

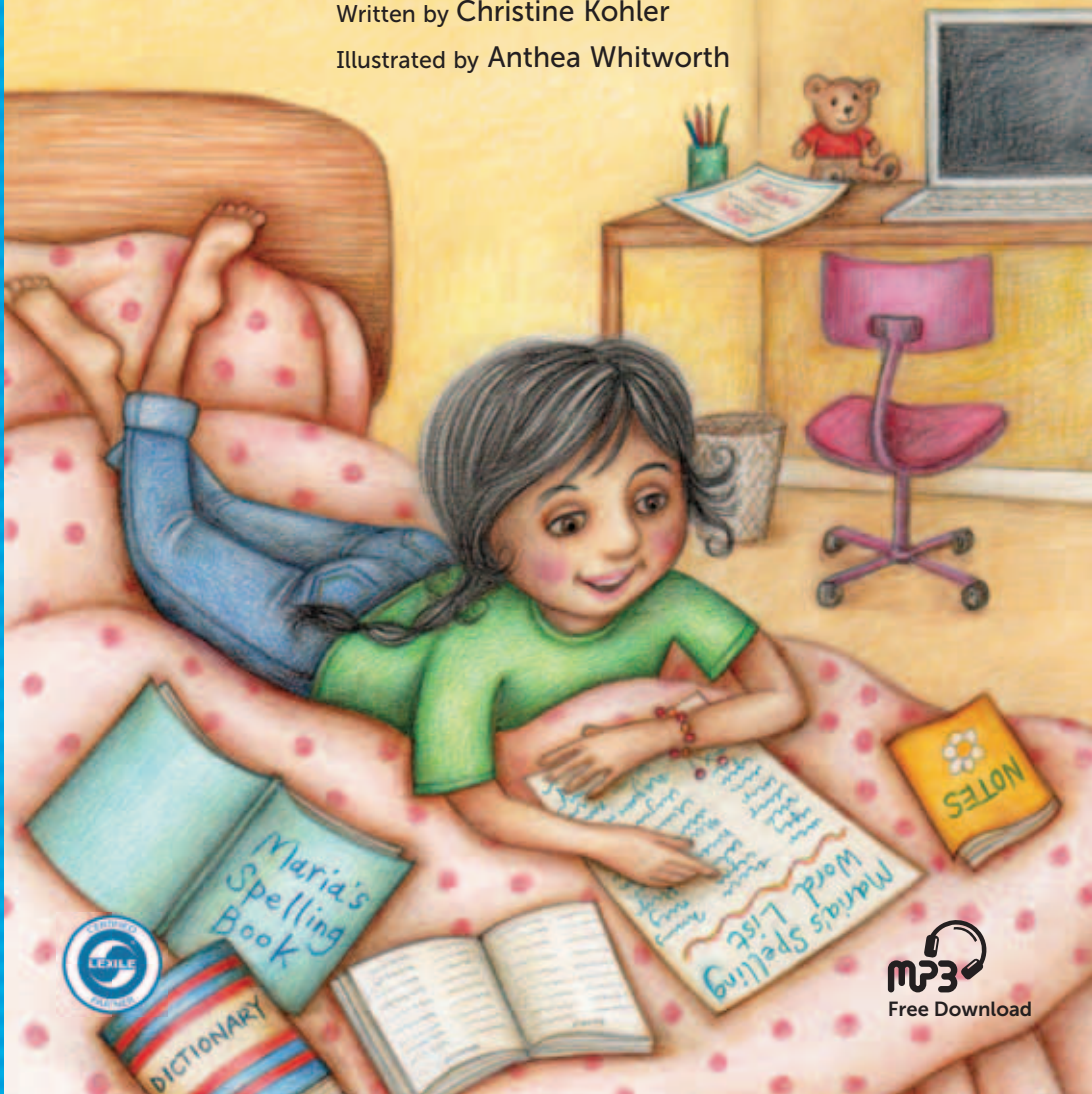
LEVEL
5
Upper
Beginner

Compass
Readers

A Spelling Star in Los Angeles

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Stars in Her Eyes

Maria Lopez was stirring soup and studying spelling words. Her mother was late getting home. Mother had a new job at Universal **Studios** in Los Angeles. Universal Studios is where movies and TV shows are made. Maria thought it was exciting that her mother worked for a TV **producer**.



Maria was practicing her spelling words for the **spelling bee** at school.

“T-e-l-e-v-i-s-i-o-n,” Maria spelled. Even though “television” was not one of her spelling words. Maria wanted to be an **actress**. Maria dreamed of being on TV.



Her mother came home to the smell of soup and the sound of Maria spelling words. Maria hugged her. “Did you get tickets, so I can be on a TV show?”

“Sorry, no. It is not easy to get tickets.” Mother poured the soup. “If I could get tickets, we would sit in the **audience**. Not be on the TV show.”

Maria sighed. She spelled, “U-n-f-a-i-r.” “Unfair.”

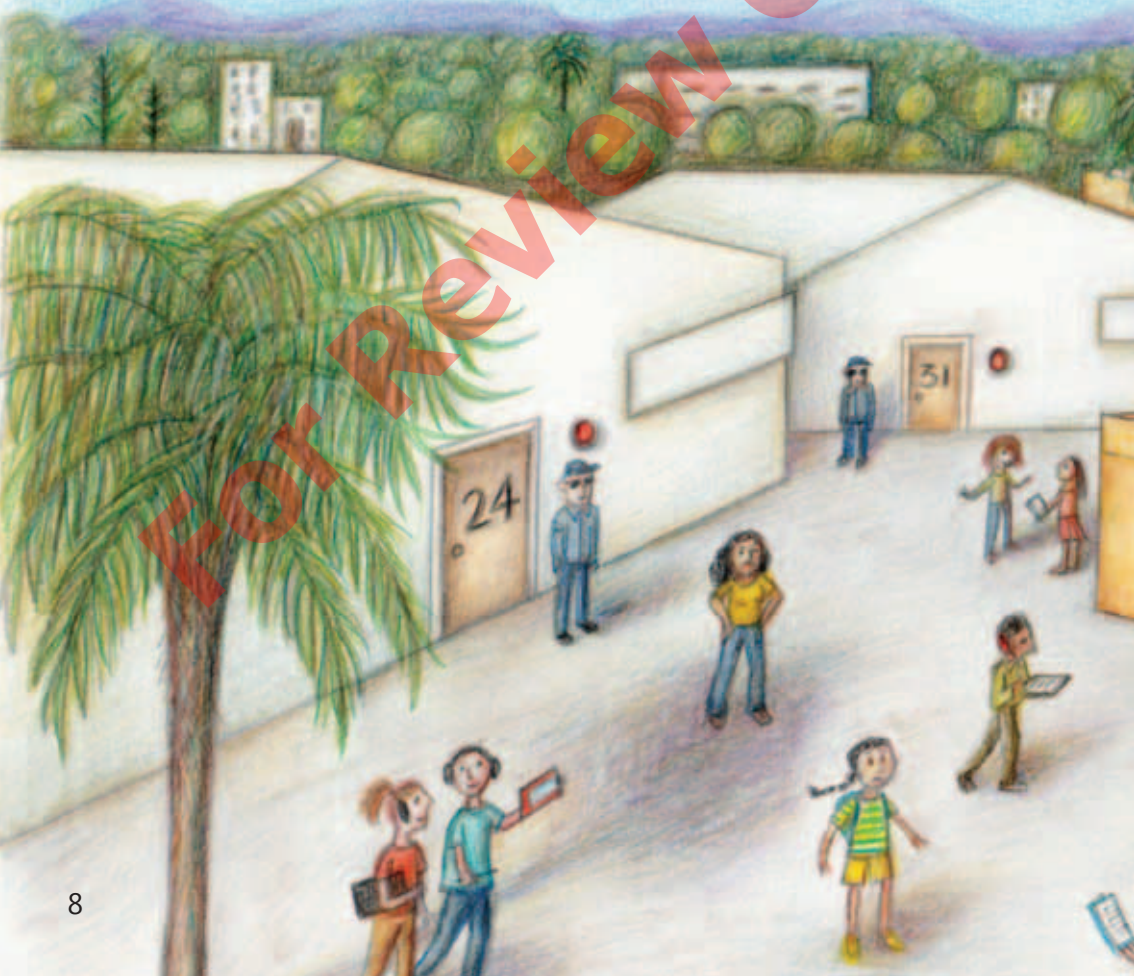
Still, Maria hoped the **camera** would point at her. Then she could be on TV.





All Work and No Fun

The next day Maria did not go home after school. Instead, she rode the bus to Universal Studios. She looked for her mother. Maria couldn't find her. Maria thought everyone at the studio would be playing and having fun. Instead, they were all very serious and busy. Everyone was working hard.



“Maybe I can watch a TV show being made,” Maria thought. “Maybe they will think I am pretty, and let me be in a movie.”

Every studio door Maria went to was closed. There were red lights above the doors. Officers stood at the doors. No one could get in unless they worked on that **set**. Maria didn’t get on TV. She didn’t see even one movie star. She spelled, “D-i-s-a-p-p-o-i-n-t-e-d.” “**Disappointed.**”

