

# A Library Play for NLW

by | Terry Farish

## Roles

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**Juan Polanco: a boy, eight**

**Linda Rivera: a girl, seven**

## Juan and Linda and the Crying Baby

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*[Juan and Linda are walking down a street together.]*

**Juan:** Come on, let's go to the library, Linda.

**Linda:** What's at the library?

**Juan:** It's a place where you can borrow things.

**Linda:** I would like to borrow a new little brother. My old little brother cries too much.

**Juan:** You cannot borrow a little brother, but you can borrow books. They have football and dinosaurs and Henry & Mudge and monsters.

**Linda:** No one can read a book in my house. It is too loud. My baby brother, he is screaming: Wa! Wa! Wa! Wa! Wa!

**Juan:** We're here, Linda. Look! The library is big.

**Linda:** It is very big.

**Juan:** So many books!

**Linda:** Juan, can you read?

**Juan:** Sometimes I make up some of the words from the pictures.

**Linda:** Where are the dinosaurs? Where are the monsters?

**Juan:** I told you, they don't have real monsters. They have books *about* monsters. You can take ten.

**Linda:** Monsters?

**Juan:** Books.

**Linda:** They must cost a lot of money.

**Juan:** No, they are free! All you need is a library card. When your mom picks you up, she can come in, and sign you up and they will give you a library card. Then you borrow the books. You only have to pay if you don't bring the books back to the library in three weeks.

**Linda:** You can keep the books for three weeks?

**Juan:** Yes!

**Linda:** It's no use. I will get into bed with my ten library books and get ready to read, and then my little brother will go Wa! Wa! Wa! Wa! Wa—ohh, *[pause]* look at this place! I love it here. I will take one book when my mother gets me a library card.

**Juan:** Linda, what if you gave your little brother a Gameboy. Maybe the Gameboy would make him stop crying.

**Linda:** I tried a Gameboy, and he threw it on the floor and broke it.

**Juan:** What if you gave your little brother a cupcake with red sprinkles? Maybe that would make him stop crying.

**Linda:** Give my brother a cupcake? He would smear it over his face and his hands and his p.j.s, and then when it fell on the floor he would start crying again. Wa! Wa! Wa! Wa! Wa!

**Juan:** Did you think about a baseball mitt? What if you gave your brother a baseball mitt? Maybe that would make him stop crying?

**Linda:** I even tried a baseball mitt, and he chewed it, and ruined it. And then in no time he started crying again, Wa! Wa! Wa! Wa! Wa!

**Juan:** How about a cat, Linda. I bet you never tried a cat ...

**Linda:** No, Juan! I have an idea! I think I know what I will try to do tonight.  
*[Linda walks in a circle to express she got a card and a book and a night has passed.]*

**Juan:** Hello, Linda! You came back to the library. I can't wait to hear what happened last night. Did your little brother stop crying?

**Linda:** I am beaming. Can you see? Even my feet are smiling. I found out how to make my brother stop crying!

**Juan:** What did you do? Did you get a big, big, big TV? Did you get him a big, big, big chocolate cake?

**Linda:** No. I waited 'til he was pretty sleepy. He was still going Wa Wa Wa Wa Wa, but softer. Then I sat beside him. I showed him the monster in the book. He climbed in my lap. I started to read out loud. Then he got real quiet. He was watching the monster.

**Juan:** You read him the story?

**Linda:** Yes! Juan, I think the monster in the library book is real. It scared the Wa Wa Wa Wa Wa right out of my little brother.

**Juan:** Now you don't want to borrow a little brother anymore, do you Linda?

**Linda:** No. I'll keep him.

**Juan:** That book was magic. Do you think they have a book about pizza? Maybe if we got a pizza book, it will bring the smell (mmmm!) of fresh-baked pizza with gooey cheese.

**Linda and Juan:** Maybe we will be stuffed after we read the book!

**Juan:** It's late. We have to go. Quick! Pick a book.

**Linda:** You said we could have ten!

**Juan:** Get ONE. Tomorrow we'll come back. Come on! We're late! I'm gonna get in trouble.

**Linda:** I want *Arthur's Tooth, The Tortoise and the Hair, Winnie-the-Pooh, Scooby Do!*

**Juan:** Linda, we have to go.

**Linda:** I want to read *Amelia Bedelia, Nate the Great, Frog and Toad, The Cat in the Hat*, and ...  
*[They each have one book. Juan grabs Linda by the hand and he hurries her out of the library so they can get home on time.]*

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**Terry Farish** is the author of *The Cat Who Liked Potato Soup*, illustrated by Barry Root, and novels including *Talking in Animal*. She presents literacy programs for the Lawrence Public Library in Massachusetts. She's also working on a child-to-child literacy project in a Sister City collaboration between Amesbury, Massachusetts and Esabalu, Kenya. For more information, please go to [www.terryfarish.com](http://www.terryfarish.com).