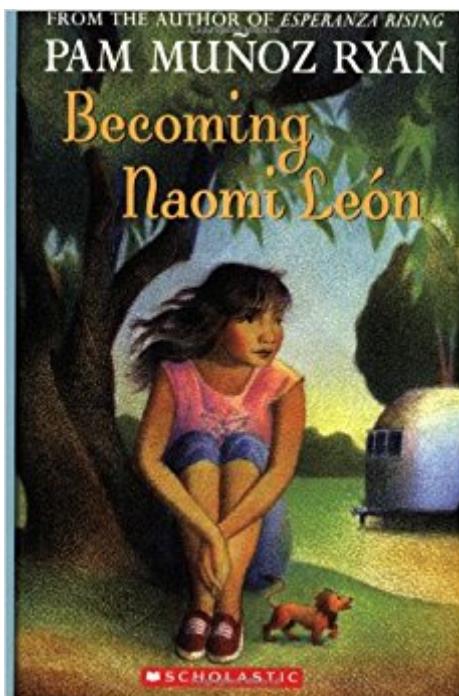


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Becoming Naomi Leon



Synopsis

A reissue of Pam Munoz Ryan's bestselling backlist with a distinctive author treatment and new cover art by Raul Colon. Naomi Soledad Leon Outlaw has had a lot to contend with in her young life, her name for one. Then there are her clothes (sewn in polyester by Gram), her difficulty speaking up, and her status at school as "nobody special." But according to Gram, most problems can be overcome with positive thinking. And with Gram and her little brother, Owen, Naomi's life at Avocado Acres Trailer Rancho in California is happy and peaceful...until their mother reappears after seven years of being gone, stirring up all sorts of questions and challenging Naomi to discover and proclaim who she really is.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 830 (What's this?)

Paperback: 272 pages

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Language: English

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ISBN-13: 978-0439269971

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 5 x 7.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 178 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #19,338 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #20 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > Hispanic & Latino #53 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Multigenerational #260 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Emotions & Feelings

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Grade 5-8 "Gram, Naomi, and Owen are happy at Avocado Acres Trailer Rancho until the day the children's mother arrives. After being gone so long that they don't recognize her, Skyla enters their lives, lavishing attention and presents on fifth-grade Naomi; however, she never seems to include Owen. After several weeks, the truth about her reappearance becomes apparent. Clive, her new boyfriend, wants Naomi to live with them and become the permanent baby-sitter for his daughter. The ensuing custody battle forces Gram, Naomi, Owen and a neighbor couple to make a hasty trip

to Mexico to look for Santiago, the children's biological father and a well-known wood-carver. After a physically and emotionally exhausting search, they finally find him at the annual Christmas festival in their ancestral village. Even though the children will continue to live with their great-grandmother, this reunion gives them the reassurance of their father's love and support. Ryan has written a moving book about family dynamics. While she explores the youngsters' Mexican heritage and gives a vivid picture of life in and the art of Oaxaca, her story is universal, showing the strong bonds and love that make up an extended family. All of the characters are well drawn, and readers will share Naomi's fear until the judge makes the final decision about her future.â "Sharon Morrison, Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Durant, OK Copyright Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gr. 4-7. Half-Mexican Naomi Soledad, 11, and her younger disabled brother, Owen, have been brought up by their tough, loving great-grandmother in a California trailer park, and they feel at home in the multiracial community. Then their alcoholic mom reappears after seven years with her slimy boyfriend, hoping to take Naomi (not Owen) back and collect the welfare check. Determined not to let that happen, Gram drives the trailer across the border to a barrio in Oaxaca to search for the children's dad at the city's annual Christmas arts festival. In true mythic tradition, Ryan, the author of the award-winning *Esperanza Rising* (2000), makes Naomi's search for her dad a search for identity, and both are exciting. Mom is demonized, but the other characters are more complex, and the quest is heartbreaking. The dense factual detail about the festival sometimes slows the story, but it's an effective tool for dramatizing Naomi's discovery of her Mexican roots and the artist inside herself. Hazel RochmanCopyright Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Becming Naomi Leon is a story about a shy unpopular girl whose life turns upside down at the unexpected return of her mother. Naomi and her little brotherhave been raised in Lemon Grove Trailer Park with their great grandmother, a feisty, loving, and wise old woman. Naomi and her brother a different - they don't havethe right clothes and can't seem to make many friends but they live a peaceful and structured life with their grandma and older residents in the trailer park. One dayNaomi's recovering alcoholic mother shows up unannounced and decides she wants to take part in her children's lives.The kids are thrilled to see their mother but their great grandma is suspicious of her motives from the start.From that moment on Naomi, her brother, and grandma are

taken on a journey with many highs and lows. Her structured and routine world is shaken up and Naomi begins to discover the reasons for her mothers and fathers abandonment. While reading this story I was rooting for the kids and hoping that their mother would not cause them any pain or angst. I was disappointed to find that Naomi's mother did not have good intentions for her children. The story takes an uplifting turn when Grandma is forced to hitch up the trailer and flee to Mexico to locate Naomi's long-lost father. It is imperative that they find him and the clock is ticking because Naomi's mother wishes to take her and move her away from her brother, grandma, and home. This journey was hard and confusing for little Naomi but she was able to discover her past, who she is, and where she belongs. Pam Munoz Ryan did a beautiful job writing this story. The theme of the story is that your family is whomever happens to love you and take care of you. Whoever would go to the ends of the earth to keep you safe and protected. It would serve to speak to many children who have different types of family structures, those that don't have the traditional mother and father home.

Pam Muñoz Ryan wrote a beautiful story of life, culture, friendship, and family. It engaged my students (as a read aloud) so much they groaned whenever we ran out of time and had to stop. Muñoz Ryan's imagery exquisitely blends American and Mexican cultures in a unique way.

I was intrigued with the book, *Becoming Naomi Leon* by Pam Munoz Ryan because the main characters rang true and the author was able to help me make a connection to them. The story was interesting from the very beginning and held my attention through the very end. The events were believable and written with such description as to make me feel as if I was there. Naomi was a strong and positive female character, a good example for any young girl. Her mixed ancestry of White and Mexican American was depicted in a positive way, so I can see why it was a Pura Belpre Award honor book. This award recognizes Latino authors who have not only completed a well written children's book, but have brought Latino customs to light with a positive take (American Library Association, 1999). This book is a contemporary realistic fiction story of a young girl who realized she must find her voice to find herself. Readers will relate to Naomi Leon as her emotions and thoughts are presented through a third person point of view. The main characters, Naomi, her brother Owen, and her Grandma, are believable and well rounded. The author stated in an interview, that she used her own personal experience of Oaxaca, Mexico and southern California to bring to life the settings of this story. This is a book I would recommend for any classroom library.

Naomi and Owen's mother left them to live with their great-grandma when they were young so she could "find her life." Owen is pleased when his mother returns unexpectedly, having no memory of her. Naomi, on the other hand, is worried. Unfortunately, their mother's appearance begins to rapidly unravel the children's peaceful lives as Naomi learns that she wants to take her away from her great-grandma and she does not want her brother, Owen. As the children get to know their mother, they begin to realize that she is not good for them. The conflict over custody sends them to Mexico to find their father. I won't give away the ending, but it is a story you won't forget.

This is an INCREDIABLE story that gives the relationship between granddaughter and grandmother just the right twinkle. Plus it happens in a town I went to grade school in , Lemon Grove.

Becoming Naomi Leon is a great chapter book for many children yet also engaging for adults. The author, Pam Muñoz Ryan, incorporated a great story line that involved two children being raised by their great-grandmother. Many children can easily relate to this story because they or their friends can currently be raised by another family member. Another connectable aspect in this story is that the children are from a previous interracial marriage. Her style of writing keeps the reader engaged throughout the story in order to learn what has happened next. The two children, Naomi and her brother Owen have been raised by their great-grandmother, Gram, for the past seven years when their mother surprisingly walks back into their lives and wants to take Naomi with her. Before this can happen, Gram tries to get help from Naomi and Owen's father who is from Mexico. They must find him so that the family does not get separated and along the way they learn more about where they came from. I will most definitely have my own son read this marvelous chapter book.

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