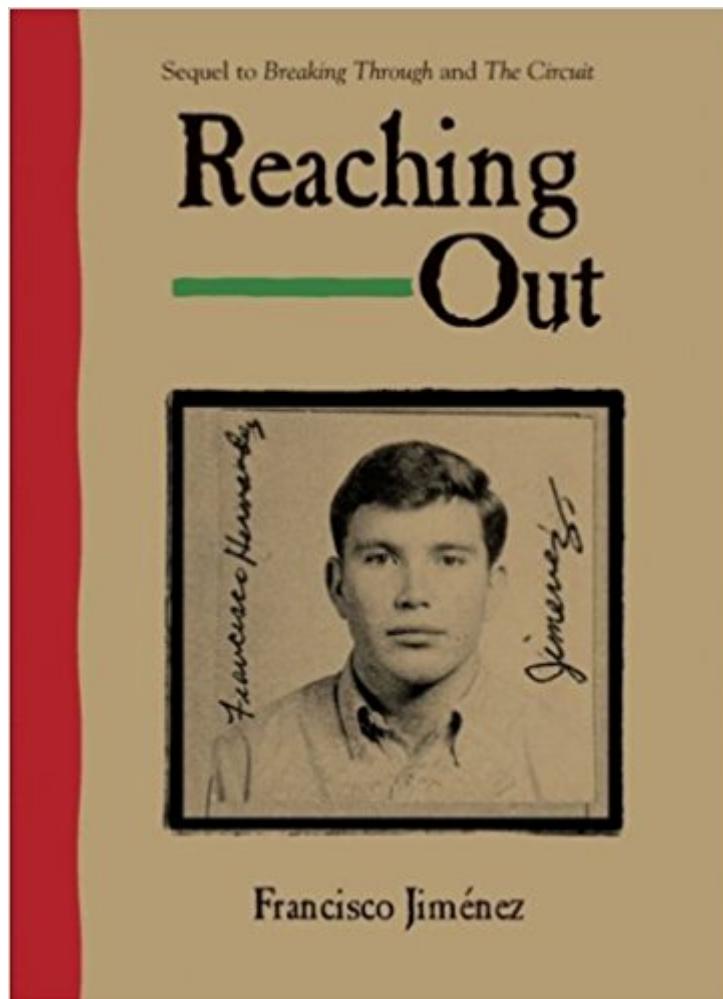


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# Reaching Out



## **Synopsis**

From the perspective of the young adult he was then, Francisco Jiménez 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

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 40 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #36,015 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #6 in Books > Teens > Social Issues > Homelessness & Poverty #8 in Books > Teens > Social Issues > Family #8 in Books > Teens > Education & Reference > School & Education

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## **Customer Reviews**

Grade 8 Up "Jiménez, the son of Mexican immigrants, left behind a life of hard work and poverty when he entered Santa Clara University in 1962. Here, he chronicles his college years and introduces people who befriended him as well as those who had prejudices against Mexicans. Throughout his story, the difficulties of his transition from family life to college life are evident. His palpable fear of failure was mitigated by those who helped him recognize his worth and develop and strengthen his character. The book ends as he is bound for graduate school at Columbia University. This sequel to *Breaking Through* (2001) and *The Circuit* (1999, both Houghton) again brings to the forefront the daily trials of poor immigrant families. The author poignantly relates his family's struggles and how their teamwork enabled him to attend college. While the book relates his trials

and successes, it also tells how his family members overcame their own obstacles. Using the style of a good storyteller, Jiménez gives voice to strong familial bonds with an intensity that is both compelling and honest. The family photographs at the end of the book add a nice touch. "Sharon Morrison, Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Durant, OK Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

\*Starred Review\* Papa's raging depression intensifies young Jiménez's personal guilt and conflict in the 1960s: "So now you think you're better than us because you are going to college." • He is the first in his Mexican American migrant family to attend college in California. While at home, the family struggles with backbreaking work and lives without indoor plumbing; in college, Jiménez finds friends and mentors in class and at church, discovers the great literature in his native Spanish language, and joins César Chávez in the drive to unionize farm workers. Like his other fictionalized autobiographies, *The Circuit* (1997) and *Breaking Through* (2001), this sequel tells Jiménez's personal story in self-contained chapters that join together in a stirring narrative. As he works many jobs to send something home, he is haunted by memories of his childhood spent laboring in the fields, and in college, he tells no one that he was born in Mexico and is not an American citizen. Rooted in the past, Jiménez's story is also about the continuing struggle to make it in America, not only for immigrant kids but also for those in poor families. Never melodramatic or self-important, the spare episodes will draw readers with the quiet daily detail of work, anger, sorrow, and hope. Grades 7-12. --Hazel Rochman --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Francisco Jimenez's trilogy should be a mandatory reading in all elementary schools. When I bought the first book, I literally couldn't put it down, reading into the night. Later, I couldn't wait until the next two arrived. The hardship this family went through and the love they shared brought me to tears. While some people are concerned with what they will eat for the next meal other people are concerned with the next iPhone version. The society is becoming more and more shallow, ignorant and narrow minded and that is the reason why this should be a mandatory reading in schools.

Part of a trilogy about an illegal child and his family - very pertinent to my students who are in the same boat!! Working on becoming US citizens - human beings.

good

I am white and was raised in a small-town fairly homogeneous community. My parents had a stable marriage and I was lucky enough to have two great siblings. Francisco Jimenez only similarity with me is a loving family. His description of his college years is the third in a trilogy that, though fictional, closely parallels the struggles Jimenez faced. It is was both inspirational and honest. It also showed me much of a world I had previously not known. It is an easy, but important read.

Required reading for school

Love this book!

Wonderful story of perseverance. I am presently trying to get his books out to professors of cultural study to add to their assigned reading. Obviously, I am impressed by his writing style.

I got an unused book.

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