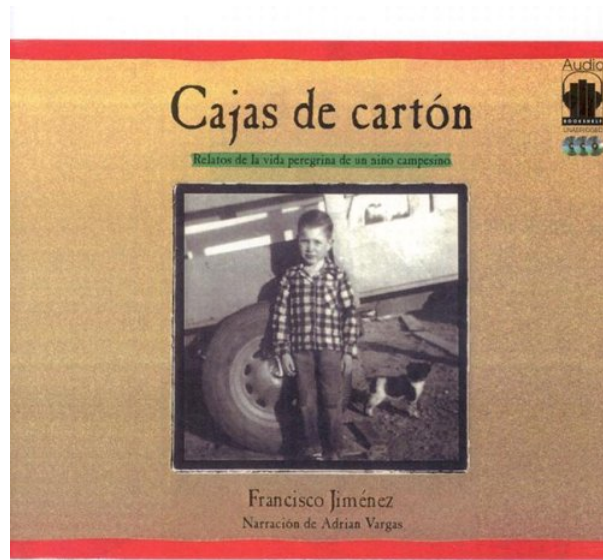
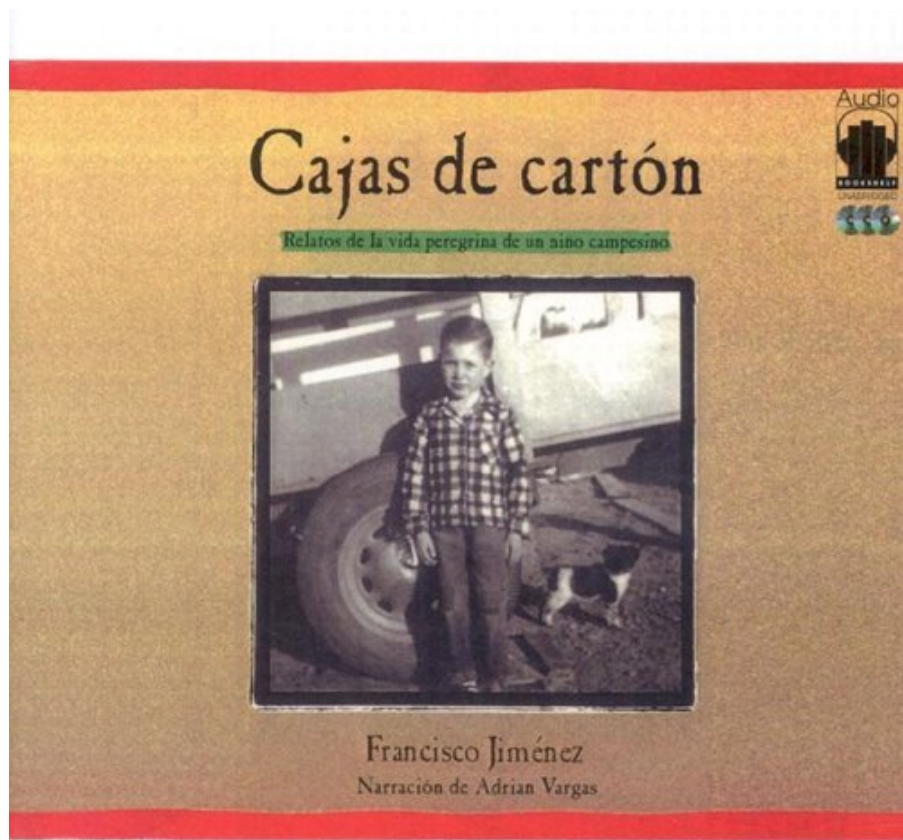


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From Publishers Weekly

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Review

Bajo la alambrada Soledad De dentro hacia afuera Un milagro en Tent City El angel de oro El aguinaldo Muerte perdonada El costal de algodón Cajas de carton El juego de la patada Tener y retener Peregrinos inmoviles

About the Author

Francisco Jimenez emigrated from Tlaquepaque, Mexico, to California, where he worked for many years in the fields with his family. He received both his master's degree and his Ph.D. from Columbia University and is now professor emeritus in the Modern Languages and Literature Department at Santa Clara University, the setting of much of his novel, *Reaching Out*. He is the award-winning author of *The Circuit*, *Cajas de carton*, *Breaking Through*, *Senderos fronterizos*, *Más Allá de mí*, *Taking Hold*, *The Christmas Gift/El Regalo de la Navidad* and *La Mariposa*. He is the recipient of many national literary awards, among them are the John Steinbeck Award, the Boston Globe-Horn Book Award, the Americas Award the Pura Belpré Honor Book Award, the Tomás Rivera Book Award, Reading the World Award, and the Carter C. Woodson National Book Award. He lives with his family in Santa Clara, California

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After dark in a Mexican border town, a father holds open a hole in a wire fence as his wife and two small boys crawl through. So begins this collection of twelve autobiographical stories by Professor Francisco Jimenez, who at the age of four illegally crossed the border with his family in 1947. The Circuit is the story of a young, wise and sensitive boy, Panchito and his trumpet. These independent but intertwined stories follow the family through their circuit, from picking cotton and strawberries to topping carrots--and back again--over a number of years. The little family of four grows into ten and impermanence and poverty define their lives. But with faith, hope, and back-breaking work, the family endures. Beautifully and authentically rendered by actor and playwright Adrian Vargas, these stories tell of the almost unendurable journey most migrant campesinos undertake to find the American Dream. The recording concludes with an afterword recorded by the author. Recommended for Grades 5 and up.

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Review

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2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Great book

By woodsgirl

My Spanish tutor recommended this book, and I bought to help my reading comprehension. It has helped tremendously. I would say that it is for the intermediate learner or maybe, slightly higher. I have read all but the last three chapters, and have enjoyed them immensely. It has also helped me learn a great deal more about verbs (number one thing for me), grammar, and sentence structure in Spanish. This would be a great book for anyone learning Spanish, or for Spanish speakers to read to their children.

For those who are unfamiliar with the Bracero Programa which took place in California in the 1940s, 1950s, and maybe, the 1960s, it will be quite the eye-opener. Los Braceros picked all the fruits and vegetables that were commercially grown in California, and in my opinion, were treated despicably. These are the more-or-less autobiographical stories of the author who grew up in the era of this program, but the family never returned to Mexico. In two or three chapters, he mentions "undocumentos" so I believe that the family had green cards. The author and his older brother were born in Mexico, but the rest of his siblings were born in California. I love these stories even though at times they are very sad. For all Spanish language learners, this book and the others should be read.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

A child's perspective on immigration...and a perfect read for intermediate-advanced Spanish readers

By AmazonAmateur

The English version titled "The Circuit" caught my eye a year ago and now, buying the original Spanish version for a class, I'm glad I waited to buy this one. The stories are filled with colloquial Spanish sayings and an eye-opening perspective on Mexican immigration. I would not recommend the read for a beginner, but for an advanced Spanish student or anyone interested in a child's perspective on the immigration crisis, this book is an absolute MUST.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Great book.

By Ampheromine

I love memoirs, and this was no different. I had to read it for my Introduction to Spanish Literature class and I wasn't disappointed. I identified with Francisco's heartbreaking story of him and his migrant family from start to finish, and the ending is a twist worthy of M. Night Shyamalan.

Me encantan las memorias, y esto libro no difiere. Tenía que leerlo para mi clase de la literatura española, y no me decepcionó. Me identifiqué con Francisco y su historia triste de él y su familia de inmigrantes desde el inicio al fin, y el fin es una vuelta muy impactante, por lo menos para mí.

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