



Laughing Out Loud, I Fly: Poems in English and Spanish

Juan Felipe Herrera , Karen Barbour (Illustrations)

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From one of the most prominent Chicano poets writing today, here are poems like sweet music-to make the body shake and move to the rhythm of rhyme, to the pulse of words. Juan Felipe Herrera writes in both Spanish and English about the joy and laughter and sometimes the confusion of growing up in an upside-down, jumbled-up world-between two cultures, two homes. With a crazy maraca beat, Herrera creates poetry as rich and vibrant as mole de ole and pineapple tamales...an aroma of papaya...a clear soup with strong garlic, so you will grow not disappear Herrera's words are hot& peppery, good for you. They show us what it means to laugh out loud until it feel like flying.

Juan Felipe Herrera's vibrant poems dance across these pages in a dazzling explosion of two languages English and Spanish. Skillfully crafted, beautiful, joyful, fun, the poems are paired with whimsical black and white drawings by Karen Barbour. The resulting collage fills the soul and the senseshot and peppery, good for you and celebrates a life lived between two cultures.Laughing out loud, I fly, toward the good things,to catch Mama Lucha on the sidewalk, afterschool, waiting for the green-striped bus,on the side of the neighborhood store, next to almonds,Jose's tiny wooden mule, the wiseboy from San Diego,teeth split apart, like mine in the coppery afternoon . . .

22000 Pura Belpre Award

Laughing Out Loud, I Fly: Poems in English and Spanish Details

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From Reader Review *Laughing Out Loud, I Fly: Poems in English and Spanish* for online ebook

Bruce says

In the afterword the author writes, "At the age of seventeen, in a San Francisco bookstore, when I first opened Picasso's tiny book of poems *Hunk of Skin*, I was immediately bathed in sunlight." Farther on he continues, "Pablo Picasso's poems are like his famous paintings: faces, flavors and places from different worlds are brought together in quick strokes of color and imagination. Can my words and poems leap like this too?"

This book is the result. A juxtaposition of brilliant images and words splashes across each single page poem, Spanish on the verso and English on the recto. The language is a bit more musical in Spanish, but the images arrive unimpaired in English. It's a joyful cubist rendering of the sensations of childhood, and it is brilliant.

Steph says

Writing Process:

1. Print a jumble of random words.
2. Cut out each word individually.
3. Place each word in a bowl.
4. When all words have individually been cut from each other, and are in the bowl, toss them into the air and let them land on the floor.
5. Randomly make lines of 10, 11, 12 and 8 words in length. (They don't have to make sense next to each other)
6. Type up creative lines, print, and send to the publisher.

Here are some sample from *Laughing Out Loud* that can inspire your crappy poetry efforts as well:

"Spaghetti bikes"

"circus kitchen"

"mango stories"

"a stringbean of sighs"

"agave-thorn nose"

"turquoise legs"

"a cilantro skyscraper"

"my hummingbird body from I am free you see"

Yep, the above samples are examples of what you too can do with your own word salad. Be creative. Start with your word search in the kitchen. Strive to not really make any sense when you pick up your words from the floor. That makes the poetry "better!"

Cindy says

I wanted to read some poetry by the new US poet Laureate. Colorful snapshots of the author's childhood. I

could read the Spanish (mostly) but was glad the English version was there for the vocabulary that I did not know. Well-worth the time to read.

Crystal says

I feel like I need to read Picasso's Hunk of Skin to fully understand the inspiration here, but the poems were still interesting without that background.

The poems felt surreal and I wasn't always sure I followed how everything connected, but it also seemed that they weren't necessarily supposed to fit precisely. The poems seemed to be stream of consciousness. The poems were like modern art in words.

Sinny says

Although the book is in Spanish and English and I understand both perfectly, is quite incomprehensible. You could find some beautiful images, about food, Mexico, being an immigrant, yada yada; but it's not really good poetry.

Aolund says

Exquisite poetry; I wish I could read both the Spanish and the English.
