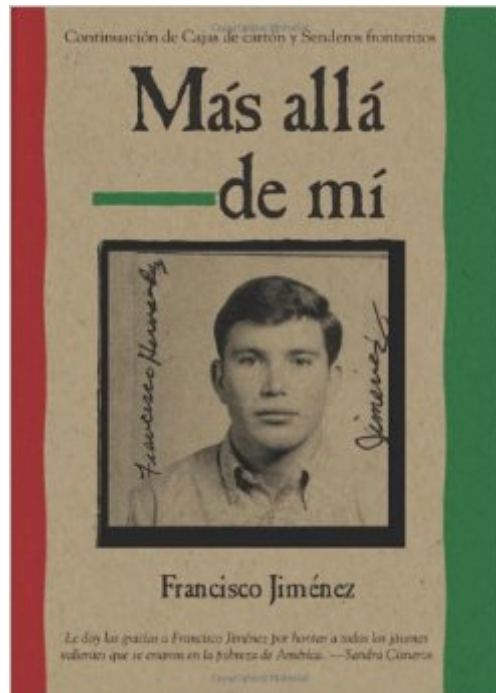


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# Mas Alla De Mi Reaching Out Spanish Edition



## Synopsis

From the perspective of the young adult he once was, Francisco Jimenez describes the challenges he faces when continuing his education. During his college years, the very family solidarity that allows Francisco to survive as a child is tested. Not only must he leave his family when he goes to Santa Clara University, but while Francisco is there, his father abandons the family and returns to Mexico. This is the story of how Francisco copes with poverty, with his guilt over leaving his family financially strapped, with his self-doubt about succeeding academically, and with separation. Once again, his telling is honest and true and inspiring.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 910 (What's this?)

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; 1 edition (September 7, 2009)

Language: Spanish

ISBN-10: 0547250312

ISBN-13: 978-0547250311

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.6 x 7 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars See all reviews (28 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #105,384 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #8 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Emigration & Immigration #9 in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Biographical > United States #14 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Homelessness & Poverty

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

I have read all three of the professor's books in their Spanish-language versions, and I have read each several times. As someone trying to learn Spanish, I find these books to be most useful. The vocabulary is practical, consisting of everyday words; the style and narrative are direct; the ideas and sentiments comprehensible and familiar. This book is a continuation of an autobiography that begins with the professor's previous book -- *Senderos fronterizos*. In that book, Professor Jimenez describes his family's illegal entry into the U.S. and the difficult years of poverty in California, where his family labored as agricultural workers. In *Senderos*, we watch the family struggle to make ends

meet. We watch Francisco and his older brother Roberto struggle to put themselves through high school. It's the sort of immigrant story that every American can understand and enjoy. Francisco and his siblings adapt to their new environment (while the father does not), and Francisco wins admission to university. In this second volume of the story, Francisco leaves his family in Santa Maria and goes to college. The reader admires Francisco's love of family and determination to educate himself. I can't believe that he didn't kiss Laura before he put her on the train to San Carlos. Maybe he did and just won't tell us. I suspect that we might see a third installment to this story. If the professor writes it, I will certainly buy and read it. At the moment, I am rereading *Más allá*, looking up all the words that I didn't know and let pass on the first reading. As a resident of the San Francisco Bay Area, I derive an added pleasure from reading this book -- that of recognizing many of the places described in the story. A very pleasurable read. Highly recommended for intermediate learners. All right, here it is on page 210: "Me estiré y le di un beso. Oímos el silbido del tren." So Laura gets her kiss, after all. Now I'm happy.

I've found all three books in this series good for learning Spanish. The stories are engaging. The vocabulary is "Goldilocks" not too hard, not too easy, just right. For me, about 500 new words a book. Means some pages I could make it through fairly easily, others were harder, but none were impossible. Not too many idioms. I read the books on an iPad with the Collins dictionary app. Simply highlight any words you don't know, then copy the definition into the notes for later review. Then I use a flashcard program to practice the words. Also, make friends with some native speakers so when you run across an idiom you can figure it out. Helps to eat lots of Mexican food as well!

This is the 3rd book in a series about the true life of the author which starts after high school graduation. The first book started out with the author as a young boy. He and his family face incredible challenges in life's struggles through poverty, hunger, weather extremes, finding shelter, education, bullies, immigration, work ethics, and faith in God. After reading the first book, the students in my Spanish class all wanted to continue reading the next 2 books. Francisco Jimenez shares his family's stories about overcoming more than their share of negative situations. His life growing up was blessed because he had a mother who believed in him and encouraged him, but even with that positive influence, his life is a real miracle about overcoming odds stacked against him.

I read this series of 3 in my adult Spanish class. You will be so blessed by reading these 3 books in

order: 1) Cajas de carton, 2) Senderos fronterizos, & 3) Más allá de mi. They are all heart-warming and gut-wrenching. You will realize that your problems don't amount to much if you compare yourself with this family and what they endured. As a young child, Francisco Jimenez, who couldn't even speak any English, ends up with a college education, eventually receiving a PhD, and then even wrote books in English. What a miracle story this is.

I liked the book and the author's ability to clearly explain the difficulties of assimilating into another culture and appreciated the fact that he realized the only way his life in a new country would be satisfactory was if he did assimilate. He managed to do that and still maintain a love of his own culture. It is a good course book. Would not be on my top list for entertainment reading

This book, a finalization of the trilogy, leaves one feeling inspired, hopefully and in awe of the difficulties that were overcome. Was lucky enough to meet the author and his wife when they came to Hood River as part of Hood River reads. This is one truly awesome person. Wish he would write more.

Francisco Jimenez entered the United States as a youngster with his parents who were seeking a better life for the family. They lived in incredible poverty, moving around California, picking agricultural crops. Francisco did not get to go to school until the end of the season each year, often November. His persistence and hard work offered him the opportunity to rise out of poverty to get an education, help his family, and focus on the problems of farm worker conditions.

Reading it in an informal Spanish conversation class. Enjoying the book, the discussions and learning lots of new words. This is one of a trilogy, but I just got into it in this book. Definitely worth a read in English or Spanish.

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