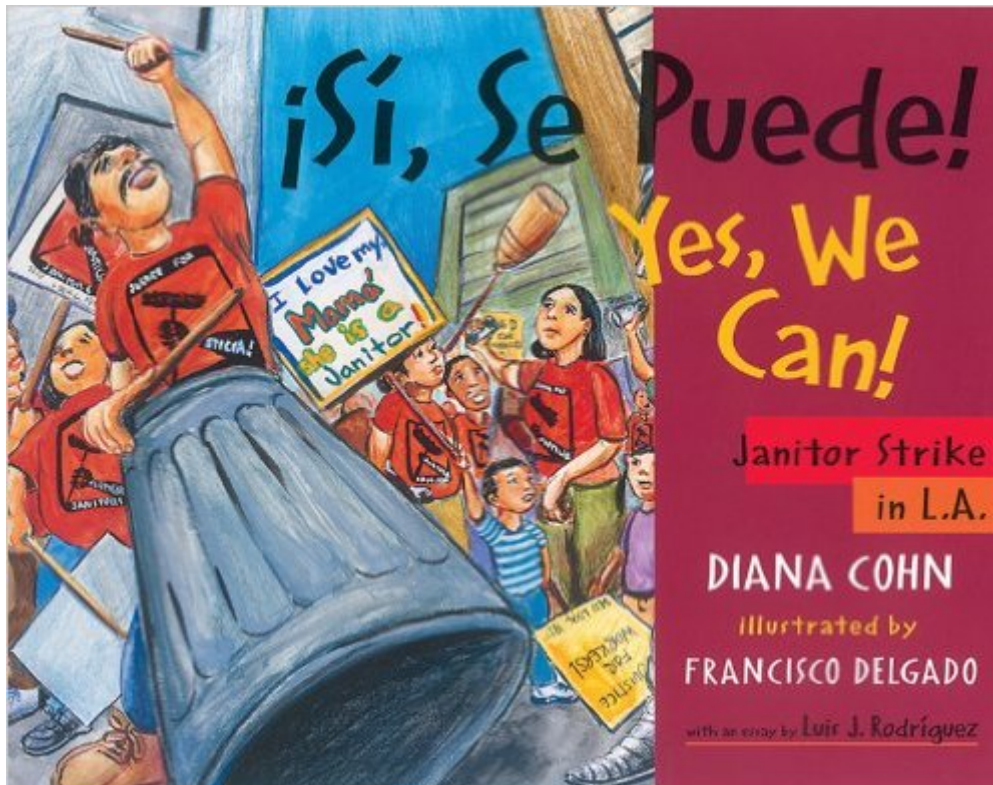


The book was found

ÂiSi, Se Puede! / Yes, We Can!: Janitor Strike In L.A. (English And Spanish Edition)



Synopsis

¡Sí, Se Puede! / Yes, We Can! is a bilingual fictional story set against the backdrop of the successful janitors' strike in Los Angeles in 2000. It tells about Carlitos, whose mother is a janitor. Every night, he sleeps while his mother cleans in one of the skyscrapers in downtown L.A. When she comes home, she waves Carlitos off to school before she goes to sleep. One night, his mamá explains that she can't make enough money to support him and his abuelita the way they need unless she makes more money as a janitor. She and the other janitors have decided to go on strike. How will Carlitos support his mother? Carlitos wants to help but he cannot think of a way until his teacher, Miss Lopez, explains in class how her own grandfather had fought for better wages for farmworkers when he first came to the United States. He and the other children in his class join the marchers with a very special sign for his mom! ¡Sí, Se Puede! is a Jane Addams Peace Award Honor Book, a Skipping Stones Honor Book, as well as a selection for The Best of Beyond Difference, a recommended list of the top 10 diversity books published in 2002. Diana Cohn, the author, is a social activist. As an elementary teacher, she discovered there were few books for children that discussed social issues, so she began to write as an avocation. She now works as Program Director for the Solidago Foundation, a foundation that supports communities working for economic and environmental justice. She lives on a houseboat in Sausalito, California. Francisco Delgado, the illustrator, grew up in Juárez, Chihuahua, but completed high school in El Paso, Texas. He will receive his MFA at Yale in Painting, Drawing, and Printmaking in May 2002. Francisco is becoming known nationally for his political paintings that satirize U.S. icons blind to the mestizo and immigrant communities of Mexico. He lives in New Haven, Connecticut. Luis J. Rodríguez (Always Running) adds the afterword and a poem.

Book Information

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Cinco Puntos Press; Bilingual edition (January 1, 2005)

Language: English, Spanish

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Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.1 x 11 inches

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Age Range: 5 - 7 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 2

Customer Reviews

There are frighteningly few picture books out there that truly celebrate the contemporary working class. Oh, you'll find tons of them willing to talk if the stories take place in the past. But shine the spotlight on today's janitors, hotel workers, and Walmart employees and watch that number of books evaporate like mirages in the sun. Now find picture books in which the child's parents are business people. There are TONS of them (usually because they belong to the garden variety mommy-and-daddy-please-don't-go-to-work camp). For this reason and this reason alone, "Si, Se Puede", was filling a very great need. In discussing not only the Justice For Janitors Campaign of 2000 but also the need for strong unions in America today, the book is both informative and interesting. It joins such equally important unionization children's books as "Harvesting Hope" and "Bud Not Buddy". What makes it remarkable, however, is the fact that it's taking place today. Carlitos loves his mother, but he feels bad for her. Every night she tucks him into bed, then trudges downtown to mop up the glass office buildings downtown. The job isn't bad, but Mama doesn't get paid much and can't afford to spend more time with her family. She even has to take on extra jobs on the week-ends. It isn't too surprising to Carlitos then when she informs him that she's going to join other janitors around town in a massive Los Angeles strike. The strike is well-coordinated and the people in the community are supportive. Little Carlitos wonders what he could possibly do to support his mother. The answer comes in the form of a painted sign reading, "I Love My Mama. She Is A Janitor!". This display of pride joins others and, in the end, the strikers win a living wage and Mama is available to take Carlitos to the park on week-ends.

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