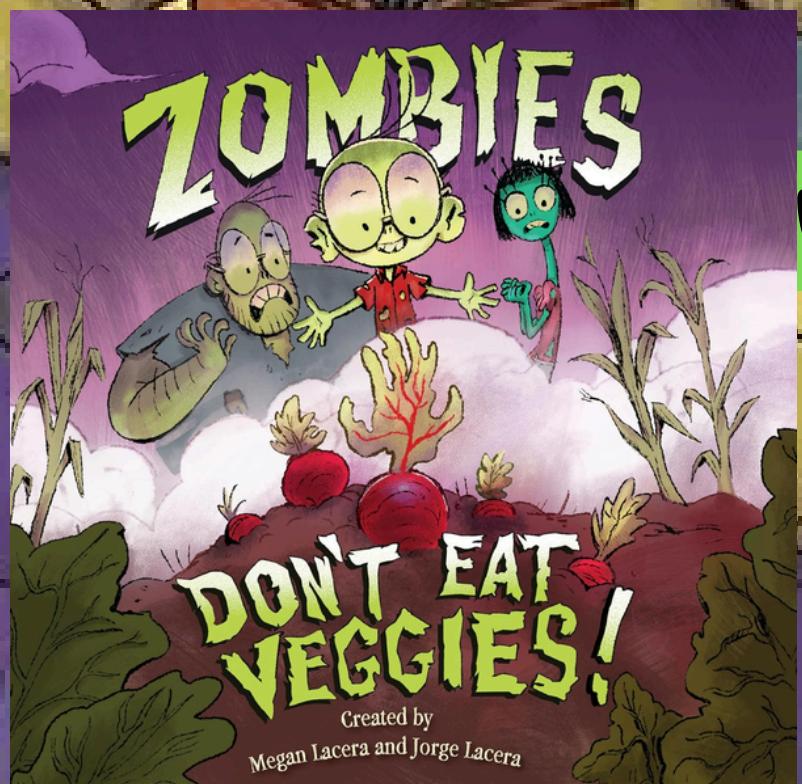
im and dad did not love vegetables. Not. One. Bit.
were yucky! Disgusting! *¡Que asco!*
were not allowed at the Romero's dinner table.

Zombies were supposed to eat zombie cuisine like brain cakes, brain stew, and brain-and-bean tortillas. Mo's parents insisted that their *niño* eat only zombie food.

MO MUST CONVINCE HIS PARENTS
TO ALLOW HIS FAVORITE FOOD ON
THEIR TABLE

OR HE WON'T BE ABLE TO
EAT IT EVER AGAIN.

MO CAN'T IMAGINE A LIFE
WITH NO DELICIOUS VEGGIES.



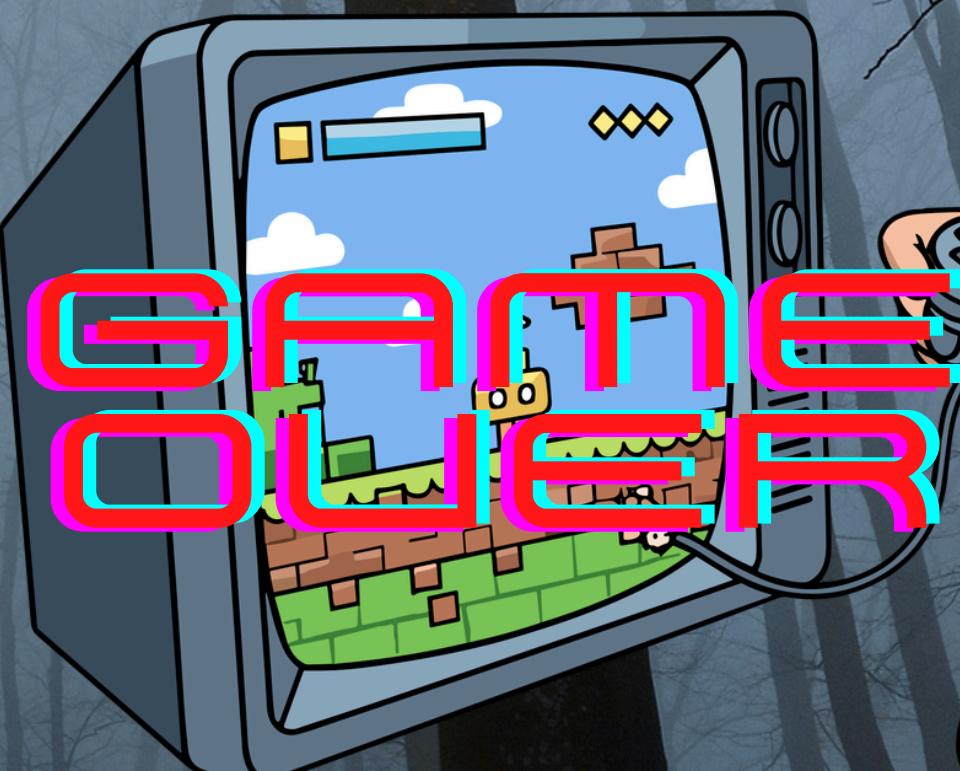
GRACIAS.
I'M NOT
HUNGRY.

FINGER
FOODS.
MI AMOR?

Make them fail.

Raise the stakes

No more
videogames
for a week.



For...a sense of tension, your protagonist needs to try and fail several times. Or, if they succeed in reaching their goal at first try, adverse possible consequences need to lurk in the background.

For example, Timmy might arrive at the party, having snuck out undetected, and notice his phone buzzing away with worried and/or angry texts. This small sign tells us he isn't completely off the hook.

Now novel -

<https://www.nownovel.com/blog/create-tension-writing/>

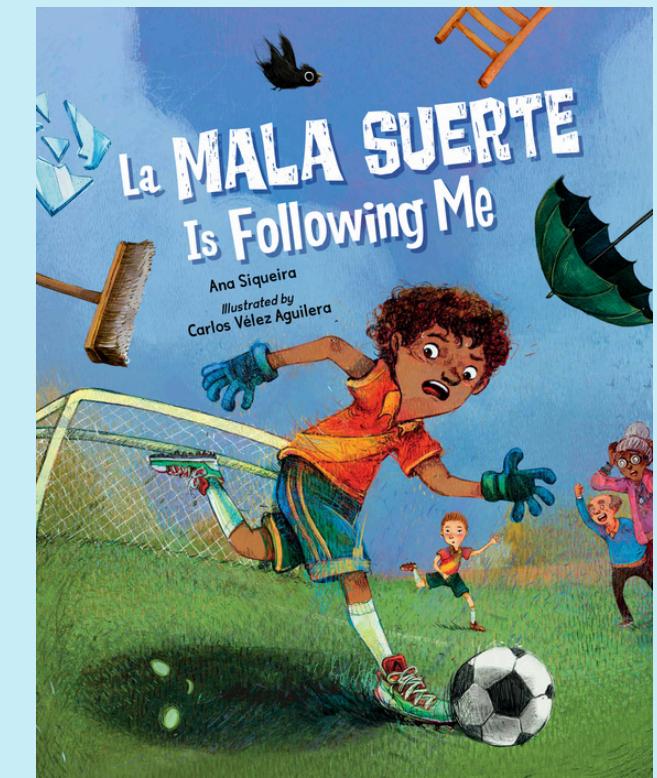




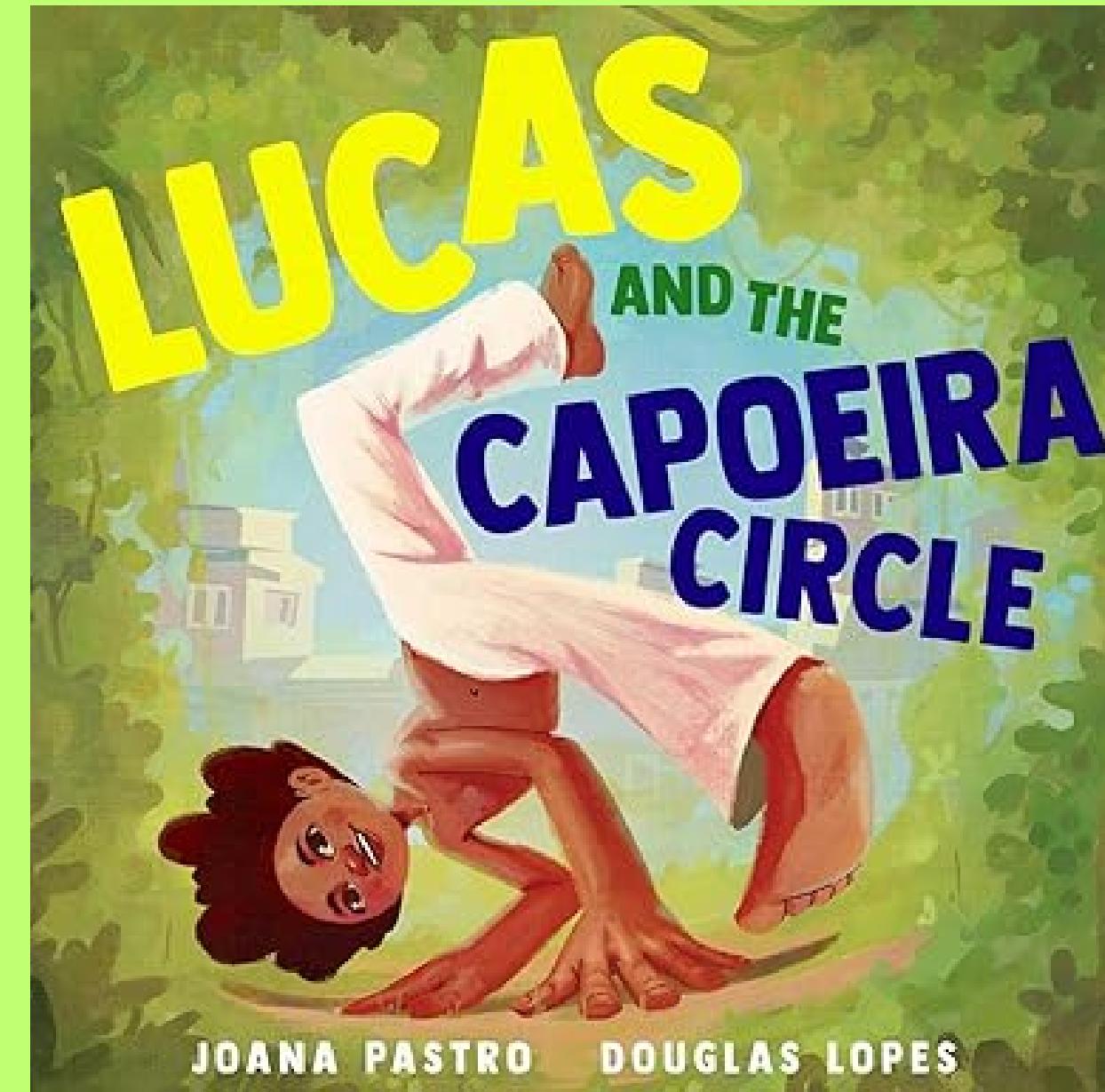
The Bruja grabs her,
throws her in a torre,
drops her in a cauldron
with starving cocodrilos!!!!



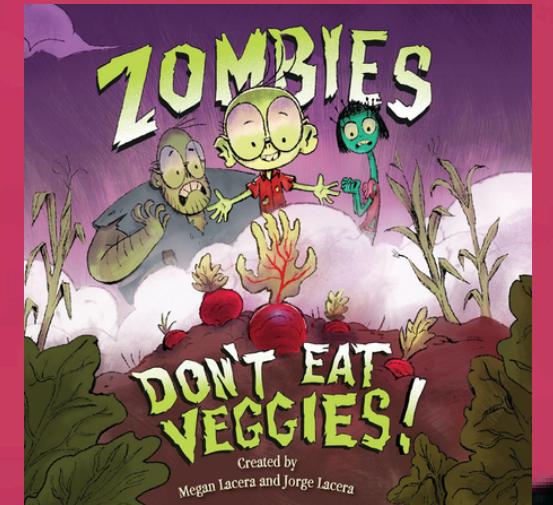
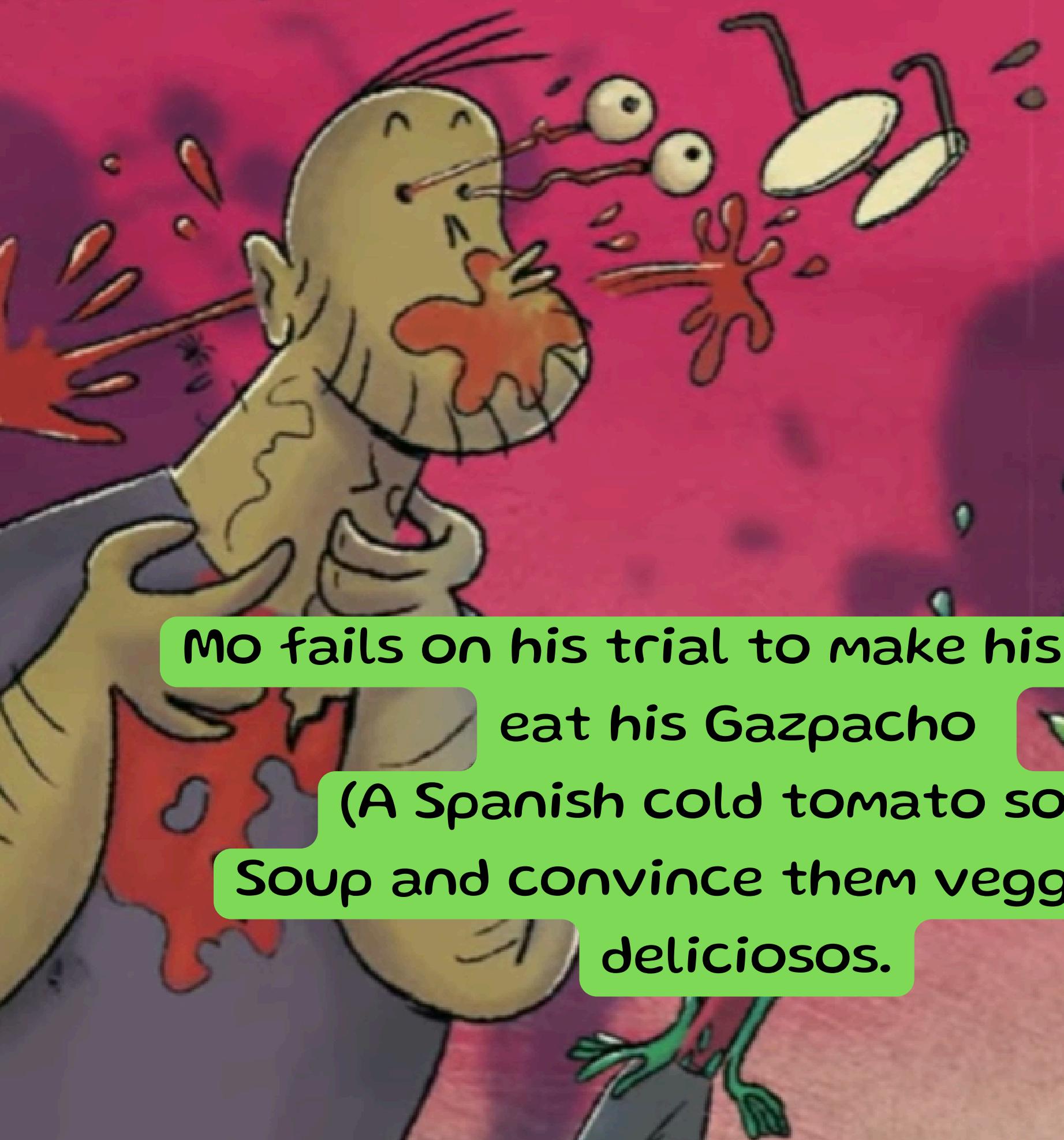
Miguel can't catch a ball.
La Mala Suerte is still following him.
He might need to ask to sit on the bench.



It's time for the Capoeira ceremony
and Lucas can't find his ginga.
He must quit.



did not like the soup.





Page
turners

TV shows often end with a cliffhanger, to reel you in and keep you coming back for more.

Will the bad guy catch the good guy? Will the princess fall in love with the prince? Will the rabbit gobble up the monster?

So you must hook your readers with a question. Ending a spread with but, when, then, or even ellipsis will pique the readers' curiosity.

They won't be able to stand it. They must..

TURN THE PAGE!!! Read the next chapter!

Ana Siqueira - Blogfish Blog



...no imagined breakfasts, lunches, dinners, snack

All VEGETABLES!

Raw, cooked, steamed, and fried.

Forever and ever.

He saw all his dreams coming true.

Until . . .

Use ellipsis

But, then, until...



Finish the
spread with
a question



What if ...
Gulp...
I lose my ginga too?



Make us wonder – what is
going to happen next?
Will the Bruja be stuck
in the slippery slide forever?

Will La Mala Suerte
follow Miguel again?





A large, jagged lightning bolt strikes from the upper right towards the lower left, illuminating the dark, stormy sky. The bolt is white with bright, glowing points at its intersections. The background is a dark teal color, with dark grey clouds at the top.

**Sentence
Structure
to Add
Tension**

Pacing. How fast or slow a story moves can seriously impact the tension. Faster pacing can heighten tension, making things feel urgent and create forward momentum, while slower pacing can increase suspense, letting readers stew in their anticipation.

Dabble Craft Your Story

<https://www.dabblewriter.com/articles/how-to-write-tension#:~:text=Pacing,readers%20stew%20in%20their%20anticipation.>



Short Sentences Show, Don't Tell

Your legs will tremble.
Your hands will shake.
You'll flee to the magic garden!

She'll catch you by
your pants . . .

BUT,
JAY, CARAMBA!



You'll slither
down the slimy
slide.

Use Your Senses to add drama/suspense
sight, smell, touch, taste, hearing

Use Panic Conjunction

abruptly
all at once
all of a sudden
a moment later
just then
quickly
unexpectedly
without warning

But then...



Adding Tension – Line Level

'Fear strangled him
and left him gasping for air.'

Without a warning...

'She froze.'
'She panicked.'
'She gasped.'

1. Show, don't tell!

2. Personify abstract nouns

3. Use your senses

4. Use panic conjunctions

5. Use short sentences

6. Use pathetic fallacy

Millions of tiny goose bumps
jumped out from Daisy's
arm, like oil from a sizzling
frying pan.'

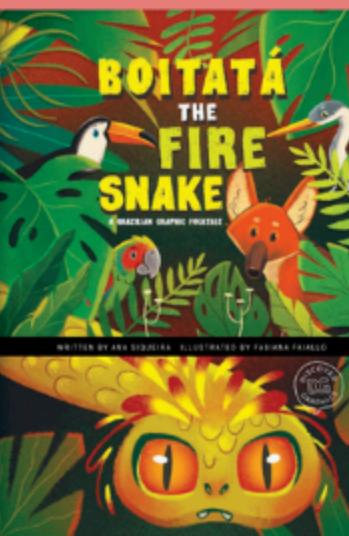
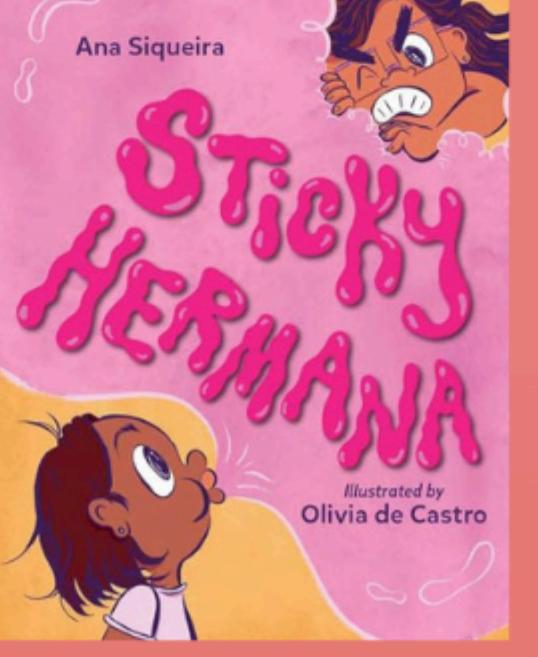
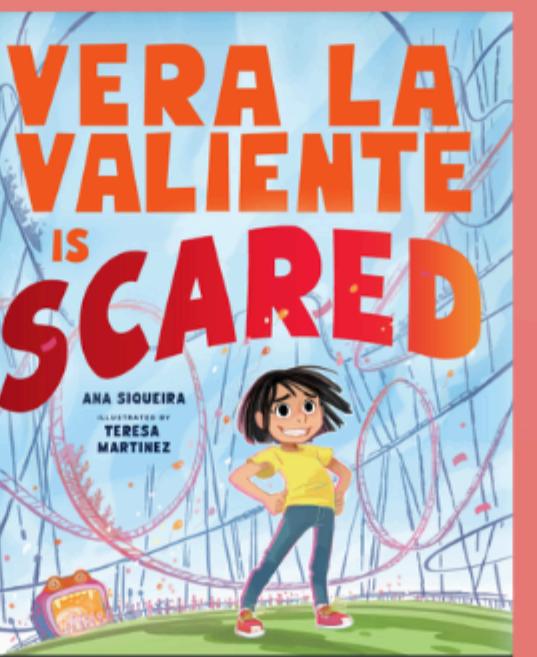
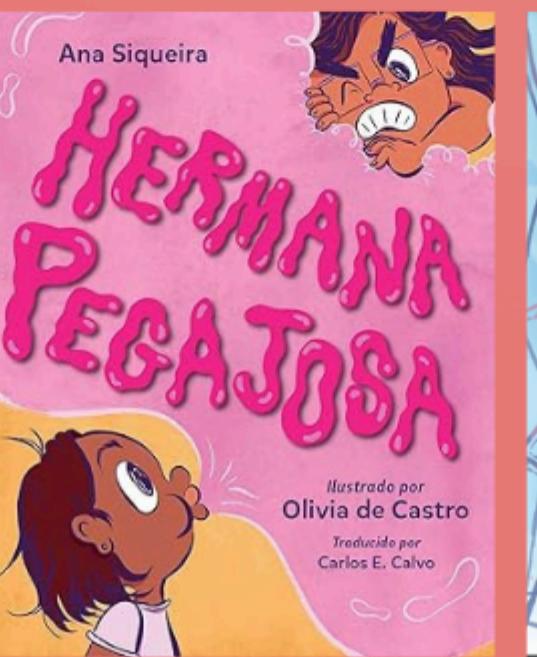
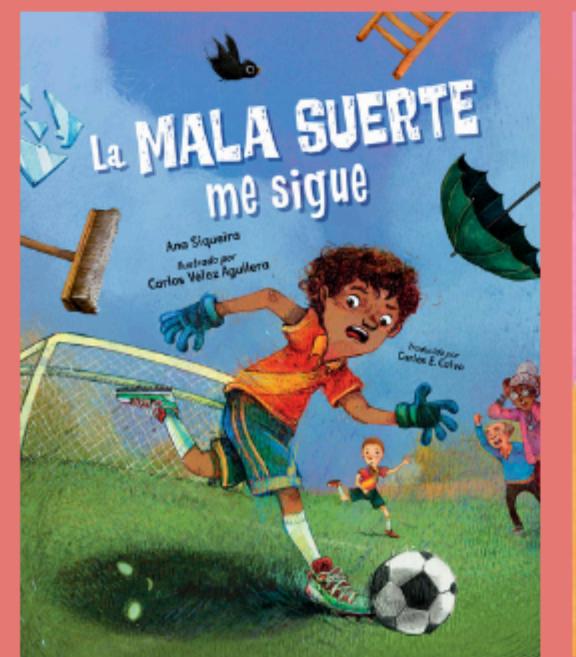
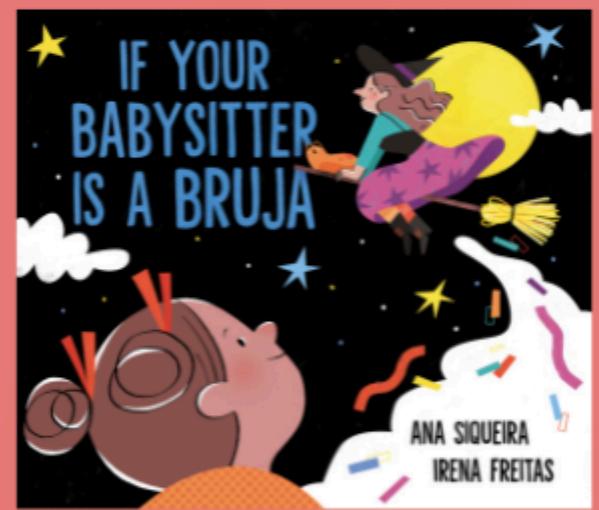
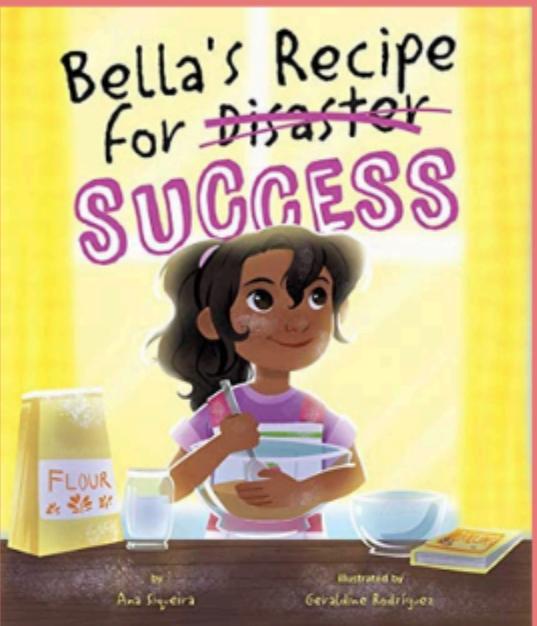
'Josef could feel the icy breath on
the back of his neck. It was eerily
quiet.'

No sound. No birds singing. No trees
rustling. Tap.'

'Ominous, dark clouds rolled in.
Thunder rumbled in the distance.'

Atom Learning

<https://atomlearning.com/blog/6-ways-to-build-suspense-and-tension-in-writing>



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