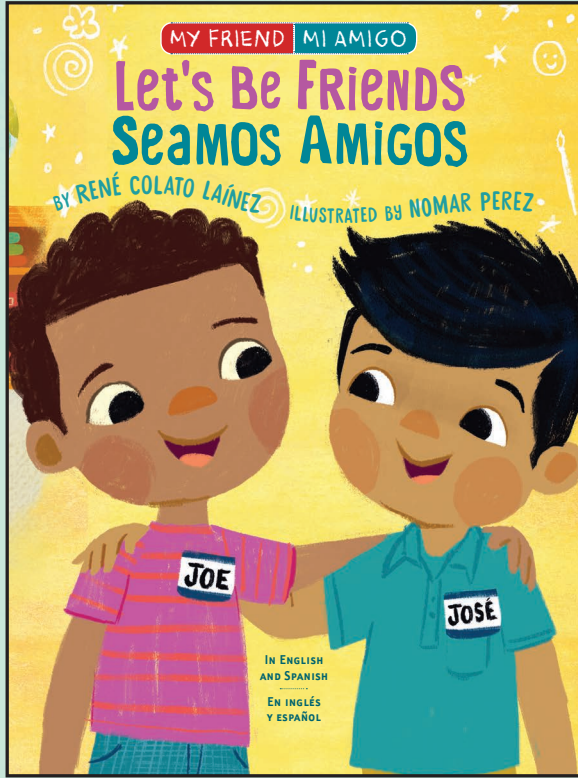


HOLIDAY HOUSE EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



HC: 9780823445059

Let's Be Friends Seamos Amigos

by René Colato Laínez
illustrated by Nomar Perez

MY FRIEND MI AMIGO

ABOUT THE BOOK

Hi! ¡Hola! A friendship story in English and Spanish!
¡Un cuento de amistad en inglés y español!

Rene Colato Lainez, a teacher in a bilingual kindergarten classroom, has crafted an ingenious series that

authentically and naturally uses conversation to introduce children to English and Spanish. The fun friendship stories engages children while simple words, short sentences, and a glossary reinforce learning.

It's the first day of school and two students who speak two different languages, Joe and José, meet for the first time. As the two get to know each other, whatever Joe says in English, José says in Spanish. The students learn to paint together, embracing both their similarities and differences along the way in this bilingual picture book.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Study the front cover of the book. Which boy's native language is English? Which boy speaks Spanish? Theme is what the book is about. Consider the title of the book, and discuss the theme of the story.
- What does the illustration on the back cover reveal about what Joe and José enjoy doing? What are the items on the end pages? How do these things connect to the back cover art?



- Joe and José meet in their classroom at school. Look closely at the first double-page spread. How are the boys friendly to one another in spite of their cultural differences? Describe their teacher. How does she react to the boys greeting one another?
- Joe introduces himself in English, and José in Spanish. Study the hand motions of both boys throughout the story. Explain how their hands help communicate what they are saying to one another.
- Why do you think the boys are wearing aprons? Explain why each boy has only three colors of paint. Name the colors in English and Spanish. What is so important about red (rojo), yellow (amarillo), and blue (azul)?
- Joe says that he needs green. How does this give both boys an idea? Explain how they make green. What color does yellow and red make? How do the boys make purple?
- Study the last double-page spread. How are Joe and José's pictures alike? How are they different? Name all the colors in their pictures. What is the purple object in Joe's painting? Why do you think José put an airplane in his picture? Explain how the pictures show how each boy sees the world around them.
- Joe and José are from different cultures. They each paint a sun (sol), a house (casa), sky (cielo), and flowers (flores). How does art unite the two cultures?
- Look at the last page. What does a high five mean in both languages?

Guide created by Pat Scales, retired school librarian and independent consultant, Greenville, South Carolina.

ABOUT THE CREATORS



René Colato Laínez is the author of several bilingual picture books, including *Senor Pancho Had a Rancho*, *¡Vamonos! Let's Go!*, and *Playing Lotería*, which was nominated for the Tejas Star Book Award, the K–6 bilingual counterpart to the Texas Bluebonnet Award. He lives in California, where he teaches a bilingual kindergarten class. Through his work as both an author and an educator, René hopes to help all children develop positive self-images.



Nomar Perez grew up in Ponce, Puerto Rico, where “an amazing array of colors, sounds, and flavors” influenced his artistic life. He is the illustrator of two bestselling books: *All Day Long*, *God Loves Me* and *Everywhere I Go*, *God is With Me*. He is also a staff artist at American Greetings. Nomar currently lives in Cleveland, Ohio.

Photo Credit: Farah Perez

