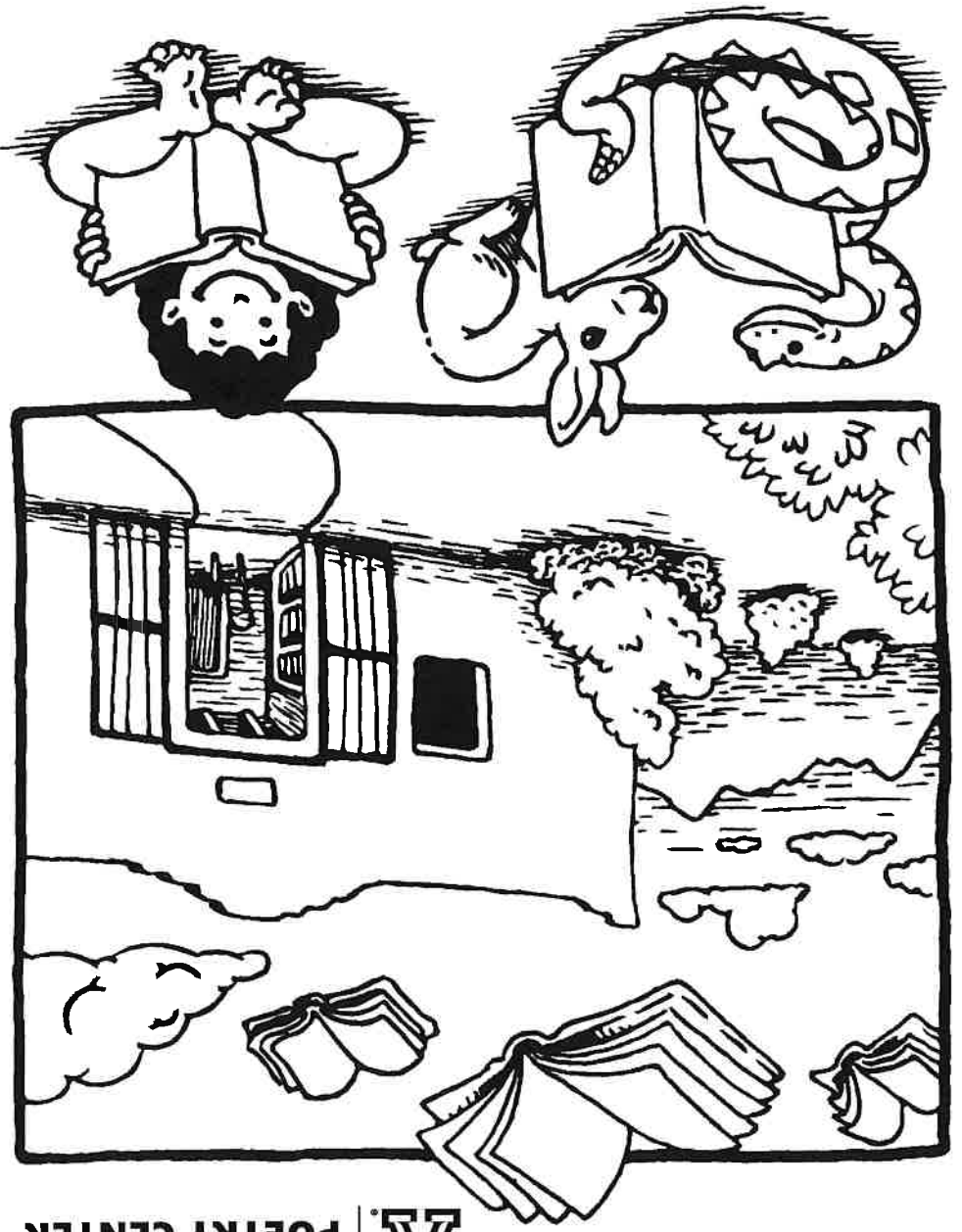
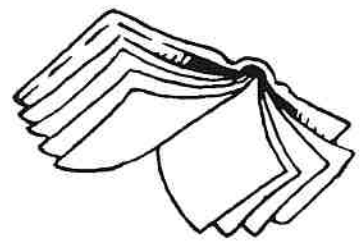


This exhibition is part of the Poetry Center's multi-year celebration of independent bookstores and libraries from around the world, which will feature many lost, endangered, or otherwise dramatic and brave oases people have built to protect, house, share, and enjoy books. Learn more about this exhibit and others coming soon at poetry.arizona.edu.

BRAVEBOOKS AT THE UA POETRY CENTER

You're invited to explore our play space featuring Casa Camino Real, Libros Para el Viaje, and stories from the US-México borders.



BRAVEBOOKS

Casa Camino Real & Libros Para el Viaje



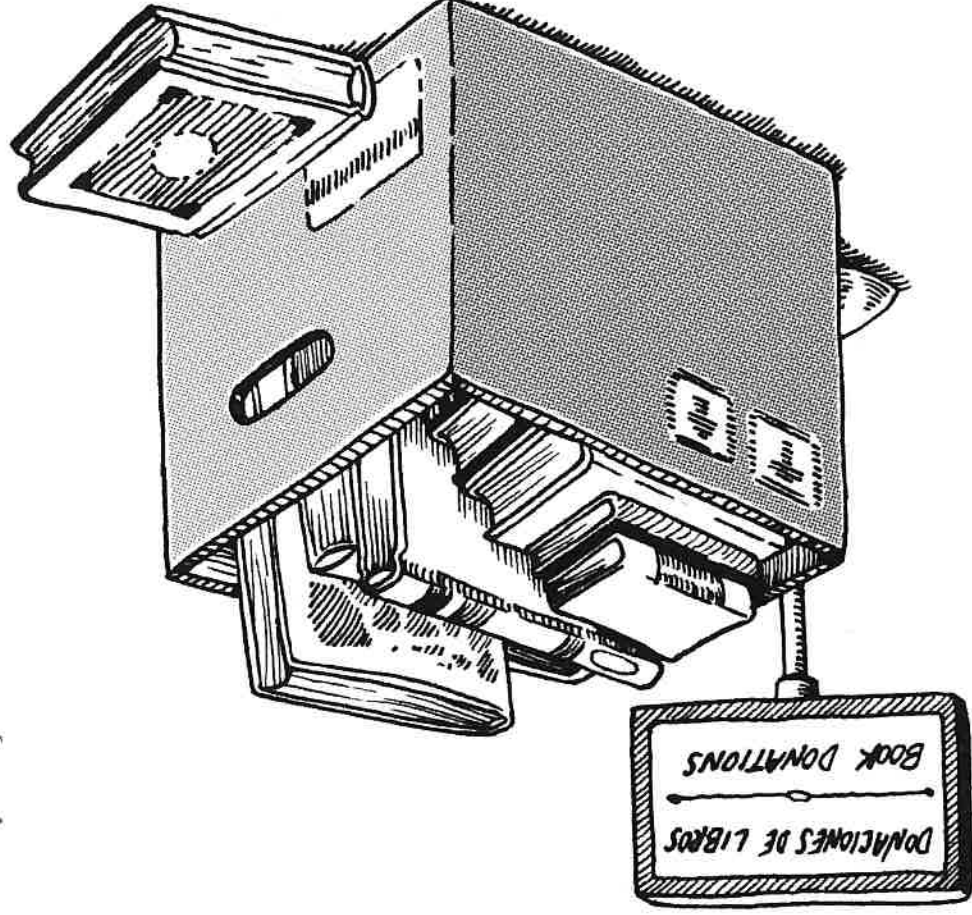
THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
POETRY CENTER

This book belongs to:

This activity booklet was written by the UA Poetry Center Education Department in conjunction with Denise Chavez, illustrated by Joe Quarberg and translated by Ursula Fuentesberain.

Want to be part of a book drive like

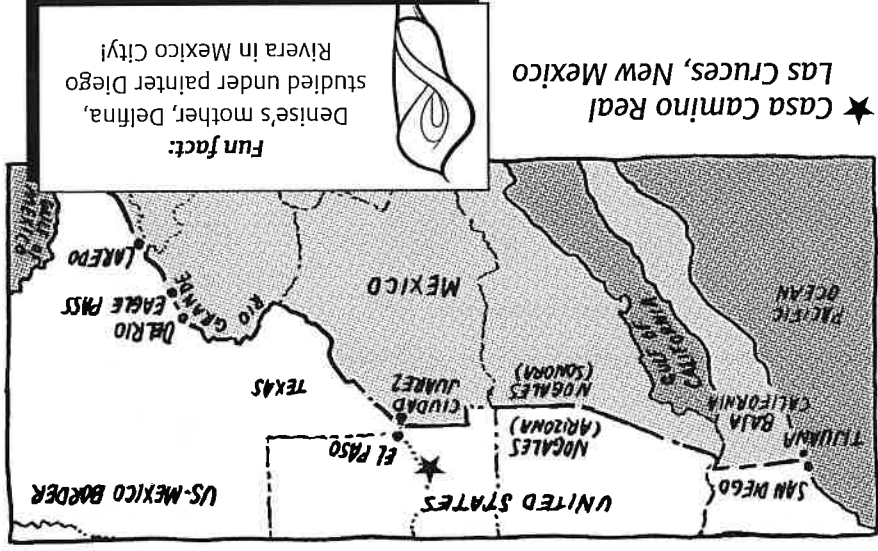
Libros Para el Viaje?



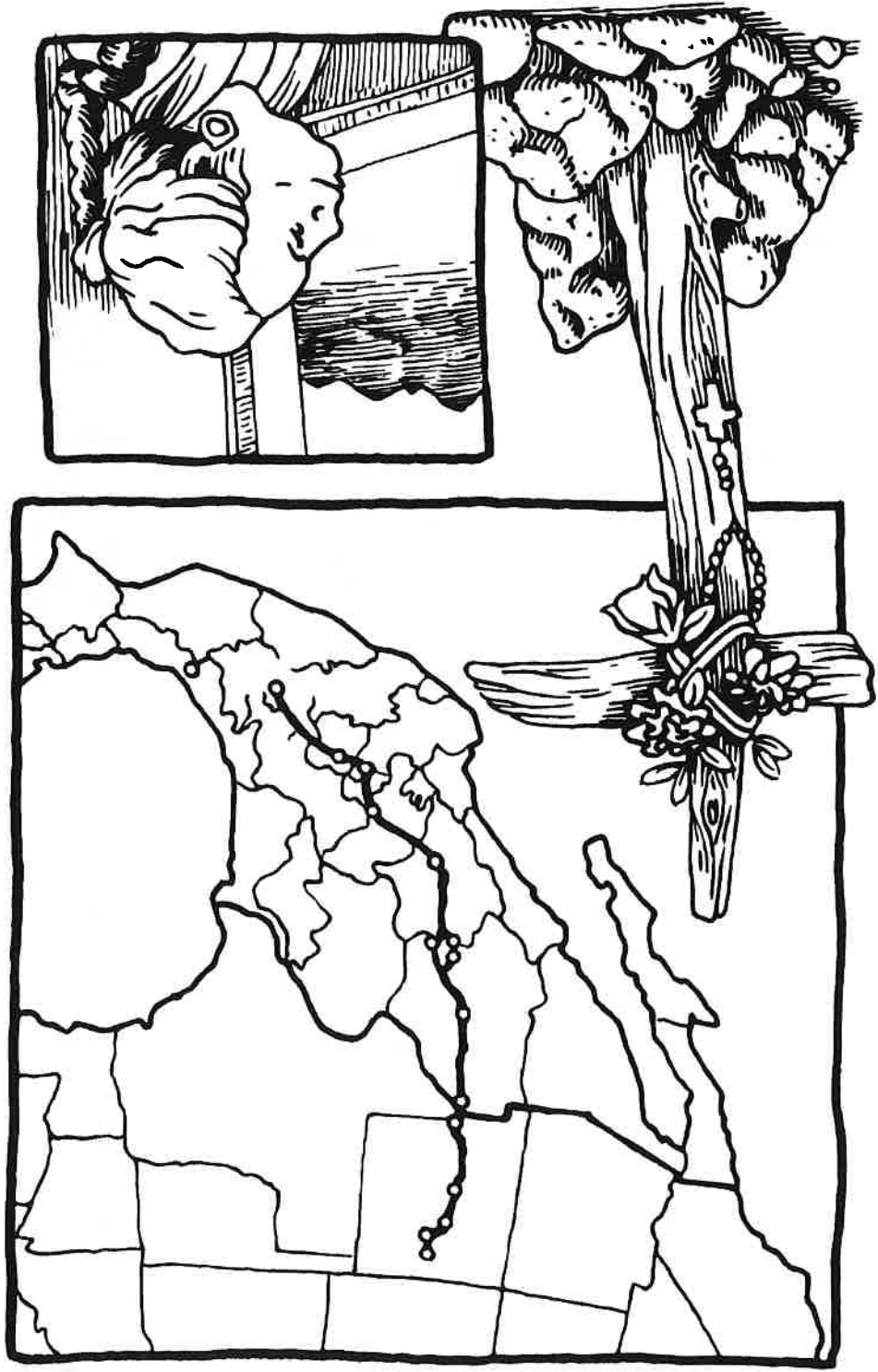
Bring new or gently used books in Spanish and Portuguese (or bilingual Spanish-English or Portuguese-English editions) to the UA Poetry Center. We will donate these books to kids and adults staying at hospitality centers right here in Tucson!

Denise Chavez and her husband, Daniel Zolinsky—a photographer born in France—opened Casa Camino Real in 2012 as a place for book lovers of all ages. The adobe building is owned by former New Mexico Supreme Court Justice Daniel Sosa and was once home to the Grimes, one of the first African-American families in Las Cruces. At Casa Camino Real, Denise and Daniel celebrate the many traditions of the Borderlands, the unique region where Mexico and the United States meet. The Borderlands region is particularly special to Denise. She grew up in Las Cruces and her family has deep roots in Texas, New Mexico, and Mexico.

Map of the Borderlands



What books would you share with new friends from other countries? Fill in the titles.

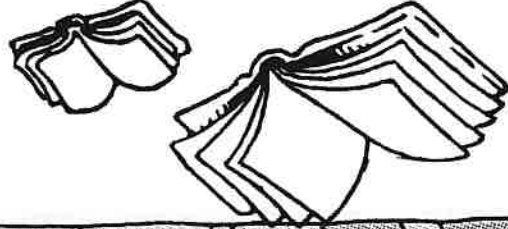
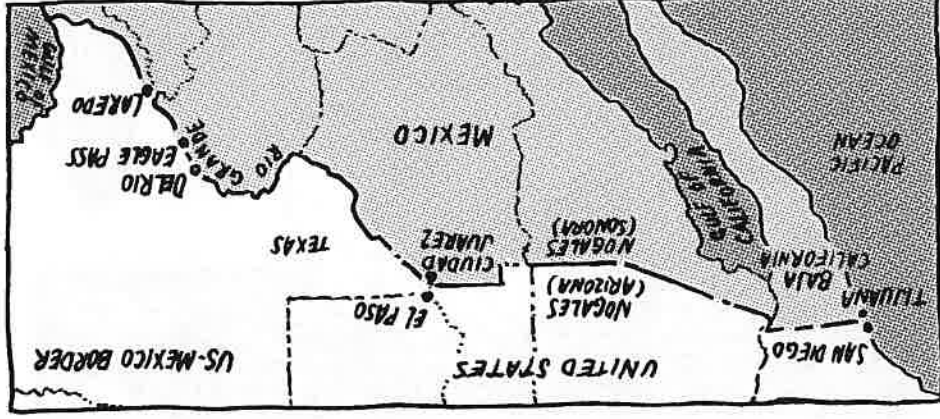


Location of Casa Camino Real

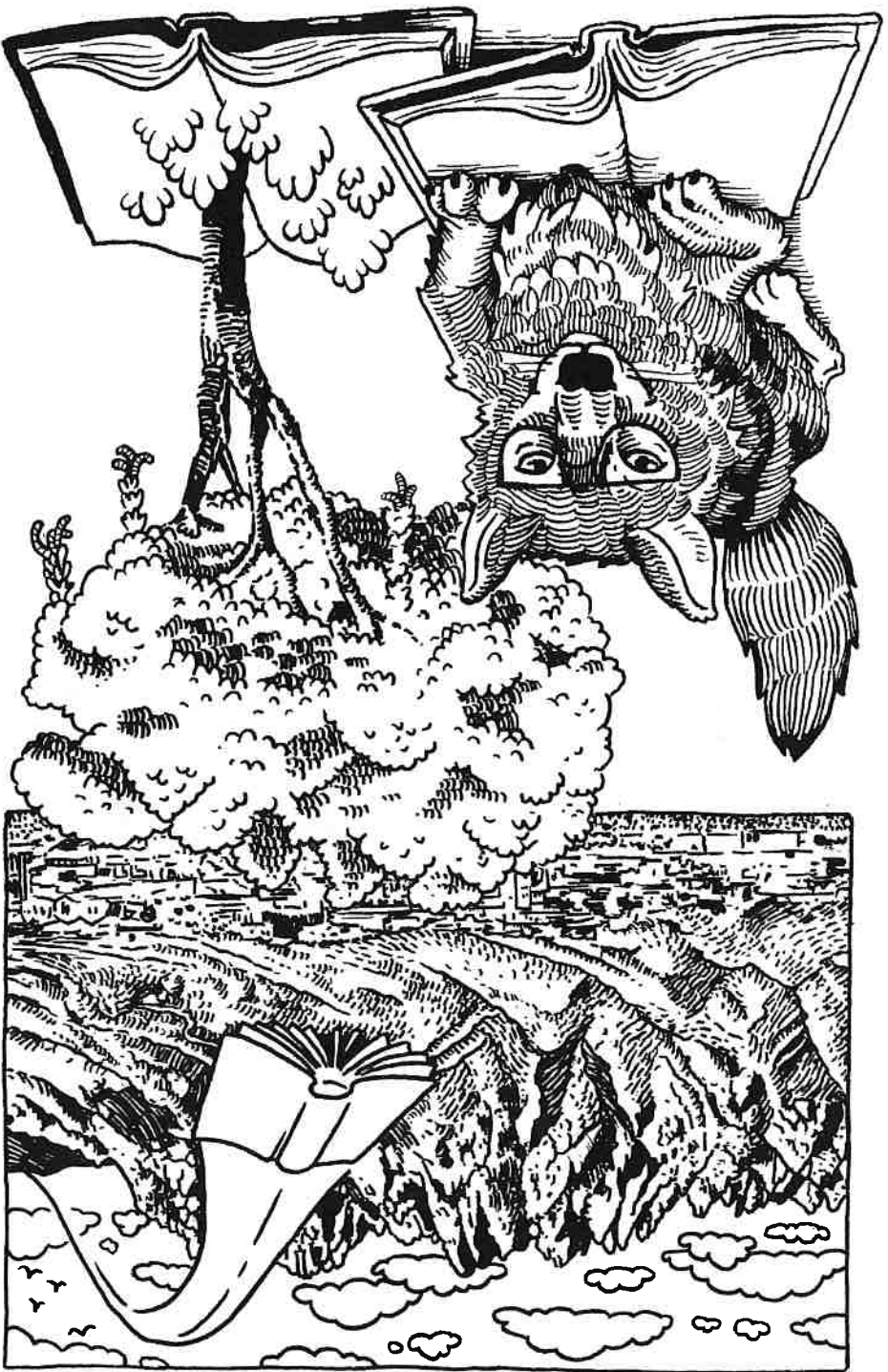
Casa Camino Real is located along El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, the Royal Road of the Interior, which is the earliest trading route established by Europeans in the United States. Denise likes to sit in the Sala of the bookstore and imagine the Carreteras, large wooden wagons that carried supplies from Mexico City to northern New Mexico. Sometimes these caravans were up to two miles long! Journeys on the Camino Real were very difficult, and many people did not survive. Las Cruces—the Crosses—was named after the Descansos, resting places marked with crosses that lined the sides of the road.

“I feel an immense love knowing where I am situated,” Denise says, “On the Camino Real, on the historic Las Cruces town site, in the middle of what was once the Rio Grande, until it changed course, and in the middle of what was once the ocean. How can one not feel the pull of great beauty and power of history and feel the pull of the ancestors’ lives in our blood?”

Las Cruces is in the US-Mexico borderlands. Many refugees from Latin America settle or pass through the city. Denise realized that children, young people, and adults needed books to read, so the Libros Para el Viaje/ Books for the Journey book drive was born. Denise, Daniel and other Book Stewards and members of Libros Para el Viaje distribute books at hospitality centers around Las Cruces. A hospitality center is a place where refugees stay before they travel to other parts of the country to be with friends and family.

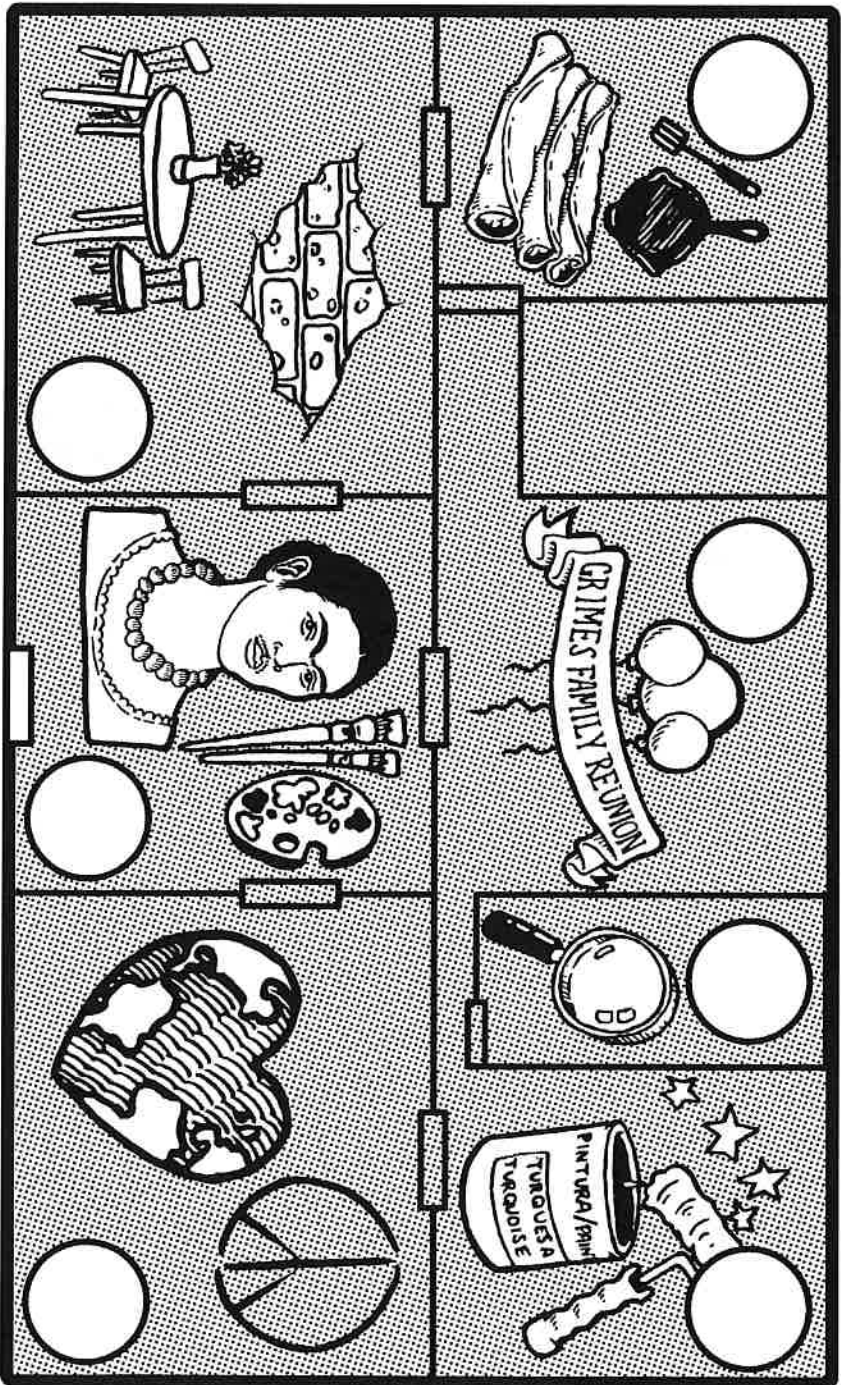


When booksellers from other places found out about Libros Para el Viaje, they started sending Denise books. Now her store is full of books! But Denise believes books can go beyond the four walls of Casa Camino Real. She believes they can take flight and change the world.



The Story of Libros Para el Viaje

ENTRADA/ENTRANCE



PLANO DEL CASA CANINO REAL / FLOORPLAN OF CASA CANINO REAL

One of the ways that Denise connects to her ancestors and loved ones is by naming all the rooms in her bookstore after people, a Mexican tradition. Can you match the name of each room with its description?

- 1 **Frida's Room**
Also called The Foyer, this room is named after Mexican painter and human rights activist Frida Kahlo.
- 2 **The Bilderbeck Southwestern Room**
This room is named for John Bilderbeck, a friend of Denise's who dedicated his life to helping others, and spreading messages of peace and world unity.
- 3 **Febe's Room**
Denise dedicated this room to her sister, Faride "Febe" Faver Chávez Conway, who was a strong and generous public servant and mother. She painted this room turquoise shortly before passing to the stars in 2012.

- 4 **The Philosopher's Room/The Mystery Room**
Do you like reading mysteries? How about thinking big thoughts about the world? This room was once full of philosophy books, but now it houses a collection of great mystery writers. *Bonus: It's also the bathroom. Every bathroom should have books!*
- 5 **Lula's Room**
Denise's office is named after Lula Grimes, who lived in the house from 1918 to 1985. In 2012, Denise and Daniel hosted a family reunion for the Grimes family. Over 150 people attended!

- 6 **Fina's Room**
The kitchen is named for Denise's mother, Delina, a dedicated school teacher and home cook famous for her rolled tacos.
- 7 **The Sala**
This room, the Sala, is where Denise entertains guests around a table, and where you can see an exposed adobe wall.

Denise loves to greet guests at her table, serving them treats like pan dulce and café de olla—Mexican coffee made with piloncillo, clavo, and canela.



How many pieces of pan dulce can you find hidden around the room?

New Mexico is famous for its many adobe buildings, including Casa Camino Real. Adobe is a way of building houses that comes from the Puebloan people. Adobe is made out of clay, grass, and mud and is alive, which means that it needs to breathe! Casa Camino Real has some exposed adobe that lets you see the bricks beneath the final mud layer.



What sorts of animals might live in the wall? Use your imagination and draw them in.



On the walls of Lula's Room are movie posters from the Golden Age of Mexican cinema, including films starring Pedro Infante, the beloved Mexican performer and singer, who acted in over 60 films in the 1930s, 40s, and 50s. Color in the poster above for *Los Tres Huastecos*, a movie where he plays three characters—a priest, an outlaw, and a soldier!