



Zapato Power: Freddy Ramos Takes Off

Jacqueline Jules , Miguel Benítez

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One day Freddie Ramos comes home from school and finds a strange box just for him. What's inside? ZAPATO POWER-shoes that change Freddie's life by giving him super speed! But what will Freddie do with his fast new skills? Weird things are happening at the Starwood Park Apartments where he lives, and his friends at school need his help. Is Freddie Ramos ready to be a hero? In this imaginative new story by Jacqueline Jules, an ordinary boy in a city neighborhood learns how to use his new-found powers for good. Illustrations by Miguel Benitez lend just a touch of comic-book style to this chapter book adventure.

Zapato Power: Freddy Ramos Takes Off Details

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Author : Jacqueline Jules , Miguel Benítez

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From Reader Review Zapato Power: Freddy Ramos Takes Off for online ebook

Kris says

A fast read. Not deep but I think my 2nd and 3rd readers will like it.

Sally Dumenil says

Freddie Ramos, just and average kid, finds out one day that he has special powers; powers that can help so many and change many lives. What should he do? Can he handle this task?

Freddie spends time solving mysteries and helping where he is able. But can he keep this up?

This is a great story/series/lesson on finding strength, noticing need, and seeing good in others. For a lesson students could read individually or as a group, reflect, and discuss together their take aways and reactions to text.

Leslie says

A cute little mystery, perfect for early chapter book readers. Freddy is Hispanic and lives with his single mom (dad died while serving in the army). I believe many of my students will connect with Freddy and will want to read the next books in the series to follow Freddy's adventures (I do!)

Edward Sullivan says

Great to see a story with a young Latino superhero. Freddy Ramos is an appealing character.

Meghan Nels says

I'm always searching for easy chapter books for 1st - 3rd grade boys! There seem to be many more choice for girls than boys. I think the boys at my school will enjoy this series. I'm glad I stumbled upon it!

Steph says

Cute illustrations accompany a tender story of a boy who has lost a father and slowly builds a surrogate relationship with another father-figure.

A pair of "special" zapatos appear at his door. When he tries them on, he feels relieved that his torn and worn

down shoes can finally be replaced and that his mother won't be financially burdened. The gift comes just at the right time. But Freddie quickly learns that these shoes are not only timely, but also special.

Marianne says

Cute new series for kids who enjoy superhero books. Main character Freddie Ramos is Latino and lives in an apartment building with his mother. His father was a soldier who was killed. Freddie is kind to his friends and uses his Zapato Power for good!

Jan Williams says

My 9 yr old grandson read the book and had comments on it. He liked it! Here's what he had to say: He liked it a lot. His favorite character was Freddy's dad because he was a hero in the army. He died as a hero and that part was sad. Ages 7-10 would like reading this and boys and girls both would enjoy it. This was one of the free books I got from good reads

Renee says

Summary: Freddie finds a mysterious package outside his apartment containing sneakers that allow him to run faster than a train, and inspire him to perform heroic deeds.

In the book, Freddie lives with his mom. His dad died last year while serving in the military in the Middle East. His mom works hard and says she feels bad about not being able to have nice home cooked meals every night like Freddie's Abuela used to make them. Freddie's landlord is Mr. Vaslov, a nice old man who likes to fix up and invent things. When Freddie gets these special shoes he tried to figure out where they came from. (Mr. V) In the story he saves the day (in small ways) but helping out his friends. He runs back at super speed to get a boy his library book for library class, get a girl's lunch from home, save a boy from running into traffic, etc. Story ends with Freddie asking if Mr. V can make flying shoes.

I am looking for books that have Hispanic characters and came across this series for beginning readers maybe Grades 2-3. It is also marked as a high-low book. Think it will work well at our library and I plan on ordering the 4 books currently in the series.

Gabriela Sansoval says

This book is a Cybils Award winning book. This is a great book because many kids can relate to the character. Freddie is a Hispanic kid that has grown in a single parent family and he considers his community his family. The book contains great illustrations and it is a chapter book for older children.

Amber M says

Genre: Multicultural

Awards: Oregon State Beverly Cleary Reader's Choice Award Master List; Great Early Elementary Reads, ALSC 2011-2012 Age Programs and Services Committee; Honor Book, 2011 Maryland Blue Crab Young Readers Award, Transitional Fiction; The Oregon Battle of the Books 2012 List; Winner 2010 Cybils: Short Chapter Book

Grade Level: K-2

I could use this book in my classroom to introduce the K-2 students to chapter books. In the book Freddie Romas comes home from school and finds a strange box. In the box is a pair of shoes that give him super speed. Weird things are happening where he lives and his friends at school need his help. Freddie uses his new found power to do good things. I would ask the students, if they found a pair of shoes that gave them super powers how would they use their powers to help others? This book also could be used for a vocabulary lesson. In the book Freddie uses some Spanish words. I would have the students pick those words out of the story and find the meanings and use them in a sentence.

Anna says

recommended for ELL310 @ Chase Academy

This is a cute read. I genuinely enjoyed it, and appreciated Jacqueline Jules's light touch of humor. I think I especially liked the fact that Freddy isn't your typical kid lit smart-aleck who gets caught up in some zany mischief. Freddy is a nice boy who is curious and adventurous. In Zapato Power, Freddy receives a mysterious pair of sneakers that give him the power of speed. I love how he uses his "super power" to help others. The illustrations are also adorable.

I think this is a great fit for ELL310.

Doret says

Zapato Power by Jacqueline Jules, illus. by Miguel Benitez

This book was brought to my attention thanks to the Cybils Awards. In 2010 it won the short chapter book category.

Freddie and his mother have recently moved to Starwood Park Apartments. One day Freddie Ramos comes home to find a box with his name on it. Inside is a new pair of purple sneakers. There's no name with the gift, just a note saying Zapato power for Freddie Ramos. With his new shoes, Freddie is very fast, faster than a train. Freddie wants to use his new speed to be a hero. He also knows he must keep his Zapato power a secret.

This was a very fun read. Freddie Ramos is great. He's just an ordinary boy who is given a special gift. This is easily my favorite early chapter books I've read in a while. I love that it features a male protagonist of color.

I checked out the first book from the library. I figured I'd only meet Freddie but now I am looking forward to reading the other books in the series. The chapters are only about eight pages long with illustrations. Jules text and Benitez art, make this a very reluctant reader friendly.

Michael P Campana says

A transitional paperback chapter book (and first book in a series), Zapato Power: Freddie Ramos Takes Off is the fictional story of an elementary school-aged Hispanic boy living with his widowed mother in an unidentified city (presumably either Chicago or New York) who gains super speed after receiving the anonymous gift of a pair of "magic" purple sneakers. Principal characters include Freddie, his mother, his Uncle Jorge, apartment building maintenance man Mr. Vaslov, classmates Jason & Maria, Maria's 5-year-old brother Gio, their dog Puppy, and Freddie's teacher Mrs. Lane. Black and white drawings every two to three pages help the reader visualize the action of the plot.

Lisa says

Genre: Fantasy (Fiction)

Fountas and Pinnell Guided Reading Level: Approximately Level N

Summary: Freddie Ramos comes home from school one day to find a box outside his door. Inside are a pair of purple sneakers with silver wings. When he slips them on and starts to run he is astonished to discover that he can zoom around as fast as a superhero! Who did the sneakers come from and can Freddie use them to become a superhero?

Why I Liked/Disliked the Book: The beginning of this book is just perfect. The author, Jacqueline Jules draws the reader in with the surprise of the special gift and the curiosity about what Freddie will do with his new shoes. In addition to the great set up, Jules sets up a complex character. Freddie is a latchkey kid whose father has died serving in the armed forces. The illustrations by Miguel Benitez add lively movement and fun to the story.

What This Book Made Me Think About: What would I do if given such a amazing gift? This book makes a gift of special sneakers feel like it could actually happen in real life.
