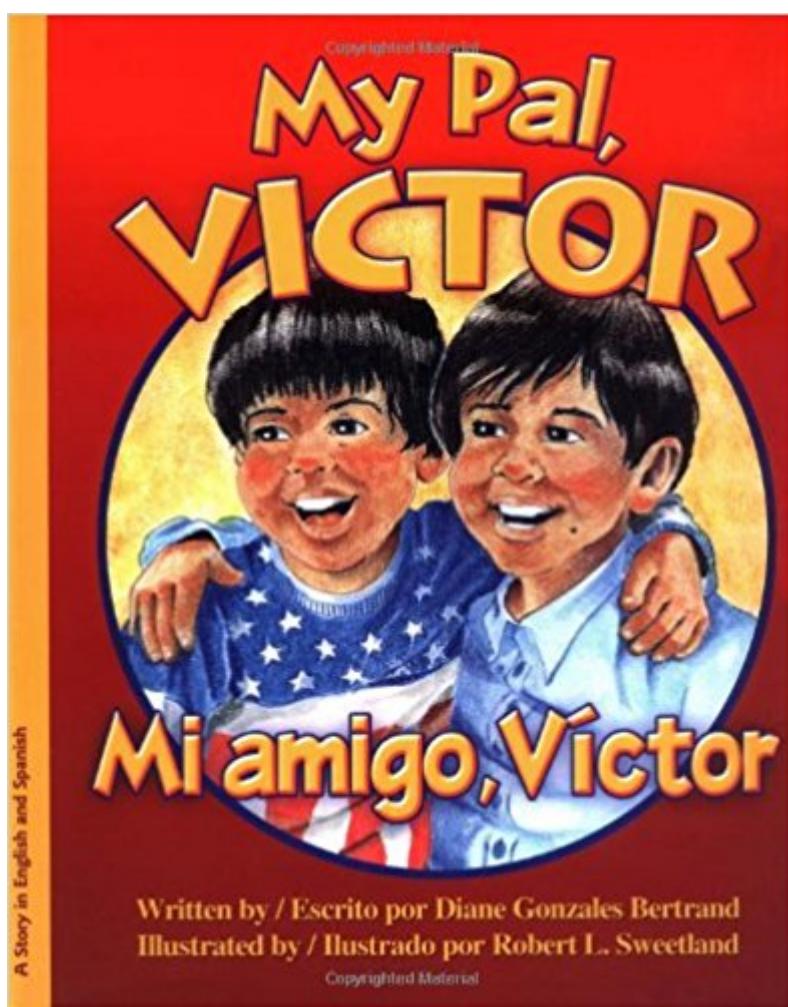


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# My Pal Victor: Mi Amigo, Victor (English And Spanish Edition)



## **Synopsis**

Two boys enjoy the summer doing all of the things that boys do despite one boy's disability. Full story in English and again in Spanish.

## **Book Information**

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Raven Tree Press; Bilingual edition (June 28, 2004)

Language: English, Spanish

ISBN-10: 0972019294

ISBN-13: 978-0972019293

Product Dimensions: 9.4 x 0.4 x 11.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 3.6 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,427,424 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #38 in Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Children's Health > Special Needs Children #1484 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Special Needs #3178 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Foreign Language Learning > Spanish

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## **Customer Reviews**

Kindergarten-Grade 2  
"Pedestrian prose and amateurish illustrations mar this treatment of friendship despite disabilities. Dominic's friend, Victor, may not walk, but he's far from disabled. He is not only a source of support, but a limit-pushing, life-expanding influence. Always ready with an imaginative story, a sidesplitting joke, or one more terrifying ride at the amusement park, Victor cheers Dominic on at softball games and admires his swimming ability. The closing twist reads: "But, the most important thing about my pal, Victor, is that he likes me just the way I am." This is paired with a picture showing one boy in a wheelchair. Libraries will be better served by Fred Rogers's *Extraordinary Friends* (Putnam, 2000) or Laura Dwight's *We Can Do It!* (Star Bright, 1998). Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

" . . . a tale of the value of a good friendship, in any language, in any culture, and with any physical ability." -- *ForeWord Magazine*"It reminds the reader that it is what's inside that matters . . . The vivid

illustrations capture the children's innocence . . ." -- Hispanic Link Weekly Report "Tender and quite wonderful! . . . head and shoulders above the crowd. Perfect for beginning readers of English or Spanish." -- Betsie's Literary Page "opens great opportunities to talk about friendship, (the pitfalls of) judging others, and disabilities." -- The Reading Tub "such a gentle treatment of the disability; an admirable book that deserves a place in any child's library." -- San Antonio Woman Magazine The award honors an author and illustrator for artistic expression of the disability experience for child / adolescent audiences. -- Winner; ALA Schneider Family Book Award; 2005 This book celebrates close friends and accepting each other's differences totally. -- Heartland Review April 2004

:)

I'm not actually quite sure how I feel about the "hidden" nature of Victor's depiction in a wheelchair. Through the entire book, we hear about all the great things Victor can do, and that is good, that is positive, but we don't see that Victor is in a wheelchair until that last image? As if we need a little punch, a little challenge to our assumptions? I would much rather the book show Victor's wheelchair and all the things he can do, at the same time, rather than trying to "prove a point" about our preconceived notions. I think, if the artist hadn't tried to be so "clever" with that bit, I'd have given this book a 4. 5-star picture books are a bit rare for me (and mostly focus on LGBT issues, really), so a 4 is still high praise. It means the art and story is fine, though not to the level of me expecting them to win a Caldecott. It's an okay book, one I'd recommend to someone if they needed a book on that subject, but not a genre-defining release. Don't be so afraid to show differently-abled children. Hiding them, whether to make a point or just to avoid controversy, does nothing to help actual people, and only has a small potential to help your sales. At least in 2004, it might have, before reviews were so common.

Synopsis: Dominic tells about all the things he does with his pal Victor and he portrays Victor to be a great friend. The two boys, Dominic and Victor do lots of fun things together. They look up at the clouds and Victor makes up stories about them. Victor says that they look like dragons, rocket ships and the pyramids in Mexico. He says, "My Pal Victor, tells great jokes." For example one of Victor's jokes was "If you mix a parrot and a pickle together what do you get?" Answer: "A pickle who wants a cracker." Victor goes to Dominic's baseball games to cheer for him. The boys go swimming. Victor tells scary ghost stories. Dominic tells how they love to ride rollercoasters together. Most

importantly, Victor likes Dominic just the way Dominic is. Evaluation: This story is realistic contemporary fiction. It is written in both Spanish and English. On every page English is on the top and Spanish is underneath it. Dominic and Victor are both Hispanic. Victor is handicapped. He's in a wheelchair. However, the reader does not see his wheelchair in the illustrations until the last page, and nothing about him being handicapped or different is in the text. Bertrand portrays Victor as a child who can do everything any child can do. He can even swim! The jokes in the story are slightly lame, but to children they may be funny. The answers to the jokes can be found on the last page along with vocabulary translated from English to Spanish. The theme is different from many other books with handicapped children in them being the fact that most books are from the perspective that the handicapped child is happy to be accepted whereas in this book the non-handicapped person is happy to be accepted just the way he is by a handicapped person. My Pal, VICTOR won the Schneider Family Book Award in 2005.

"My Pal Victor" is a great children's book that also teaches some beginning Latin American Spanish vocabulary and accepting others for who they are. Each page of the book has the text printed in both English and Spanish so it is easy to associate the English and Spanish words. The illustrations are colorful and will easily hold the interest of a young reader. The story line shows the strong friendship between Victor and Dominic. I had a couple of other people take a look at the book and found that most people miss part of the surprise at the end of the book. Victor has a disability which would cause most people to end the book with a comment that they like Victor just the way he is, but the author turns this philosophy on its head when Dominic says that the most important thing about Victor is that he accepts Dominic just the way he is. What a wonderful conclusion and a great way to teach perspective. "My Pal Victor" is a recommended read.

This is a simple story that any child can relate to. The author takes two boys through many fun experiences, emphasizing that the two are having fun and enjoying one another. By the end of the story, Victor's obvious difference doesn't seem to matter at all. The affirmation at the end doesn't smack of a "moral" that would otherwise make it too sweet.

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