

The Secret Recipe

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A boy and his Abuela are making bourekas, and Abuela is using words from the Ladino language that the boy is eager to learn

"Una merenda azeremos," Abuela says to her grandson. "But I don't understand," says the boy. "It means 'we will cook together' in our secret language," says Abuela. That evening, Mamá explains that the Spanish Jews took the Ladino language with them when they were forced to leave their homelands in Spain and Portugal during the Inquisition. "Can I learn the secret language?" the boy asks.

Ilan Stavans is an internationally renowned, award-winning writer, translator, and teacher born in Mexico. His work, adapted to the screen, TV, radio, and theater, has been published in more than twenty languages.

Taia Morley is an author/illustrator whose work has appeared in a variety of children's books, magazines, and toys. Taia carries a sketchbook wherever she goes because there is always something interesting to draw. You can visit her online at www.taiamorley.com.



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