

A Trip to Argentina

By ReadWorks



Maya tapped her foot as she watched the clock tick away until its hands finally reached 2:45 pm. The school bell rang and all the students in her math class gathered up their books and rushed out the door. Maya followed, slightly slower, watching everyone around her. It was her last day of high school. Although math wasn't her favorite subject, she knew she would miss her teacher and the joy that came with solving the hard problems.

As she walked down the school hallway, Maya heard her name being called out from behind her. She turned around and saw Señora Perez waving her hand.

"¡Hola, chica!" Maya's Spanish teacher greeted her.

"Hola, Señora. ¿Como está usted?" Maya asked her teacher how she was doing.

"Bien, gracias," Señora Perez said she was doing well and thanked her for asking. Señora Perez welcomed Maya into her classroom.

"I heard you're going to Argentina for the summer," Señora Perez told her student. Maya nodded her head and smiled, excited for her upcoming vacation. She was going to visit her cousins living in the capital of Argentina, Buenos Aires. "I thought I could offer you some advice!" the señora said. She explained that she lived in Buenos Aires right after she graduated college, starting her career as an English teacher in a high school right in the capital city. "It's a beautiful place. I still miss it," Señora Perez added.

"Of course, I would love some advice!" Maya exclaimed. Maya had taken Spanish classes all throughout middle school and high school, knowing that she would have the opportunity to visit her extended family once she graduated. "I've never been to South America before, but I've heard many good things," Maya said. "What were some of your favorite places?" she asked her teacher.

Señora Perez remained silent for a while while she stared out the window. She thought about a few places that she could share with her student. “There are a few places you must visit,” she started. “La Boca is one of the most colorful places in the world,” she said. Señora Perez told Maya about the neighborhood’s vibrant buildings all painted with the brightest blues, oranges, yellows and reds. La Boca is also home to a famous *fútbol*, or soccer, stadium called La Bombonera. Señora Perez said that even though the neighborhood is a huge tourist destination, it is still a working-class neighborhood. “Make sure you talk to some of the locals,” Señora Perez told Maya. “You won’t find the spirit of Buenos Aires in the tourist attractions; you’ll only find it when you talk to the true Argentine people.”

Maya nodded her head, mentally taking notes of all of the señora’s advice.

Señora Perez started back up again, this time telling Maya about the Cementerio de la Recoleta. The famous cemetery is covered with beautiful granite, marble and bronze mausoleums. Although many famous people are buried there, including several past Argentine presidents, most visitors come to see just one grave. “María Eva Duarte de Perón is buried there,” Señora Perez told Maya. “Have you ever seen the Broadway musical, *Evita*?” she asked the student. Maya shook her head. “Well, I highly recommend seeing it—it illustrates the life of Eva Perón, or Evita, who was the second wife of the Argentine president, Juan Perón.” Señora Perez briefly told Maya about Eva Perón, who played a major role in improving the lives of the poor and fighting for women’s rights while she served as first lady. She passed away in 1952, but her memory has been preserved in a musical—and later a film—written about her life. “She truly was an amazing woman,” Señora Perez said.

“I’ll definitely go!” Maya said, and added, “And watch the movie before.”

Maya thanked her teacher for all the advice and stood up to leave. Señora Perez took Maya’s hands in hers and smiled. “Be careful, and make sure you take lots of pictures!” the teacher told her.

“Of course,” Maya said. “¡Adios!” she called out, throwing her bag over her shoulder. Maya walked out of her high school for the last time as a student, excited for the new adventure that was waiting for her.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Where is Maya going for the summer?

- A Spain
- B Mexico
- C Argentina
- D Brazil

2. Where does the story take place?

- A Maya's school
- B Spanish class
- C Argentina
- D La Boca

3. Señora Perez is qualified to give advice about Buenos Aires. What evidence from the passage best supports this statement?

- A Señora Perez is a high school Spanish teacher.
- B Señora Perez used to live in Buenos Aires.
- C Señora Perez thinks Buenos Aires is a beautiful place.
- D Señora Perez recommends the Broadway musical *Evita*.

4. Read the following sentence: "Maya tapped her foot as she watched the clock tick away until its hands finally reached 2:45 pm." Based on this information, how is Maya likely feeling?

- A patient
- B unhappy
- C tired
- D impatient

5. What is this story mostly about?

- A Maya gets advice from her Spanish teacher about her trip to Argentina.
- B Maya studies Spanish throughout high school so she could visit South America.
- C Maya is preparing to leave high school and go to college in Argentina.
- D Maya learns about Eva Perón and the Broadway musical based on her life.

6. Read the following sentences: “‘There are a few places you must visit,’ she started. ‘La Boca is one of the most colorful places in the world,’ she said. Señora Perez told Maya about the neighborhood’s **vibrant** buildings all painted with the brightest blues, oranges, yellows and reds.”

As used in this sentence, what does the word “**vibrant**” most nearly mean?

- A dark and intense
- B bright and colorful
- C tall and imposing
- D rough and scarred

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

_____ Eva Perón passed away in 1952, her memory lives on in the Broadway musical *Evita*.

- A Meanwhile
- B For instance
- C Although
- D Therefore

8. What does Maya ask Señora Perez when she says, “¿Como está usted?”

9. Name one place that Señora Perez thinks Maya should visit and why.

10. Explain what Señora Perez might have meant when she said, "You won't find the spirit of Buenos Aires in the tourist attractions; you'll only find it when you talk to the true Argentine people."

Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 900

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8. What does Maya ask Señora Perez when she says, “¿Como está usted?”

Suggested answer: Maya asks Señora Perez how she is doing.

9. Name one place that Señora Perez thinks Maya should visit and why.

Suggested answer: Answers may vary. Students may note that Señora Perez thinks Maya should visit La Boca, because it is one of the most colorful places in the world and is home to the famous soccer stadium La Bombonera.

10. Explain what Señora Perez might have meant when she said, “You won’t find the spirit of Buenos Aires in the tourist attractions; you’ll only find it when you talk to the true Argentine people.”

Suggested answer: Answers may vary and should be supported by the passage. Students should indicate that Señora Perez meant that Maya would only be able to have an authentic experience in Argentina if she talks to local people in neighborhoods like La Boca (which is home to many working-class Argentineans). If she stays in tourist areas, she will not be able to properly experience the true culture of Argentina.