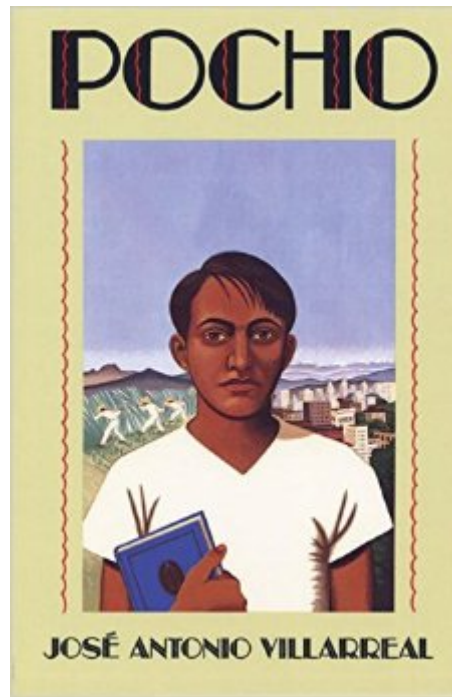


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# Pocho



## Synopsis

Villarreal illuminates here the world of "pochos," Americans whose parents come to the United States from Mexico. Set in Depression-era California, the novel focuses on Richard, a young pocho who experiences the intense conflict between loyalty to the traditions of his family's past and attraction to new ideas. Richard's struggle to achieve adulthood as a young man influenced by two worlds reveals both the uniqueness of the Mexican-American experiences and its common ties with the struggles of all Americans -- whatever their past.

## Book Information

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Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.4 x 8 inches

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

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (13 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #44,042 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #67 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > United States > Hispanic](#) #181 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Historical > Cultural Heritage](#) #2061 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Contemporary](#)

## Customer Reviews

Jose Antonio Villarreal's *Pocho* is a masterpiece of Mexican-American literature. It is a historic piece of text, authentically portraying life during the Mexican Revolution and through the Great Depression Era. Coming from an author who was an American born to Mexican immigrants himself, *Pocho* provides a realistic view on what it is really like to be the child of Mexican immigrants in America. A coming of age novel, *Pocho* is about a Mexican-American boy struggling to find his identity within the Mexican and American cultures. Attempting to fit in with the Mexican identity his parents instill in him and finding it hard to fit in with his American counterparts, Richard finds himself at a crossroads. Finding his way by submerging himself in literature and attempting to diverge from the idea of living the life his parents want for him instead of what he wants (to be a writer), Richard discovers his own ideals. Because of its coming of age nature, this book does deal with mature topics involving sexuality and violence as Richard matures. Although this book is about a Mexican-American individual, themes portrayed in this book are universal such as sexuality, gender

roles, race, class, religion, societal expectations and death so it is a great read for anyone. This novel holds a great view of what it is like to not only grow up as a Mexican-American, but as any person born by immigrant parents in America and their struggle with identity. Struggling with holding onto one's culture and traditions, children of immigrants often feel judged by both cultures and are not able to fit into any side.

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