



**María de la Luz is having trouble making friends with the new boy at school.** Join María de la Luz with her friends, family, and dog as she finds a way to break through the language barrier. The book's brilliant collages celebrate the vibrant cultures of Calexico on the US-Mexico border. Written in English, the story introduces words in Spanish and Spanglish.

**This delightful and audacious book will bring much joy to those who speak the lengua de la comunidad, and for those captivated by it!** Wonderfully illustrated, the story speaks from the everyday experiencias auténticas of generations growing up as hablantes bilingües as well as the ways they inhabit and understand their heritage and their bicultural world. Un triunfo that touches los corazones of its readers, chicos y grandes!  
 Professor Claudia Holguín, Director of the University of Oregon Spanish as a Heritage Language Program

**About the author and illustrator:**

**Peter Laufer** is the James Wallace Chair Professor in Journalism at the University of Oregon. He is author of many works of adult non-fiction including *¡Calexico! True Lives of the Borderland* (University of Arizona Press).

**Susan L. Roth** is illustrator of more than 50 picture books for children, many of which she has also written. Her collages illustrate *Parrots Over Puerto Rico* (Lee and Low Books), which received the Robert F. Sibert Medal with co-author, Cindy Trumbore.

Previously, brother and sister Laufer and Roth collaborated on the children's picture book, *Made in Mexico / Hecho en México* (National Geographic).



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**Subject Areas:** New at School, Spanglish language, Hispanic & Latino, Friendship, Multiculturalism, Southwest, Calexico, Mexico, pet dog.  
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