

# THE SPANGLISH GIRL BY NATALIA SIMONS

## WORDS AND IDEAS

Anna is a girl who lives en Londres with her mamá. She speaks español with her mamá and inglés with everybody else. In the summers she stays with her grandparents and plays with los niños that live in their village. What is it like?

### WORDS

What does Anna call her GRANDPARENTS?	
What is the Spanish word for a VILLAGE?	
How do you say YES en español?	
Do you like the Spanish word for BIKE? What is it?	
The word for STRANGE or WEIRD is a great word. What is it, and can you roll your R's?	
Anna sees los niños in the park. How do you say PARK en español?	
Finally, Anna and her friends get used to the idea that Anna has two languages and two culturas. What is the Spanish word for FRIENDS?	

### IDEAS FOR DISCUSSION

What are the two places where Anna stays like?	
What do Anna and the Spanish children do together?	
Why do the Spanish children laugh at Anna? (Two things)	
What advice does Anna's abuela give her? Do you think it is good advice?	
What would be the good things about being able to speak two languages really well?	
What would be the difficult things about staying in another country every summer?	
Find a recipe for the cold soup GAZPACHO ... and make it!	

## RARA = STRANGE

Rara means strange. In Spanish the letter R is rolled and sounds a bit like a cat purring.

- Can you roll the letter r?
- Can you say the word RARA and roll the r both times?
- Work in a small group and take turns to say sentences that include the word RARA meaning strange. Eg. This place is full of RARA creatures. We live in a RARA world. It must be RARA working in a zoo. I have a RARA feeling. Try to think of examples now, so you are ready when the time comes.
- How long can you keep up the flow without big pauses? Can you do better than other groups? Demonstrate your skills to the class.

## PEOPLE VOCAB TEST

En la historia there are various Spanish words for the people in Anna's life. How many did you understand? Write the inglés underneath el español. Why not work with a friend?

mamá	abuelo	una señora
abuela	amigos	los niños españoles

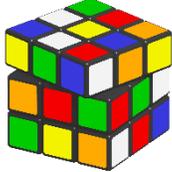
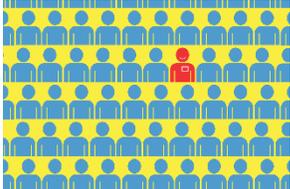
## KEY WORD VOCAB TEST

En la historia there are various Spanish words about culture and language. Can you translate these words from Spanish to English?

español	inglés	Inglaterra
España	culturas	lenguajes

# FLASH CARD BINGO

Choose six of these WORDS and copy them down to play bingo with. Images from Pixabay.

 <p>mamá</p>	 <p>abuelo</p>	<p>bicicleta</p> 
 <p>abuela</p>	 <p>amigos</p>	 <p>pueblo</p>
 <p>celoso</p>	<p>el parque</p> 	 <p>silencio</p>
<p>Inglaterra</p> 	<p>España</p> 	<p>gazpacho</p> 
 <p>mal</p>	<p>difícil</p> 	<p>historia</p> 
<p>año</p> 	<p>delicioso</p> 	<p>distinto</p> 

All the Spanish from the story, as read in the video.

<b>Esa historia = This story</b>	<b>Visita = She visits</b>	<b>Sus abuelos = Her grandparents</b>
<b>En un pequeño pueblo = In a small village</b>	<b>Pueblo = Town or village</b>	<b>El resto del año = The rest of the year</b>
<b>En Inglaterra = In England</b>	<b>Distinto = Different</b>	<b>Con su mamá = With her mum</b>
<b>España = Spain</b>	<b>Le resulta difícil = It is difficult for her</b>	<b>Sí = Yes</b>
<b>Amigos = Friends</b>	<b>Bicicletas = Bikes</b>	<b>Rara = Strange</b>
<b>Su abuela = Her grandma</b>	<b>Abuelos = Grandparents</b>	<b>Cariño = Darling</b>
<b>Celosos = Jealous (2 or more people)</b>	<b>Celoso = Jealous (1 person)</b>	<b>Dos culturas = Two cultures</b>
<b>Dos lenguajes = Two languages</b>	<b>Inglés = English</b>	<b>En el parque = In the park</b>
<b>En silencio = In silence</b>	<b>Una señora = A lady</b>	<b>En Inglaterra = In England</b>
<b>Mal = Bad</b>	<b>Mucho inglés = A lot of English</b>	<b>Los niños españoles = The Spanish children</b>
<b>La abuela = The grandma</b>	<b>Mis amigos = My friends</b>	<b>El abuelo = The grandad</b>
<b>Delicioso = Delicious</b>	<b>Inglaterra = England</b>	<b>Gazpacho = Cold Spanish soup</b>

## Thinking about code switching (Spanglish) as a language learning tool.

By Ruth Darby, author of Spanglish Fantastico, Jokes to help you learn Spanish and 100 Days of Spanish.

Soy profesora y uso code switching as a model for beginner estudiantes and as a way to give comprehensible input at entry level.

Code switching, para mí, means using una combinación de inglés y español, even in the same sentence (but I don't make new words).

Comprehensible input means language input that can be entendido by listeners or readers despite them not understanding todas las estructuras and words en el texto. It is described as one level above that of los estudiantes if it can *only just* be entendido. The more comprehensible input learners are exposed to, the faster their competencia linguística develops.

Aprendemos lenguajes, incluso nuestra lengua materna, in chunks. When I am teaching, whether I am speaking or writing, if I spot a chunk that I believe learners pueden entender o pueden guess at, I will put that en español. This way, puedo usar español to give explanations o para contar historias even if los estudiantes don't have enough español to understand it if I only used Spanish. ¿Pienso que causa confusión? NO. Al contrario, pienso que los estudiantes son inteligentes y pueden reconocer el inglés y el español. Pienso que EVITA la confusión de un texto that would otherwise be imposible de entender.

Using code switching allows me to maximise la cantidad de español estudiantes are exposed to and still meet el criterio importante de comprehensible input ... that is, still make sure that the input can be *understood*. ¿Pienso que code switching can mess up learner's second language use in their futuro? NO. Al contrario, because it allows early and constant use of the second language, code switching accelerates learning. It is encouraging for estudiantes to be able to usar su segundo lenguaje even if they don't have all the words yet: los motiva.

Code switching as a learning tool has been gaining ground in popularity in recent years. One Third Stories got unanimous approval in their Dragon's Den appearance for using code switching en sus historias para niños. Natalia Simon's book is parallel text, allowing the teacher or parent to choose how much español to incorporar in each telling of la historia.

Para colmo means to top it all off, like the maximum point. Para colmo, las familias bilingües y las comunidades bilingües naturally tienen la tendencia to code switch. Para mí, the key word here is BILINGÜES. This is our goal as language learners and language teachers. Code switching es el camino natural, the natural path to being bilingual, and we can use it to acelerar the journey to competencia lingüística para nosotros y para nuestros alumnos.

*Ruth dedicates much of her free time to creating and promoting code switching materials ... books and videos in Spanglish to give learners at beginner, A1 and A2 levels access to comprehensible input for learning Spanish. Her YouTube channel is called Learn Spanish with Spanglish Fantastico.*