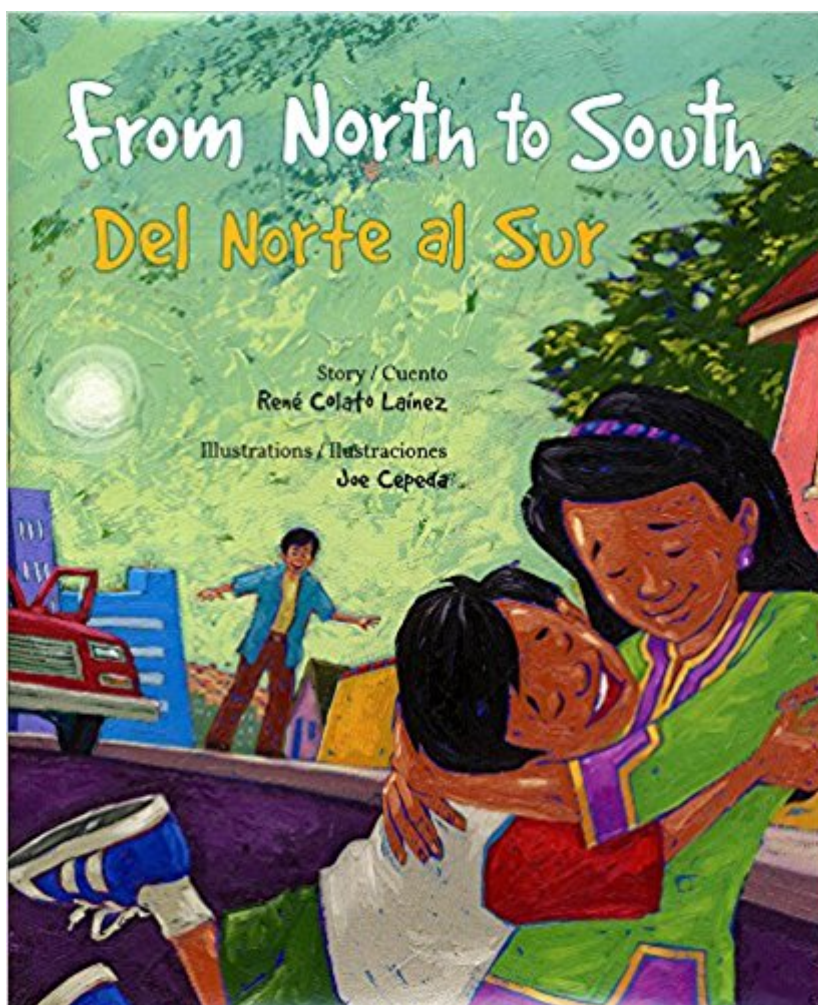


The book was found

From North To South / Del Norte Al Sur



Synopsis

Near the border, the cars began to move very slowly. Papá, go fast. I want to see Mamá, I said. José loves helping Mamá in the garden outside their home in California. But when Mamá is sent back to Mexico for not having proper papers, José and his Papá face an uncertain future. What will it be like to visit Mamá in Tijuana? When will Mamá be able to come home? Award-winning children's book author René Colato LaJez tackles the difficult and timely subject of family separation with exquisite tenderness. René is donating a portion of his royalties to El Centro Madre Assunta, a refuge for women and children who are waiting to be reunited with their families up north. Joe Cepeda's bright and engaging illustrations bring this story of hope to vivid life.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 640 (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Children's Book Press; Bilingual edition (April 1, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0892393041

ISBN-13: 978-0892393046

Product Dimensions: 8.1 x 0.2 x 10.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #103,427 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #121 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Hispanic & Latino #223 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Foreign Language Learning > Spanish #232 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Fiction

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

Customer Reviews

René Colato LaJez was born in El Salvador. He is an award-winning author who holds an MFA in Writing for Children from the Vermont College of Fine Arts. Críticas has called René's characters "immigrant heroes." He currently lives in Los Angeles, California.

Really culturally-relevant book for teachers. Good book to teach about complex character feelings.

Great book

As an elementary school counselor who has had many students with parents facing deportation, I was very excited for this book. It's execution has left me a little bummed though. Pros: Beautiful illustrations, text is also in Spanish, normalizes/removes the stigma from this scary situation. Cons: The child gets to go visit his mom!!! Perhaps in TX or CA this is more common, but in my experience, the most my students can hope for is some FaceTime or a phone call. For me, this makes the book less of a candidate for bibliotherapy because while the first part is relatable, it just doesn't feel realistic and could bring some false hope. It also doesn't delve into the emotional and social experience the main character faces either which was a bummer.

Read the other reviews to learn what this book is about. I want to use my space to share with you the experience my five year old granddaughter had when I read this book to her. She was ready to go outside and play when she saw me reading this book and being the curious child she is, she asked what it was about, grandma you look so sad, what is this book about? Between pages I had to stop because of my crying I could not control. My sweet granddaughter took over and read during my weeping. She had so many questions. I explained her grandpa's green card and how her great grandpa had worked in Los Angeles until he could bring his wife and children across the border legally. Finally satisfied with all of my responses to her many questions, she wrote a letter to President Obama asking for his attention to this matter and for the support of his wife because grandma, "how could anyone not want my grandpa to live here?".

This picture book was written by an elementary school teacher in Los Angeles who learned that the parents of some of his students had been deported. This painful situation led to the creation of the character of Jose, whose mother has been deported. Although the situation is sad, the book still manages to strike a positive note. The story opens with Jose excited about driving with his father from San Diego to visit his mother in Tijuana, where she is staying at El Centro Madre Assunta, a shelter for recently deported women. Jose and his father bring clothes, photographs, and drawings for his mother. Jose helps his mother in the garden, and promises to take care of the garden at home until she is able to return. In addition to teaching kids about immigration issues, this gentle story depicts the love of a son and mother under trying circumstances. The text is in English and Spanish. I have included this book in my online Gender Equality Bookstore.

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