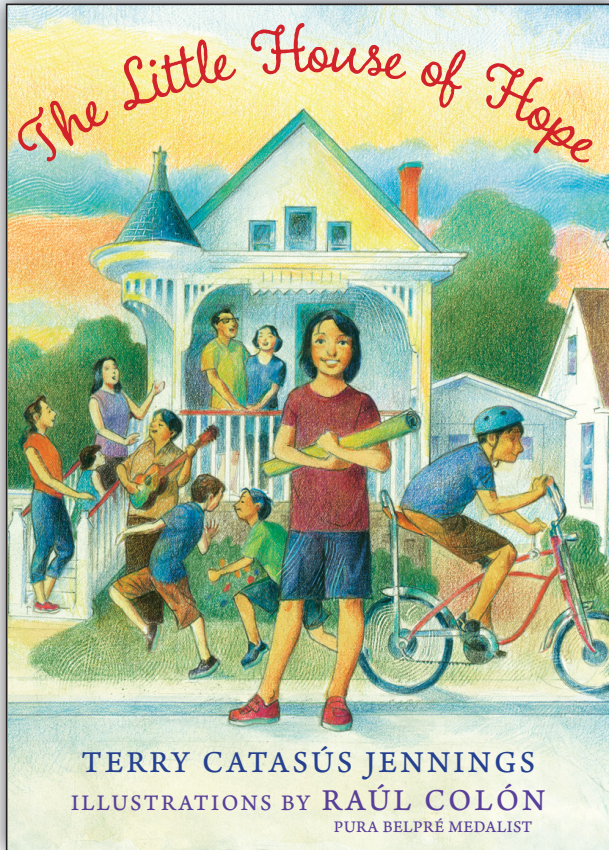


HOLIDAY HOUSE EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



Neal Porter Books
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The Little House of Hope

by Terry Catasús Jennings
illustrated Raúl Colón

ABOUT THE BOOK

When Esperanza and her family arrive in the United States from Cuba, they rent a little house, una casita. It may be small, but they soon prove that there's room enough to share with a whole community.

As Esperanza and her family settle into their new house, they all do their part to make it a home. When other immigrant families need a place to stay, it seems only natural for the family in la casita to help. Together they turn the house into a place where other new immigrants can help one another. Esperanza is always the first to welcome them to la casita. It's a safe place in a new land.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Study the front and back cover of the book. What is the mood of the people? Point out the main character of the book. Discuss the title of the book. Talk about whether the people on the cover of the book have found hope. How does the color of the house symbolize hope?
- What does it mean to be an immigrant? Discuss why Mami and Papi immigrated from Cuba. What are the reasons the other characters in the book fled their homeland? What does the United States offer the people that they can't find back home?



- Explain why the Mexican family looking for better opportunities (p. 12) are painted in sepia tones. What does the bridge in the background symbolize? Explain what “getting papers” means. How do “papers” offer hope?
- Take a close look at the illustration on pages 4 & 5. Identify Mami and Papi and Esperanza and Manolo. Why are they looking up at the house? What do they see? How does the author describe the inside of the house? Point out the small touches or decorations that the family brought from Cuba. How does Mami’s cooking provide “memories of home”?
- Mami and Papi work hard to support their family. Contrast their jobs in the United States with the jobs they had in Cuba. How do Manolo and Esperanza contribute to the family? What is the family’s attitude toward school and education? At what point do Mami and Papi get jobs like they had in Cuba?
- What is the difference between a house and a home? At what point does the “Little House of Hope” become a home? Why is the family so willing to share their home with other immigrants? What is the meaning of the gift that Esperanza gives to all the families that stay with them?

Guide created by Pat Scales, retired school librarian and independent consultant, Greenville, South Carolina.

ABOUT THE CREATORS



Terry Catasús Jennings and her family emigrated from Cuba in 1961. *The Little House of Hope* is inspired by her own experience. She is the author of the Definitely Dominguita chapter book series; *The Women’s Liberation Movement, 1960-1990*; and *Pauli Murray: The Life of a Pioneering Feminist and Civil Rights Activist*. Her articles have appeared in *The Washington Post*, *Newsday*, and *Ranger Rick*. She is also an active member of The Children’s Book Guild of Washington, DC, and SCBWI. Terry lives with her husband in Northern Virginia. For more about Terry, visit TerryCJennings.com.



Raúl Colón is the recipient of a 2021 Eric Carle Honor. He is the award-winning illustrator of many picture books, including *Draw!*, an ALA Notable Book and recipient of the International Latino Book Award; Jill Biden’s *Don’t Forget* and *God Bless Our Troops*; *Imagine!*, an ALA Notable Book, a New York Public Library Best Book for Kids, and a *BookPage* Best Book. Mr. Colón lived in Puerto Rico as a young boy and now resides in New City, New York, with his family.

