



# Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez

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Cesar Chavez is known as one of America's greatest civil rights leaders. When he led a 340-mile peaceful protest march through California, he ignited a cause and improved the lives of thousands of migrant farmworkers. But Cesar wasn't always a leader. As a boy, he was shy and teased at school. His family slaved in the fields for barely enough money to survive.

Cesar knew things had to change, and he thought that--maybe--he could help change them. So he took charge. He spoke up. And an entire country listened.

*An author's note provides historical context for the story of Cesar Chavez's life.*

## Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez Details

Date : Published March 1st 2003 by HMH Books for Young Readers

ISBN : 9780152014377

Author : Kathleen Krull , Yuyi Morales (Illustrator)

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## From Reader Review Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez for online ebook

### Daniela\_b says

Harvesting Hope: Cesar Chavez migrated from Mexico to California to work on the farmland. Cesar as a kid was not able to finish school, and once he had moved, it was harder because he didn't know how to speak English. He finished up to 8th grade, he graduated and then worked in the field afterwards. The farmworkers wouldn't get paid much and wouldn't get treated well either, "Anyone who complained was fired, beaten up, or sometimes even murdered." Cesar Chavez then started a strike that fought for the rights of the farmers. "Cesar Chavez had won this fight --without violence-- and he would never be powerless again."

This book is best suited for children around the ages of 8-11 which is in the range of second to fifth graders. The book in my opinion would be best for higher elementary children because they would understand it better than lower base elementary kids. Harvesting Hope is more complex and higher in difficulty for younger children to read, like kinder gardeners or first graders.

Parents might be interested in reading this book to their kids because of the lesson it teaches. Anybody can fight for what they believe is right but there is no need to use violence, exactly what Cesar Chavez did in the story. That was the valuable lesson, and this Harvesting Hope states it pretty clear as it ends.

What I most enjoyed about this book is that it kept me wanting to keep reading. I was also able to relate to it because I march in the Cesar Chavez march every year, supporting everything he did for those farmers. He fought for a lot of rights and saved many lives from getting any worse. What I also enjoyed from this book was how the pictures looked creative and like paintings, I found that very interesting and eye-catching. I don't really have any negative comments on this book, I thought it was an overall great book and I recommend it to many parents and/or teachers for their kids.

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### Crystal Bandel says

*Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez* by Kathleen Krull, published 2003.

Nonfiction, biography.

Picture book.

Grades 1-4.

Found via *Horn Book Magazine*, reviewer not identified.

*Harvesting Hope* provides the life story of Cesar Chavez, beginning with his early life at a family ranch in Arizona. Then, due to a drought, the family had to move to California to work, where conditions were harsh and the workers were never treated fairly. The book recounts how Chavez at first was resistant to the idea of striking, but then he slowly came around to the idea and became a major for the migrant workers. Chavez's march to Sacramento for the rights of grape-pickers forms the climax of this book, with many details provided about how difficult the march was but how the workers gained massive support along the way and a victory in the end. The main text is written so that young children can understand the narrative, and an author's note at the end provides more information for adults reading the book to children. The

reviewer notes that the book's paintings "are suffused with a variety of emotions, especially fear and sorrow," which gives the book a strong emotional core. This book should be accessible by all audiences, and it would provide a great place to begin discussing workers' rights, racism, and nonviolent protest.

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### **L13 Tracy Beling says**

I enjoyed reading this book. Once again, Yuyi Morales provides beautiful illustrations that attract you to the book. I have always heard of Cesar Chavez, but had never learned about him in any classes I ever took. I thought that starting the book describing his amazing family life up until the age of 10 was the perfect way to show how the strength of one's family can be so influential. Knowing that's the background he comes from makes it easier to understand why he fought the way he did, peacefully. I think this would be a great book to read to students when learning about Martin Luther King and the fight so many people have gone through for their rights. This story isn't in any of the text books at our school, yet it's such an important one in the history of our country.

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### **Casey Strauss says**

Harvesting Hope chronicles the story of Cesar Chavez, from his childhood in Arizona, to his leadership in organizing a 300-mile protest march to Sacramento, California. Once Cesar's family moves from Arizona to California and become migrant workers, his whole life changes. He begins to realize how poorly paid and treated his family is, and these struggles greatly affect him. Cesar never loses hope, and as he enters adulthood, he works towards making a difference. He begins to speak out on the behalf of migrant workers, and fights-peacefully-for La Causa-The Cause.

This picture book is beautifully illustrated by Yuyi Morales, the vivid images bring the story of Cesar to life. This is a very well written biography of Cesar Chavez, who founded the National Farm Workers Association. There is a lot of information in this story, making it appropriate as a read aloud for grades 2-4, but it also could be used in a sixth or seventh grade classroom. There are some terms in the book (White Trade Only) that younger students wouldn't understand, but that would make for a good discussion topic with older students. The story mainly focuses on the organization of the march to Sacramento, but the way in which it is told makes a reader want to research more about the life of Cesar Chavez. His story is truly an inspirational one, and worker's rights is still a timely topic that should be discussed in the classroom. Chavez was a non-violent advocate; he frequently spoke about the power of words, saying, "Nonviolence, takes more guts". Readers who enjoy this biography would also enjoy reading a biography of Martin Luther King, who Chavez counted as one of his heroes.

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### **(NS) Panagiota Angelos says**

Harvesting Hope is a courageous story of one of America's influential civil right leaders. This picture book is geared for students in grades 2-5 and depicts the struggles and bravery of Cesar Chavez. As a young boy, Cesar and his family lived on a large ranch in Arizona where they harvested their own food. His family life was fruitful and loving, filled with evenings of singing songs, telling stories, and playing. Unfortunately, being a shy boy Cesar was ridiculed and struggled in school. Life for Cesar and his family took a turn for the worse, when a bad drought forced them to move away. The family moved to California where they would

work on other people's farms. The conditions were horrid and workers were treated inhumanely. In addition, workers were paid barely anything and life was difficult. Cesar decided to take action and called together a meeting. This meeting would lead to the beginning of extraordinary changes for all American workers. A book about how one man's action caused a country to change. Viva La Causa! This book can be used in a variety of ways in the classroom including covering topics such as: American heroes, social action, Mexican-American history, hope, biographies, and prejudice. This award-winning book was written by Kathleen Krull and illustrated by Yuyi Morales in 2003 by Hartcourt Inc. and would be a great addition to any elementary classroom library.

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### **(NS) Laura Jackson says**

This book is the biography of Cesar Chavez. Cesar Chavez is considered one of the greatest American Civil Rights leaders. As a young boy, Cesar had a very hard time at school. He was teased at school for speaking Spanish. He was very shy and nervous at school, but he still loved to learn. His family had to move to California to work on other people's farms for very little money. It was during this time that Cesar realized he wanted to try and make a change. He did not agree with the way he and his family were treated and how little money they were being paid for their hard work. Cesar decided to organize a march to protest in a nonviolent way. He led a 340 mile march through California which helped to improve the lives of all of the migrant farm workers. Cesar believed in protesting in a non-violent manner in order to overcome the powerlessness that was felt by his family. Cesar was successful in changing the lives of many migrant workers and is remembered for his dedication to courage and humility. This book would be a wonderful resource to use in the classroom. It provides a lot of information about the life of Cesar Chavez as well as what life was like for migrant farm workers in the early to mid 1900's. I found out new information that I was not aware of before reading this book. The illustrations in the book are beautiful and really portray the emotions of the characters. This is a picture book that would be appropriate for grades 2-4.

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### **Carla\_abarca says**

*Harvesting hope* is a story about a man named Cesar Chavez who fought for his and the workers' justice. He began a "Huelga" and as they went city by city people began to join those who were fighting which made Cesar's "Huelga" a success. In my opinion *Harvesting hope* is a great book for those in fourth and fifth grade to read. I believe students will be able to comprehend the story better and realize what Cesar accomplished.

This book won't just teach the students but it will make the reader understand why and how the "huelga" made a difference not just on those imigrant workers who faught but to every imigrant worker. *Harvesting hope* will give a great impact on children because they won't just read the book but they will see what the text really means by looking at the pictures. The images that the book contains are well explain and and has so much meaning that the words in the book matches the images perfectly. The meaningful images was the most part of the book that I enjoyed.

I would've enjoyed reading this book when I was in elementary. I personally think I would've been really shocked reading *Harvesting hope* at a young age because I would've probably been more curious. A few months ago I read this book to a little boy in fifth grade. He was really surprised to know what Cesar went through. He told me that he had known who Ceasar was but didn't really know what he accomplished. After reading the book he felt he knew what was going on and he said he would've wanted to be part of Cesar's "Hulga".

### **Jenny says**

I really enjoyed the artwork and the way Cesar Chavez's life was told. One point brought tears to my eyes. I also learned a few things about Chavez that I didn't know. My girls also liked the book.

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### **Beverly Kennett says**

I listened to this story on CD, while I followed along with the book. It is the biography of Cesar Chavez, the founder of the National Farmworker's Association. The story begins by describing the carefree childhood of Chavez living on his family's farm in Arizona. When Chavez was ten years old, there was a great drought and his family eventually lost their farm. They were forced to travel to California and work as migrant workers on other people's farms. Chavez found the conditions unbearable and after struggling for many years, he decided to try to make changes. In his soft-spoken ways and with the influence of his mother and other people who believed in nonviolent protests, Chavez began to organize a strike and a long march to the state capital to fight for better working conditions. He successfully continued his protests throughout his life until his death in 1979, at the age of 66.

I enjoyed this book because, though I recognized Chavez's name, I did not have a clear idea of what he had done to become famous. The book gave a clear description of his influences and accomplishments. The illustrations are colorful and help display his feelings at different points in his life. There is rich vocabulary, such as . . . swarmed, conflicts, migrant, fleeing, coaxing, pilgrimage, suspicious, etc. I would use this book with 3rd through 5th graders to teach biographies or as a resource for any of several social studies topics including history, geography, or civil rights.

2004 honor book for illustration by Pura Belpre Award.

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### **Crystal Marcos says**

I read Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez and I was touched. I did not know about Cesar Chavez until reading it. I read this book out loud to my husband. This is quite a long picture book with very beautiful and colorful illustrations. The length did not bother me because I was very interested in learning about Chavez. I was touched by what Cesar did for the farm workers. I even got a little choked up by reading it. It is definitely a story that makes you think long after you have put it down. It is important for children to learn about inspirational people which brings me to my quote.

"You should listen to even the smallest voice, someday it could be the one that makes a difference."

Thanks to the children's group again for the wonderful book suggestions! I am so glad I joined!

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### **Karol says**

I thought this book was quite well done, in terms of explaining to children the terrible conditions that migrant worker had to face, and what Cesar Chavez accomplished on their behalf. How inspiring that the poorest of the poor could - and did - make a difference in the world. In the author's note, Chavez is quoted as saying "We had never thought that we could actually have any say in our lives. We were poor, we knew it, and we were beyond helping ourselves." The author also points out that Chavez was not a man without controversy and that not everyone thought of him as a hero. But some did, and still do.

This is perhaps not the kind of book that immediately draws children in - it's not "snappy". But it is of high quality, both in the subject it covers and in the illustrations. It didn't bring out a lot of emotion in me as I read it, but it did make me think.

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## Manybooks says

Truly, this is one of the most informative and moving non-fiction picture books I have read to date. While I had of course heard of Cesar Chavez before reading this book, I knew next to nothing about either his life or *La Causa*. This might be primarily because I am a resident of Canada, but when one considers the fact that so much of the produce in Canadian grocery stores is not grown in Canada, but in the United States and other areas, the living and working conditions of farm labourers everywhere should be of prime importance, should be of global significance.

I am actually (and remain) in awe that a non-fiction picture book could have such an engaging, enthralling and informative narrative, combined with illustrations both luminous and evocative. This book is truly a treasure and represents not only a moving story, but also a most valuable teaching tool, as it shows not only the life, struggles and contributions of Cesar Chavez, but also the living/working conditions of migrant farm workers in general (themes to be discussed and debated).

However, for me, the most important message of *Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez* is the book's depiction and promotion of non-violent confrontation and protest. It is clearly shown how civil courage and a refusal to embrace violence often has a much more positive and long-lasting impact than violent confrontations or aggressively dangerous reactions. Because Chavez and his fellow farm workers engaged in a non-violent strike, the important message about the often slave-like living and working conditions of many farm labourers were able (in my opinion) to reach a much wider and sympathetic audience, and received much more support from the American public than any violence, any vandalism could have ever achieved. This is not only an important general message, it is also one that needs to be promoted both in the classroom and in the home. Namely, that it is both a civic and moral duty to speak out against and confront racism, bigotry, and all forms of social injustice, but to do this without resorting to violence, to encourage and embrace non-violent criticism and protest.

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## Gabby Ebel says

"It is well to remember there must be courage but also that in victory there must be humility." Powerful quote that I loved from this story!

Synopsis:

*Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez* is a Pura Belpré Award winning book written by Kathleen

Krull and illustrated by Yuyi Morales. Through realistic text and pictures, the story of Cesar Chavez is brought to life. Cesar and his family lived in the Arizona desert, enjoying food and company every night. Cesar had many friends to play with in his community. Then, in 1937, Cesar's family farm was dried out by a drought. They were out of business and money to survive. He and his family had to migrate across California, working and picking crops anywhere they could. Their days were long and pay was almost nothing. Cesar attended school, only to be discriminated by others because of his culture and language, "I am a clown. I speak Spanish." He left school and decided to focus on work. The terrible working conditions of the farmers made Cesar upset, and he wanted to do something about it. He established La Causa, which was the first movement for farm workers' rights. He fought several times with government officials until he finally got the attention and approval that he needed to create the National Farm Workers Association, which promised better conditions for the workers. Speech after speech, fight after fight, Cesar Chavez was just an ordinary boy who became a hero for so many people.

#### Teaching connection:

One of the most obvious teaching connections would be to use this book for Hispanic Heritage Month. It's a great read aloud book for grades 2nd-5th. The text is a little longer and more dense, so it might be too complex for the younger grades. I think this story was written in a way that makes Cesar Chavez's story very relatable for young people. It dives into his childhood and the experiences he faced in school that made him work for a greater cause (the rights of his farming people). Definitely would be crucial to have stopping points in your read aloud for students to think and talk about the story- page 6: Cesar is talking to his mom and fighting, mom says "use [your] mind and mouth to work out conflicts" What might this predict or foreshadow for Cesar? page 12: Pause and notice the illustration and relate it to the text "hot spasms shoot through his back... earned as little as thirty cents for the day's work" Make an emphasis on the worker's conditions... Is this fair? What could you even buy with thirty cents today? How would Cesar support his family like this? page 14: Cesar is called out in class for speaking Spanish... talk about bilingual education with students... not discriminating about languages/differences in culture, definitely a good place for turn and talk with a buddy, talk about how they would feel if that were them. Students could also extend this lesson with researching other Hispanic Heritages heroes/advocates. Assign a group of students a country that could be in Central/South America, find someone who worked for Hispanic rights.

Side note: I don't like that this book did not include the work that Cesar Chavez's wife also put into the UFW (United Farm Workers Association). Maybe students could include her in their research project as well.

#### Why this book is a WOW book:

I liked how this book was made at a level for kids to understand, and really be able to admire what Cesar Chavez did for his people. It's a great book to talk about social justice- creating equality for everyone (especially for minorities and careers less talked about like Hispanics and farmers). I don't think that I learned a lot about famous Hispanics in elementary school, so this book would be a good introduction to a unit on this. The illustrations in this book are beautiful and so detailed. The characters faces are easy to read and their actions are easy to see. This book is also great to teach kids that anyone can be a hero! Cesar Chavez was just an ordinary boy whose living and working circumstances led him to fight for something bigger. It shows kids that standing up for your rights and fighting for what you deserve will pay off! Anyone can do it.

Video on Hispanic Heritage Month: <http://www.timeforkids.com/photos-vid...>

Cesar Chavez website (has great pictures and more information on what he did and what his foundation continues working towards today): [http://www.chavezfoundation.org/\\_cms....](http://www.chavezfoundation.org/_cms....)

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## **Karen Witzler says**

Another excellent children's picture book biography from Kathleen Krull detailing the life of Cesar Chavez and his quest to bring fair working conditions to farm workers in the USA. I especially liked the scenes of his childhood and the loss of dignity, family structure, and sense of permanence that came with the Great Depression and the loss of the family farm. It reminds readers young and old that this could happen to you, this could become your story, too.

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### **Nadia Sahar says**

Before I write this, I must admit that I did not know who Cesar Chavez was, and this book was my first source to get to know about him. It is a very well written biography of Chavez, not only because it puts down all his life events in an engaging manner, but also because it highlights various social issues (sadly still relevant almost 80 years later) and more importantly the choices you make through struggles in life. The choice of words is fantastic and very meaningful for our young readers. I would recommend it to be used 4-5 grades.

So many life lessons can be taught with this book; I particularly like how the idea to resolve conflicts by using minds and mouths and not violence is mentioned. Moreover I thought the illustration of the incident he had in his class where he was punished to speak Spanish by a teacher who hung a sign on him saying 'I am a clown, I speak Spanish' was extremely powerful! Educators could use this to teach students about various social issues, including racism, bullying, our attitude towards immigrants and people of different culture and language etc.

Educators could also help students understand the central idea of this book; how important it is to have a strong sense of justice and to fight for your rights as well as the rights of those around you.

The best thing about this book is how well written and engaging it is! People migrate because of stressful times at their places of origin, and in some cases they themselves are not looking forward to this change; I thought this idea, however subtle, but is beautifully presented in the book. I think this is very relevant to our in our times as well. This biography of Cesar Chavez is that of hope and courage, but you end up learning so much more than just that.

Note: Pura-Belpre honor book

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