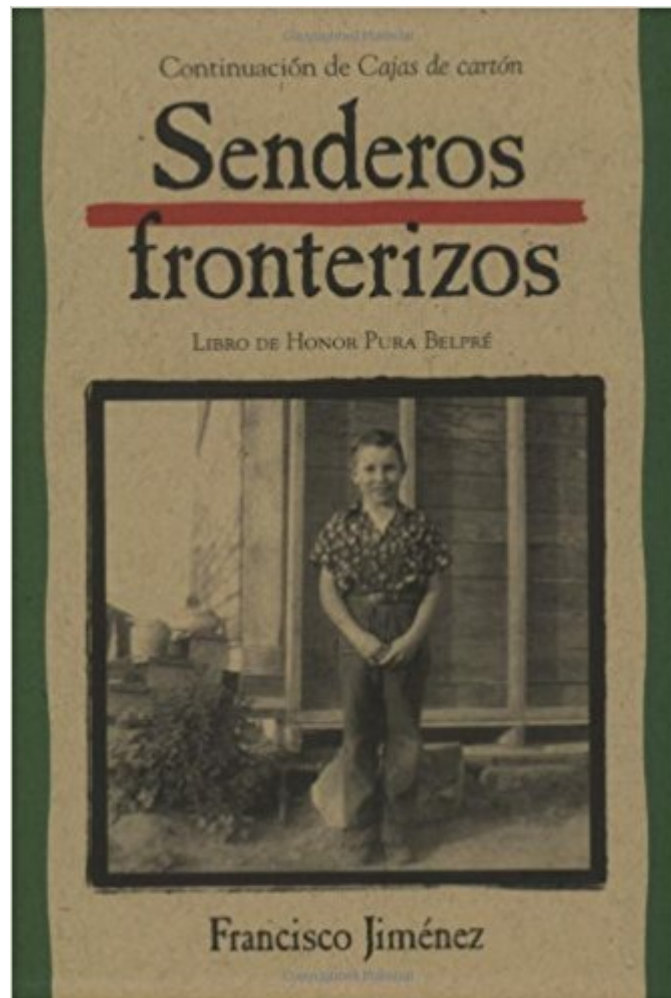




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# Senderos Fronterizos: Breaking Through Spanish Edition



## Synopsis

At the age of fourteen, Francisco Jimenez, together with his older brother Roberto and his mother, are caught by la migra. Forced to leave their home, the entire family travels all night for twenty hours by bus, arriving at the U.S. and Mexican border in Nogales, Arizona. In the months and years that follow, Francisco, his mother and father, and his seven brothers and sister not only struggle to keep their family together, but also face crushing poverty, long hours of labor, and blatant prejudice. How they sustain their hope, their goodheartedness, and tenacity is revealed in this moving sequel to *The Circuit*. Without bitterness or sentimentality, Francisco Jimenez finishes telling the story of his youth.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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 the chairman of the Modern Languages and Literature Department at Santa Clara University, the setting of much of his newest novel, *Reaching Out*. He is the award-winning author of *The Circuit*, *Breaking Through*, and *La Mariposa*. He is also the recipient of the John Steinbeck Award. He lives with his family in Santa Clara, California.

The Spanish version of this book was assigned reading for an adult Spanish class and is a good match for intermediate students. *Senderos fronterizos* is an interesting, sometimes poignant, personal experience about crossing the Mexican-American border, becoming an legal alien, and

making one's way in a different culture. The story, although considered a "young adult" read, is an interesting story for adults who want a better understanding of what it means to change cultures. It made me want to learn more about Mr. Jimenez's experience, so I have since purchased the rest of the Trilogy. Learning to read in Spanish with the help of Mr. Jimenez is fun.

I love the story line of this novel set. My Spanish Speakers 2 classes read *Cajas de cartón* and now they are reading part 2. They are beautifully written on a lower level so that all of my native speakers can enjoy them (even if some need a little help). The story is one that needed to be told and it is very touching and thought provoking. But, this book (more than the 1st one I have found) has several typos and we are only up to the first few chapters (bistes for steak then it is corrected later in the page to bistec). I also would have thought the Spanglish (Anglicisms) would have been fixed in book 2. He flip flops between *después de la escuela* and *después de clases* and all in the same page. Better editing was definitely needed. I use this as teachable moments for the first one and the students like to find them for extra participation points, but after the 2nd or 3rd use it just becomes bad grammar and I just start to hope my students remember what I have taught them about it instead of continuing to use the Spanglish since they saw it in print.

Señor Francisco Jimenez has written an autobiography of sensitivity and grace about his life growing up as a poor migrant crossing the border between the US and Mexico with his family. His journey is wonderful to read about: from working in the fields of Central California to graduating with a doctorate degree from Columbia University. He recently visited the town where I reside half the year, San Miguel de Allende, Mexico and was the "star" of our literary community and the children of the campo: his story is their story. I felt privileged to meet this gracious man and to read his book in my Spanish class.

I have now read 2 of the 3 books by Francisco Jiménez. I just got the third. This is a great series on a youth, young adult and young man overcoming the obstacles of poverty, language, and prejudice to get a first class education.

I am an intermediate Spanish learner and a teacher introduced me to Sr. Jimenez's books. After reading *Cartas de Carton* in Spanish, I was happy to find this sequel. The story, told from the perspective of a teenager in an immigrant, farmer-worker family, is very engaging and touching. As a resident of California and a reader of Steinbeck novels, the book held me in its grip. All this and I

was able to practice my Spanish reading and comprehension.

Senderos fronterizos is simply written and ideal for students of the Spanish language (like myself). It's a coming of age story with emotional resonance across the cultural divide. There are thorough descriptions of agricultural migrant life in CA with both its problems and even some benefits discussed. The character development is good as are the descriptions of the writer's feelings for his family. My only disappointment is not with the writer but with the poor translating service accesses. Often words are simply repeated in Spanish without any translation at all.

Fue un libro muy interesante. TenÃa- a mucha informaci3n sobre la vida de los inmigrantes en los Estados Unidos. La vida de los JimenÃs fue muy intensa. Ellos tenian que trabajar duro y tomar riesgos. El libro habla sobre anÃdotas en su diario de vivir de los JimenÃs, mencionando su problemática como inmigrantes. Desde mi punto de vista, recomiendo el libro para estudiantes de EspaÃol porque se describe el concepto de que la vida de otras personas es diferente para cada uno mediante el uso de un vocabulario sencillo.-J.C. Estudiante de EspaÃol

Senderos is used in my Advanced Spanish conversation class. The story is an excellent read for those wanting to improve all parts of their Spanish, (conversation, grammar, reading, writing). It is a realistic must read to understand the struggles of Mexican Immigrants coming to the US, looking for a better life, and willing to work hard, improve their skills, and contribute to improving our life. I would absolutely recommend as a must read for all US Spanish Classes.

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