

Approved for use in AP Language and Composition/English III

Summary of the Work:

Nazario's book tells the story of Enrique, a 17-year-old boy who leaves Honduras for the US in search of his mother. Set in the early 2000s, it is an eye-opening contemporary adventure story that has readers hopping freight trains, dodging gangsters, immigration officers, violence and hunger.

When Enrique and his mother finally reunite after 11 years, they must come to terms with the expectations and emotions they've held onto during that separation. Their story will force readers to reassess the value they place on both American citizenship and family.

A REVISED AND UPDATED *Enrique's Journey*, with a new epilogue and photos, was published in February 2014.

Professional Reviews and/or Critical Essays:

"This portrait of poverty and family ties has the potential to reshape American conversations about immigration." — *Kirkus Reviews*
<https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/sonia-nazario/enriques-journey/>

"Joseph Campbell would recognize *Enrique's Journey*. It's the stuff of myth. ... it is safe to say that *Enrique's Journey* is among the best border books yet written" <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/03/23/AR2006032301468.html?noredirect=on>

"A remarkable feat of 'immersion reporting.'...[Gives] the immigrant...flesh and bone, history and voice...The kind of story we have told ourselves throughout history, a story we still need to hear." — *Los Angeles Times Book Review*

* Print resources are available from the library media center and libraries in the district. Contact any library media specialist to view the scholarly sources.

* Scholarly reviews are also available online through Books in Print and Gale. Contact the library media specialist to obtain username and password information to access the subscription database of full-text reviews.

Notes on the Text:

(The best way to evaluate and understand a novel is to personally read the book in its entirety.)

Enrique's Journey deals with mature material that arises in the course of the real-life journey's made by people attempting to make it from Central America into the United States. It contains violent content including rape and murder; such content is necessary to accurately portray the experience of modern day immigrants.

Rationale:

This is the American story updated. Discussion of immigration policy in the US has remained dynamic and relevant throughout our nation's history, and Nazario's reporting puts a human face on this often polarizing issue.

Nazario's brave investigative reporting offers young writers a model of moving imagery, thorough and immersive research, and an urgent narrative style.

This is a provocative book for all students of American Literature.

Noted Distinction:

- Based on LA Times series that won the Pulitzer Prize
- National Bestseller
- Named one of the best books of the year by the *Washington Post*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Miami Herald*, and *San Antonio Express-News*.
- Named the Best Non-Fiction Book of 2014 by *The Latino Author*.
- Among the most chosen books as a freshman or common read.
- Published in eight languages.

Readability

- Lexile Score: 830
- Readability Level:

Learning Resources Guidelines

- The novel meets the Learning Resources Guidelines.

Standard Alignment: [\(link\)](#)

Approval:

Submitted to Committee:

Approved for Adoption:

Connection to the Curriculum:

AP states that the goals of the Language and Composition course are to develop critical literacy and facilitate informed citizenry. As a contemporary trade book written for the general public and not the classroom, *Enrique's Journey* is an ideal fit with the AP Language and Composition course's focus on topical nonfiction. It informs and engages students in an issue that is distinctly and essentially American.

AP Lang suggests that instructors choose "texts that could be read in an introductory composition class in college," and *Enrique's Journey's* website places it "among the most chosen books as a freshman or common read."

	Finally, a primary learning objective in the course is to “Analyze and interpret purposeful writing, identifying and explaining an author’s use of rhetorical strategies.” This book lends itself to a discussion of the reporter’s purpose, her research as well as her rhetorical techniques, and the merits and limits of journalistic objectivity.
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Additional Connections:

(AP, Honors, Essential/Applied, Dramas, Films, etc.)

This book would suit readers in all English III classes, especially because a new version of *Enrique's Journey* ADAPTED FOR YOUNG READERS in the 7th grade on up was published in August of 2013. It was written for reluctant readers in high school and geared to the new common core standards in schools. (770L) The book's website offers a host of lesson plans for students ranging from middle school to college age: <http://enriquesjourney.com/educators-students/high-school/>.