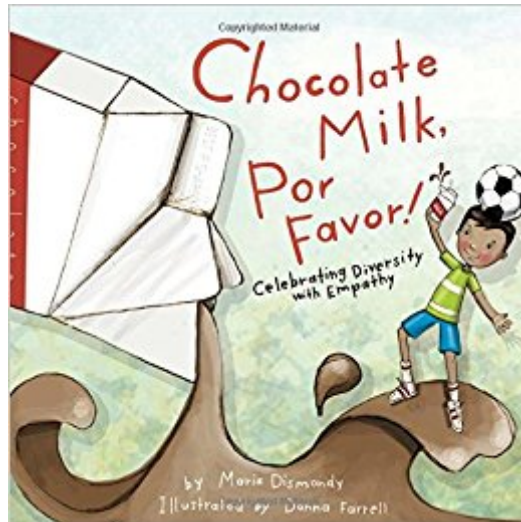




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# Chocolate Milk, Por Favor: Celebrating Diversity With Empathy



## Synopsis

It's Gabe's first day of school in America, and he doesn't speak English. This story shows how a simple act of kindness is worth more than a thousand words. Kindness really is a universal language.

## Book Information

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Cardinal Rule Press (April 1, 2015)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.2 x 9 inches

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

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 41 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #16,139 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #6 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Tolerance](#) #33 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Fiction](#) #69 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Social Skills](#)

Age Range: 4 - 11 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 5

## Customer Reviews

"Chocolate milk (Gabe's favorite drink) is a recurring symbol in this heartwarming story about the importance of making friendships and helping others, and the power of kindness when working to overcome the language barrier. Highly recommended!" [Midwest Book Review](#)

Maria Dismondy is an award-winning author, specializing in books about challenges children face. As a sought-after speaker, Maria spreads her message by presenting at schools and conferences across the country. Maria lives in southeastern Michigan.

Because this is a presidential election year households are viewing/listening to more news coverage than ever. Children notice the argumentative attitude displayed by many of the "talking heads" delivering their personal spin on the latest political

firestorm. Although children don't truly comprehend what is happening they certainly recognize the angry tenor of the discussions. Many kids worry about how these events will affect them, their families, communities and our country. These books address the experience of immigration and do a wonderful job of fostering empathy and recognizing the courage required to begin a new life whether in a foreign country or in a new family. *Chocolate Milk, Por Favor* written by Maria Dismondy and charmingly illustrated by Donna Farrell, presents the story primarily from Johnny's point of view. He fears being displaced as his class makes room for a new student; Readers also see Gabe's perspective as the new student. Johnny acts out his fears through hostility but his classmates follow their teacher's suggestion and help him learn how to fit in. While Gabe and Johnny do not speak the same language, they do share a love of soccer. Sport succeeds in breaking down barriers and mistrust. I like how this book depicts many different reactions to the immigrant student's arrival. This feels more believable. It also shows how Gabe and his classmates strive to communicate even though they don't speak one another's language. What they have in common as kids, students and soccer players outweighs the differences that divide them. The book is based on the experiences of one of Maria Dismondy's students. This is a wonderful story because it portrays the situation from both sides. Children can easily discern the message of friendship and community at the core of the story: "to have a friend is first to be a friend." It includes discussion questions to explore before and after reading the book as well as tips for English language learners. *Chocolate Milk, Por Favor* is a gem, especially when paired with the next story.

**#AAQ Lens: For adopted children this book can easily tap into feeling alien as they enter their new world (their new family.) In some families they literally do not speak the same language. In other's, their lack of shared experience and mutual history divides them. The challenge of learning to understand and trust one another rings true.--Gayle H. Swift, "ABC, Adoption & Me: A Multicultural Picture Book"**

I use this book to elementary age kids to teach them what prejudice, bigotry and racism is and how it happens among people.

My 7 year old son and I enjoyed this book. His comment was "this is a cool book mom!" As a parent, I enjoyed the way the author taught diversity and compassion smartly woven into the story. I would

highly recommend this book!

I'm so glad I discovered this great book! My class loved it!

Another great book from Maria Dismondy! *Chocolate Milk, Por Favor!* is a story about a boy named Johnny who is angry when a new student, Gabe, arrives. Gabe comes to school in tears and doesn't speak English. Johnny doesn't understand why anyone would want to play with Gabe, especially since he can't talk to them, but slowly Johnny learns that actions speak much louder than words. What makes this story even more special is that it's based on a real student in Maria Dismondy's class who moved to the United States just days before the start of 1st grade. As Maria Dismondy says in her book, "I believe acts of kindness are worth more than a thousand kind words. It's true; I witnessed it." I was also impressed with a section in the back of the book called "Tips to Assist English Language Learners." This provides the readers with 10 easy ideas to help students feel welcome and supported in the classroom, such as pronouncing his/her name correctly or keeping your language short and simple. Often, adults and children want to help, but need opportunities to discuss and practice these skills. *Chocolate Milk, Por Favor!* is a wonderful way to open a dialogue about helping English Language Learners feel comfortable in their new environment. I highly recommend this book for all classrooms! <http://www.elementaryschoolcounseling.org/marissas-blog/book-review-chocolate-milk-por-favor>

*CHOCOLATE MILK, POR FAVOR* is a wonderful children's book written by Maria Dismondy. Maria's works help children in dealing with common childhood issues such as bullying and being different. I was first introduced to her work through one of her previous books entitled *Spaghetti in a Hot Dog Bun*. Maria's books gently guide your child through these issues while helping them to feel empathy towards those around them. Maria's books are cute and easy for children to understand. After purchasing *Spaghetti* I sought her out because I wanted to know more about her. She is a dynamic person that causes everyone who meets her or reads her books to want to be a better person. In *Chocolate Milk, Por Favor*, Gabe is the new kid at school. Johnny decides that he doesn't like Gabe because Gabe looks and talks differently. Johnny spends his entire week avoiding Gabe, but at the end of the week, Johnny is alone while Gabe has made friends with the rest of the class. Will Johnny learn to look past their differences and embrace their similarities? *Chocolate Milk, Por Favor* is an engaging book with colorful illustrations. I enjoyed reading this book to my sons. The

more children are exposed to a certain topic, the more comfortable they become with it. Children below a certain age do not even notice differences between humans, but when they begin to notice, how we as adults respond is critical to how well they will accept others. I highly recommend Maria's books to enjoy along with your children!

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