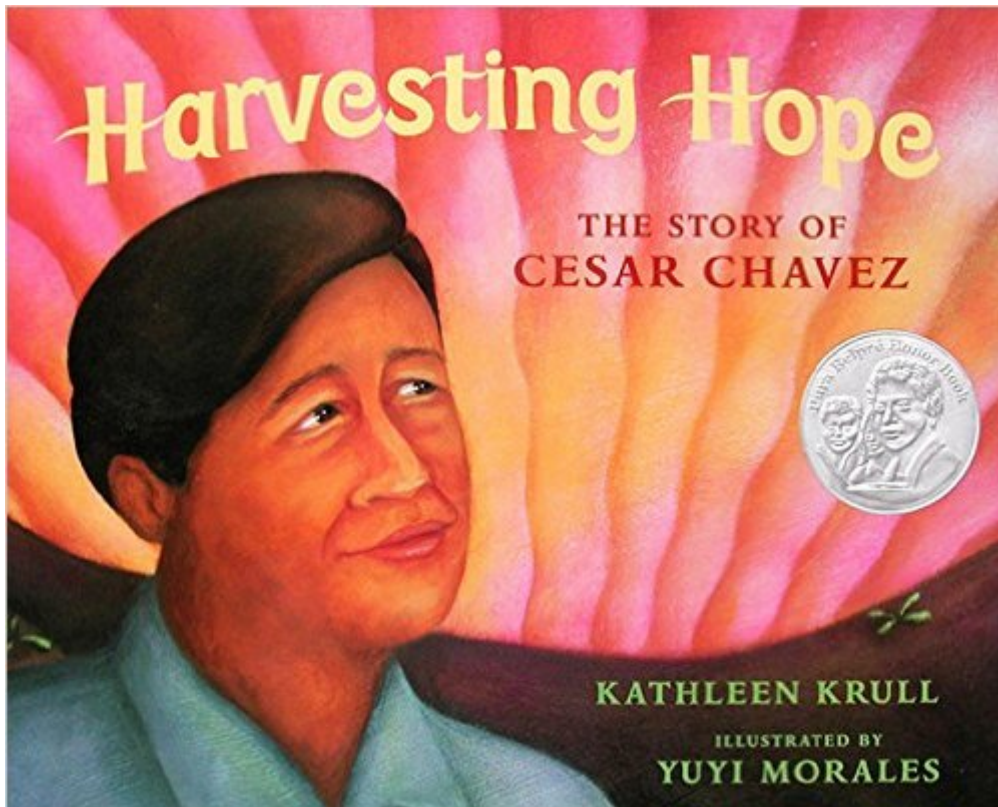


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Harvesting Hope: The Story Of Cesar Chavez



Synopsis

Cesar Chavez is known as one of America's greatest civil rights leaders. When he led a 340-mile peaceful protest march through California, he ignited a cause and improved the lives of thousands of migrant farmworkers. But Cesar wasn't always a leader. As a boy, he was shy and teased at school. His family slaved in the fields for barely enough money to survive. Cesar knew things had to change, and he thought that--maybe--he could help change them. So he took charge. He spoke up. And an entire country listened. An author's note provides historical context for the story of Cesar Chavez's life.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD800L (What's this?)

Series: Pura Belpre Honor Book. Illustrator (Awards)

Hardcover: 48 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; 1 edition (March 1, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0152014373

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Product Dimensions: 11 x 0.4 x 9 inches

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

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (31 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #51,851 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #46 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > 1900s](#) #51 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Hispanic & Latino](#) #93 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Multicultural](#)

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

"César reprimió la amargura que le causaba haber perdido su hogar y empezó a trabajar junto a su familia. Era pequeño y no muy fuerte, pero un trabajador incansable. Casi cualquier cultivo era un tormento. Arrancar betabeles le desgarraba la piel entre el dedo pulgar y el índice. Los venenos rociados con pesticidas le irritaban los ojos y le hacían difícil la respiración. La lechuga era lo peor de todo. Plantar lechuga con un azadón de mango corto le causaba espasmos de dolor por toda la espalda. Trabajar la tierra de otros en vez de la propia, le parecía a ser una

forma de esclavitud."La familia ChÃ¡vez hablaba constantemente de ahorrar lo suficiente para poder volver a comprar su rancho. Pero al atardecer, la familia entera habÃ­a ganado no mÃ¡s de treinta centavos por todo un dÃ­a de trabajo. Conforme pasaban los aÃ±os, hablaban cada vez menos del rancho."That's right, a total of thirty cents pay for a long, backbreaking day of labor put in by the whole family!Oh. You didn't understand that the first time because it was in Spanish? Hey! What's wrong with you?"The towns weren't much better than the fields. WHITE TRADE ONLY signs were displayed in many stores and restaurants. None of the thirty-five schools Cesar attended over the years seemed like a safe place, either. Once, after Cesar broke the rule about speaking English at all times, a teacher hung a sign on him that read, I AM A CLOWN. I SPEAK SPANISH. He came to hate school because of the conflicts, though he liked to learn. Even he considered his eighth-grade graduation a miracle. After eighth grade he dropped out to work in the fields full-time.

In light of the "zero tolerance" policies maintained by most schools, conventional wisdom says parents should discourage their children from fighting or causing trouble.Kathleen Krull's latest biography flies in the face of such convention, daring children to resist the status quo, to take a stand and to, yes, fight.This past Saturday San Antonio honored the legacy of Cesar E. Chavez with a march to the Alamo - the mission, not the premiere. But how much do we really know about the noble migrant laborer who passed away peacefully in his sleep 11 years ago? How much do our children know about this Chicano organizer - only the second Mexican American to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom?With broad brushstrokes and soft, warm tones, Krull and illustrator Yuyi Morales paint a picture of a quiet, peaceful man who was compelled by injustice, greed and racism to overcome his own fears and insecurities.The story begins on a summer night upon the lush, utopian, magical fields of his grandfather; family that relaxes after a long, but satisfying day working the land surrounds Cesar.Watching young Cesar run away from school on the first day of class back to the loving embrace of his gentle mother, the reader relates, beginning to see the human being behind the legend.To drought and depression paradise is soon lost and the Chavez family must strike out towards California to seek out new opportunities, a new Promised Land.But Cesar finds instead an oppressive blanket of harsh reality, patched together by insecticides, calluses, short-handled hoes and pennies a day for backbreaking work. After many brutal hours under the unrelenting sun his family returns to a shack with no doors in an overcrowded shantytown.

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