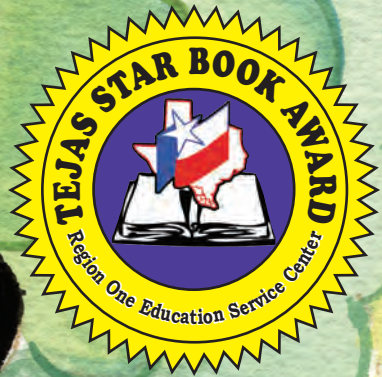
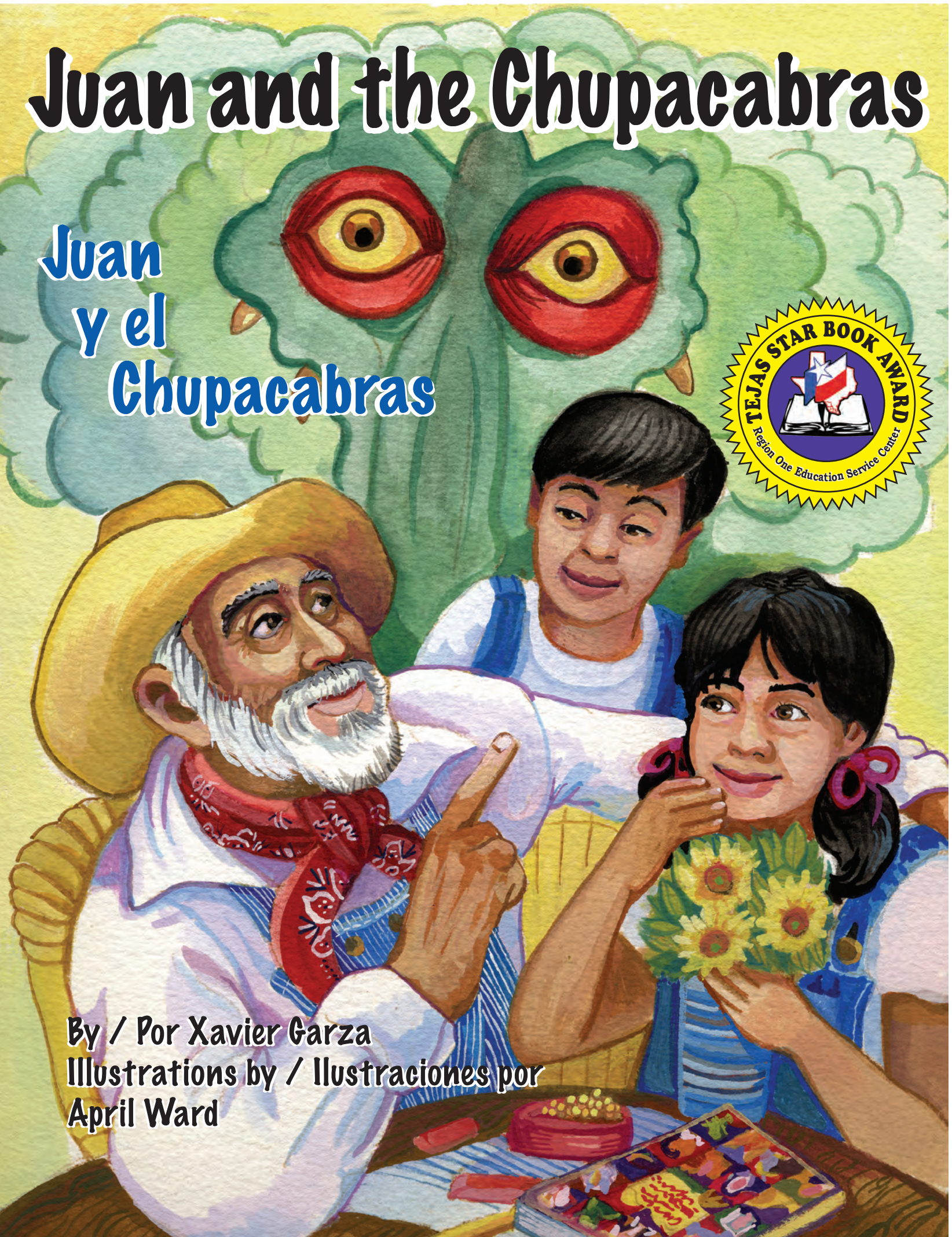


Juan and the Chupacabras

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By / Por Xavier Garza
Illustrations by / Ilustraciones por
April Ward



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Spanish translation by/Traducción al español de
Carolina Villarroel



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Summary: After hearing about their grandfather's boyhood encounter with the Chupacabras, a green, winged creature with glowing eyes, Juan and his cousin Luz decide to find out if the story could be true.

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6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

This book is dedicated to the loving memory of my father,
Margarito Garza, who always kept me safe from
the Chupacabras and La Llorona.

—XV

To my mother Nancy, with love.

—AW



Le dedico este libro a la memoria de mi padre,
Margarito Garza, quien siempre me protegió
del Chupacabras y de la Llorona.

—XV

Para mi mamá Nancy, con cariño.

—AW

Grandfather told us about the Chupacabras as we ate roasted corn. "Some people believe the Chupacabras is just a big bird with sharp fangs that drinks the blood of farm animals. They say the Chupacabras steals children from their homes. I myself once stood face to face with this hideous creature, when I was not much older then you two."

"Wow, you really got to see the Chupacabras?" my cousin Luz asked in amazement.

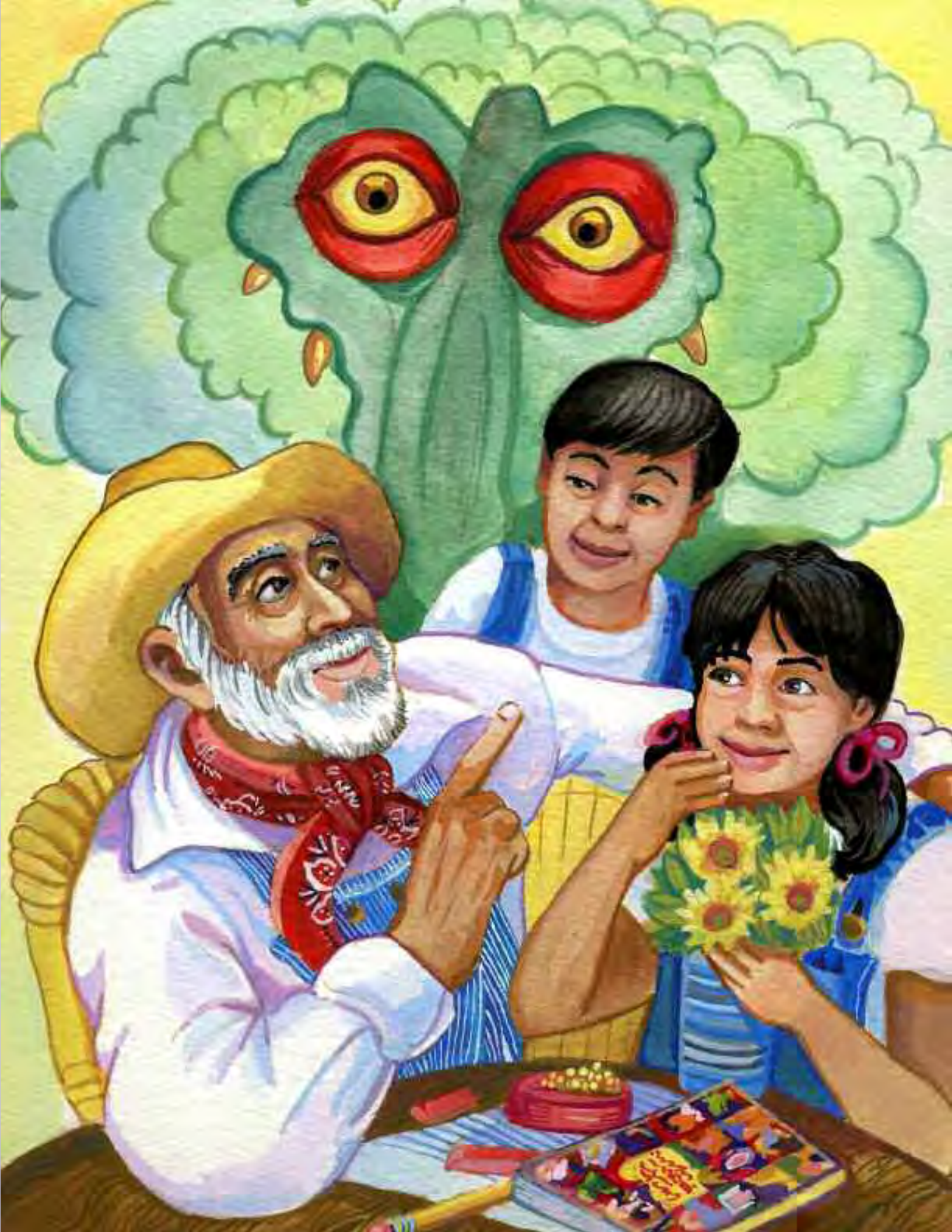
I wondered if the Chupacabras was real.



Abuelo nos contó del Chupacabras mientras comíamos maíz asado. —Algunas personas creen que el Chupacabras es sólo un pájaro grande con filosos colmillos que beben la sangre de los animales de la granja. Dicen que el Chupacabras roba niños de sus casas. Una vez, cuando no era más grande que ustedes dos, yo mismo estuve cara a cara con esa horrenda criatura.

—Uy, ¿en verdad viste al Chupacabras? —preguntó asombrada mi prima Luz.

Me pregunté si el Chupacabras en verdad existe.



“Oh yes,” declared Abuelo, “he’s real, all right. I looked the Chupacabras right in the eyes. It happened in the cornfield next to our house. Grandma had sent me to get corn to roast. I was being very careful to pick only the good corn, so careful in fact, that I lost track of time. Suddenly, I realized that if I didn’t finish up quickly, I would lose what little light I still had left to guide me home. It was then that I noticed some peculiar lights that were flashing in the sky above the cornfield.”



—Claro que sí —dijo Abuelo—, es real. Miré al Chupacabras directamente a los ojos. Sucedió en el campo de maíz al lado de nuestra casa. Abuela me había mandado a buscar el maíz para asarlo. Estaba prestando tanta atención en escoger sólo el buen maíz, tan cuidadoso que, de hecho, perdí la noción del tiempo. De repente me di cuenta que si no terminaba rápido, perdería la poca luz que aún tenía para guiarme a casa. Fue entonces que noté unas luces raras que brillaban en el cielo sobre el campo de maíz.