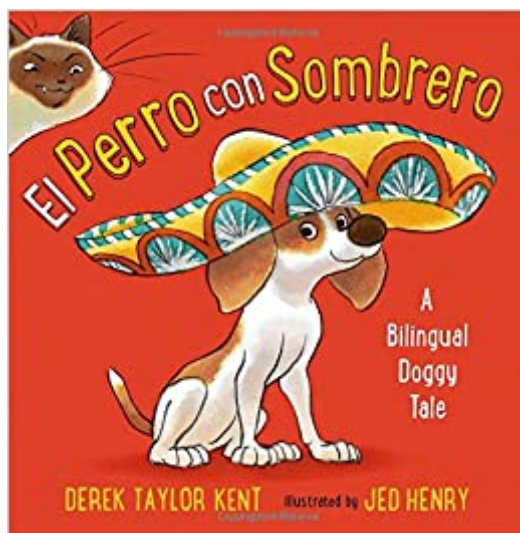


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# El Perro Con Sombrero: A Bilingual Doggy Tale (Spanish Edition)



## Synopsis

¡Perro! ¡Sombrero! ¡El perro con sombrero! Meet Pepe! Before he got a sombrero, he was a lonely dog living in the streets. Now he is a movie star, loved by everyone! Well, everyone except— ¡El Gato en Zapatos! El Gato is one sneaky, jealous kitty. Watch out, Pepe!

## Book Information

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Henry Holt and Co. (BYR); Bilingual edition edition (August 18, 2015)

Language: Spanish

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 16 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #69,241 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #27 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Central & South America #42 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Adoption #144 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Foreign Language Learning > Spanish

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## Customer Reviews

PreS-Gr 2 • Pepe is a lonely street dog without a home or a loving family. When a strong wind blows a sombrero onto his head, people begin to take notice of the pup, and soon he and his sombrero are making movies and receiving letters from fans every day. But although Pepe now has fame and fortune, he has no family to call his own. When the jealous cat with purple shoes (el gato en zapatos) hatches a plan to take away Pepe's hat—and the fame it brings—a chase through streets, weddings, and movie theaters ensues, ending with the cat cornered in a playground sandbox. Just as Pepe is about to get his sombrero back, a family nearby takes notice of him, and the little girl asks if they can take him home. Pepe looks at the family and at the cat holding the hat that made him so famous and tells the gato he can keep the sombrero. Pepe finally finds the precious love he has been seeking. Bright illustrations, quick action scenes, and warm humor are sure to draw the attention of young readers. This is a fun story, and its positive message about what is important in life will resonate with the picture book crowd. VERDICT A good addition for bilingual

collections and collections where dog stories are popular. •Selenia Paz, Helen Hall Library, League City, TX

“Move over, Puss in Boots and Cat in the Hat; now there’s el Perro con Sombrero and el Gato con Zapatos....A nifty bilingual treat. Kirkus Reviews “Bright illustrations, quick action scenes, and warm humor are sure to draw the attention of young readers....its positive message about what is important in life will resonate with the picture book crowd. School Library Journal “This bilingual offering depicts a humorous and ultimately feel-good story where everyone, including Gato, finds a place to belong. Booklist “It’s a sweet and swiftly moving story filled with physical humor. Publishers Weekly

This bilingual doggy tale has everything to fascinate a child and to keep him or her and his parents reading through the pages to find out what happens next. Children and parents will sympathize with poor Pepe, a dog without a family. We are happy for him when his fortunes change for the better, but this is not enough..Pepe needs a family. Fame and fortune are meaningless next to family love. This is a good moral lesson in our age of materialism. There’s even room at the end for Pepe’s rival, el gatito con zapatos, as he is welcomed into the family. Here is another good moral lesson: life changes, and even our enemies can some day become friends.The languages are placed one after the other, English in black with Spanish underneath in red in short segments, so that readers can refer to both for easy comparison and learning.The pictures themselves are entertaining. Pepe’s dog castle has a coat of arms with dogs fighting over a bone. The facial expressions are superb, ranging from the kind-hearted grocer who gives Pepe a bone , the savvy movie director, to the malicious el gatito con zapatos and at last the loving family.I love the book and look forward to reading it to my little granddaughter.Judy Martialay, author of HOLA Let’s Learn Spanish.

We absolutely loved this book. Great story line and fun images. It definitely kept my daughter’s attention throughout.

Bought this Spanish book for my 3 year old daughter. We read to her in Spanish every evening and she loves it. The pictures are big and bright, and she enjoys them.

I really enjoyed the writing and the illustrations. It was a big hit with my English language learners

who speak Spanish. I read this to grades K - 4.

My three year old granddaughter loves the book and is learning the Spanish words!

This is one of my two year old grandson's favorite books!

Super cute

Note: this review is from a post on my blog, [www.NavdeepSinghDhillon.com](http://www.NavdeepSinghDhillon.com). This When Derek Taylor Kent, the bloke who wrote the Scary School Middle Grade series, asked me if I was interested in reviewing his picture book, *El Perro Con Sombrero*, I was immediately intrigued. The title told me everything I needed to know for me to want this book not to suck: it stars a dog with a sombrero, a villain cat, and it's bilingual Spanish? Double in! First, let's talk about the facts of the book industry. It has not had a great dog protagonist since "Old Yeller." And what happens to him at the end? The poor sod dies. A disturbing modern trend is to portray cats exclusively as noble protagonists when they clearly make fantastic villains, like in the Russian satirical novel, *Master and Margarita*, in which the cat, a devil incarnate named Behemoth, is mad about guns, vodka, and has the most hilarious lines. I probably didn't take away from the novel what I was supposed to take away from it when I read it the first time. In my defense, I was thirteen. When I read it a few years ago, I was terrified and couldn't finish it. On that delightful note, let's get back to this picture book for children. The story of "El Perro Con Sombrero" is beautifully simple and it has a moral at the end of it. I'm not big on morals, but if it's there and it's not cheesy I'm down with it. I like stories that are entertaining, but in this story the moral worked and it wasn't overly pleasant. Jed Henry's artwork is a nice blend of mostly watercolor drawings with some digitized artwork and a distinctive old school style. Now for the plot: a hatless dog is poor, hungry, and sad. His immediate needs are food, but ultimately he is looking for love of a family, an internal goal he doesn't even know he has yet. A sombrero flies from a shop and lands on his head, transforming his sense of self-worth through how others now view him. Immediately he is thought of as handsome and given a juicy bone by a shopkeeper. Then a Hollywood director drives up in a droptop and offers him a job as an actor. He stars in many films, including what I think is probably the one that smashed the box office one where he eats a habanero

pepper. It's as hilarious as it sounds. But while he has achieved all of the capitalist objectives for a happy life such as owning a big house, driving a fancy car, having lots of money and adoring fans, he is still lonely and he knows his success hinges on a hat. The antagonist appears in the form of el Gato en zapatos, who is jealous of his success and decides to steal his sombrero. El Perro is on the verge of losing everything and all of his financial trappings and the branding of el Perro con sombrero. Naturally, a requisite chase sequence ensues as he runs after el Gato through several locations, including a supermarket where they knock things off the aisles, until he traps el Gato at the sandbox and we assume can physically overpower her enough to get the hat back. Realistically, that cat would claw his eyes out. It looks pretty vicious. This is probably why I wouldn't get very far writing fiction for other people's children. On the other side of the sandbox is a lovely family, who we should not think is only being welcoming because he is a famous dog, who they think has lots of money. That is how a terrible person thinks, so obviously I am not thinking any of those things. Now el Perro has a decision to make: confront el Gato and get his sombrero back so he can continue living his fancy life or go with a lovely family who is at the park. Spoiler: he goes with the family. And in a nice little twist, the family also adopts the cat, ending with a shot of the whole family on the sofa. The icing on the cake is that diversity is handled with lovely subtle touches. Not bad for a book about a dog and a hat. As a Papa who doesn't speak much Spanish, I've read a few Spanglish books like Little Roja Riding Hood. I liked the simplicity of the Spanish in this bilingual book. I had to read it once on my own so I could pass myself off as an authority to my five year-old who is on the verge of not needing me to read to her at all, a day I'm not looking forward to, and prolonging for as long as I can. It's lighthearted, fun, and if you're into morals, there is one at the end. If you're not, it's a fun read. But what I especially liked is that the Spanish is very accessible to kids and parents who don't speak Spanish super fluently.

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