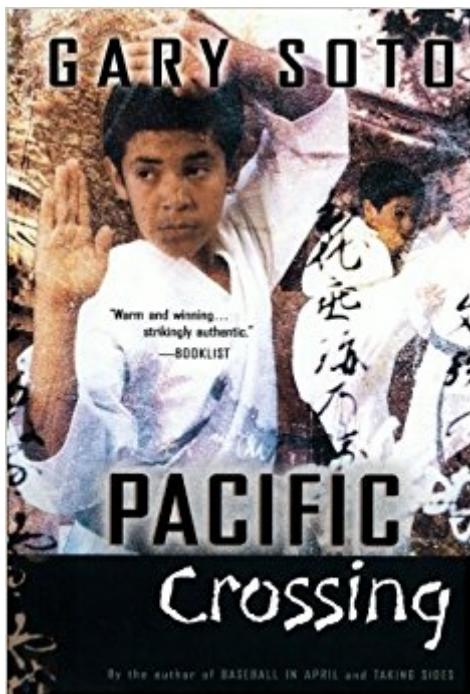


The book was found

Pacific Crossing



Synopsis

In Japan for the summer to practice the martial art of kempo, Lincoln sometimes feels like little more than a brown boy in a white gi. Yet with the help of his Japanese brother, Mitsuo, Lincoln sees that people everywhere, whether friend or kempo opponent, share passions much like his own--for baseball, family traditions, and new friendships.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 750L (What's this?)

Paperback: 144 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers (March 1, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0152046968

ISBN-13: 978-0152046965

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.4 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 7 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #350,718 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #94 in Children's Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Martial Arts #275 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Asia #316 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Hispanic & Latino

Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

Customer Reviews

Grade 6-9-- Mexican-Americans Lincoln and Tony, both 14, are chosen as exchange students for a summer in Japan. They reside with different families and the focus is on Lincoln, with Tony appearing only when a sounding board is needed. The boys prepare a botched Mexican meal for their hosts, and Lincoln saves his host family's father's life by driving, unlicensed, to a hospital. Other than these episodes, little happens in what is essentially a novel of manners contrasting cultural mores. The writing is very good, often elegant, and the point of view is in keeping with a 14-year-old. The text contains many words and phrases in Spanish and Japanese, set off in italics and defined in separate glossaries. Unfortunately, this becomes distracting and often vexing, slowing down an already uneventful narrative. Readers will wonder just what is the lingua franca between the boys and their hosts. All of the Japanese exhibit a complete mastery of English, a

nearly universal proficiency that is never explained. Though not without interest, the story is too languid and linguistically confusing to hold the attention of this age group. --John Philbrook, San Francisco Pub. Lib. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"The author's keen understanding . . . produces a story that is both touching and enlightening."--Publishers Weekly

Hands-down one of my favorite books and one that I routinely recommend and/or gift to any young person I know going abroad, especially exchange students. I wish I had had this book when I went abroad as a teenager! It would've helped so much to understand the gradual, often messy and ultimately rewarding process of living with strangers in a strange new place. Highly recommended.

Fourteen-year-old Lincoln (Linc) Mendoza, a Franklin Junior High student of Mexican-American heritage who just finished seventh grade, lives with his mother in a Mission District barrio of San Francisco, CA. During the summer, Linc and his best friend, Tony Contreras, go to Japan as exchange students, and Linc will study shorinji kempo, a Japanese martial art. The boys are staying in Atami, a small farming village about three hours outside Tokyo, Linc with Mr. and Mrs. Ono and their son Mitsuo who is Linc's age, and Tony with the Inaba family. Linc and Mitsuo become like brothers. How will Lincoln's kempo studies go? Will he learn anything about Japanese culture? And will he be able to explain to his new friends what it means to be both Mexican and American? Though it moves along at a slow, leisurely pace with little excitement or adventure, except when Mr. Ono gets bitten by a spider on a camping trip and Lincoln must drive him down the mountain to a hospital, the book has an interesting plot which provides a lot of information about Japanese and Mexican-American culture. There are glossaries in the back which explain both Spanish and Japanese words and phrases. As usual in much modern youth literature, there has to be the requisite broken home. It is said that the marriage between Linc's dad, a policeman, and mom ended in divorce when the boy was seven and that he hadn't seen his dad in six years. Linc's mom was thinking of marrying her boyfriend Roy. However, this is contrasted to the stability and affection between Mr. and Mrs. Ono in their marriage which Linc longingly notices. The boys do show some rebelliousness towards the police during their trip to Tokyo. A number of references to smoking cigarettes and cigars, as Mr. Ono is a smoker, and to drinking beer and sake occur. Of course, the Onos are

Buddhists, so mention is made of some Buddhist religious beliefs and practices. While they are not overemphasized, they are presented in a way that would make multiculturalists happy. They are Buddhist, Linc is a Catholic, and everyone is okay. At the same time, it is good to learn true respect and tolerance towards others with different beliefs. As to language, we do find out that "misnalgas" means "my butt." One other annoying event is found. When Linc and Mitsuo finally escape from the policemen chasing them in Tokyo, they turn around and yell, "Like h---." It still amazes me that so many modern authors can write a basically nice story with no cursing or profanity for the most part, that while reading one begins to think that here is a book which can be recommended with hardly any reservations, but then right at the end they seem to feel that they just have to throw in some bad language, usually with the excuse that it is needed to make it sound "realistic." Otherwise, I would have given this book a good rating instead of just fair.

A Review by Geoff

This book is about a boy named Lincoln and his friend Tony. They are two Mexican-American teenagers who live in San Francisco and get the opportunity to go to Japan on a foreign-exchange student program. Lincoln stays with Mr. Ono and his family and he studies martial arts with their son Mitsuo. Lincoln is very good and is trying to become a black belt. Lincoln and Tony have an amazing experience in Japan and they have a lot of fun. Lincoln and Mitsuo have lots of fun and they both work hard in the families fields. The first thing that I liked about this book was that it's really fun and the book has a fast pace so you don't get bored but it's not too fast so that you don't get lost. The second thing that I like about this book is that Mr. Ono is a big funny man who gives the book some good comic relief. The third thing I liked about this book were the characters because all of them seem so real like they are real people in some far off place in the east. The characters help paint a vivid picture of Japan. I think that this book would appeal to people who want to enjoy a good martial arts foreign action book.

Pacific crossing

I recommend this book to the people that like karate and people that like books about things that they do in China. In this book there are two friends named Lincoln and Tony. They live in San Francisco. Their principle asked them if they wanted to go to Japan, and they said that they would go. So they got on a jet and met two families that they will be living with for a little bit. When they got there they met the families and then got to work in the family's land. There was one

other boy with Lincoln named Mistuo. They were friends for a long time. They learned many things about Chin. And their way of life they also went to school there and after 6 weeks, the two boys went back to their families.

It is a really good concept for a book - two boys spending the summer in Japan and if some of the ideas had been expanded, Crossing Pacific could have been a very interesting book. But instead it just skims over the surface, with no details to really interest the reader. There are no conflicts between Lincoln and his host family - they manage to speak impeccable English. He teaches them American slang and practices kempo. There is no development of Mitsuo's interest in baseball or how they can all speak English so well. It might be interesting for younger students looking for a quick read, but if you want more details about a summer spent in Japan, look elsewhere!

My 95% Hispanic charter high school students (both male and female) enjoyed this book. They liked Lincoln and Mitsuo and said they'd like to go to Japan if given the opportunity. They thought the summer was best time,because they said they'd be scared that school would be too hard there. Two English as a Second Language students are anxiously awaiting the copy in Spanish read to be sure that they didn't miss anything crucial in the novel. I ordered it in December and it hasn't arrived yet.

I liked this book because it gives a sense of true being and grace. A Great read

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