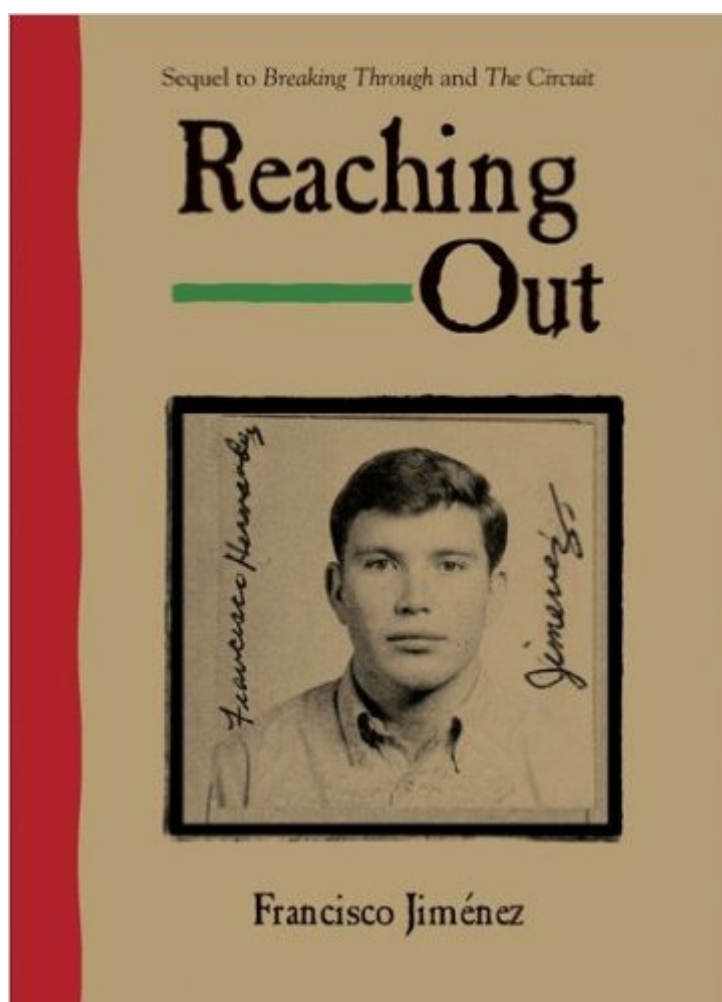


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# Reaching Out



## Synopsis

From the perspective of the young adult he was then, Francisco Jimenez describes the challenges he faced in his efforts to continue his education. During his college years, the very family solidarity that allowed Francisco to survive as a child is tested. Not only must he leave his family behind when he goes to Santa Clara University, but while Francisco is there, his father abandons the family and returns to Mexico. This is the story of how Francisco coped with poverty, with his guilt over leaving his family financially strapped, with his self-doubt about succeeding academically, and with separation. Once again his telling is honest, true, and inspiring.

## Book Information

Paperback: 208 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; 1 edition (September 7, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0547250304

ISBN-13: 978-0547250304

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.5 x 7 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

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

Best Sellers Rank: #101,456 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #10 in Books > Teens > Social Issues > Homelessness & Poverty #14 in Books > Teens > Education & Reference > School & Education #21 in Books > Teens > Social Issues > Family

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

From Francisco Jimenez comes the third book in his series of endearing memoirs about his life as a young person of an immigrant Mexican family of migrant workers. I enjoyed reading about Jimenez's challenges to obtain a post-secondary challenge, as well as learning more about Jimenez himself. In addition, I appreciated how Reaching Out included background information from earlier memoirs. Thanks to this provision, Reaching Out serves equally well as a standalone book or as part of an informative autobiographical series. The first chapter of Reaching Out begins by highlighting the arrival of a day that Jimenez has longed for. On Sunday, September 9, 1962, his family drives him to Santa Clare College. It's a dream Jimenez at times never expected would happen. In the 1940s, his family emigrated illegally from Mexico to California and began working

in the fields. About fifteen years later, when Jimenez was just in eighth grade, the family was deported. Even when they later returned legally, the entire family continued to work in low-paying jobs to survive. And to send Jimenez to college. As can happen with dreams, this achievement was only the first step in an arduous journey. Jimenez continued to struggle with finances, feelings of being torn between responsibility as a student and to his family, having self-doubt about his abilities to succeed academically, and trying to adjust to living in an essentially English-speaking Caucasian environment. While his peers enjoyed initiations, sports events, and drinking parties, Jimenez buried himself in studies and sought sources of income beyond scholarships. Receiving his first D's felt like a major disappointment, despite reassurance from his roommate that these grades are typical of one's first college year.

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