

# Chef Overcomes Challenge to Open Restaurant

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Chef Laura Martinez is just 31-years-old, but she is living her lifelong dream. She has her own restaurant called *La Diosa*. In Spanish, this means “the goddess.” It is a small and cozy spot, but you can get tasty dishes there. It is open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. You are likely thinking that Laura’s tale of success is fantastic, but not uncommon. Well, there is one big fact that makes Laura’s story quite amazing and distinct: Laura is blind. She lost her sight when she was just a child.

Blindness has not gotten in Laura’s way. She went to college to earn a degree. She did not like the food there one bit. At home, Laura ate her mom’s homemade cooking. The food at college was odd and she did not want it. Laura became sensitive to different smells and tastes at this time. The disgusting college food made Laura want to go to school to be a chef. Laura wanted to find out if there were other blind chefs, but she did not find any. She was interested in becoming the first blind chef, but it was a difficult path to take. No one wanted to let her into chef school and during an internship, her boss was not kind or helpful.

Laura did not let anyone stop her and she kept working. The late Charlie Trotter, who was a bigtime chef, visited Laura to watch her work. He tasted her cooking and stated that it was fantastic. He gave Laura her first job and she worked there until 2012. After that, she did not get a lot of job offers, so Laura wanted to open her own hotspot. She had a business advisor to help her, but she picked the name and all the menu items.

So what can you get at *La Diosa*? Laura describes it as Mexican comfort food with a French twist. Some of the tasty dishes include omelets and something called tartizzas. Tartizzas are something Laura made up. They are kind of like a pizza, with a flaky crust and Laura's secret sauce.

When people spot Laura at the restaurant, they are in shock. Restaurant kitchens are hectic. Even people who are not blind have a difficult time walking in them. So the fact that Laura is blind and cooking and running the business is amazing.

If you are ever in Chicago, or if you live nearby, Laura will be sure to welcome you for a visit. She hopes, that you will be able to focus on the food and not her blindness. With a tasty menu like Laura's, that will not be difficult!

# Teacher Resources

This text passage is archived under People.

## Text Easability Scores

If you would like to measure the text easability scores of this passage, please follow the directions below.

1. Visit the Coh-Metrix Text Easability Assessor website at <http://tea.cohmetrix.com/>. If you do not already have a login and password, create one. It is free and easy to sign up for access to the website.
2. Once you have created an account and sign in, you will be taken to a page with an empty, white text box. Copy and paste the text from this passage into the empty, white text box. Make sure you are only copying and pasting the body of the passage. Do not include the title, date, or any of the resources present in the passage.
3. When you have pasted the passage into the text box, click on the red button beneath the text box that says "Analyze." There will be a short delay and after a few seconds, you will see a bar graph appear to the right of the screen.
4. The bar graph will give you the percentages for several text characteristics including: narrativity, syntactic simplicity, word concreteness, referential cohesion, and deep cohesion.
5. Below the bar graph, the Flesch Kincaid Grade Level is also included for your benefit.
6. Lastly, a paragraph is provided that explains the meaning of the measurements of the text characteristics for your particular passage.
7. Once you have completed measuring your passage, you can click on the "Clear" button below the text box and measure another passage, if you so wish.