

TWO DOORS

MEMO PLASTILINA





GUILLERMO CASTELLANOS is Mexican, with a degree in Design for Graphic Communication from Universidad de Guadalajara, belongs to the first generation of the master's degree in Graphic Narrative in Latin America. He is the author and illustrator of books for the childhood. He specializes in using unconventional materials to illustrate, such as plasticine; thus he signs his work with the name Memo Plastilina.

Memo has illustrated a dozen books in collaboration with Latin American writers. He has published four more titles of his authorship: *Lucy Detective*, *Pijama*, *Huella y Evasaurio*; the latter has a theater adaptation. His illustrations, which have formed part of various children's theater posters in Mexico, have been exhibited in different national museums and collective exhibitions held in Israel and UK. He is a workshop leader in important cultural events, including the Feria Internacional del Libro de Guadalajara.

TWO DOORS

Instituto Nacional Electoral

President Councilor

Lcda. Guadalupe Taddei Zavala

Electoral Councilors

Mtro. Arturo Castillo Loza

Norma Irene De La Cruz Magaña

Dr. Uuc-kib Espadas Ancona

Mtro. José Martín Fernando Faz Mora

Carla Astrid Humphrey Jordan

Mtra. Rita Bell López Vences

Mtro. Jorge Montaña Ventura

Mtra. Dania Paola Ravel Cuevas

Mtro. Jaime Rivera Velázquez

Mtra. Beatriz Claudia Zavala Pérez

Executive Secretary

Dra. Claudia Arlett Espino

Head of Internal Comptrollership Office

Mtro. Víctor Hugo Carvente Contreras

Acting Executive Director of Electoral

Training and Civic Education

Lcda. Iliana Araceli Hernández Gómez

TWO DOORS

First edition in English, 2026

Original title in Spanish: DOS PUERTAS

Text and Illustrations: José Guillermo Castellanos Frías

(Memo Plastilina)

Translator: Varinia del Ángel Muñoz

Copyright © 2026, Instituto Nacional Electoral

Viaducto Tlalpan núm. 100, esquina Periférico Sur,

col. Arenal Tepepan, 14610, Ciudad de México

ISBN complete electronic work in English: 978-607-8870-87-5

ISBN electronic volume in English: 978-607-2604-50-6

Free dissemination. No sale allowed.

TWO DOORS

Memo Plastilina

PRESENTATION

Through literature, the books of the **Árbol** collection of the Instituto Nacional Electoral (INE, National Electoral Institute) aim to bring children and teenagers closer to issues of civic education and democratic values in a simple and fun way, while developing their reading skills at the same time.

This publication is part of the Estrategia Nacional de Cultura Cívica 2017-2023 (National Civic Culture Strategy 2017-2023), which, in its topics, proposes improving our quality of life as a society from the citizens' perspective with rights and duties. In this context, it seeks to encourage the active participation of children in matters of public interest so that from now on, they become an active segment of public life in our country.

Two Doors is part of this collection and is aimed at early childhood. Amanda, the main character, and her mother go for a walk in the park. They meet a beautiful red bird with whom they embark on an adventure in two contrasting spaces: one is lovely, well-cared for and full of life; the other dirty and abandoned. Amanda becomes aware of the situation and looks for a way to reverse it. Approaches to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted in 2015, which contains the Millennium Development Goals in this area, have also been considered. Among them, citizen participation in environmental issues stands out as the most effective way of taking care of natural resources and constructing public policies that lead to committed actions in the area.

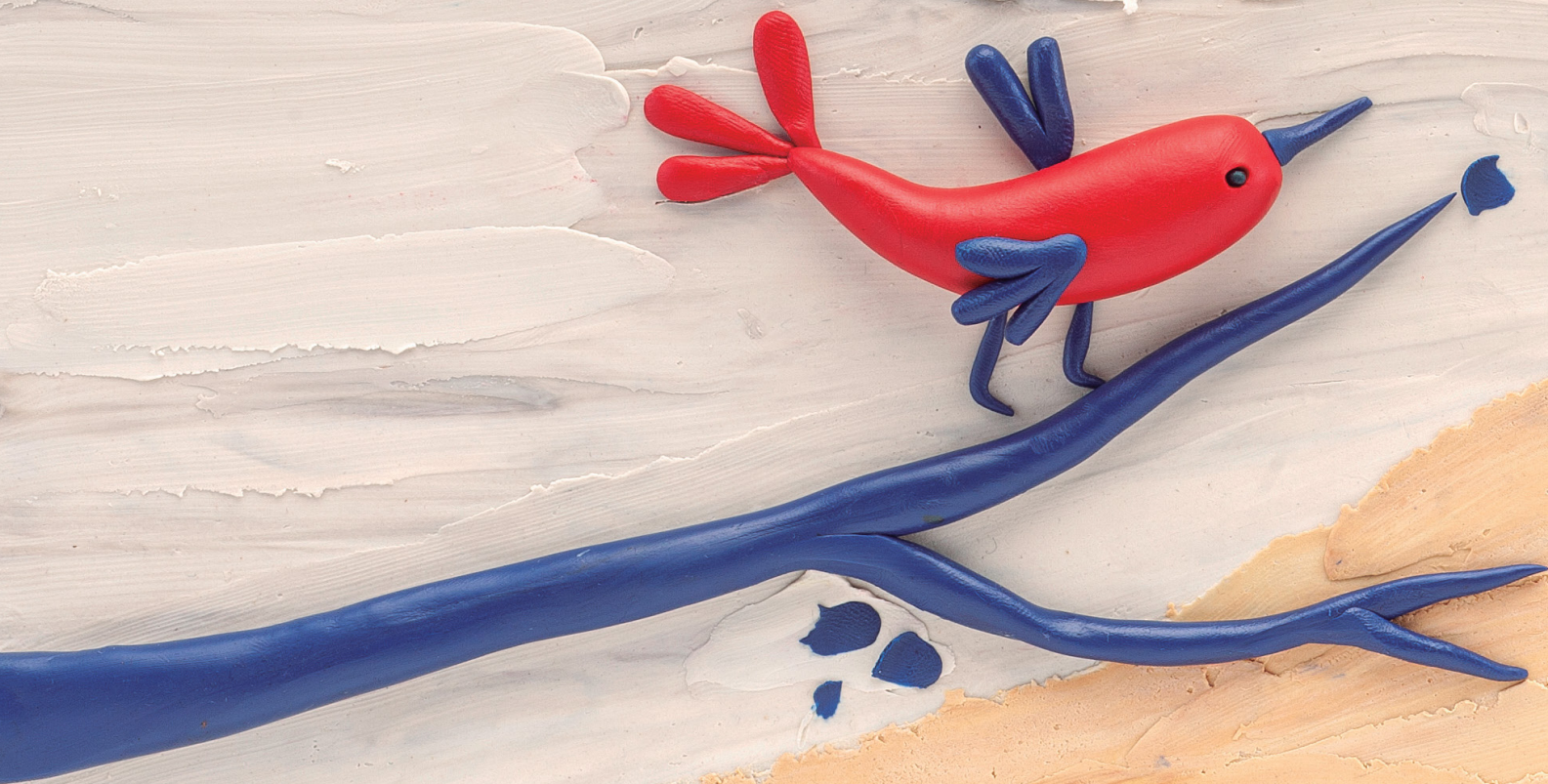
The final pages of the book include the section “To Reflect and Discuss” whose objective is for girls and boys, accompanied by a close adult, to learn the rules and key concepts proposed to undertake actions in their environment, similar to those shown in the story, in search of the common good.

The moment I saw her arrive, I knew it was her.

Amanda didn't want to get out of the car, but her mom convinced her by telling her that the park had been her favorite as a child. Walking along the path, they were surprised to see that everything was dry and neglected.

It definitely wasn't a place where anyone would want to play.

Amanda wanted to go home, so I had to do something to get her attention. I stood on a branch and shook my bright red feathers.





“Look, Mom!” she said, pointing at me and running towards me. I flew slowly, from place to place, so that they could follow me.

I took them to the other side of the park, and we crossed the old lake, which now looked like a dumpster. They were very excited when they saw my tree; it was alive and home to many insects and animals.

“Welcome home,” I said as I settled onto my favorite branch.

When Amanda likes something a lot, she jumps and runs excitedly. She hugged my tree, even though her small arms couldn't reach around the trunk. At that moment, she noticed two small doors in the bark. They were so tiny that only insects and small birds would pass through them.







“Where do these doors lead?” She asked me while trying to open one of them.

“They are for traveling,” I answered, “but you can only choose one.”

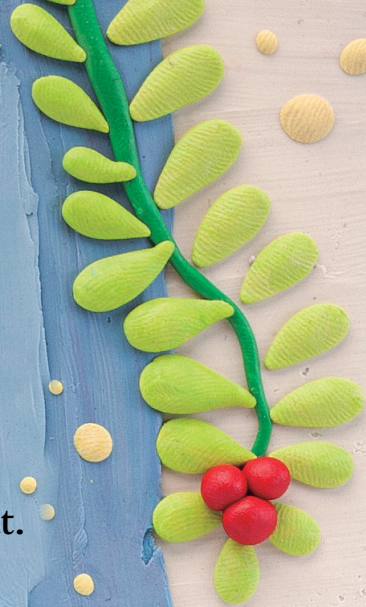
“I wanna go!”, she cried impatiently, “do they take you far?” she asked me while looking at her mom, as if asking permission to go.

“Choose one and you’ll know,” I told them.

Amanda and her mother looked at each other. Without hesitation, they chose the door on the right. A gentle wind surprised their faces as they opened it, and the blue sky peeked out from within.

I flew to a tree branch, where some small red fruits hung. I cut some fruits and put them in their hands.

“Eat them if you want to go through the door,” I pointed out.






Right after eating the fruit, they became birds. I had already guessed that Amanda would be orange, and her mother, a beautiful bird with green and blue feathers. They jumped through the door and began the journey.



Amanda flew so well! It seemed that she had been born to do it. Her mother, by contrast, struggled a bit to understand how she had to ride the wind to propel herself.



They had chosen well. The landscapes we visited were breathtaking. There were animals, insects, plants, and humans. Everyone was happy and offered the world their best qualities. It was like a birthday party for everyone; each one had their place of honor. Amanda and her mother wanted to stay, but I explained we couldn't. We flew back. When they crossed through my tree's door, they were no longer birds.

“The trip was like a dream!” they both said as they hugged and laughed. I noticed that Amanda kept looking at the other door, the one that had remained closed. Surely she felt a great curiosity.

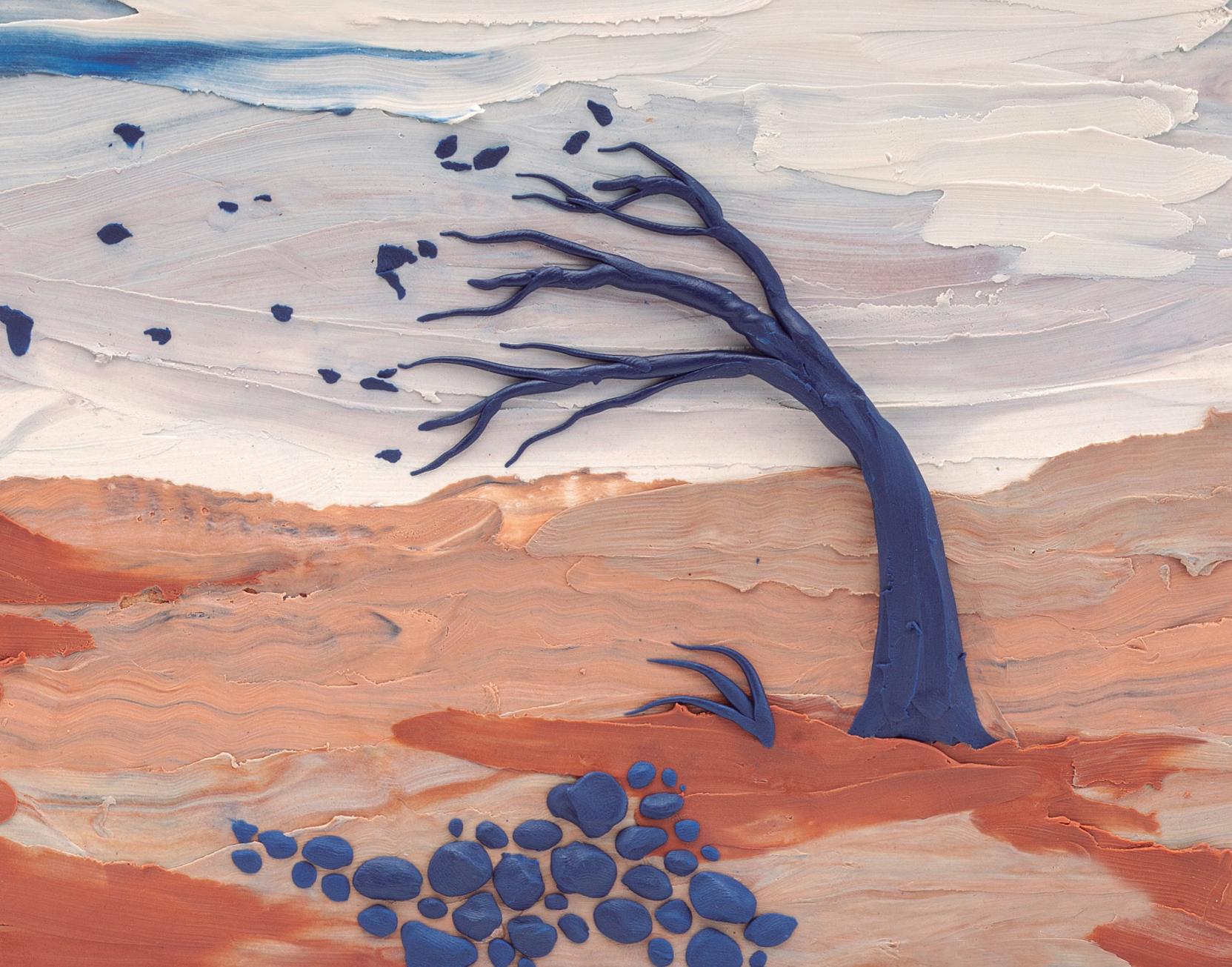




While her mother and I were distracted talking, Amanda opened the second door. We barely caught a glimpse of the bird with orange wings going through it. On the floor, there was a bitten red fruit.

I can only imagine how Amanda felt when she saw the landscapes behind the second door. They were not pretty: gray colors, dust that doesn't let you see, intense heat, and the feeling of shortness of breath. It is tough to fly there, and there is no place to stop and rest.

I hurriedly went in to look for Amanda. It wasn't easy to find her, but I heard her screams as a stream of hot air pushed her away. I flew up to her and spread my wings to protect her. Then, I used all my might to fly back to the door. Her mother received us. The girl was scared.

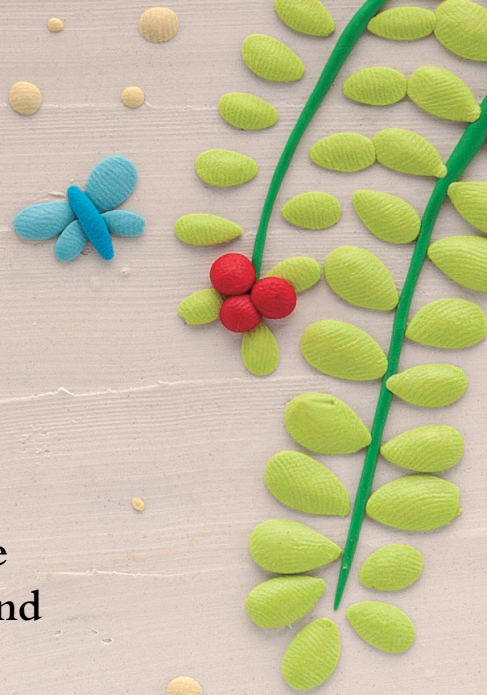


“I'll never go back to that place!” cried Amanda.
“It's ugly, and I don't like it. I will always choose
the other door!”

“You failed to recognize it,” I said as I approached
her. “What lies behind both doors is the same place.
The difference between them is that humans who live
behind the first door love the place where they live and
have taken care of it. They respect all living things.”

“And what happened to the other place?” Amanda's
mother asked.

“What you can see there is what would happen if
people forget they must take care of their world and all
the beings with whom they share it,” I explained. “The
humans of this place see themselves as owners of the land.
They want to put everything for sale, wrap it in containers, and they
don't take responsibility for the garbage. They dirty the water and
the air. Animals and plants cannot live in such a place.”



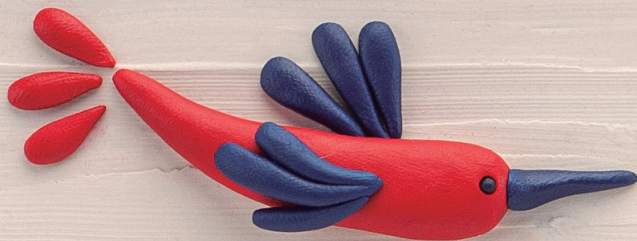




Amanda looked around and realized that my tree, the two-door tree, had disappeared. Neither she nor her mother were alarmed; they knew what to do. Holding hands, they walked towards the car. It took them a few days to return to the park.

The moment I saw her arrive, I knew it was her.





Amanda got out of the car in a rush. She was wearing orange overalls. Her mother opened the trunk, and the two of them carried a sapling. They walked to the other side of the park and crossed the old lake. They got pretty excited when they arrived at the place where they had seen my tree during their last visit. They dug a hole in the ground and planted the sapling there. Amanda danced around it while her mother watered it.





I flew and stood on a twig of the new tree. I shook my bright red feathers and began to sing.

That day was like a party. Amanda's school friends arrived, all accompanied by their parents. She had told them the story of the park and the plan she and her mother had devised to beautify it. They had visited the neighborhood park manager, who gave them seeds and beautiful plants. He sent people to place trash containers around the park and promised to be more vigilant of the gardens.



Many people liked the idea and wanted to participate as well. They got more saplings to plant and bags to pick up the trash. I watched them, my heart swelling with joy. I was finally at peace, knowing that the park was in good hands and would soon become a favorite of Amanda and many families, who would take care of it, enjoy it, play there, and coexist with nature.



TO REFLECT AND DISCUSS



Community Participation in the Care of Public Spaces to Prevent Their Pollution

Article 4 of the Constitución Política de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos (Political Constitution of the United Mexican States) guarantees the right of every person to live in an environment that is adequate for their development, health, and well-being.

As citizens, we are responsible for involving children, from their first years of life, in raising awareness about the challenges environmental care. Thus, they can be part of the efforts to improve their quality of life, both now and in the future.

This work combines the language of words and images so that families can enjoy a fun story while considering the care of the environment as a matter of citizen participation in which, regardless of our age, we can contribute with simple yet crucial actions for our country and the world.

In this section, we collect the most critical concepts addressed in the story of *Two Doors* to identify them at different times in the narrative.

The young protagonist, accompanied by her mother and a beautiful bird, has an adventure in two contrasting spaces: a beautiful one, full of life; and another one, dirty and abandoned.

Amanda didn't want to get out of the car, but her mom convinced her by telling her that the park had been her favorite as a child. Walking along the path, they were surprised to see that everything was dry and neglected.

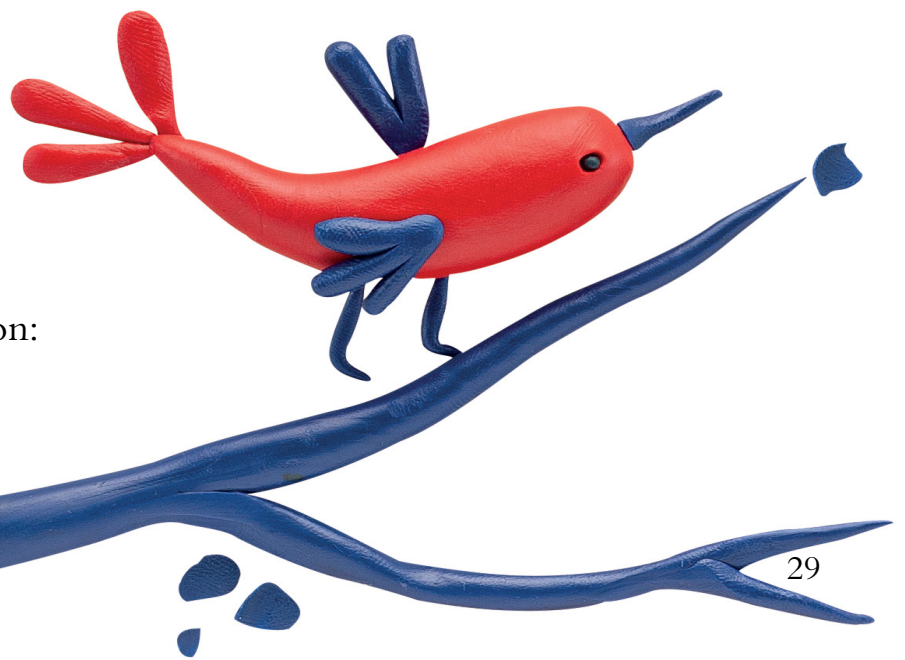
It definitely wasn't a place where anyone would want to play.

[...] I can only imagine how Amanda felt when she saw the landscapes behind the second door. They were not beautiful: gray colors, dust that doesn't let you see, intense

heat, and the feeling of shortness of breath. It is tough to fly there, and there is no place to stop and rest.

There are several laws in Mexico, such as the Ley General del Equilibrio Ecológico y la Protección al Ambiente (General Law on Ecological Balance and Environmental Protection), Ley de Aguas Nacionales (Law of National Waters), Ley General de Desarrollo Forestal Sustentable (General Law on Sustainable Forest Development), Ley General de Vida Silvestre (General Law of Wildlife), Ley de Desarrollo Rural Sustentable (Law of Sustainable Rural Development), Ley General para la Prevención y Gestión Integral de Residuos (General Law for the Prevention and Comprehensive Management of Waste), Ley de Bioseguridad de Organismos Genéticamente Modificados (Genetically Modified Organism Biosafety Law), Ley de Productos Orgánicos (Law of Organic Products), Ley General de Pesca y Acuicultura Sustentables (General Law on Sustainable Fishing and Aquaculture), Ley de Promoción y Desarrollo de los Bioenergéticos (Law of Promotion and Development of Bioenergetics), Ley Federal de Responsabilidad Ambiental (Federal Law of Environmental Responsibility) and Ley General de Cambio Climático (General Law of Climate Change), each one with its regulations.

In the story of *Two Doors*, the red bird mentions the carelessness of people who generate environmental degradation:

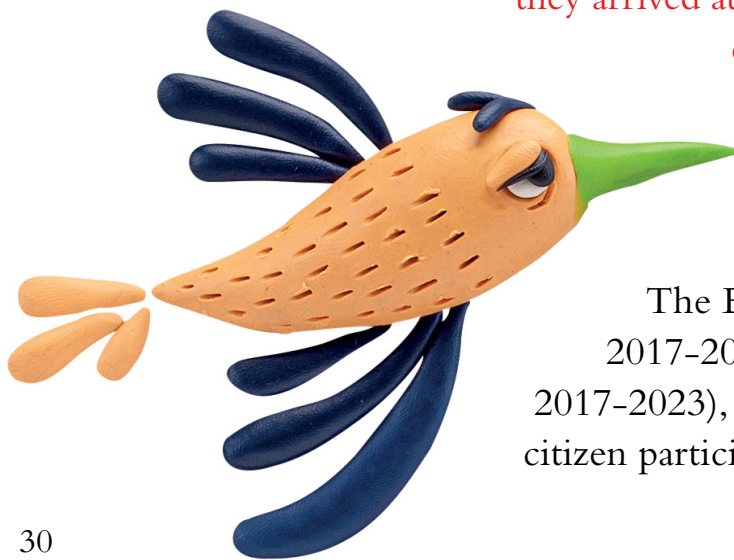


“What you can see there is what would happen if people forget they must take care of their world and all the beings with whom they share it,”

I explained. “The humans in this place see themselves as owners of the land. They want to put everything for sale, wrap it in containers, and they don't take responsibility for the garbage. They dirty the water and the air. Animals and plants cannot live in such a place.”

In addition, a large number of nations around the world have undertaken various actions in this regard, such as the first United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm in 1972 or the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes 17 goals and 169 targets, approved by all countries in 2015. However, there is evidence that there hasn't been enough progress. Principle 10 of the 1992 Rio Declaration states, “Environmental issues are best handled with the participation of all concerned citizens, at the appropriate level...”

Amanda got out of the car in a rush. She was wearing orange overalls. Her mother opened the trunk, and the two of them carried a sapling. They walked to the other side of the park and crossed the old lake. They got pretty excited when they arrived at the place where they had seen my tree during their last visit. They dug a hole in the ground and planted the sapling there. Amanda danced around it while her mother watered it.



The Estrategia Nacional de Cultura Cívica 2017-2023 (National Civic Culture Strategy 2017-2023), in its different sections, emphasizes citizen participation and empowerment, the

importance of having reliable information for decision-making, the value of citizen action in problem-solving, and in the synergy among organizations to achieve better results.

That day was like a party. Amanda's school friends arrived, and their parents were with them. She had told them the story of the park and the plan she and her mother had devised to beautify it. They had visited the neighborhood park manager, who gave them seeds and beautiful plants. He sent people to place trash containers and promised to be more vigilant of the gardens.

Many people liked the idea and wanted to participate as well. They got more saplings to plant and bags to pick up the trash.

We hope that children and their relatives, or other adults close to them, enjoy reading this book and, at the same time, reflect together on the risks involved in environmental deterioration. Even though we are protected by different laws and can turn to public institutions that are in charge of taking care of public spaces, we must bear in mind that in our daily lives, through simple actions, we can do our share, achieving great benefits for our health and the well-being of our community.





TWO DOORS

The Bembo Std, Italic and Semibold font families were used.





Two Doors invites children to enjoy a beautiful story and reflect on the importance of environmental care. It shows that citizen participation, regardless of age, can contribute to this critical challenge and thus improve their quality of life.

Amanda and her mom take a walk in a park. There, they meet a beautiful red bird. Together, they embark on an adventure in two spaces: one beautiful and well-cared for and full of life; the other, dirty, in total abandonment.

Although this work, which is part of the **Árbol** collection, is intended for children, it includes in the final pages a section for adults to talk with girls and boys about the essential concepts addressed in the narration.