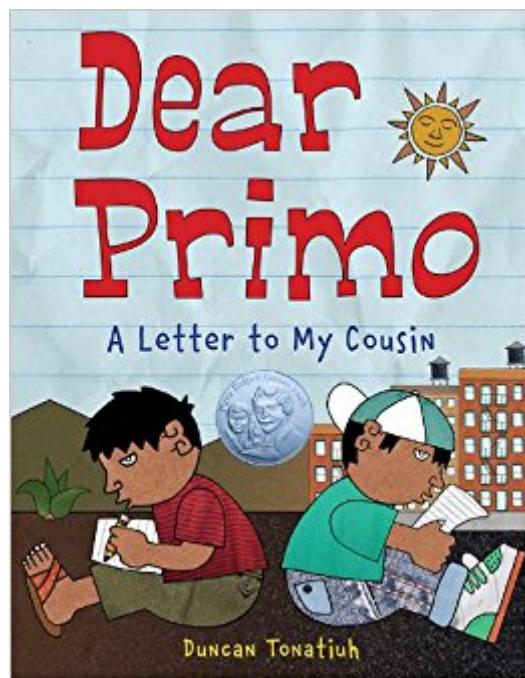


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# Dear Primo: A Letter To My Cousin



## Synopsis

From first-time Mexican author and illustrator Duncan Tonatiuh comes the story of two cousins, one in America and one in Mexico, and how their daily lives are different yet similar. Charlie takes the subway to school; Carlitos rides his bike. Charlie plays in fallen leaves; Carlitos plays among the local cacti. Dear Primo covers the sights, sounds, smells, and tastes of two very different childhoods, while also emphasizing how alike Charlie and Carlitos are at heart. Spanish words are scattered among the English text, providing a wonderful way to introduce the language and culture of Mexico to young children. Inspired by the ancient art of the Mixtecs and other cultures of Mexico, Tonatiuh incorporates their stylized forms into his own artwork. F&P Level: K-2 MF&P Genre: RF

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 610L (What's this?)

Series: AWARDS: ALA: Youth Media Award Winners 2011

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Harry N. Abrams (March 1, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0810938723

ISBN-13: 978-0810938724

Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.5 x 11.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 22 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #39,509 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #49 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Hispanic & Latino #55 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Where We Live > City Life #1522 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life

Age Range: 5 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

Kindergarten-Grade 3 "Tonatiuh compares and contrasts the daily lives of two cousins, or primos. Charlie is American, and Carlitos is Mexican. Charlie enjoys a slice of pizza after school, while Carlitos helps his mother make quesadillas. Charlie cools off in an open fire hydrant, while Carlitos jumps into a small rio. The writing is simple yet peppered with imagery that enhances it significantly: "Skyscrapers are buildings so tall they tickle the clouds" or "The subway is like a long metal snake

and it travels through tunnels underground." Twenty-seven Spanish words are sprinkled throughout the text, easily understood from the context and explained in a glossary. Tonatiuh's hand-drawn, then digitally colored and collaged illustrations were influenced by the art of the Mixtecs, one of the major civilizations of Mesoamerica. While the pictures are attractive and carefully composed, one small problem might be that all the faces, young or old, male or female, are identical—only their hairstyles change, and at no time do any of the characters make eye contact. This accurately reflects Mixtec tradition, but may be a bit disconcerting for children unless put into context.

Otherwise, this is an excellent tool for explaining how cultures connect. "Grace Oliff, Ann Blanche Smith School, Hillsdale, NJ Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

This spin on the traditional tale of a city mouse and a country mouse explores the lives of Charlie, in urban America, and his cousin Carlitos, who lives in Mexico's countryside. As the two boys write snail-mail back and forth, they describe their respective homes (an apartment for Charlie, a farm for Carlitos), methods of transportation, favorite sports, food, and cultural traditions. The alternating letters are printed in distinct fonts, and Carlitos' messages integrate Spanish words, which are then helpfully duplicated next to a corresponding image and included with pronunciations in the appended glossary. The digitally enhanced collage illustrations are based on traditional Mixtec art, and show the characters posed in profile in simply composed scenes. This useful method of comparing and contrasting can serve as a fine general introduction to contemporary rural life in Mexico, while it also demonstrates the fun of having a pen pal and reinforces the sense that kids around the world are more alike than different. Grades 1-3. --Andrew Medlar

Very nice story that can relate to a lot of children of immigrant's parents and all others who have relatives in other countries. Remove the psychology piece about the illustrations not making eye contact and it's a very attractive book for children. Eye contact? Who thinks these things up? Spanglish books are the best.

Arrived in a timely manner and was as described in product description.

Great book to share with my son who has never met his cousins in Mexico he was very interested

I bought this book twice, for my son then for my nephew. They absolutely love it. I am glad to see a

book that my son gets an opportunity to relate. We also got his Diego Rivera book. Great author and illustrator!

The words are jumbled up on top of each other. It looks like the text field does not expand, so in areas where there are more than 1 sentence, the words squish in to the same space and it is completely unreadable. Now I have to figure out how to return a kindle book for the first time.

What a great book to use in a classroom to teach letter writing, comparing different cultures, and introducing Spanish words.

Book arrived in perfect condition ahead of schedule and my grandson loves the book he has two cousins who live in Mexico so it's a beautiful story for our family situation

I grew up going to Mexico to spend my summers. Such a cute homage to those of us privileged enough to experience dual cultures at such a young age :)

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Dear Primo: A Letter to My Cousin Dear Zoo (Dear Zoo & Friends) Dear Chandler, Dear Scarlett: A Grandfather's Thoughts on Faith, Family, and the Things That Matter Most The Primo Vascular System: Its Role in Cancer and Regeneration Primo Prosecco: 40 Sparkling Wine Cocktails â€“ guaranteed to put the Fizz in your Flute! Easy Piano Pieces With Practice Tips (Wiener Urtext Primo) Primo Levi's Resistance: Rebels and Collaborators in Occupied Italy Hoping to Adopt: How to Create the Ideal Adoption Profile and Dear Birthmother Letter (Guide to a Healthy Adoptive Family, Adoption Parenting, and Open Book 1) Dear Marcus: A Letter to the Man Who Shot Me Dear White America: Letter to a New Minority (City Lights Open Media) Dear White America: Letter to a New Minority Condemned by Progressive Supranuclear Palsy: Virulent Cousin of Parkinson's Disease Our Little Spartan Cousin of Long Ago (Yesterday's Classics) Our Little Athenian Cousin of Long Ago (Yesterday's Classics) Our Little Norman Cousin of Long Ago (Yesterday's Classics) Mail Order Bride: The Groom's Cousin: A Sweet & Inspirational Western Historical Romance (Mail Order Brides of Rose Valley) My Cousin Rachel Black Letter Outline on Corporate and Partnership Taxation, 7th (Black Letter Outlines) Black Letter Outline on Partnership Taxation (Black Letter Outlines) NIV, Bible for Kids, Imitation Leather, Purple, Red Letter: Red Letter Edition

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