

Dear Primo

Recommended for Grades K-3

Book Summary: Dear Primo

Two cousins, Charlie and Carlitos, begin writing letters to each other. Charlie describes his life in the city and Carlitos describes the experience of daily life in Mexico. They each tell each other about their favorite games, foods and traditions. After telling each other about their exciting lives, they both decide that they need to visit each other.

Author Biography: Duncan Tonatiuh

Duncan Tonatiuh grew up in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico but later left to attend high school and college in America. He graduated from Parsons School of Design in New York. His books are known for their unique illustrations and often serious subject matter. His books have won numerous awards including the Pura Belpré Medal and the Sibert Medal. He is both Mexican and American and enjoys the freedom of having two passports.

He currently lives in San Miguel de Allende.



Oswego Campus
32 W Jefferson Street
Oswego, IL 60543
www.oswego.lib.il.us

Montgomery Campus
1111 Reading Drive
Montgomery, IL 60538
(630) 978-1272

Dear Primo

Recommended for Grades K-3

Discussion Questions: Dear Primo

1. Two cousins, Charlie and Carlitos, begin writing to each other and telling about their different lives. Have you ever written letters to someone? If so, who?
2. Even there are many ways to communicate with someone, these cousins choose to write letters. What might be some benefits of writing letters instead of calling or emailing someone? Which form of communication is your favorite? Why?
3. How are Charlie and Carlitos' lives different? How are they the same?
4. Carlitos' world is described in Spanish with pictures illustrating the things he is talking about. How did this help your understand of the book? Did the words get in the way of the illustrations? Why or why not?
5. On many of the two page spreads, the author has an illustration of Carlitos on the left and Charlie on the right. What effect does this side by side comparison make? What might you have done differently if you had illustrated the story?
6. Do you think Charlie portrays an accurate picture of American life? How is his daily life different than yours? His is it similar?
7. In the illustrations, the author adds texture to clothing and other elements in the story. Does this illustration style work for this story? Why or why not?
8. What do you think it would be like for either Charlie or Carlitos if he was to go live with his cousin for the summer? How long would it take for him to get used to things? What might he find difficult? What might he find easy?
9. Have you ever been to another country? What was it like? If you haven't, what do you imagine that it might be like?
10. How would the book have been different if only one of the cousins had been writing letters to the other?
11. This book won the Pura Belpré Award which is given to the author whose work best portrays the Latino cultural experience. Why do you think this book won the award?
12. If you had written this book, what other things would you have included?



Oswego Campus
32 W Jefferson Street
Oswego, IL 60543
www.oswego.lib.il.us

Montgomery Campus
1111 Reading Drive
Montgomery, IL 60538
(630) 978-1272