

Tito, the Firefighter / Tito, el bombero

Written by / Escrito por Tim Hoppey
Illustrated by / Ilustrado por Kimberly Hoffman
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English text with embedded Spanish words
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Richie, a New York City firefighter (or *bombero*) only speaks *inglés*, but he answers all calls for help. In any language, a good deed is still *una buena acción.* When Tito grows up, he wants to be a *bombero.* He speaks both *inglés* and *español*. But, he never dreamed his bilingual skills might actually help Richie and the other *bomberos* save the day!

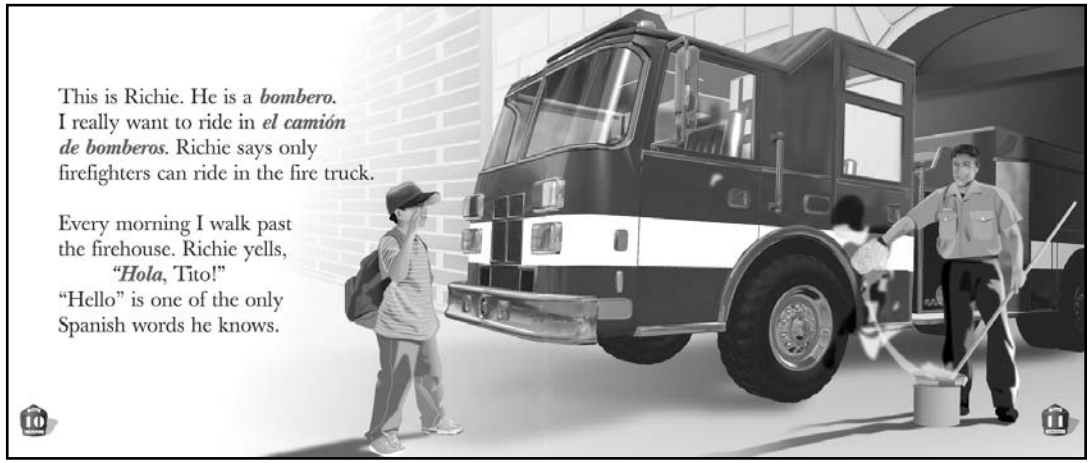
Lively computer-enhanced, hand-sketched artwork portrays the *bomberos* of New York City. *El barrio*, Richie and Tito's East Harlem neighborhood, comes to life with charming detail and humor.

About the Author

Tim Hoppey is a New York City firefighter. He is stationed in East Harlem, which is the setting for *Tito, the Firefighter / Tito, el bombero*. Firefighting has inspired many of the children's stories he has written over the years and two books of poetry. He received a B.A. in English and History from Hobart College in Geneva, NY.

About the Illustrator

Kimberly Hoffman is an illustrator and graphic designer who lives just outside Madison, Wisconsin. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Design Communication from the University of Minnesota. Ms. Hoffman has traveled and lived in Ghana, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, Africa. Zimbabwe's culture has inspired her and she hopes to co-author a children's story with her husband using this setting.



Embedded text – Take a story in English and sprinkle in a little Spanish. We call that embedded bilingual. We make sure the word is first introduced in English and then reiterated in the same sentence or at least in the same paragraph in Spanish. Once the word is introduced, it can be used again without the repetition in both languages because it is used in the context of the the story. The illustrations also aid in making the leap from one language to another.

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*"...a refreshing slice of life. the Prismacolor pencil illustrations, enhanced by Adobe Illustrator, have a fuzzy-edged look...the bright color, activity, and realism give them considerable child appeal...may have some application in ELL programs and could be used in conjunction with Chris L. Demorest's...*Firefighters A to Z *(S&S, 2000) to crate a storytime on these local heros."*

- School Library Journal

"Picture book storytelling at its best. The skillful combination of English and Spanish words along with the authentic illustrations enable youngsters in Spanish Harlem to both hear and see themselves in their neighborhood environment."

- Dr. Jim Higgins, Prof. Emeritus, Queens College City University of New York

"Serving and protecting the community is engrained in the soul of every firefighter–on and off the job...firefighters work hard to overcome the language barrier by taking classes and working on their Spanish, but it can be an issue...[Hoppey hopes] this book can serve as a good educational tool and bring the Spanish and English speaking communities together."

- International Association of Fire Fighters

"The Story is told in English with Spanish words and phrases worked in seamlessly. Hoffman's illustrations are special. Sharp details produce photographic quality that contrasts beautifully with pale background tones and scenes blurring off into the distance as the fire truck speeds by...first rate artwork."

- Kirkus

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