

# **Alaia**

# **&**

# **the Bridge of Bizkaia**

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**There once was a girl who had never seen a hanging bridge called the Bridge of Bizkaia, she had heard about it but did not really know what it was. Her name was Alaia (which means *joy* in Basque).**



**Alaia was the joy of the house, her parents loved her and she was always cheerful.**

**That day she was so hoarse that she couldn't speak.**

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**She wanted to ask her parents if she could go to see the Bridge of Bizkaia, as she was curious about what it could be, but she could not speak. Therefore, she thought and thought about how she could communicate this desire to her parents.**



**Although most children can normally speak, they sometimes cry instead of saying what they really want. On this particular day, our little friend Alaia really could not speak.**

**For this reason, on that day she was very sad and her parents did not know why.**



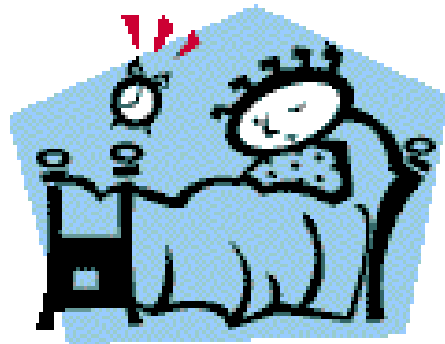
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**She went to bed very tired and when she awoke in the morning, she had an idea about how to make herself understood.**



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**After getting dressed, eating breakfast and brushing her teeth,**



**she started drawing.**

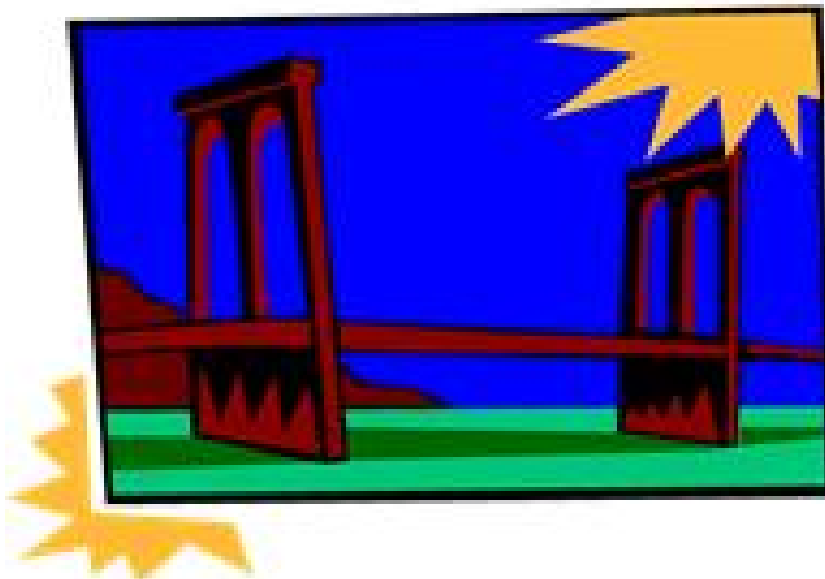
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**She painted a red bridge; below the bridge, she painted a river, two riverbanks lined with houses, and a very bright sun high in a turquoise blue sky.**



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**When she finished, she went to show it to her parents:**



**- What a nice drawing, that bridge is so red!  
Her mother said.**

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**- Where have you seen that bridge? On TV?-  
asked her mother.**



**Alaia gave her mother a thumbs-down:**



- **Did you dream about it? – asked her mother again.**



**Alaia used her hand again in reply:**



**- Have you seen it in a book? – asked her daddy.**



**Again the same answer:**



- Did you hear about it in school?



Alaia again signed with her hand:



**The girl was waiting, waiting for them to understand. Her mother noticed a twinkle in the eyes of Alaia and so her mother kept asking:**

**- Is it a special bridge?**



**- Is it a big bridge?**



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- **Does this bridge carry a hanging basket to transport people and cars?**



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## - Is the Bridge of Bizkaia?



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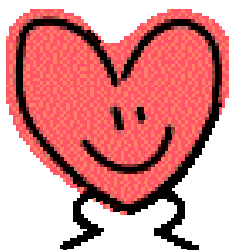
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**Our little friend Alaiia began to jump for joy and kissed her parents.**



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- **Well, as today is Sunday we can go together - said her father.**



**They picked up their camera and went to spend the day at the Bridge of Bizkaia.**