

Name _____

Date _____

THIS IS MY NEIGHBORHOOD

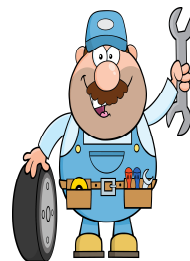
The birds sing, the squirrels scamper through the trees, children ride bicycles, and ladies take care of their gardens. There is always someone walking their dog. The police, the postman, they all come and go, they all greet each other. My neighborhood is friendly and quiet. Everything is nearby, the supermarket, the hospital, the police station, and the fire department. There is also a veterinary clinic and a hotel that allows us to meet people from many parts of the world.



For me, the best thing in my neighborhood is the park where I play happily with my friends. The people in my neighborhood are friendly and helpful. We all know each other, and we are very close.

I am Ana Salazar, but you can call me Anita. I am 10 years old. My family is made up of my father, my mother, and my brothers.

My father's name is Antonio. He is a mechanic and has a workshop near the center of the city. My father is tall, chubby, has an affable character, and is a very nice guy.



My mother's name is Martha, and she works as a teller at the bank. She was always good at math and is very patient.

My two brothers, Luis and Francisco, who are twins, are in first grade, and attend the neighborhood school like me. They are both naughty, and they like to scamper around on their colorful scooters.



What I like the most are sunny days because I love riding my bike and playing in the park with my friends and my dog Patches. My best friends are Juan, Rosita, and Miguel. They are very loving and good to me. They are always ready to help me.

Next to my house, my friend Juan lives with his mother. Juan is fun and makes me laugh at everything he does. His passion is football. Juan and I often throw the ball at the park. Like me, he has a dog, and his name is Lolo. Lolo and Patches are very close friends.



Juan's dad died when Juan was only two years old. Since then, his mother has taken care of the family. She is very organized and hard working. She works as a nurse in the hospital and sometimes works overtime to earn more money and live in better conditions.

Across the street are the houses of our friends Rosita and Miguel. Rosita is from a Mexican family. She is a great animal lover and loves to play with our pets. Her family is quite large. She has four brothers. The oldest is called Andres, the second Tomas, and the third Simon.

I love going over to her house because there is always fresh lemonade with butter cookies. Her mother, Margarita, is an excellent housewife and cooks delicious food. Rosita's father is the manager of the supermarket. Whenever we go, we greet him, and he always has candy in his pocket to give us. My friend's parents are truly kind and generous.



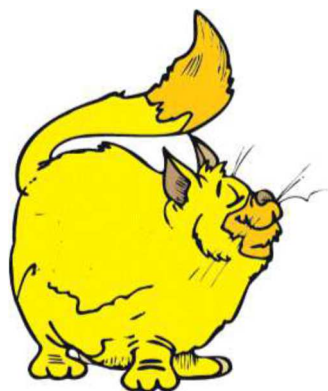
Miguel is tall and thin, like his father. He is an excellent athlete and belongs to the school basketball team. He has a little sister, Sofia, who is barely learning to walk. When I leave school, I love to go see her. It is very cute and funny to watch her take little, insecure steps. Sometimes she trips and falls. When this happens, she laughs cheerfully.

Miguel's parents work at the hotel, and they continually tell stories about the guests that come from all over the world. I love that they tell me their stories because they are always full of exciting adventures.

Behind my house is the huge Lopez family home. They have a large family. I do not know exactly where they are from, but I know their parents came from a country in South America more than twenty years ago. All the people who live in the house are adults. They are all hard workers and helpful.



They have a son who is a firefighter, another is a policeman, two of the children are teachers, and two others are veterinarians who own a veterinary clinic in the neighborhood. The Lopez family is aware of everything that happens in the neighborhood. We respect them, and we appreciate everything they do for us.



Mrs. Teresa also lives in my neighborhood. She is a lonely and somewhat cranky, old woman. Some neighbors say she has a daughter, but nobody knows her. Her only companion is her cat, Toby is a fat yellow cat that is always sleepy. He loves to purr when you pet his back. What he likes the most is watching Mrs. Teresa trimming and pruning her rose bushes.

She spends a lot of time caring for her roses. Her rose bushes show their appreciation of her care by giving her some beautiful red roses. Sometimes, when we pass by her garden, she scolds us because she thinks we might spoil her delicate flowers.



Mrs. Teresa sometimes walks in the park with her neighbor, Don Pablo. He is also older. Don Pablo lives alone, but every Saturday his children and grandchildren come over to visit him. On the weekends, he eagerly lights his barbecue grill and gets ready to prepare a delicious barbecue for his family. On those days, Don Pablo's house is filled with laughter, and his grandchildren come over to the park to play with us.



My neighbors are all different from each other, but at the same time, we are all the same. Together, we form a great neighborhood that helps each other whenever we need it.

There are neighborhoods in all parts of the world, but if I were given a choice of which to live in, I would choose mine. It may not be the largest or the most beautiful, but it is the place where my friends and family live, and that is worth millions.

It gives me great pride and satisfaction to live in a neighborhood like this. I wouldn't trade it for anything in the world.

