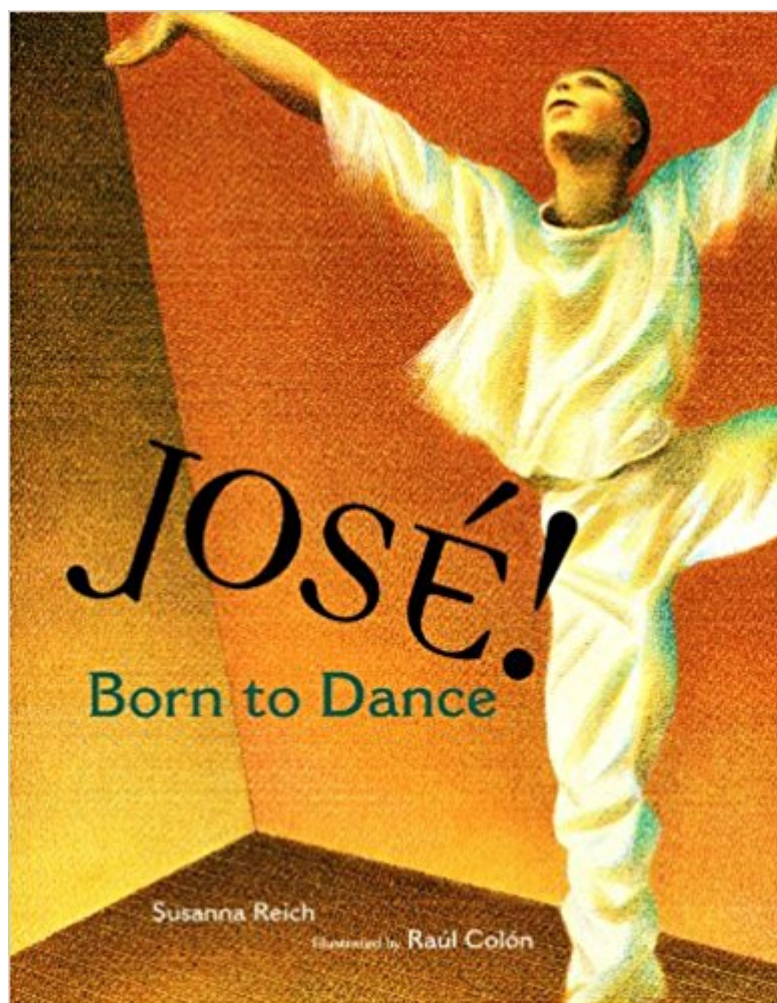




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# Jose! Born To Dance: The Story Of Jose Limon (Tomas Rivera Mexican-American Children's Book Award (Awards))



## Synopsis

José was a boy with a song in his heart and a dance in his step. Born in Mexico in 1908, he came into the world kicking like a steer, and grew up to love to draw, play the piano, and dream. José's dreaming took him to faraway places. He dreamed of bullfighters and the sounds of the cancan dancers that he saw with his father. Dance lit a fire in José's soul. With his heart to guide him, José left his family and went to New York to dance. He learned to flow and float and fly through space with steps like a Mexican breeze. When José danced, his spirit soared. From New York to lands afar, José Limón became known as the man who gave the world his own kind of dance. *¡Olé! ¡Olé! ¡Olé!* Susanna Reich's lyrical text and Raúl Colón's shimmering artwork tell the story of a boy who was determined to make a difference in the world, and did. José! Born to Dance will inspire picture book readers to follow their hearts and live their dreams.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 720L (What's this?)

Series: Tomas Rivera Mexican-American Children's Book Award (Awards)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books; 1 edition (August 1, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0689865767

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Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.4 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #450,505 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #87 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Mexico #94 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Performing Arts #271 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Performing Arts > Dance

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

Grade 2-4 "This story of a young Mexican boy with dreams works better as a picture book than a true biography. Brief anecdotes, presented like a slide show, take readers from Limón's birth through a happy childhood, the Mexican civil war, immigration and adaptation to the United States,

and his struggle to become a painter, and then a dancer, in New York City. Colón's watercolor and colored-pencil illustrations on textured paper give a sense of movement and life. Colors are muted, backgrounds are somewhat impressionistic, and there is more energy in the art than in the very simple text. Short sentences, Spanish words scattered about (defined both in context and in a brief glossary on the copyright page), and some rhythm and sound effects make this a good read-aloud, though the lack of emotion at such pivotal moments as the outbreak of war, a mother's death, and Limón's leaving his elderly father for New York, is a weakness. The book gives little sense of the importance of Limón's life as a dancer and choreographer, and his transition from struggling painter to successful dancer is oddly abrupt. A historical note addresses his adult life and impact on dance history. Use this as a story or to pique the interest of children in this artist, but not as a biography.â Susan Oliver, Tampa-Hillsborough Public Library System, FL Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

**\*Starred Review\*** Gr. 2-4. This picture-book biography tells the story of Jose Limon, who became a legendary figure in the history of American dance. Reich punctuates the scenes of Limon's childhood in Mexico with sensory details, especially sounds: the "TRILLIA-WEET! TRILLIA-WEET!" of his grandmother's canary singing; the clicking heels of flamenco dancers; the cries of "Ole! Ole! Ole!" at the bullfight; and his mama's bedtime lullaby: "SORA-SORA-SO, SORA-SO." Later, Reich shows how the rhythmic sounds from Limon's childhood became inspirations for movements expressed in his dance. When civil war in Mexico leads to fighting in the streets of their town, Limon's family flees to the U.S. In elementary school, laughter at his poor English fires his determination to succeed. As an adult, he moves to New York City, discovers his passion for dance, and works hard to become a dancer and choreographer. Sensitively written and beautifully illustrated, this picture book offers a soaring portrayal of achievement. Colon's distinctive watercolor-and-colored-pencil artwork includes many strong compositions that are fundamentally narrative yet emotionally resonate and often memorable. An expressive, stately tribute. Carolyn Phelan Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

So glad that I purchased this book.

This boy of Mexican dancer Jose Limon is beautiful. This young Mexican boy who immigrates to America and follows his dreams of becoming a painter is a pure joy to read. Painting is not the road he takes. Dancing finds him! After reading this book I proceeded to learn more about Jose and the

his dancing career in New York. This book is amazing in its illustrations. I love any book Raul Colon illustrates! I think 1st-3rd graders would enjoy this book.

Awesome historical document for young readers interested in dance.

I love Jose Limon and I'm glad there's a children's book for it. My adult students enjoy it also. My kids love it. Great to own for any ballet/modern dance teacher or anyone.

Daughter loved it.

This book was a biography of a Mexican American who was born in Mexico and moved to California during the Mexican Revolution and found a passion for dancing while in New York. He was a young man who found his artistic talent for dancing and this book also lets readers know that it is not too late to find and reach your dreams in life at an older age. The pictures in the book are amazing, the watercolors and colored pencils of the pictures are soft and warm...beautiful! I would recommend this book to be read for second and third graders. I think it is important for this grade level of students to read it because schools have a diverse population of students and some could relate to this book. I would most definitely say this book would also be for aspiring young artist who want to perform as dancers or choreographers.

José! Born To Dance is a beautifully written and illustrated biography of José Limón (1908-1972), one of the great dancer/choreographers of the twentieth century. José was the oldest child in a large Mexican family that immigrated to the United States after his father lost his job as a result of the Mexican revolution. Taunted in school, José became determined to learn English better than his classmates and within three years, he spoke with confidence. Inspired by his artistic talent, José left his family in California and traveled to New York, where he discovered that his talents lay in dance rather than visual arts. After years of study and hard work, José formed his own dance company, which continues to tour today. His dances are still performed by major dance companies throughout the world. Written in poetic prose and illustrated in luminous watercolor and colored pencil, this biography will delight young readers, as well as offer lessons in the connection between determination, hard work, and success.

Jose was born in Mexico where his father was a musician. Jose's family had to flee their home

because of rebels. Jose's family move their family to the United States. Jose had to adjust to being in a new environment and had to learn English. Jose was artistic and dreamt about going to New York to persue his dream of painting and drawing. Once, in New York he realized that his painting and drawing were not what he wanted. It wasn't until he went to a dance recital he realized his passion was to dance. Jose Limon studied many years and reached his dream. I enjoyed the message that if you follow your heart your dreams will come true.

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