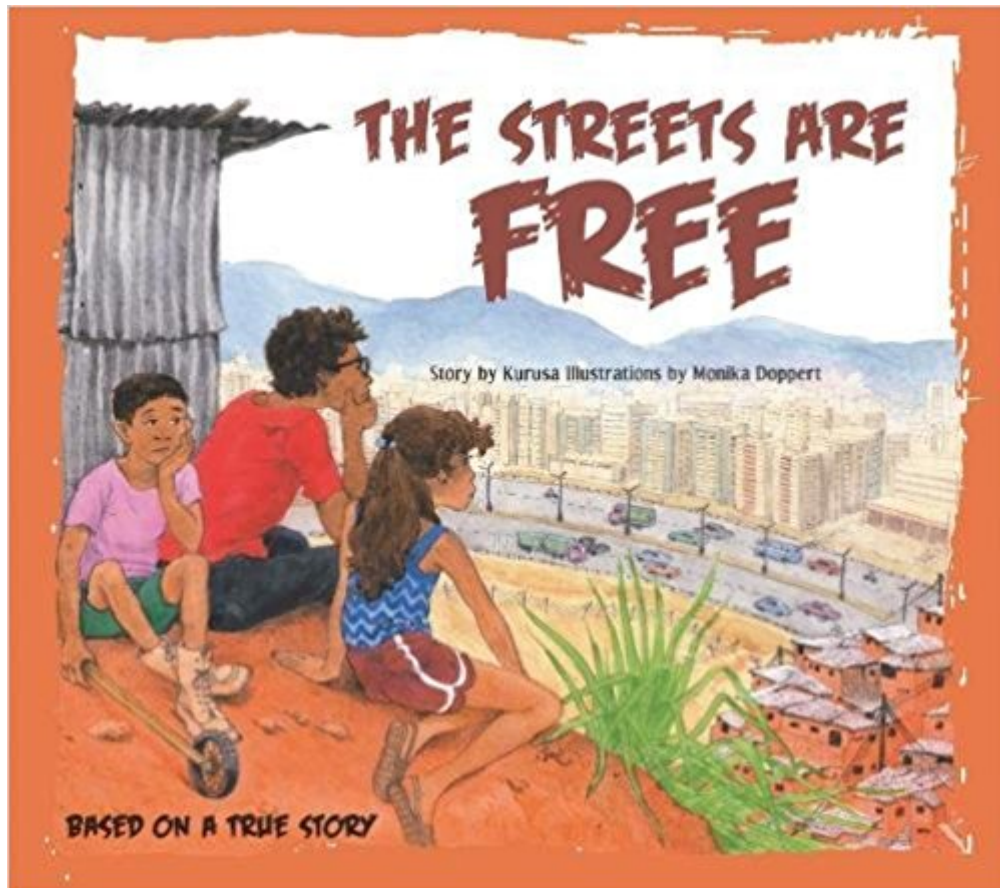




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The Streets Are Free



Synopsis

This inspiring book is based on the true story of the children of the barrio of San Jose de la Urbina in Caracas, Venezuela. There are no parks where they live, and the children must play in the streets. They ask the mayor for an empty lot to build a playground, but all they get are campaign promises. They know that they are the only ones who will make something happen, so they get their friends and family involved until the whole barrio unites to create a space of their own.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 550L (What's this?)

Paperback: 48 pages

Publisher: Annick Press; Reissue edition (February 1, 1995)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1550373706

ISBN-13: 978-1550373707

Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.2 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 7 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #610,982 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #194 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Central & South America](#) #526 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Where We Live > City Life](#) #922 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Chapter Books & Readers > Intermediate Readers](#)

Age Range: 7 - 8 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

Customer Reviews

A heartwarming story which can be understood by young urbanites. (School Library Journal) It is a story of self-reliance and what can be accomplished with commitment and energy. A great story! (American Bookseller 1995-03-01) With creative, unrelenting characters, *The Streets are Free* is a realistic, hearty, not-to-be missed read. A community action inspiring story for people everywhere. (Skipping Stones 1996-06-01)

Founded in 1975, Annick Press is a leading Canadian publisher of books for children of all ages. Best known as the publisher of Robert Munsch's classic picture books, Annick has expanded its publishing program to include cutting edge books for young adults and innovative non-fiction.

Annick's epithet of "Excellence and Innovation in Children's Literature, " stands behind every book they publish.

This is an awesome story! I read through it with a group of 5th grade students (the story was actually from their textbook), I wanted the full story and decided to look for the book and found it here! The full story is even better! Great for teaching students how to fight for what they believe in because voices of children can make a difference!

This is a wonderful story to share with children to give them a sense of how they can be involved in making change in the world. I was searching for a book about social justice issues in public education and couldn't find one, but came across this instead. It had the type of storyline that I was looking for, kids fighting for something important, something they believed in, and leading the way themselves.

Wonderful! Love that it has a message that children can make things happen no matter how difficult it seems. Strong message of community. I'll be reading this to my toddler for years.

... there are better places to play and the kids in the impoverished 'barrio' of San Jose de La Urbina -- gouged into the hillsides above Caracas, a slum without running water or sanitation -- know so. Their barrio was once a quite semi-rural village but it has been overwhelmed with poor people crowding together in hopes of well, in hopes! The kids have a decent school, but without a playground, and an adequate community library, but no playground. The truck drivers blare horns at them when they play in the street; overtaxed mothers scream at them when they lose a ball that bounces on the tin roofs of the steep shanty-lined slopes. Finally the kids decide to seek help from the Government! From the Municipal Council, to be precise, the closest government to their world. Their struggling, overworked parents scoff at their requests for someone to accompany them to the Municipal Offices. Finally the Librarian offers to help. Needless to say, the paunchy politicians of the Municipal Council treat these slum urchins as so much dirt until But I won't 'spoil' the story with more details. It's a triumphant story of community organization, both of self-help and of inter-reliance. The text is simple enough to be read to children of kindergarten age, yet interesting enough for older children to read for themselves, especially because the art work is fantastically vivid and amusing. The scenes of life in a Venezuelan barrio are more 'realistic' in cultural insight than photographs; in them, a corrugated-metal shack is still a shack, but the humanity of those who

live in it is depicted with respect and appreciation. I've been in Venezuela various times, and I've never seen a book, for readers of any age, that captures the warm-hearted community ethic of the Venezuelan people more lovingly. This edition is in English only, but the book is also available in Spanish, titled "La Calle es Libre," with the same powerful illustrations. Both editions are being offered for pennies here on , so readers who want to use the book for language learning can do so readily. ¡Viva Venezuela!

This book is absolutely amazing. First of all, the pictures are beyond gorgeous. I used to look at them for ages when I was a kid. There's so much happening in them, the colors are so lush, and most of all I thought they captured the spirit of the individual characters quite well. The illustrator deserves commendation. The story itself is wonderful. In a small space, without a hint of pedantry, it covers "issues" like urbanization, pollution, community, politics, and activism. While being a heartening, optimistic story about community and what it can do for children, the book also manages to be healthily skeptical about politicians. The basic story is that the kids want a playground. After making a big fuss at city hall (and being mistreated in the process), the story becomes a public relations issue for the mayor, so he promises them a playground--and proceeds to do nothing as the newspaper story winds down. Eventually, the kids and parents take action into their own hands and--after doubting themselves--get a wonderful playground together through their collective action. This retelling can't do justice to the book because it loses all the flavor of what is really a lovely story. I've loved this book since I was very small (for the record, I'm 18 now and I still read kids' book!).

this was a cute book about some kids who live in this city that keeps growing leaving them with no where to play, so they play in the streets. people get mad at them for getting in the way on the street so they yell back 'but the streets are free'. but the adults don't listen, so the kids take their problem to city hall, and the mayor ultimately does nothing after promising to build them a playground. so the kids come together and inspire the community to come together to build the playground. it's a nice little story about fighting for w

Love this book. Great background for my children to their Latino heritage and a sense of empowerment!!!! Glad to see it is also available in English.

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