



Melody Zúñiga Alfaro

Melody is 9 years old (born 5 Jul 02). She is in the 5th grade, and is a good, responsible student. She is helpful around the house as well, doing chores like making her own bed and sweeping the floors. She is a cheerful, communicative girl who likes to paint and to sing, and is in good health.

Melody's father works as a clerk in a store for minimum wage. He works from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. six days a week, and even has to work 2 Sundays every month. For all this, they pay him 675 soles (approximately \$250) a month. Melody's mother has gone temporarily to Chile to find work as a domestic employee.

Melody and her father live with his mother (her grandmother) while Melody's mother is out of the country. The house is constructed with walls of "sillar" (soft volcanic stone), a corrugated metal roof and a rough cement floor. They do have electricity, water and sewer service. They cook over a gas burner.