

#### 4 Read the text on page 81. Are the statements true or false?

- 1 The man hasn't talked to his wife for a long time.
- 2 He doesn't know what she is doing in Madrid.
- 3 The children have forgotten about their mother.
- 4 The man sends his children to work.
- 5 At the end of the story, the woman comes home.

In a poor district near Lima a young man steps out of his home – a tiny house with a plastic roof. He looks up at the early morning sky. Another day with no sunshine. The weather has been terrible recently. He can't remember the last time he saw the sun. Heavy grey clouds fill the sky and his heart feels cold with sadness. There's no sunshine when she's gone, he thinks. There's only darkness every day. And she hasn't called for so long. He wonders if she's gone for ever. He tries to imagine life without her. What if she stays over there in Madrid cleaning the houses of the rich?

He turns as he hears a noise; one of the children is waking up. They miss her so much. The house just isn't a home without her. Every day they ask him, 'When is Mamá coming home?' And what can he say? One day. Soon, my baby. 'And why isn't she here, Papá?' Why? Because 'they need the money, and there are no jobs, and over there she can earn in a day what you earn here in a month. It isn't easy to feed five hungry children. But it isn't easy for them to live without their mother either.'

He sighs. Time to wake them up and get them ready for school. He knows many people who send their children to work, to wash cars or to beg, but

she has always said that her children must get an education.

But it's hard. He misses her too. He misses her smile, her voice, the songs she sings even when things look black. And he knows she loves him. But why hasn't she called? Perhaps she's forgotten them. Perhaps she's decided to stay there. Perhaps she's found someone else. He feels like crying, but he can't. Not in front of the children.

A dog starts barking. He turns back to the house to start another day.

Suddenly, a ray of sunshine breaks through the clouds and lights up the doorway just as Verónica steps through the door. He feels the warm sun on his back. The little girl has just woken up and is rubbing sleep from her eyes. She looks so like her mother. She yawns and he hears her mother's voice. He hears his name, 'Nacho! Nacho!' Is Verónica speaking? Behind him he hears footsteps. He turns round. The sun is too bright and he can't see clearly. He puts his hand up to his eyes, and then thinks, 'I haven't woken up! I'm still dreaming!' But then Verónica shouts out, 'Mamá!' And he knows that sometimes dreams come true.