Two Words for the Moon



One bright shape, two familiar names.

A short story to enjoy together

Two Words for the Moon

Ines was visiting Grandma when the moon appeared above the roofs. It was a thin silver curve in the evening sky.

"Look, the moon!" Ines said.

"La luna," Grandma said softly.

Ines tried the words. "La luna."

They felt different in her mouth, round and gentle.

"Does it have two names?" she asked.

"In English, we say moon. In Spanish, we say luna. People have many words for it in different languages."

Ines looked out again. The bright curve had not changed.

"It is still the same moon."

Grandma nodded.

They found a sheet of dark blue paper. Ines drew the crescent with a pale crayon. Grandma wrote one word beneath it. Ines carefully copied the other beside it.

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Then Ines drew two windows. One was Grandma's window, with a plant on the sill. The other was her own window, with the little star sticker in the corner.

"Both windows can look at it," she said.

After dinner, Mum came to take Ines home. Ines showed her the picture and taught her the new word.

"Luna," Mum repeated.

On the way home, they stopped beneath a street lamp and looked up. The moon still shone, clear above the rooftops.

At home, Ines placed the drawing beside her bed. She imagined Grandma closing the blue curtains and looking out once more.

Ines raised her hand towards her own window.

"Goodnight, moon. Goodnight, luna."

Two names rested in her quiet room. Outside, one bright moon shone over all the roofs.

THE END

LET'S TALK

Do you know another word for something familiar? Who could help you learn one?

Original story and illustration created with AI assistance. MimoMango, 2026.