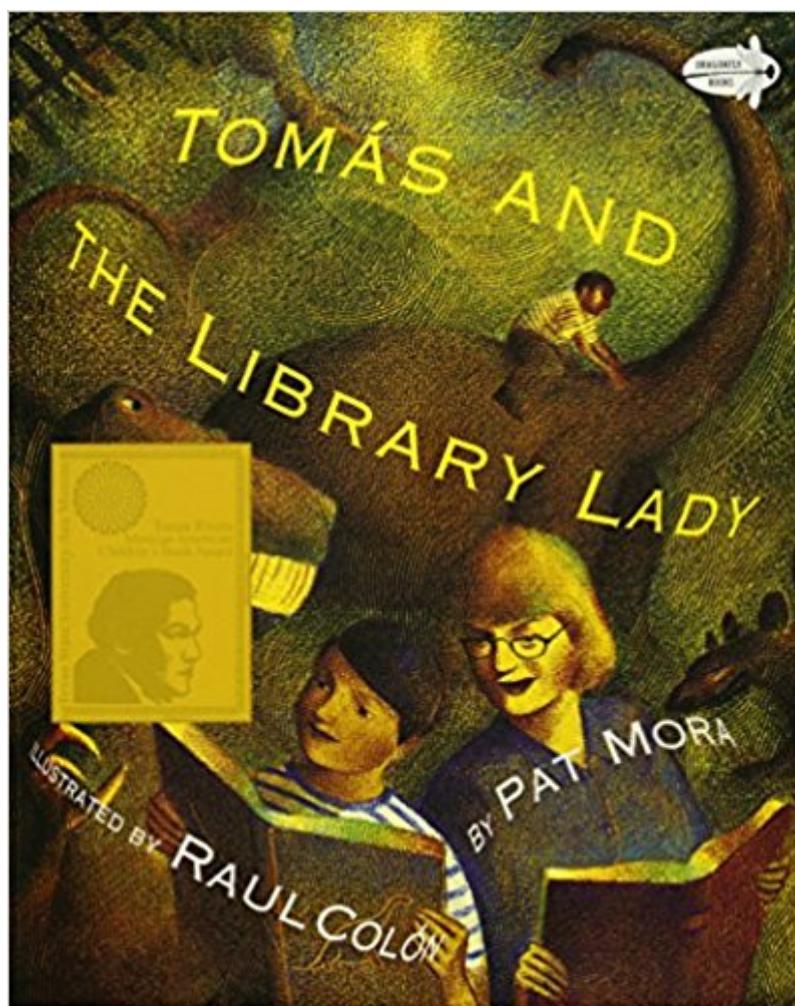


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# Tomas And The Library Lady (Dragonfly Books)



## Synopsis

A Common Core Exemplar Text by an award-winning author-illustrator team Tomás is a son of migrant workers. Every summer he and his family follow the crops north from Texas to Iowa, spending long, arduous days in the fields. At night they gather around to hear Grandfather's wonderful stories. But before long, Tomás knows all the stories by heart. "There are more stories in the library," Papa Grande tells him. The very next day, Tomás meets the library lady and a whole new world opens up for him. Based on the true story of the Mexican-American author and educator Tomás Rivera, a child of migrant workers who went on to become the first minority Chancellor in the University of California system, this inspirational story suggests what libraries--and education--can make possible. Raul Colón's warm, expressive paintings perfectly interweave the harsh realities of Tomás's life, the joyful imaginings he finds in books, and his special relationships with a wise grandfather and a caring librarian. "A gentle text and innovative artwork. . . . While young readers and future librarians will find this an inspiring tale, the end note gives it a real kick: the story is based on an actual migrant worker [Tomás Rivera] who became chancellor of a university--where the library now bears his name."--Publishers Weekly

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0440 (What's this?)

Series: Dragonfly Books

Paperback: 40 pages

Publisher: Dragonfly Books; 1st Dragonfly Books Ed edition (February 22, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0375803491

ISBN-13: 978-0375803499

Product Dimensions: 8.1 x 0.1 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 29 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #46,759 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #27 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > United States #82 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Books & Libraries #117 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Fiction

Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## Customer Reviews

Sometimes you read a story and it almost seems too nice. This book may seem to be one of those at first, but the difference is that this story is true! *Tomás and the Library Lady* is the wonderfully illustrated tale of Tomás Rivera and the kind librarian who helped him learn to love books.

Tomás started his life as a migrant worker and, when he died, was a university chancellor. (The UC Riverside library now bears his name.) This tribute to Tomás and his mentor reminds us of the power of stories and those dedicated librarians who have changed the lives of so many people. (Recommended for ages 4-8; it's great for new English readers and is also available in Spanish.)

--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 2-4?Tomas Rivera, who at his death in 1984 was the Chancellor of the University of California at Riverside, grew up in a migrant family. Here, Mora tells the fictionalized story of one summer in his childhood during which his love of books and reading is fostered by a librarian in Iowa, who takes him under her wing while his family works the harvest. She introduces him to stories about dinosaurs, horses, and American Indians and allows him to take books home where he shares them with his parents, grandfather, and brother. When it is time for the family to return to Texas, she gives Tomas the greatest gift of all?a book of his own to keep. Colon's earthy, sun-warmed colors, textured with swirling lines, add life to this biographical fragment and help portray Tomas's reading adventures in appealing ways. Stack this up with Sarah Stewart and David Small's *The Library* (Farrar, 1995) and Suzanne Williams and Steven Kellogg's *Library Lil* (Dial, 1997) to demonstrate the impact librarians can have on youngsters.?Barbara Elleman, Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI  
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I love this book. The story is both touching and engaging, and who doesn't love a book that shows young children what love of reading looks like. Tomas travels with his parents who are farm workers. The whole story takes place one summer in Iowa, where Tomas gets sent to the library by his grandfather to learn new stories. Tomas loses himself in the many library books and makes friends with the library lady. I got this book when my daughter was 2 and just getting into longer books. We both still love it.

Good story. I read it on the second day of school with my fourth graders. Was a good intro to what good readers do- become absorbed and visualize what they are reading.

Love the book

Tomas was one of six books purchased for my son's summer reading collection prior to kindergarten. This was by far our favorite! Tomas discovers a wealth of entertainment through visiting the library. It also touches upon friendship and family connection. What wonderful values for my five-year-old to read about!

Sweet story that encourages Latino/Latina culture.

Great story. My first graders loved it. It captured their growing imaginations. Will use it again when the opportunity arises.

Great for my ESL students!

The book was great but the condition was nothing like the picture!

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