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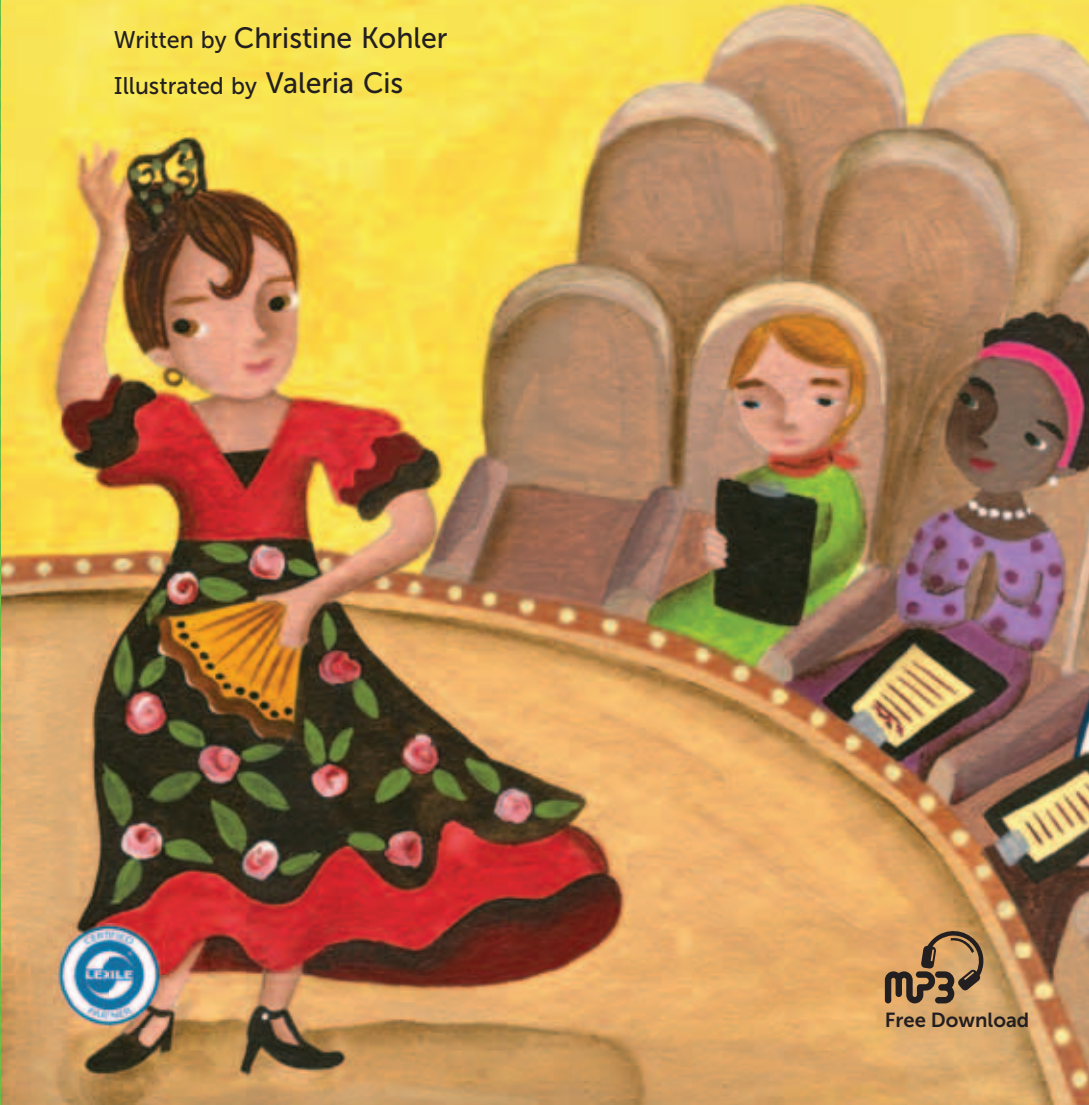
Beginner

Compass
Readers

The Spanish Doll of Barcelona

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New Flamenco Shoes

At her family's store, Carmen Garza went over her dance in her head. She had been practicing all week. The next day she would **audition** for "The Spanish **Doll**," a **flamenco** show at her dance school. Carmen dreamed of playing the lead part.

Mama entered the store and handed Carmen a box.

"What did you buy me, mama?" Carmen asked.







Carmen opened the box. “New flamenco shoes! They are so pretty!” said Carmen. She put the shoes on. She moved one arm over her head. She held her head high and danced. She did not care if anyone saw her. She wanted to try out her new shoes.



Unexpected Kindness

Carmen turned and saw Aina Soto holding bread and eggs. Carmen stopped dancing. Aina went to dance school on **scholarship**. She was also trying out for the lead part.

Aina set down the eggs and bread. "Can I put this on our account?" she asked.



Carmen's papa smiled at Aina. He wrote the price in a book. Carmen saw her papa put a sweet into Aina's bag with the food. Before Aina left, she said to Carmen, "Good **luck** with the audition. May your dreams come true."

"You, too," Carmen said. But she did not understand. Why would Aina be so nice? Surely she must want to play the lead part as much as Carmen did.

