

Popo's Place

A Reading A-Z Level M Leveled Book

Word Count: 605

Connections

Writing and Art

A sensory poem describes something.
Write a sensory poem about what you think it is like at Popo's place.

I see _____. I taste _____.

I smell _____. I feel _____.

I hear _____.

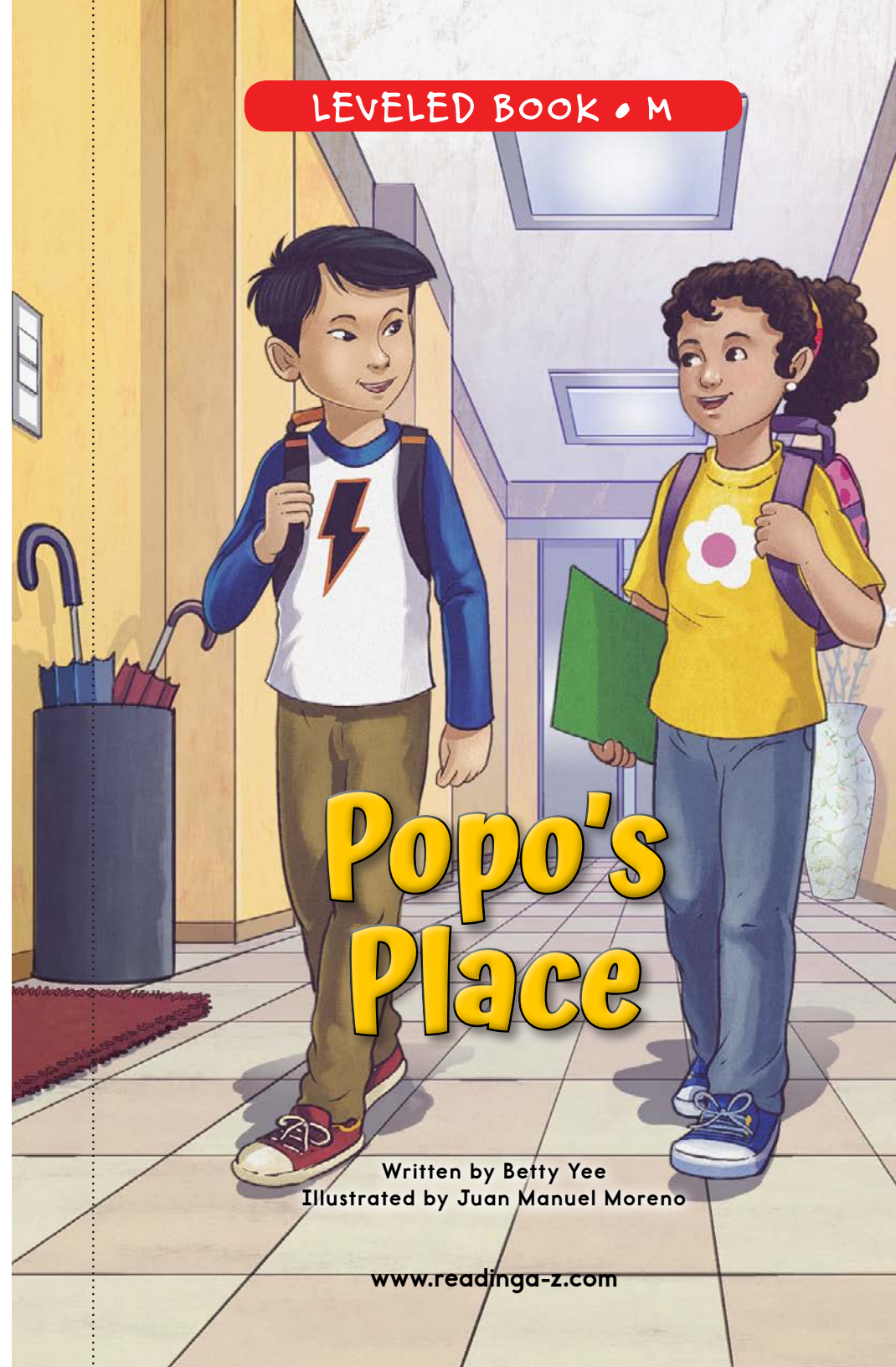
Math

How many people live at Popo's place?
How many people live at Ruby's place?
How many live in both apartments altogether? How many more are at Ruby's place than at Popo's? Share your answers with a partner.

Reading A-Z

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LEVELED BOOK • M



Written by Betty Yee
Illustrated by Juan Manuel Moreno

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Focus Question

Why do Tommy's feelings about moving change?

Words to Know

abuela	insisted
crowded	lobby
dumplings	online
entertained	scolding
frustrated	

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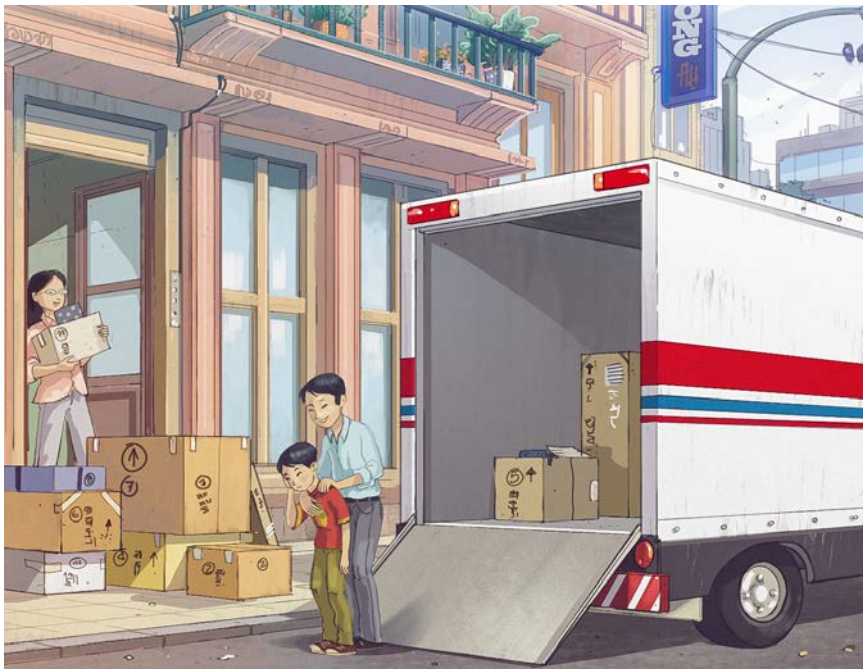
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Correlation

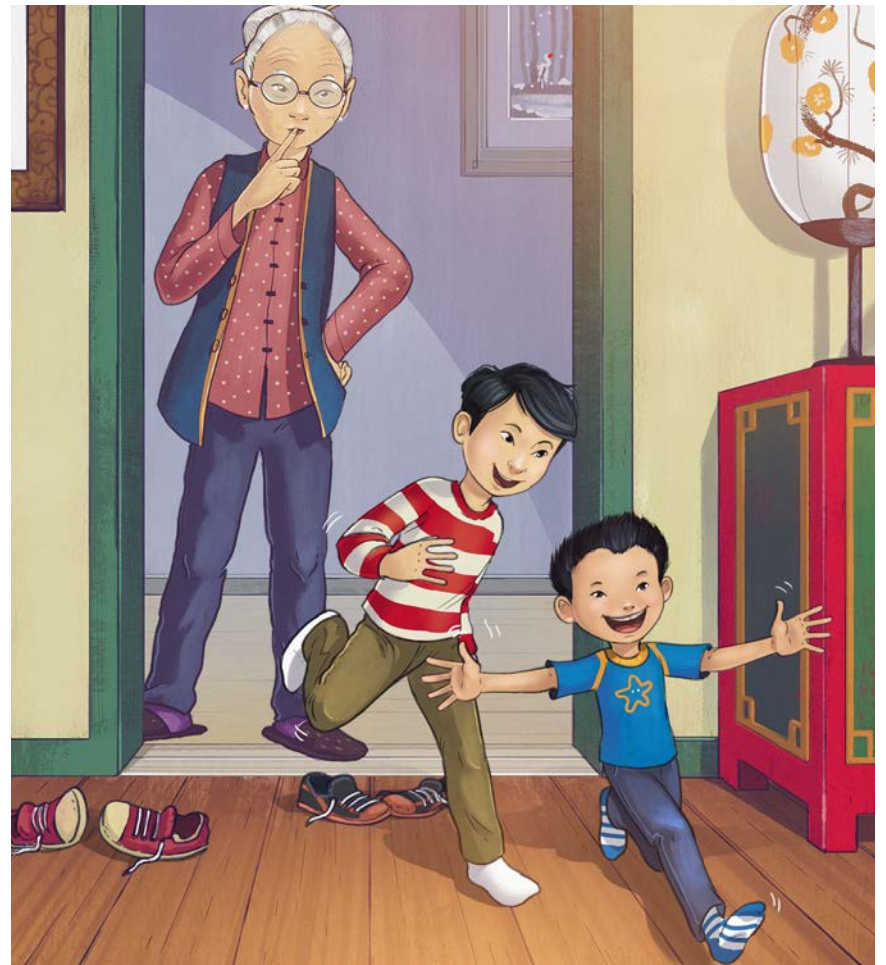
LEVEL M

Fountas & Pinnell	L
Reading Recovery	19
DRA	24



Tommy Wu's world turned completely upside down last month. Dad used to work downtown at Sneaker Universe. Then the store went out of business. The family moved across the city to live with Popo, Tommy's grandmother.

"Don't worry—we'll only live with Popo until I find a new job," Dad **insisted**.



Tommy wasn't worried, but he was **frustrated**. There were so many rules at Popo's place—like no shoes inside. Popo was constantly **scolding** him and his little brother, Peter, for shouting when they were just talking.

The worst part was that Popo didn't even own a television. Tommy had to settle for watching his favorite shows on the computer. Everyone wanted to use the computer at the same time, though. Dad needed it to look for jobs, and Mom used it for work. There never seemed to be enough time for Tommy to watch anything.



Everyone was so cramped at Popo's place. Tommy felt as though he was always in the way. He had to share a bedroom with Peter and Uncle Joe. Sharing a room with Peter was one thing. However, listening to Uncle Joe snore was another thing!





To make matters worse, he couldn't even play in the living room if he woke up early. Mom and Dad slept on the foldout couch. For the last week, he had read comic books most mornings. That part wasn't so bad.

One afternoon, Tommy and Peter helped Popo make her famous **dumplings**. Tommy complained that he never saw the kids from his old neighborhood anymore.

"Why don't you invite a friend to come over?" Popo suggested.

"They're all busy," Tommy replied. That wasn't exactly true, though. Tommy worried that his friends might make fun of Popo's place.





The next day, Tommy was surprised to see a classmate, Ruby, in the **lobby** of Popo's building after school. "What are you doing here?" Tommy asked.

"I live here!" Ruby laughed. "Do you want to come over?" she asked.

Tommy nodded.

First, they took the elevator to Popo's apartment. Tommy asked if he could go to Ruby's place.





Ruby lived two floors above Popo's place. Ruby's apartment was the same size as Popo's. She lived with even more people, including her parents, grandparents, two sisters, and a baby brother.

"Doesn't it feel **crowded** all the time?" Tommy asked.

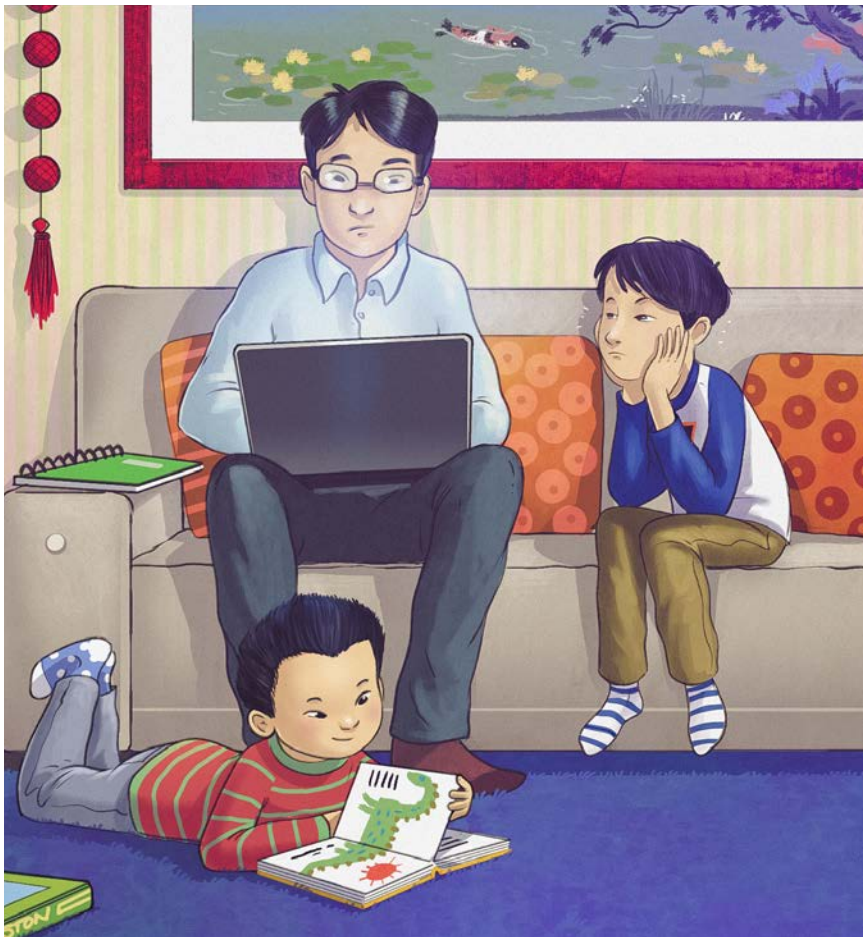
"Sure, but it's fun! I share my room with my sisters. We're always playing, singing, or dancing together. I think I'd be lonely without them," she sighed.



Ruby and Tommy **entertained** Ruby's baby brother while her grandmother prepared dinner. The baby laughed as Ruby told him a story.

"Where did you learn that story?" Tommy asked.

"From my grandmother—my **abuela** is the best storyteller!" Ruby declared with pride.



That night, Tommy missed his favorite show again. Dad had to apply for a job **online**.

Before Tommy could complain, Popo called, “Tommy, come quick! I need a partner for my game.”

Tommy sat with Popo and her neighbors as they played a game with small tiles called *mahjong* (mah-JAHNG). Tommy listened to Popo describe the first time she went on a ship and got seasick. He realized that, just like Ruby's abuela, his grandmother was a great storyteller.





Later, Tommy and Peter lay awake in bed. They giggled at their uncle's incredibly loud snores.

"I have a story to tell you," Tommy said. "It's about Popo," he added. By the time Tommy finished retelling Popo's story, Peter was fast asleep. As Tommy drifted off, he thought that it wasn't so bad at Popo's place after all.

Glossary

abuela (<i>n.</i>)	the Spanish word for grandmother (p. 12)
crowded (<i>adj.</i>)	full of too many people or things (p. 11)
dumplings (<i>n.</i>)	small balls of dough stuffed with meat or vegetables and then cooked (p. 8)
entertained (<i>v.</i>)	amused or interested (p. 12)
frustrated (<i>adj.</i>)	feeling upset about being unable to do something (p. 4)
insisted (<i>v.</i>)	said something firmly, especially to others who say or feel differently (p. 3)
lobby (<i>n.</i>)	a room at the entrance of a building that leads to other rooms (p. 9)
online (<i>adv.</i>)	while connected to the Internet (p. 13)
scolding (<i>v.</i>)	harshly telling someone that he or she has done something wrong (p. 4)