

**LEBRIS**

We know  
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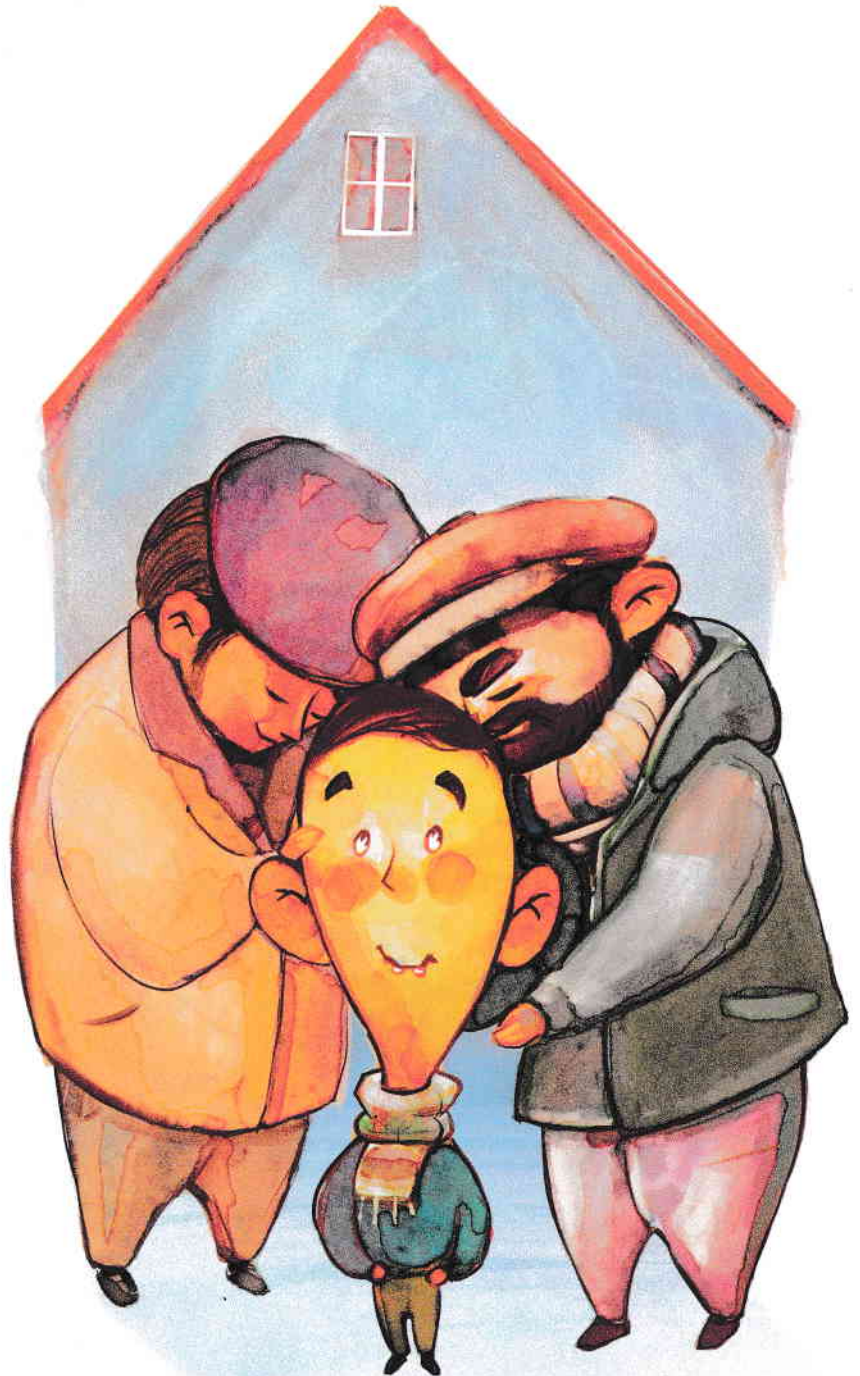
# Santa Claus Is Real



Illustrated by Roxana Tone

**LETRAS**

Once upon a time, in a mountain village there was a rather ugly boy whose name was Toni. He was so ugly that his parents had to keep him as isolated as possible from other people to protect him from hurtful words. He was born this way, but to his parents, who loved him dearly, Toni was perfect. That's why, for a long time, he didn't realize that there might be something wrong with him. His only



friend was the neighbour's son, Franco. Franco was homeschooled, just like him, because his eyesight was bad. In fact, his eyesight was so poor, he had no idea what Toni looked like. Everything around was a blur for Franco, who could not make out the world around him. But as kind and loving as he was, he certainly wouldn't have minded his friend's appearance.

A teacher would come to his house every day, to tutor both boys. Other children didn't visit Franco because he couldn't play with them, and they avoided Toni because of the way he looked. That's why their parents couldn't be more delighted by their friendship.

"Toni, you're late! The teacher has already left!" Franco shouted to his friend, who was coming over to his house looking downcast.

"I'm not late. But I've made up my mind and from now on I don't want to have lessons with your teacher anymore. I don't understand why I can't go to school. My parents don't want to tell me, so I got upset and I don't want to learn anything anymore."



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“He’s not just my teacher! He teaches you too. He’s the only one who agreed to come to my house so I can learn like a normal kid. And seeing that you don’t go to school either, he agreed to help you out too, without asking for anything in return. And you don’t appreciate him at all!”

“My parents can’t afford to pay him for the hours he spends with me. Few are capable of such sacrifice.”

“You should apologise for behaving like that! I’m very fond of him,” Franco continues.

“You’re right! I shouldn’t have talked rudely about such a nice person like our teacher! I’m sad that I’m not going to school. That’s why I acted like this.

“I’m sorry for upsetting you!” said Toni, looking down.



“We all make mistakes! What’s important is what we do afterwards!” replied Franco, giving his friend a big hug.

“Come on, let’s go outside to play!” said Toni, happy to have cheered up Franco.

“Toni, you always forget I can’t run along with you! I might get hurt! We’d better stay indoors and build toys out of the cubes you gave me for my birthday!”

“But why don’t you buy glasses?” asked Toni.

“I have to have surgery before I can wear glasses and it’s very expensive and my parents can’t afford it. I write to Santa every year about how much I want to be able to see, to read, to play, to do everything a normal kid does.”

“I don’t believe Santa exists,” Toni replied, quite smugly. “Don’t you think he would have fulfilled your wish by now?”

“Toni, you’re just being mean! I believe he exists, but he has more important wishes to grant before mine.

