

#### 1. Quick Reading

Look at the pictures on page 87. What is the story about?

Now read quickly to get the main idea.



LAS CRUCES, NM, USA Primo Torres has learned that dreams can come true. <sup>1</sup>Born in Juárez, Mexico, Torres grew up in Texas in a poor family. <sup>2</sup>As a child, Torres was a bookworm and he loved school. At 15, he already dreamed of being a teacher.

- <sup>3</sup>One day at school, young Torres **dropped by** to see his guidance counselor. He told the counselor his plans for the future. "But this guy said, 'Primo, you will never be college material,'" Torres said. "When he told me that, I gave up. He **threw cold water on** my dream."
- <sup>4</sup>After graduating from high school, Torres got a job as a janitor at Mayfield High School in Las Cruces, New Mexico. He cleaned bathrooms and swept floors. <sup>5</sup>The years went by. Now and then, he talked to his wife about his childhood dream of being a teacher.
- One day, when Torres was 41 years old, his wife gave him some papers. She had enrolled him in college! "It was strange going back to school at my age," said Torres. "I felt like an old man around all those kids!"

  The words of his first professor changed his life. "Everyone in this room is capable of succeeding. You can all make an A," he said. Torres hit the books and made his first A in college.
- <sup>8</sup>Torres finished college, and now he's teaching at Mayfield High School. His students love him. "Many students don't realize that I'm the same man who used to sweep the floors in this school," said Torres.

New idioms and expressions

come true · · · · · · · · · · · · · become real; change from dream to fact

be a bookworm · · · · · · · · · love to read

dream of (doing) something\* · · · · · · · · think about something that you want to happen in the future

drop by\* ..... make a short visit

throw cold water on something · · · · · · discourage a plan, an idea, a dream, etc.

go by\* · · · · · · pass

now and then · · · · · · sometimes

go back (to a place)\* · · · · · · · · return (to a place)

**be capable of doing something** · · · · · · have the ability to do something **make an A (a B, etc.)** · · · · · · · · · · earn a grade (A, B, etc.) in school

hit the books · · · · · · study

recycled idioms: grow up, give up \*phrasal verb (see Lexicon and Appendix D)

86 Can You Believe It?

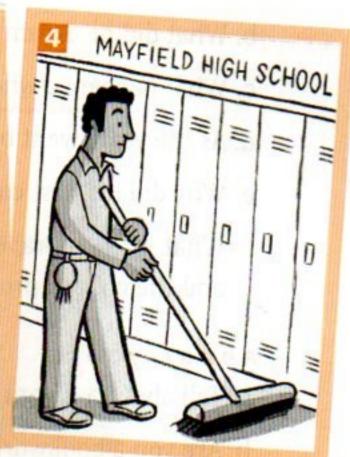
## 🥶 2. Listen

Cover the story and look only at these pictures. Listen to the story two or three times.

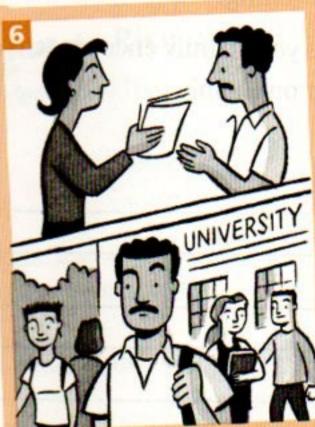
















#### 3. Read the Story

Now read the story carefully. Pay special attention to the idioms so that you're ready for Exercise 4.

#### 4. Listen and Complete

Close your book. Listen to the story again. When the tape or your teacher pauses, try to complete the idiom.

#### 5. Tell the Story

Cover the story and look at the pictures above. Tell the story using as many idioms as you can.

- a. First, work with the whole class to retell the story.
- b. Then tell the story to a partner or small group.

6.	Answer the Questions
	About the story
	a. What kind of child was Torres?
	b. What did he dream of doing?
	c. What happened when Torres spoke to his counselor?
	d. As the years went by, what did Torres talk about?
	e. Why did his first college professor change his life?
	f. What is the moral of this story? Do you know people like the high school counselor and the college professor?
	g. Tell about a dream you had that came true.
	h. Are you a bookworm?
	i. For how long do you hit the books on a typical evening?
	j. What do you dream of doing in the future? Does your family encourage you to follow your dreams, or do they throw cold water on them?
7.	Write About Yourself
	a. I often drop by in order to
	b. Someday I want to go back to because
	c. I dream of
	and in the
	future.
	d. Now and then, I
8.	Write a Poem
	Write a poem about your dreams for the future using at least three idioms from the unit.
9.	Take a Dictation

### 10. Complete the Dialogue

- a. Read this true story and fill in the blanks with idioms from the box.
- went by
- a bookworm
- came true
- made an A
- go back
- dream of

# Great-great Grandmother Graduates

Disco At the age of 102, Ana Molina made an unusual
San Juan, Puerto Rico At the age of 102, Ana Molina made an unusual to high school.
decision. She decided to (1) had to leave school. Her
Eighty-six years ago, Molina Had she needed to work. Many family had no money, and she needed to work. Many years (2), but she continued to (3)
years (2)
getting her high school diploma.  Eight months after going back to school, Molina's dream  She graduated from high school. A native speaker of in English.  Spanish, Molina is very proud that she (5) in English.
She reads literature to the
Spanish, Molina is very production. She reads literature to the She reads literature to the She reads literature to the children in her poor neighborhood. "I'm in love with life," says the great-great
grandmother.
recycled idiom: be in love with

b. Read or tell the story to a partner.