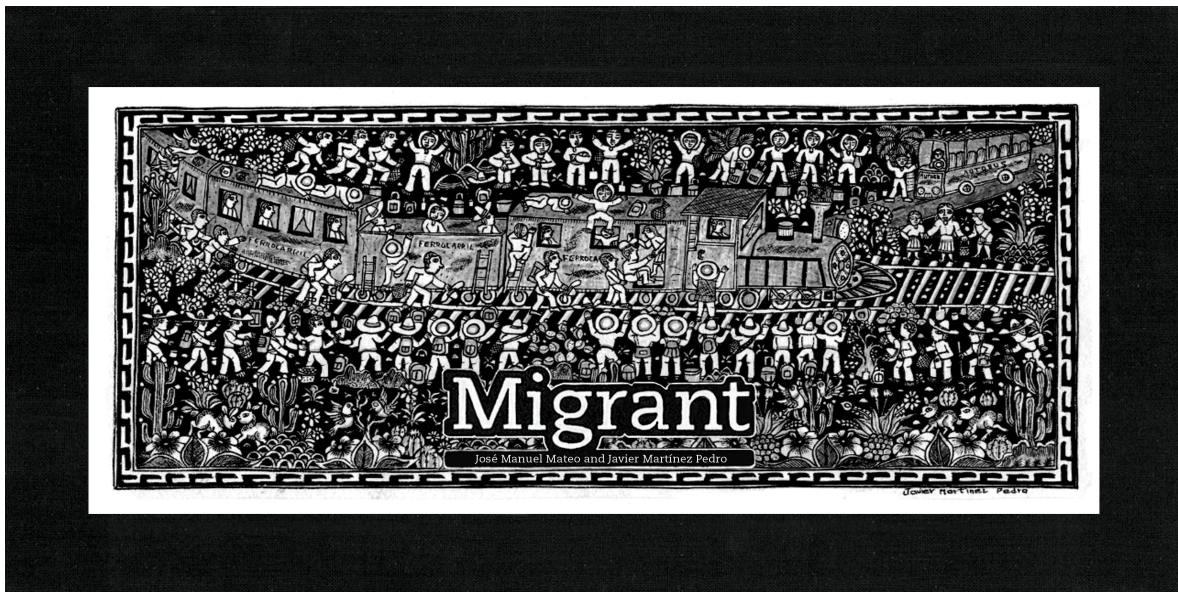


Children and Young Adult Book Review
Middle School
Migrant

Educator Reviewer: Jason Dylan Mizell

Student Reviewer: Dylan Mizell



Mateo, J. M. (2014). *Migrant*. New York, NY: Abrams Publishing.

ISBN: 978-1419709579

Pages: 22

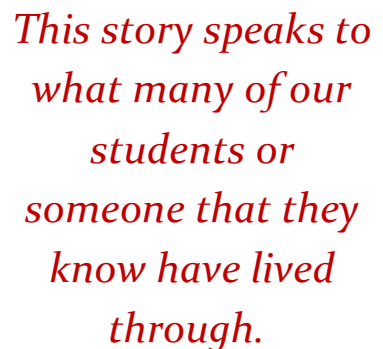
Educator Review:

This story speaks to the heart-wrenching saga that many undocumented migrant children have lived through. The author artfully centers the young protagonist in such a way that he is simply telling his story, not preaching. His innocence is shown though how he talks about his life in rural Mexico living with his family in a small pueblo (town) and how bit by bit it becomes obvious that he will have to leave with his mother in order to migrate to the United States if they want to be with his father. The author includes what could have been very disturbing images of the protagonist running through fields, jumping on moving trains, and escaping border guards. Although these scenes could have been unsettling, they were presented from a child's perspective and thus took on an air of wonder and adventure, not one of danger.

As I read this book, the terms *culturally relevant pedagogy* and *culturally relevant teaching* kept coming to mind. This story speaks to what many of our students or someone that they know have lived through. Using this book would be the perfect way to help young readers and older readers to sympathize with children who have lived through this experience without unnecessarily sharing with them the stark horrors that this type of adventure would entail.

Students in upper elementary would be able to read this book by themselves, but I would also recommend this book be shared with younger readers under the guidance of a parent or teacher.

Jason Dylan Mizell
The University of Georgia, Athens, GA
Ph.D. Student



*This story speaks to
what many of our
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Student Review:

I recommend this book because it is talking about a boy, his mom, and sister moving to Los Angeles, but the boy wants to find his father. At the beginning of the story the boy is in his hometown in Mexico playing. The next thing he knows everyone is leaving and going to the United States. They decide to leave and have to hop on a train and then hide from the police because they are putting lots of people inside of the big yellow truck and sending them straight to jail. My dad told me that sometimes this really happens to people. Their fathers leave and then they have to find him living in another country.

My friends will like this book because some of them are from Mexico and they moved here when we were in kindergarten. I also liked this book because it is in English and Spanish and I speak both of them.

Dylan Mizell
The World Language Academy, Flowery Branch, GA
6th Grade