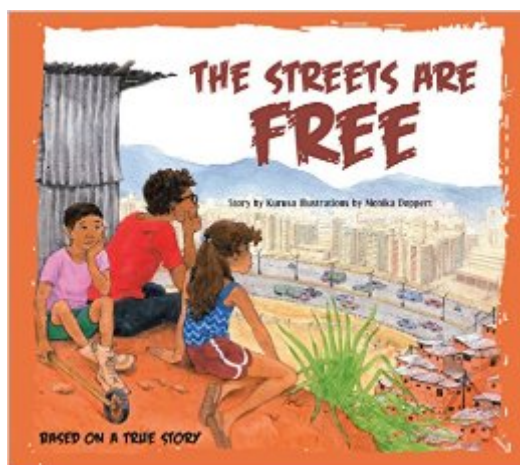


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# The Streets Are Free



## Synopsis

This inspiring book is based on the true story of the children of the barrio of San Jose de la Urbina in Caracas, Venezuela. There are no parks where they live, and the children must play in the streets. They ask the mayor for an empty lot to build a playground, but all they get are campaign promises. They know that they are the only ones who will make something happen, so they get their friends and family involved until the whole barrio unites to create a space of their own.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 550L (What's this?)

Paperback: 48 pages

Publisher: Annick Press; Reissue edition (February 1, 1995)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1550373706

ISBN-13: 978-1550373707

Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.2 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (7 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #350,061 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #118 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Central & South America](#) #361 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Where We Live > City Life](#) #564 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Chapter Books & Readers > Intermediate Readers](#)

Age Range: 7 - 8 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

## Customer Reviews

... there are better places to play and the kids in the impoverished 'barrio' of San Jose de La Urbina -- gouged into the hillsides above Cararcas, a slum without running water or sanitation -- know so. Their barrio was once a quite semi-rural village but it has been overwhelmed with poor people crowding together in hopes of .... well, in hopes! The kids have a decent school, but without a playground, and an adequate community library, but no playground. The truck drivers blare horns at them when they play in the street; overtaxed mothers scream at them when they lose a ball that bounces on the tin roofs of the steep shanty-lined slopes. Finally the kids decide to seek help from .... the Government! From the Municipal Council, to be precise, the closest government to their world. Their struggling, overworked parents scoff at their requests for someone to accompany them

to the Municipal Offices. Finally the Librarian offers to help. Needless to say, the paunchy politicians of the Municipal Council treat these slum urchins as so much dirt until ....But I won't 'spoil' the story with more details. It's a triumphant story of community organization, both of self-help and of inter-reliance. The text is simple enough to be read to children of kindergarten age, yet interesting enough for older children to read for themselves, especially because the art work is fantastically vivid and amusing. The scenes of life in a Venezuelan barrio are more 'realistic' in cultural insight than photographs; in them, a corrugated-metal shack is still a shack, but the humanity of those who live in it is depicted with respect and appreciation.

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