

TORTILLAS *and* AMIGAS

By Lindsay Stevens Tanner and Maryssa Dennis

(Based on a true story)

"If you want a friend, you must show that you care" (Children's Songbook, 262).

Adriana was bored.

She wanted to play with her twin sister, Diana. But Diana had gone to buy food at the *mercado* with Mamá. Adriana sighed. The house felt very empty. She wished she'd gone with them.

Adriana decided to visit her neighbor Margarita. Margarita's kids were all grown up, and she was like an *abuela* to Adriana. They always had lots of fun together.

Adriana went outside. The hot sun shone down on her as she walked to Margarita's house. She poked her head inside the door. "Margarita, are you home?"

"Sí, I am in the *cocina*," Margarita called. Adriana walked in. Margarita was sitting at the kitchen table with her head down.

"Buenas tardes, Adriana," said Margarita. She looked up and gave a small smile. But she seemed sad.

"Is something wrong?" asked Adriana.

Margarita sighed. "Nothing you need to worry about."

How can I help her feel better? Adriana thought. Margarita always seemed happy when they cooked together. "May I help you make tortillas?"

"I just finished making some," said Margarita. She



lifted a cloth napkin to show a stack of tortillas.

"Then may I help you *eat* tortillas?" Adriana asked with a grin.

Margarita laughed. "Of course. Let me just heat up some *frijoles* to go with them."

Adriana stood by Margarita at the stove and stirred black refried beans in a pot. When the beans were done, she carried them to the *mesa*. Margarita

brought the tortillas and the *queso* to the table too.

Adriana took a warm tortilla and spread beans over it. Then she sprinkled the cheese on top. It looked *delicioso!* Adriana couldn't wait to take a bite. But there was something she wanted to do first.

"May I please say an *oración*?" Adriana asked Margarita.

"Sure."

Adriana closed her eyes and folded her arms. "*Padre Celestial*, we thank Thee for this food. Please bless it to make us healthy and strong. And please help Margarita with whatever she needs. I'm glad she's my friend. In the name of *Jesucristo*, amen."

Adriana opened her eyes. Margarita had a big smile—a real one this time. While they ate, they talked

about school and *fútbol* and books. Adriana loved talking with Margarita.

When they finished eating, Adriana gave Margarita a big *abrazo*. "Thank you for the snack. I had a great time!"

Margarita hugged Adriana back. "Thank you, Adriana. I needed a friend today."

Adriana beamed. "I'm glad we're *amigas*."

"I'm glad we're friends too," Margarita said. "Why don't you take the rest of these tortillas home? I'm so full."

Adriana skipped all the way back to her *casa*. She felt full too—and not just from the tortillas! She was full of friendship from head to toe. ●

The authors live in Utah, USA.

Turn the page for an activity with the Spanish words.

Friendship Tortillas

These easy corn tortillas are perfect for making and sharing with friends! Be sure to get an adult's help.

2 cups masa harina (corn flour)

1 1/2 cups hot water

1. Mix the masa harina and hot water. Knead the dough until soft.
2. Roll the dough into small balls. Place one ball between two sheets of waxed paper.
3. With a plate or skillet, press down on the ball firmly several times.
4. Cook the tortilla in a frying pan over medium heat. Cook about 1 minute on each side.
5. Top with beans and cheese, and enjoy!



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