



Stay in School

WE ARE NEW YORK **Magazine**



ENGLISH

Learn English on TV with our stories



WE ARE NEW YORK A NEW TV SHOW

www.nyc.gov/LearnEnglish

CREDITS

We Are New York Magazines created and written by Kayhan Irani and Anthony Tassi. Illustration and Art by Stedroy Cleghorne. Translations by Eriksen Translations Inc. Design Director: André M. Pennycooke.

Special Thanks: Leslee Oppenheim, David Hellman, K. Webster, Fatima Ashraf, John Mogulescu, Dennis M. Walcott; Malvina Acevedo, Maya Agrawal, Claudia Aristy, Vonda Caccese, Courtney Collins, Lissette Collins, Debra Eng, Shaifa Farooqui, Melissa Gendler, Denise Gordon, Martine Guerrier, Jeniffer Herrera-Andujar, Lai-Sheung Huie, Odalys Igmeri, Rosa Jaquez, Karen Johnson, Donna LeChillgrien, Marguerite Lukes, Ron Noble, Kenyi Ogando, Leonid Ostrovsky, Kleber Palma, Justine Santiago, Musa Shama, Bandana Sharma, Joe Shick, Cynthia Smith, Students of Francis Lewis High School, Students of Gregorio Luperon High School, Nyota Thacker, Leonard Trerot, Linda Van Schaick, Carlos Viguera, Lorraine Whit, Bellevue Hospital, New York City Department of Education.

nyctv
nyc.gov/tv

NYC
Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor

Mayor's Office of
Adult Education
Anthony Tassi
Executive Director

Information Technology
& Telecommunications
Paul J. Cosgrave
Commissioner

nyc
media group
Katherine Oliver
General Manager

CU
NY
The City
University
of
New York

What's Inside

The Story: Stay in School Pages 2 - 7

Who We Are Pages 8 - 9

How We Did It Pages 10 - 11

What You Can Do Pages 12 - 13

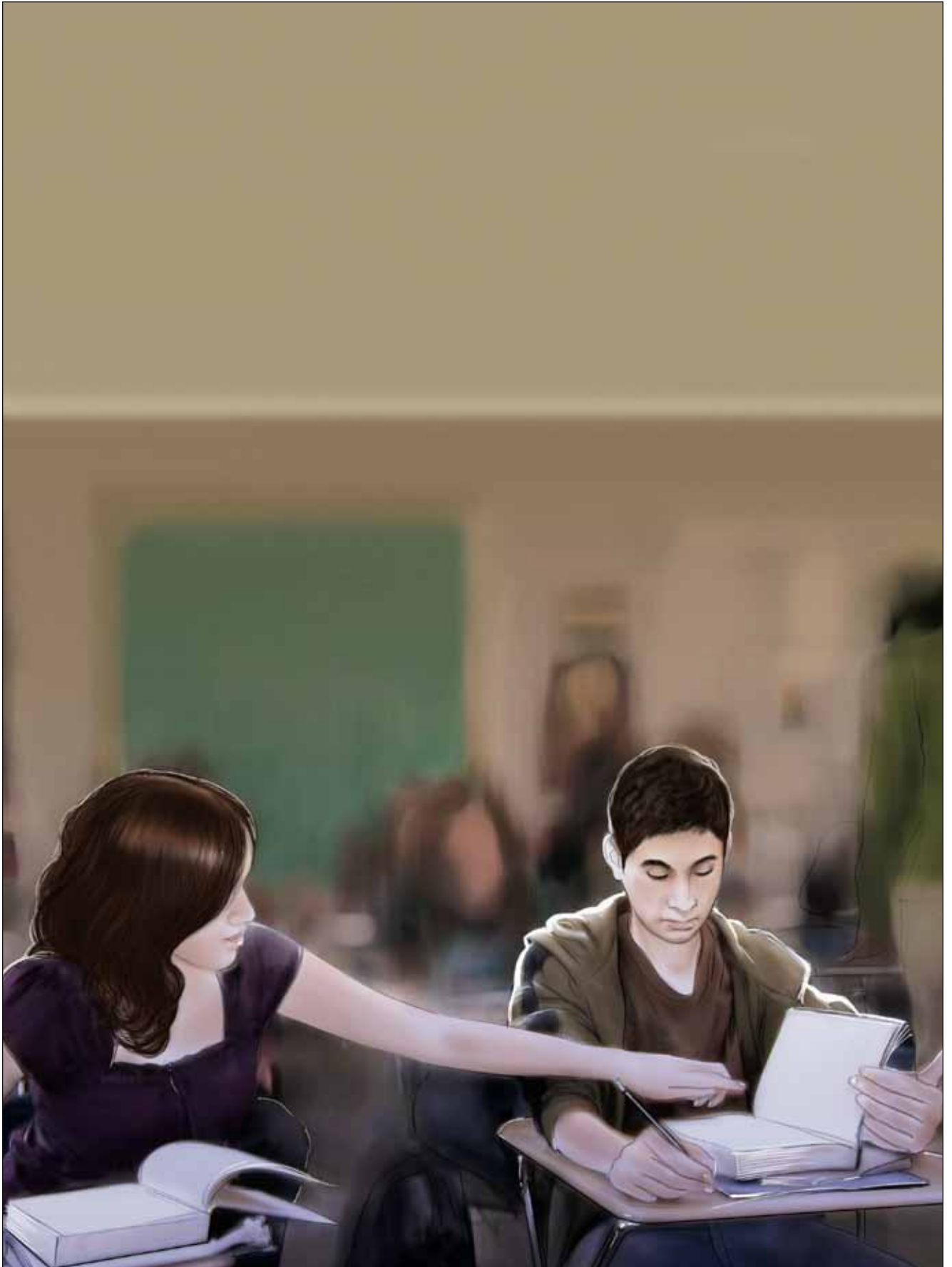
What You Can Say Page 14

Helpful Words Page 15

THE STORY

Stay in School

Diego is a teenager from Mexico who loves to play soccer. His mother sends him to live with his aunt and uncle in New York City to get a good education. But life in New York is not like Mexico. School is hard and confusing. Diego decides to quit school and get a job. When his aunt and uncle find out, they are shocked. But when Diego tells them his fears, they listen patiently. They decide to help him find information and advice so he can stay in school. Together, they try to sort things out. Will it be enough? Will Diego stay in school?



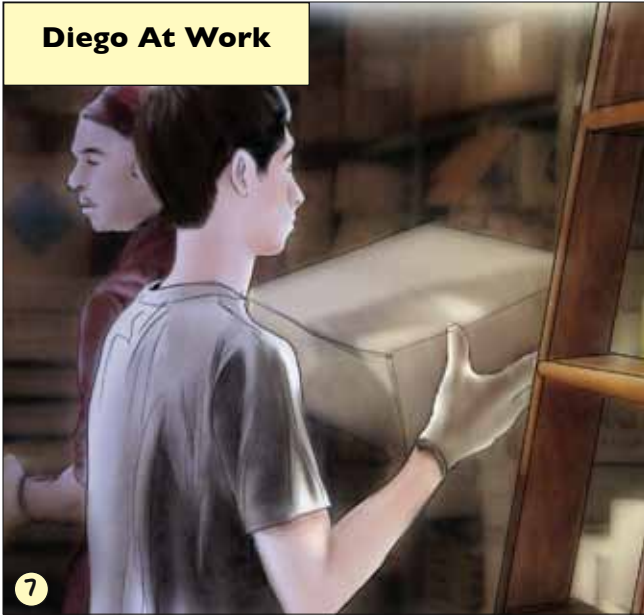
Carmen & Juan's Apartment



One Month Later At School



Diego At Work



7



You need money? Learn English.
Get your diploma. Then you'll
make real money.

8

Back At Home



Diego's teacher called today.
She says Diego is failing, and he
hasn't been in class all week!

A week?! When Diego
comes home, let's talk with
him. Let's listen to him.

9



It's hard to be in a new
country. It's hard to learn
English. School is hard.

We understand,
Diego. It was the
same for us.

10

11



But school is important.
You can get a good job.
You'll have more choices
in life.

12



I don't know. I need to
think about it.

13

The Next Day



Uncle Juan, Aunt Carmen... I've decided that I want to stay in school. But, I don't know if I can do it.

14



Okay, Diego! You can do it. Don't worry, we will do this together.

15



Hello, 311? I need some information about high schools, please.

16



Hello, Fatima? What high school does your daughter go to?

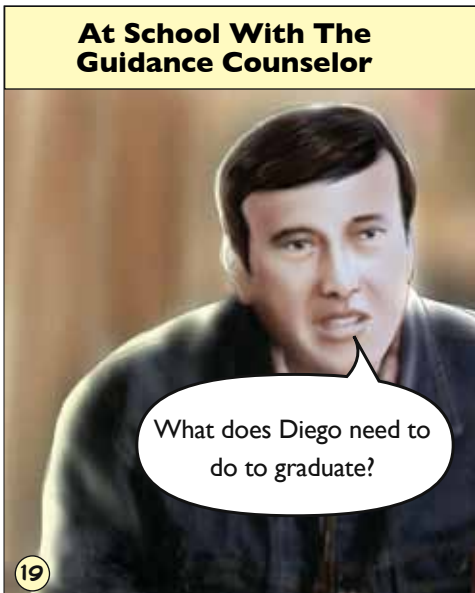
17



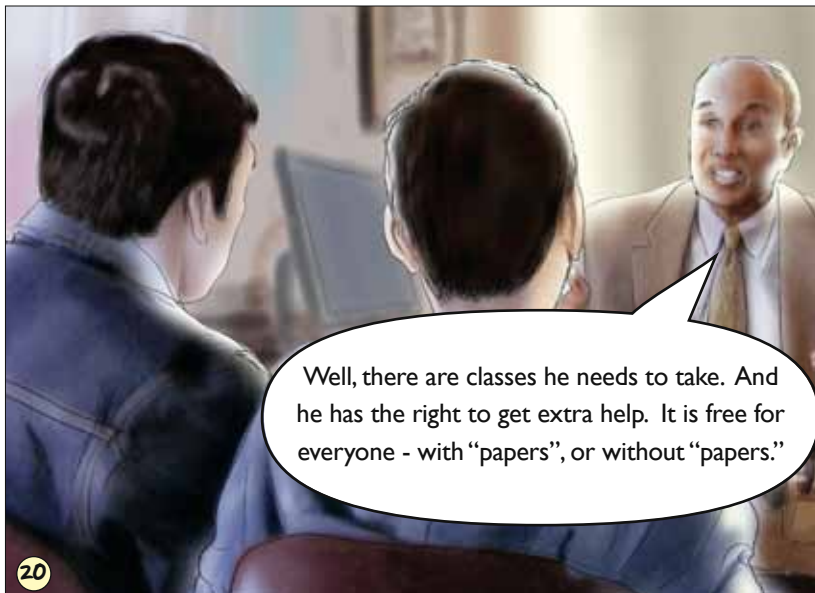
Hello, is this the Parent Coordinator?

18

At School With The Guidance Counselor



What does Diego need to do to graduate?



Well, there are classes he needs to take. And he has the right to get extra help. It is free for everyone - with "papers", or without "papers."



What if I can't do it? Maybe school isn't for me?

Yes, it is. In New York City, you have a lot of choices - different schools, special programs, and extra help.



Diego, you're back! I'm so happy to see you!



Yeah, school isn't easy, but I can do it.

WHO WE ARE



DIEGO

I know my family is proud of me, but school is hard. I'm trying to learn a lot of new things in a new language. Sometimes I don't think that I can do it, and I want to quit. It helps to meet other young people like me. It's important to have people who listen to me. I feel good being back in school.



MR. SHAMMA

High school can be hard. I have been the Guidance Counselor at Diego's school for 5 years. I like my job. I help students and their parents. I can help students make good decisions about their future. I also help parents learn more about the school system here in New York.



JUAN

I understand how Diego feels. It is hard to come to a new country and learn everything again. But, in life, you never stop learning. In Mexico, I worked in construction. I found the same job here in New York. I learn from the guys at work, and I teach them some things, too. I know that education will give Diego more choices in life. I want him to have big dreams.

CARMEN

I am proud to be Diego's aunt. I know that he is smart and can make good decisions for himself. But, sometimes teenagers need adults to listen to them, without giving advice. When Diego has to make a decision, I listen to him and encourage him. I tell him what I think is best, but I trust him to make his own decisions. I know I'm helping him, and that makes me feel good.



LUIS

I am Diego's coworker. I work two jobs to earn enough money for my family. On the weekends I take GED classes. I know that money is important, but an education can take you far.



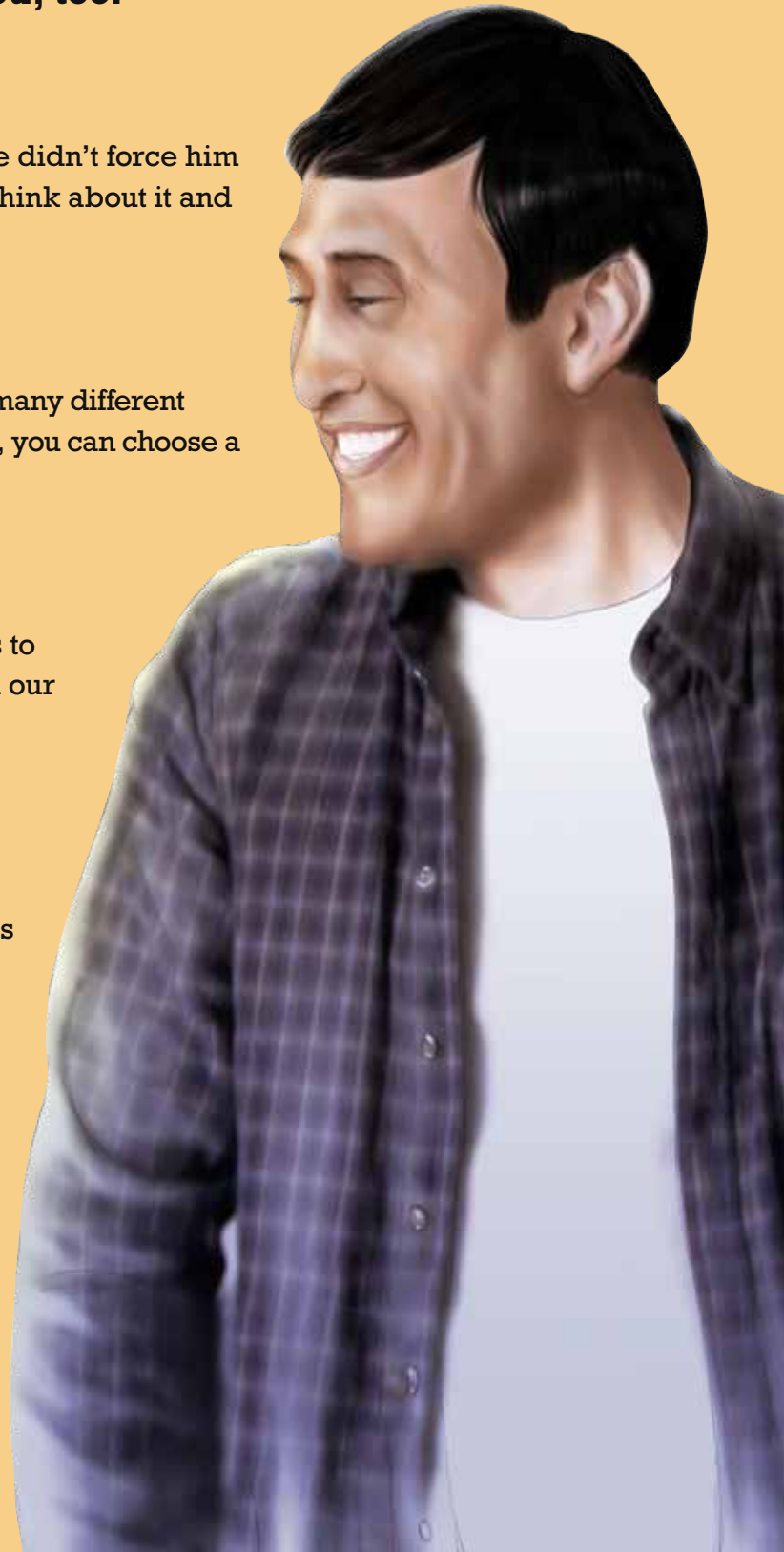
LU

My family is Chinese, but I was born in the Dominican Republic. I learned Spanish there, and now I am learning English in New York. I go to the same school as Diego. Sometimes people are confused when I tell them I am Latina! I am glad that Diego has come back to school. I like talking to him. We have a lot in common.

HOW WE DID IT

Here's how we dealt with high school issues. Maybe these ideas will help you, too.

- 1** We talked to Diego about choices. We didn't force him to do one thing or another. He got to think about it and decide for himself.
- 2** The guidance counselor told us about many different kinds of high schools. In New York City, you can choose a high school to go to. That's great!
- 3** Carmen and I asked a lot of questions to find out how to help Diego. We called our friends, the school, and 311.
- 4** We supported Diego – he wasn't left alone. Carmen and I listened to him. Even though they are older, teenagers need adults to stay close to them and help them. Even if they act like they don't want you there!



HOW WE DID IT

Parents have to be involved in the school, even parents of high school students. Schools are open to parents, and we need to go. The teachers and everyone at the school want to hear from us!



You don't have to wait for someone to call you to the school. You have the right to make an appointment and see someone. Every school has a Parent Coordinator who is there just for parents! It's good to make friends with other parents and the Parent Coordinator. You can call them for help and support.



New York City schools have a lot of choices for students. You can choose which school to go to. There are bilingual and international programs. There are schools for new immigrants. There are schools that help students learn about work. And, there are even schools for students who are over 18. Students have the right to find the best school for them. And everyone under 21 has the right to a free high school education in New York City.



WHAT YOU CAN DO

Here are some ideas for helping young people stay in school.

Share the information in this magazine with your family and friends. You can make a difference in their lives.

Goal

You want to help your child stay in high school.

1. Talk with your child. Listen to what they are interested in. Hear what's hard for them about school.
2. Make an appointment to see the Guidance Counselor. The school Guidance Counselor has information that can help.

Goal

You want your child to succeed at any age.

1. Talk with your child. Listen to what they are interested in. Hear what's hard for them about school.
2. Meet other parents in your child's school. Find out what they have done to help their children.
3. Talk to the teachers. You don't have to wait until there is a problem to talk to them.

To learn more about schools visit: <http://schools.nyc.gov>
English Language Learners, visit: <http://schools.nyc.gov/Academics/ELL>

She or he knows about services at the school and in the community. Your child can talk to the guidance counselor, and you can too.

3. Ask about help for your child, including other kinds of schools or programs for your child.

4. Together, you can find a way for your child to succeed.

4. You have the right to get the school documents translated into 8 other languages. And you can ask for an interpreter.

5. Make an appointment to see the Parent coordinator. He/She can help you meet the teachers and get an interpreter.

6. Find out how your child is doing in school. Visit: **www.arisparentlink.org**
The Parent Coordinator can help you learn how to use this important website.

WHAT YOU CAN SAY

With the guidance counselor, you can say:

- What does my child need to do to graduate?
- I would like the school documents in my language, please.
- Can you please say that again and explain what you mean?
- Can I have the directory of City high schools?

Get the information in writing so you can read it at home. You can also ask for an interpreter to be at the appointment.

When you call 311, you can say:

- Can I have the number for the Parent Coordinator at my child's school?
- How can I get the directory of City high schools?

311 speaks your language. 24 hours a day.

Write your own questions here:

HELPFUL WORDS

Drop out

To leave school without getting your diploma.

There are many services to help young people who are thinking of **dropping out**.

Explain

To help you understand something.

Can you please **explain** what you mean?

Get involved

To be part of something.

When parents **get involved** in the school, children do better.

Guidance Counselor

A professional in every school that can help students succeed in school and life. They also help parents with information about services.

Call your **Guidance Counselor** and make an appointment to see him or her. You can call 311 to get the number of your child's school.

Interpreter

A person who can translate one language into another.

May I please have an **interpreter**, to help me understand what you are saying?

Parent Coordinator

A person in every school who helps parents get what they need.

Every public school in New York City has a **Parent Coordinator** who works with parents.

311

The free telephone number you can call for information about City services.

You can speak your language when you call **311**.

WE ARE NEW YORK

Learn English with our stories

Watch all nine episodes on TV.
Read the study guides.
Join a group to practice your English.



To get your free study guide
and to join a group, go to
www.nyc.gov/LearnEnglish



Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor

Mayor's Office of
Adult Education

Anthony Tassi
Executive Director



The City
University
of
New York