***Tia Isa Wants a Car* by Meg Medina**

**Discussion Questions**

1. Tia Isa wants a car. At the beginning of the story, why doesn’t she have one?

*Tia Isa does not have enough money for a car yet.*

1. What is Tia Isa’s incentive to get a car? What will she do when she gets a car?

*Tia Isa wants to be able to go to the beach and to take her niece with her.*

1. Work is any activity we do for which someone will pay us. What sort of work does Tia Isa do? How do we know her work is valuable?

*Tia Isa works at a bakery. We know the bakery owner values her work because she is paid for her time and effort. Tia Isa earns an income from her job.*

1. Do you think Tia Isa will quit her job when she earns enough money to buy the car? Why or why not?

*Tia Isa will keep her job so that she can continue to earn income to pay for gas, repairs, and insurance for the car. There may be other things Tia Isa wants as well. She wants all of her family to come to America and she needs to send them money so they can.*

1. Tio Andres works at a construction job and earns income, too. What capital resources must Tio Andres have to protect his feet and his head?

*Tio Andres must wear special work boots to protect his feet while he is on the construction site. He also wears a hardhat. The boots and hardhat are capital resources. (Even though they might wear out eventually, he does not use them up.)*

1. Tio Andres does not think Tia Isa needs a car, and he can’t imagine that she could ever save enough money to buy one. There are other ways to get places and each of these ways is a substitute for the others. How else can Tia Isa get around if she does not have a car?

*She can walk or take the bus.*

1. How is Tia Isa going to get enough money to buy the car?

*She is going to keep working and saving some of the money she makes until it adds up to the money she needs for the car.*

1. Does Tia Isa use all of her savings to buy the car or does she share some of her money?

*Tia Isa sends most of the money she earns back home to her Mami. She is helping her mother and father who have little money with which to live.*

1. Who is telling this story? *Tia Isa’s niece*.
2. The niece does not have a job, but she can work. She is a valuable human resource. And there are things she can do that people will pay her for doing. What work does she do to earn money?

*She stacks oranges at the grocery, gives a neighbor’s cats milk, and she teaches the librarian to speak Spanish.*

1. Where does her niece keep the money she saves? *In a sock*.
2. Where else could she keep her savings? *In a bank or credit union.*
3. And what are the advantages of this?

*It won’t get lost or stolen. Even if something happens, the bank will pay it back.*

1. What does the niece do with the money she earns?

*She saves the money and gives it to Tia Isa to help get the car they both want.*

1. With her niece’s help, Tia Isa gets her car. Is the car perfect or must she make some trade-offs?

*Tia Isa makes trade-offs; the car does not have a radio or air conditioning, but it is a convertible and it can take everyone to the beach.*