

The Santero's Miracle



To Parent(s)/Guardian(s) and Third Grade Students in New Mexico,

This year, third graders are receiving a copy of *The Santero's Miracle*, by Rudolfo Anaya, as part of The Love 4 Reading Program. The program's intent is to honor New Mexican authors while exposing students to the state's many cultures. As an award-winning author, Rudolfo Anaya is both prominent, respected and a pioneer of southwestern literature. We hope this book brings the joy of reading and magic of our state to your family.

Elementary students in La Union Elementary School in the Gadsden Independent School District (GISD) initiated The Love 4 Reading as a Future Problem Solver's International (<http://www.fpsp.org/>) project. Students wanted their peers to enjoy reading at an early age. They thought that if every third-grade student in the state received a book written by a New Mexico author, it would motivate them to read. The students developed a process to select a book with Governor Richardson making the final selection. The Governor's decision was based upon statewide interest and readability for third-grade students.

The students of GISD were successful in taking their problem-solvers' project to state and regional competitions, where The Love 4 Reading earned honors. We thank the New Mexico businesses and agencies that helped fund The Love 4 Reading and made it possible for the students' vision to be fulfilled. The donors are recognized on the inside cover of the book.

This book covers themes of home, family, tradition, imagination, culture, and community. It reminds us of much that is special about New Mexico: our rural villages, beautiful mountains, centuries-old traditions, strong families, diverse population, and welcoming communities united in history and culture.

We strongly encourage all parents to read *The Santero's Miracle* with their children, talk about the story and then engage in follow-up activities. Attached are some sample activities you and your child can do together. We also encourage you to visit the *The Santero's Miracle* website at <http://santeros.nmsu.edu/> for more information about the book and the project.

We hope your family enjoys reading *The Santero's Miracle* now and in the future. And like Andrés and his family that you will honor your family, and the traditions, cultures and community of which you are a part, as well as celebrate the cultural diversity of New Mexico.

