

RECURSO GRATIS • NIVEL PRINCIPIANTE

La casa de la colina

A gentle A2 mystery about strange lights, a curious neighbor, and the difference between a rumor and the truth.

NOTICE

INVESTIGATE

DISCOVER

APRENDE GRATIS EN [EZINGLES.COM](https://ezingles.com)

ANTES DE LEER

Get ready

For years, an old house on the hill has stood empty. When Mateo sees a light inside, he decides to learn the truth.

Before you begin

Why can an empty house seem mysterious? Write two ideas.

Reading goal

Notice descriptive language, past-tense events, and words for evidence and explanations.

THE STORY · PART 1

A light in the window

Every day, Mateo passed an old **property** on his walk home. The house stood alone on a hill behind a rusty gate.

Its garden was **overgrown**, several shutters were broken, and nobody had lived there for years.

People in town repeated a **rumor** that strange noises came from the attic at night.

Mateo did not believe ghost stories, but he was curious.

One rainy evening, he looked up and saw a yellow light in an upstairs **window**. A shadow moved behind the curtain.

He stopped. The front door was still covered with dust, but fresh tire marks crossed the driveway.

The next morning, Mateo told his neighbor, Mrs. Chen.

‘Perhaps the owner returned,’ she suggested.

‘Then why did they arrive secretly at night?’ Mateo asked.

Mrs. Chen smiled. ‘Before you create a mystery, collect more **evidence**.’

Clues at the gate

After school, Mateo walked toward the gate but did not enter. A sign said PRIVATE PROPERTY.

From the public sidewalk, he noticed several **clues**: new wood beside the porch, paint cans, and a ladder.

Then he heard a loud crash inside the house.

A moment later, a woman opened the door. She wore work gloves and carried a broken shelf.

‘Can I help you?’ she called.

Mateo felt embarrassed. ‘I saw a light last night. People thought the house was empty.’

The woman introduced herself as Elena Ruiz. She had recently **inherited** the house from her uncle.

‘I am repairing it before my family moves in,’ she explained. ‘I work during the evening because I have another job.’

The mysterious crash had been an old shelf falling from the wall.

Elena invited Mrs. Chen and Mateo to visit on Saturday, when it was safe.

THE STORY · PART 3

The true history

On Saturday, Elena showed them the house. Dust covered the furniture, but the rooms had beautiful wooden floors.

In the attic, they found boxes of letters and old photographs.

Elena explained that her uncle had been a quiet photographer. The 'strange noises' were probably tree branches touching the **roof**.

Together, they carried boxes downstairs and opened the shutters.

Sunlight entered the house for the first time in years.

Elena planned to **restore** the garden and turn one room into a photography studio.

Mateo offered to help clean the yard. Mrs. Chen promised to bring lunch.

Within a month, the house no longer looked abandoned. Flowers grew near the gate, and warm lights appeared every evening.

Mateo learned that the truth was less frightening and more interesting than the rumor.

He also learned to respect boundaries: curiosity can begin an investigation, but permission must guide it.

A mystery often becomes a story when we finally ask the right person.

Words for homes and mysteries

property	propiedad
overgrown	descuidado/a, con mucha vegetación
rumor	rumor
window	ventana
evidence	evidencia
clues	pistas
inherited	heredó
roof	techo
restore	restaurar

COMPREHENSION

Check your understanding

A. Choose

1. What does Mateo see? a) A fire b) A yellow light c) A dog
2. Who owns the house? a) Elena b) Mrs. Chen c) Mateo
3. What caused the crash? a) A shelf b) A window c) A tree
4. What was Elena's uncle? a) A teacher b) A photographer c) A doctor

B. True or false

1. Mateo enters without permission. TRUE / FALSE
2. Elena works at the house in the evening. TRUE / FALSE
3. The family plans to leave the house empty. TRUE / FALSE

C. Write

Explain the mystery and its real solution. Why is evidence better than a rumor?

ANSWER KEY

Review your work

A. 1. b 2. a 3. a 4. b

B. 1. False 2. True 3. False

Suggested answer

The light and noises came from Elena repairing the house. Evidence gives observable facts, while a rumor may repeat an unproven explanation.

KEEP GOING

Practice: I noticed a clue. The most likely explanation is ____.