

**PERSONAL GROWTH AND
ACTIVISM IN THE MEMOIRS OF
FRANCISCO JIMENEZ**



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OVERVIEW

- Research Questions
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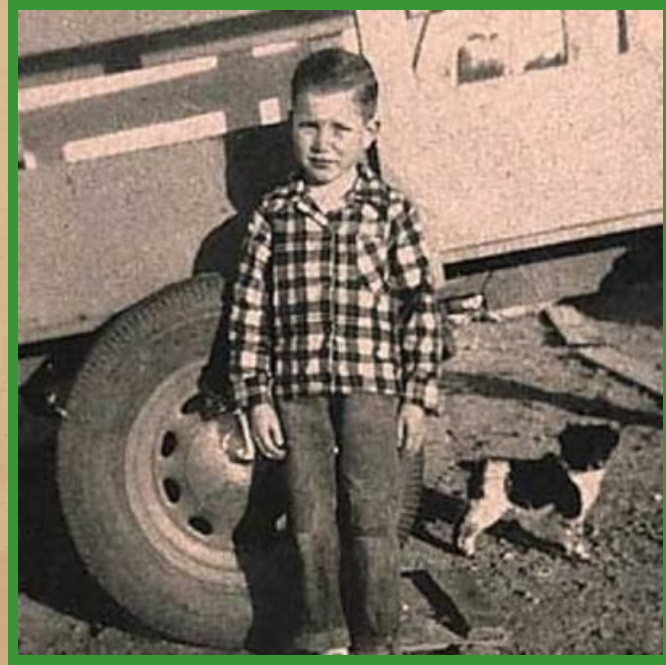


Image of Francisco Jimenez via Barnes & Noble

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- How does Francisco Jimenez use his memoirs as a form of activism?
- How does he express the evolution of his identity for young adult readers?



RESEARCH PURPOSE

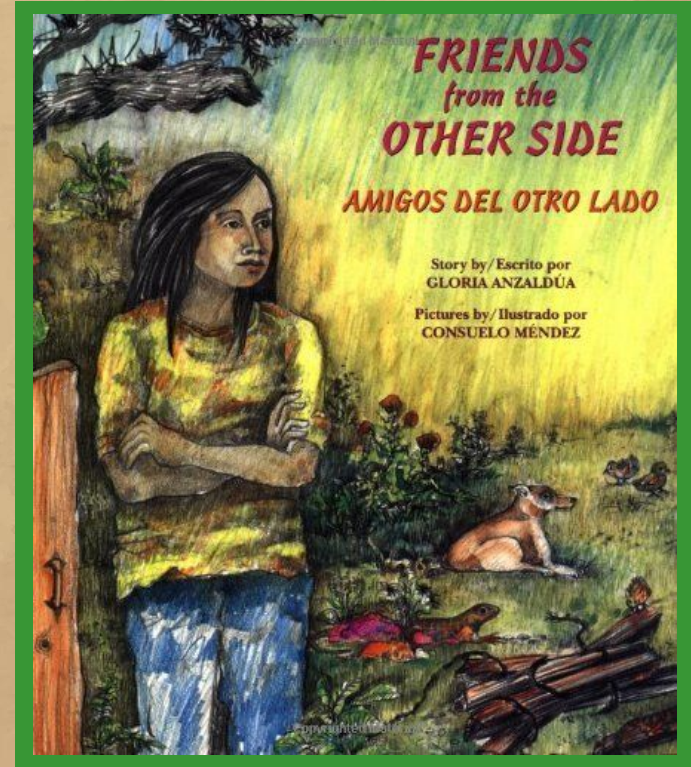
— To analyze the evolution of personal identity, the inspiration for Chicano activism, and political awareness in the first two memoirs by Francisco Jiménez

LITERATURE REVIEW

YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE

- Didactic instrument
 - Promotes reading
 - Develops critical thinking

- Gloria Anzaldúa (1942 - 2004)
 - Chicax/Children's literature
 - *Friends from the Other Side* (1997)
 - *Prietita and the Ghost Woman* (2001)



LITERATURE REVIEW

CONSIDERATIONS FOR YOUNG MEXICAN AMERICANS AROUND IDENTITY

- Adolescence
 - The development of identity
- The Reconstruction of Identity
 - Ethnic flight
 - Adverse identity
- Cross-Cultural Identity
 - Mexican American
 - Chicanx



Mural, El paso by Kamahale via Trayectos

LITERATURE REVIEW

THE INSPIRATION FOR CHICANO ACTIVISM

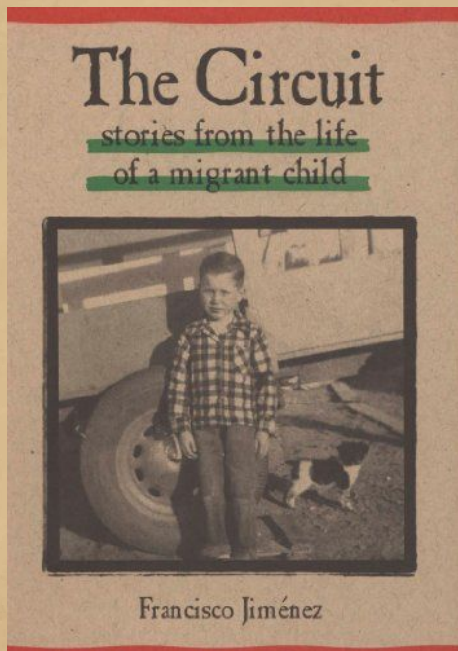
- The inspiration of education
- The United Farm-Workers Movement (UFW) was created between 1962- 1965
- Peaceful movement, without violence
- Leaders
 - Cesar Chavez
 - Dolores Huerta
 - “Sí se puede”



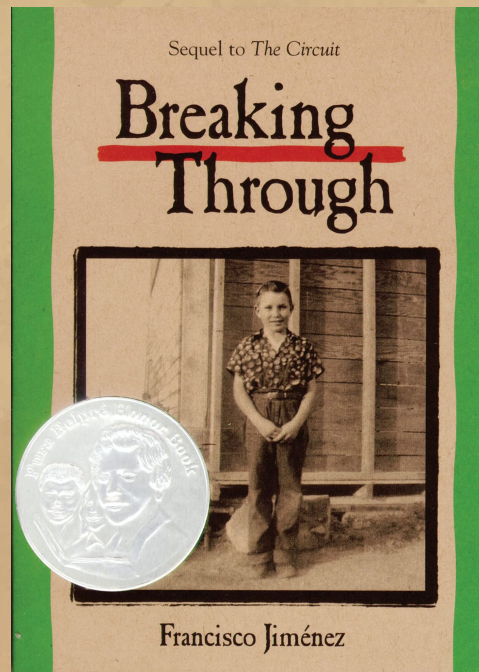
Image of United Farm Workers of America via voicefoc

METHODOLOGY

The Circuit: Stories from the Life of a Migrant Child (1997)



Breaking Through (2002)



FRANCISCO JIMÉNEZ

- Tlaquepaque, Jalisco, México (1943)
- *Memoirs: The Circuit* (1997) *Breaking Through* (2002) *Reaching Out* (2008) *Taking Hold* (2017)
- B.A (Santa Clara University)
- Masters and Phd in Latin American Literature (Columbia University)

“I identify with my Mexican heritage. I think of myself as Mexican and Mexican American, since I have lived in this country most of my life. In terms of my politics, I would say I am Chicano” (Jiménez 2022).



Image de Francisco Jiménez via LOC

ANALYSIS

Book 1: *The Circuit*

Book 2: *Breaking Through*

Topics:

- Growth and Identity Development
- Political Awareness
- Activism Through Writing



Image of Francisco Jimenez and classmates via Hoopla

GROWTH AND IDENTITY DEVELOPMENT

- Changes
 - Language
 - Home
- Immigration Status
 - Undocumented
 - Permanent Residency
- Independence
 - Cross-Cultural Identity
 - Chicano



Flags of México and USA by Carlos Dominguez via Fronteras

POLITICAL AWARENESS

- Reflections concerning his surroundings
- The acknowledgement of injustices
- The care of others
- Inspiration
 - *The Grapes of Wrath* (1939) by John Steinbeck



Image of Marvin Bravo by Max Whittaker
via Los Angeles times

ACTIVISM THROUGH WRITING

The United States Declaration of Independence states the following:
“We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”



Chicano Art by Nelida Pérez via Tumblr

CONCLUSION

Jiménez's life evolves

- Growth and Development of his Identity
- Political Awareness
- Activism

Limitations

- Only two memoirs

Future Investigations

- *Reaching Out & Taking Hold*
- Looking at all 4 memoirs



Image of Francisco Jiménez and Brothers via NBC News

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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- Classmates
- WLC department



Image of Brian L. Frank via The New York Times

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QUESTIONS?