

## Enrique's Journey

### Reading Responses

Format: Typed double spaced.

2-5 pages Due every time the chapters for the reading are due. For example, 2-5 pgs total due for Prologue, Chapters 1, 2, 3. Do not include the question and write in complete sentences.

\_\_\_\_\_ Prologue, Chapters 1, 2, 3  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Chapters 4, 5, 6  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter 7, 8, Epilogue, Afterward  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Extra Credit due with any of the above work, no later. You will get credit for each "extra" submitted, if done thoroughly.

**DUE** \_\_\_\_\_ ***Prologue, Chapters 1, 2, 3***

#### Prologue

The author allows readers an inside view of her creative process. Nazario reviews her background as the child of immigrants, her inspiration for writing this story, and the process that she begins as she prepares to research and write Enrique's story. The writer tells how and where she finds Enrique and how he is representative of the children whose story she desires to tell.

1. How did the author get the idea for this work?
2. What shift, that is a change from the 1980s, has taken place in the face of the modern immigrant population, according to this book?
3. Why has this change in the profile of the typical immigrant taken place?
4. What were some of the preparations the author took before beginning her research for this story?
5. What "safety nets" did the author wish to have in place for her own personal safety? Why were these "safety nets" necessary?
6. What is "Grupo Beta" and what do they do?
7. How did the maid's son make the journey to America?
8. What age is the typical migrant child?

#### One

This chapter introduces the characteristics of Enrique that readers will encounter throughout the book — his shyness, his affection for his mother, his inability to understand why his mother leaves him. This chapter also traces Lourdes' (Enrique's mother) decision to leave for America and her early experiences in California. Readers see Enrique's rebellion against the relatives with whom he lives in Honduras and Enrique's desire to make his own journey to follow his mother.

1. Approximately how many illegal immigrants enter the United States annually?
2. In what Central American country do Lourdes and Enrique live?
3. On what date does Enrique's mother leave him?
4. Approximately how many children enter the United States each year illegally and without their parents?
5. What is the name of Enrique's father?
6. What are some of Lourdes' early jobs in California?
7. Why is becoming a nanny difficult for Lourdes?
8. What promise does Lourdes make to Enrique?
9. What is the name of Enrique's sister?
10. With whom does Enrique's sister live?
11. Why does Enrique end up leaving his father's home?

12. How does Lourdes lose most of the money she has saved to try to bring her children to her?
13. What negative habits does Enrique develop in his mother's absence?
14. How does Enrique feel about living with Uncle Marco?
15. Why does Enrique's relationship with Marco end?
16. At fifteen, Enrique returns to live with whom?
17. What is the name of Enrique's girlfriend?
18. Initially, what things does Enrique do to win his girlfriend's affection?
19. With whom does Enrique first try to head north?
20. How does Enrique's first attempt end?
21. What event precipitates Enrique's leaving for "el Norte" for good?
22. On what date does Enrique leave his grandmother's house to begin his journey?
23. What possessions does Enrique take with him?
24. p. 13-23 Which people help, and which do not help, Lourdes in the US? How?
25. p. 13-23 What evidence does Nazario give of Lourdes' love for her kids?
26. p. 22-23 Why does Nazario include the anecdotes about Victor, Francisco, and Santos?
27. p. 24-25 Do you think it is harder for young children or for teens to endure separation from their parents? Explain.
28. p. 27-28 In what ways does N. Carolina offer new hope for Lourdes?

## Two

This chapter begins with Enrique's seventh attempt to reach America. He is battered and bloody. The chapter reviews Enrique's first six attempts and fills in the details of this attempt that led to Enrique's injuries. After getting medical treatment, Enrique hitches a ride with a man who turns out to be an off-duty immigration officer. The chapter ends with Enrique being sent back to Honduras.

1. When Enrique appears in Las Anonas, in Oaxaca, what does he look like?
2. When Enrique is attacked and injured, who helps him?
3. What is the attitude of many Mexicans toward Enrique and other Central Americans?
4. What often is the attitude of the police with whom Enrique has encounters?
5. What is the primary mode of travel for immigrants passing through Mexico?
6. What is the "bus of tears"?
7. p. 45-49 According to Nazario, what are some of the financial reasons that motivate people in Southern Mexico to help / not help the immigrants who are coming through?

## Three

Chapter Three describes Enrique's eighth attempt to reach the United States. The chapter focuses on the horrors Enrique faces in Chiapas, Mexico's southernmost state. This chapter introduces the dangers of the trains Enrique must ride to complete his journey.

1. Describe Chiapas.
2. What dangers does Enrique face on his journey?
3. Why is it said that Chiapas "is a cemetery with no crosses, where people die without even getting a prayer." (p 68)
4. Why are Chiapas gangsters so dangerous?
5. Why is it not a good idea to sleep on the train?
6. Olga Sanchez Martinez is one of the people along Enrique's route. How is she different from those who try to hurt Enrique?
7. What % of train top passengers are children?
8. Why do they call it "The train that Devours?" (p 88)
9. p. 49 How does corruption among police and immigration agents in Mexico affect immigrants?
10. p. 50-51 What do the 6+ stories tell us about Enrique's character?

Submit with Chapters 1, 2, 3 Reading Responses

11. p. 61-88 Use the chart below and examine figurative language in chapter 3:

Page	Term	Literal meaning: Write down the "real" name for what the term describes	Figurative meaning: Draw a picture that the words create in your mind
61	The beast	Chiapas, Mexico	
66	The train ate him up		
68	Crooked police		
68	The war with no name		
69	Coyotes		
69	A rolling morgue	A boxcar carrying migrants	
71	The pilgrims' train		
71	The iron horse		
88	The train that devours		

**DUE \_\_\_\_\_ Chapters 4, 5, 6****Four**

In Chapter Four, Enrique enters the Mexican state of Veracruz. He finds a job to get money to continue his journey and makes it all the way to Nuevo Laredo, a town on the Mexican/American border.

1. What significant change takes place when Enrique reaches Veracruz?
2. How do the people of Veracruz show their kindness?
3. In Encinar, what does the church do for migrants, workers, and the poor?
4. What does Hipolito Reyes Larios see as his mission?
5. When Enrique finally arrives at Nuevo Laredo, he is on the banks of what river?

**Five**

Chapter Five tells of waiting to cross the border into the United States. Enrique needs to call his mother and money to pay for a “coyote” to help him cross the border.

1. Who is Padre Leo and what does he do?
2. How does Enrique make money to buy a phone card?
3. Why must Enrique call Honduras first?
4. How did Enrique “lose” his mother’s phone number?
5. What is Enrique’s mother’s point of view?
6. What is his setback to calling his mother?
7. Who helps Enrique cross the border into the United States?

**Six**

Chapter Six tells the end of Enrique’s trek. He enters the United States and reunites with his mother. This chapter also continues the story of Enrique’s relationship with his girlfriend in Honduras, Maria Isabel.

1. What methods do smugglers use to get people across the border?
2. On what day is Enrique finally united with his mother?
3. In what state does Enrique ultimately reunite with his mother?
4. How does Enrique feel about his mother when they see each other again, and as they begin to spend time with each other?
5. On November 2, 2000, another significant event happens to Enrique. What is it?

**DUE \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter 7, 8, Epilogue, Afterward****Seven**

In Chapter Seven, each character's story continues to unfold. Enrique, having been separated from his mother for eleven years, struggles to accept her advice and discipline. Lourdes continues to struggle financially and in her relationship with her son. Maria Isabel, separated from the father of her baby, struggles to rear the child and to assure the baby that her father in America will someday return or send for them. The chapter ends as Maria Isabel, four years after Enrique left Honduras, leaves herself to try to find a better life for her child.

1. Once reunited, how do Enrique and his mother get along?
2. What does Enrique do for entertainment?
3. Where does he work?
4. Why do the police pick him up?
5. How does he change?
6. How does Lourdes' life change?
7. How does Enrique's relationship with Maria Isabel progress?
8. What conflicts arise between Maria Isabel and Enrique's family back in Honduras?
9. How does the book end as it began?

**Eight**

1. What is Jasmin's response to the sound of a plane engine overhead and what does this signify?
2. What happens on the television show? Why haven't Lourdes and Belky spent more time together?

**Epilogue**

1. What legal restrictions and trends do we see in this chapter?

**Afterward**

2. Compare and childrens' point of view and the mothers' point of view from what is stated in this chapter.

Enrique Compare and Contrast Chart

How would you describe and compare and contrast your experience with Enrique's experience?

	Enrique's Experience	My Experience
Confusion		
Childhood		
Rebellion		
Education		
Decisions		

**Activities for extra credit:**

These can be submitted with *any part* of the Reading Responses, when they are due.

1. Examine family relationships. Create a family tree for Enrique and for yourself. Write an essay in which you compare/contrast two of your relatives or two of Enrique's relatives (his uncles, his parents or grandparents, for example). Do you have one parent who is more lenient or more demanding?
2. Examine current newspapers or magazines for articles concerning immigration. What issues need resolution? What varying opinions exist?
3. Examine the changes in Enrique's character. Construct a character chart in which you show the ways in which he changes throughout the text.
4. Choose one of the stops Enrique makes to analyze as setting. How does this stop reflect the theme of the text? Make a drawing of this setting to demonstrate its significance to the plot.
5. What is the difference between an Immigrant and a Refugee? How do Lourdes and Enrique fit into these terms?