Carlos Santana: Sound of the Heart, Song of the World

Emilee Bell
From the womb, Santana’s family believed he had a great musical
destiny—Cristalino, his grandmother called him. But Carlos’s
father’s traditional mariachi couldn’t compete with the way the
blues played on his soul. A journey from Jalisco to Tijuana to
San Francisco produced a used electric guitar that led Santana
to marry the blues, rock and roll, and traditional Mexican and
mariachi music in a brand new sound that captivates hearers from
Woodstock until today.

Vibrant illustrations draw attention from the words to the
underlying story, perhaps rendering the written portion
superfluous. Indeed, although the structure of the book suggests
this a children’s book, the content written appeals more to a
middle grade reader. The story touches on, but doesn’t elaborate
on, themes such as poverty and the patriarchy, which may be
evidence of an underdeveloped plot. Lastly, although a scene
set in a cantina is included in the book, it is understated and
appropriate for children.