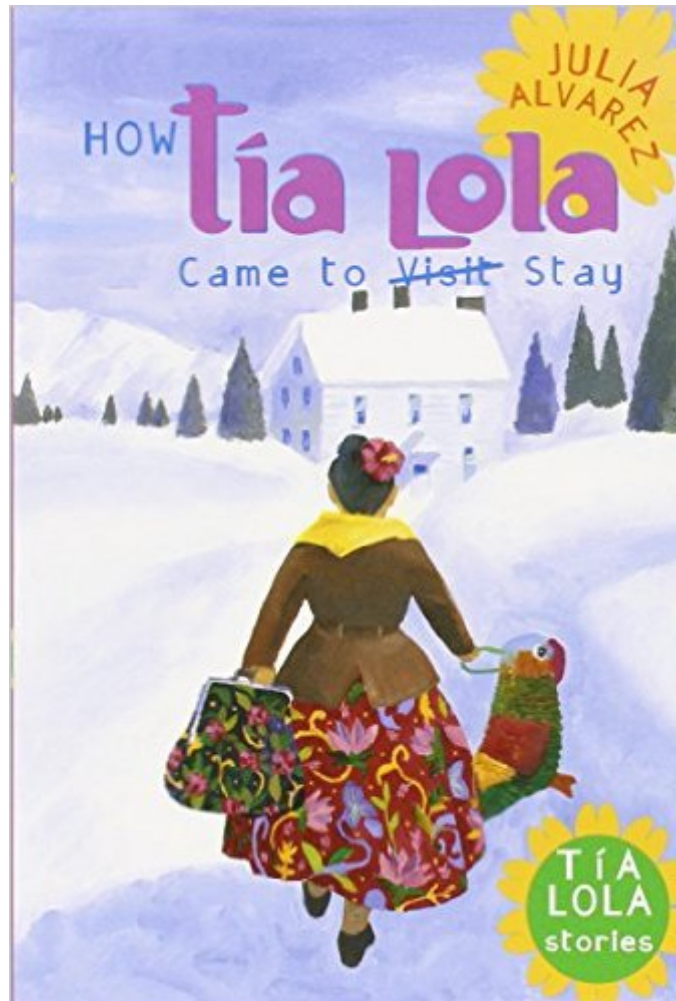


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# How Tia Lola Came To (Visit) Stay (The Tia Lola Stories)



## Synopsis

A delightfully entertaining story of family and culture from acclaimed author Julia Alvarez. Moving to Vermont after his parents split, Miguel has plenty to worry about! Tía Lola, his quirky, charismatic, and maybe magical aunt makes his life even more unpredictable when she arrives from the Dominican Republic to help out his Mami. Like her stories for adults, Julia Alvarez's first middle-grade book sparkles with magic as it illuminates a child's experiences living in two cultures.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 740L (What's this?)

Series: The Tia Lola Stories

Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: Yearling; Reprint edition (August 13, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0440418704

ISBN-13: 978-0440418702

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.4 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (35 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #17,484 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #10 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Marriage & Divorce](#) #14 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Hispanic & Latino](#) #60 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Multigenerational](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

In *HOW TIA LOLA CAME TO STAY*, Miguel and his sister Juanita are facing the twin terrors of their parents' divorce and the move from New York City to a new home in Vermont. They don't expect anything but more hurt feelings and complications when their Tia ("aunt" in Spanish) Lola comes to "visit" them in Vermont. Miguel quickly realizes that his Spanish heritage is unique (to say the least) in Vermont and he wants desperately to fit in. The appearance of Tia Lola in her bright lipstick, colorful dresses, mysteriously shifting beauty mark and enormous displays of affection embarrass Miguel. He becomes fearful that this "difference" in his household will prevent him from making the

friends that would make life a little easier. There is a surprise in store; Tia Lola is far from being a liability in the lives of Miguel, Juanita and their Mami (?Mom? in Spanish). Tia Lola is sensitive to the needs of everyone and while she speaks literally no English (at first!) she understands what she can do to ease the pain of the divorce. The funniest part of the book is when Alvarez hilariously, but without mocking, Alvarez writes about Tia Lola's attempts to learn English. Miguel meets her halfway by speaking ?Spanglish?, which is what his mother calls his own brand of language, blending English with Spanish. Communication is the beginning of all understanding and this is where the story starts to take a turn. Tia Lola truly begins to be part of the family when she accompanies Miguel and Juanita on a trip to New York City to visit with their much-missed and beloved father. Though they temporarily lose Tia Lola in the big city due to her insatiable curiosity, the kids realize what her presence in their lives has come to mean to them.

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