Chocolate Milk, Por Favor: Celebrating Diversity With Empathy
It's Gabe's first day of school in America, and he doesn't speak English. This story shows how a simple act of kindness is worth more than a thousand words. Kindness really is a universal language.

**Book Information**

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**Synopsis**

Because this is a presidential election year households are viewing/listening to more news coverage than ever. Children notice the argumentative attitude displayed by many of the âœtalking headsâ• delivering their personal spin on the latest political firestorm. Although children don't truly comprehend what is happening they certainly recognize the angry tenor of the discussions. Many kids worry about how these events will affect them, their families, communities and our country. These books address the experience of immigration and do a wonderful job of fostering empathy and recognizing the courage required to begin a new life whether in a foreign country or in a new family. Chocolate Milk, Por Favor written by Maria Dismondy and charmingly illustrated by Donna Farrell, presents the story primarily from Johnnyâ€™s point of view. He fears being displaced as his class âœmakes roomâ• a new student; Readers also see Gabeâ€™s perspective as the new student. Johnny acts out his fears through hostility but his classmates follow their teacherâ€™s suggestion and help him learn how to fit in. While Gabe and Johnny do not speak the same
language, they do share a love of soccer. Sport succeeds in breaking down barriers and mistrust. I like how this book depicts many different reactions to the immigrant student’s arrival. This feels more believable. It also shows how Gabe and his classmates strive to communicate even though they don’t speak one another’s language. What they have in common “as kids, students and soccer players” outweighs the differences that divide them. The book is based on the experiences of one of Maria Dismony’s students. This is a wonderful story because it portrays the situation from both sides.

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