

# Tia Fortuna's New Home

## A Jewish Cuban Journey

Author:  
**Ruth Behar**

Illustrator:  
**Devon Holzwarth**



### Awards

Kirkus Best Picture Book of 2022 About Families  
International Latino Book Awards, Winner, 2022  
SLJ Best Books of the Year, Selection, 2022  
Center for the Study of Multicultural Children's Literature Best Books,  
Selection, 2022

### Vocabulary

memories, hope, doorpost

### Reviews

[Kirkus Reviews](#)

[Publishers Weekly](#)



### Summary

Estrella, a young Cuban-American girl, helps her Tia Fortuna say goodbye to her little pink casita by the sea and move to a nursing home. Estrella learns about her family's Sephardic Jewish heritage and the power of hope in times of change.

### FAIR Standard

DV.K-2.6 I appreciate foods, music, and people that come from different parts of the world.

### Discussion

1. When Estrella is making a casita in the sand, she wonders, *How can Tia be happy on such a sad day?* What do you think is the reason?
2. Words in many languages are hidden in the illustrations. Look for clues in the pictures, and see if you can guess what some of them mean. Check the glossary for answers.
3. Tia tells Estrella, "We come from people who found hope wherever they went." How has Tia shown hope despite her having to move many times?

## Discussion

4. When Tia arrives at La Casa de los Viejitos, she makes friends right away. What are some things she does to make friends? What do you do when you meet someone new?
  5. Why does Tia give Estrella the key to her casita at the seaway? Why is it so special to Estrella?
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## Activities

1. Look at the illustrations on pages 7-8. Tia says her borekas taste so good because she fills them with *esperanza* (hope) and “because they are the food of your grandfathers’ grandfathers’ grandfathers and your grandmothers’ grandmothers’ grandmothers.” How can food be filled with hope and memories? Pictures of memories are floating from the borekas. Draw or paint a picture of a food that is special to you. Fill the surrounding space with pictures symbolizing what the food means and what memories it brings.

Challenge option: Create a recipe card for someone you love, sharing the ingredients and directions to make a food that is special to you. Are there other imaginary ingredients needed to make your recipe, such as hope? Create a class cookbook to share recipes.

2. Estrella is surprised that Tia Fortuna is bringing so little in her suitcase. Look at the illustrations on pages 9-10. What kinds of things are Tia packing? Use a shoebox to make a suitcase. Add 5-10 items (or draw pictures of them) that are special to you and which you would bring if you had to move away from your home.



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## Additional Resources

<https://www.ruthbehar.com/books/tia-fortunas-new-home/>