

## Enrique's Journey: The True Story of a Boy Determined to Reunite with His Mother

Sonia Nazario. Delacorte Books for Young Readers, Random House. 288pp. Trade  
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Recommended Grade Level: Grades 7 and up

In *Enrique's Journey: The True Story of a Boy Determined to Reunite with His Mother*, journalist Sonia Nazario tells the life story of Enrique. Enrique's mother left Honduras for the United States when he was only five years old. For the next eleven years, he lives with various family members, receiving money monthly from his mother for clothes and school. This is a very common practice in Central America, and leaves many children longing for their parents. At age sixteen, Enrique decides to make the dangerous trip to the United States via the top of train cars to find his mother. Sonia Nazario retells the struggles Enrique encounters on his journey to find his mother, and asks the reader to look at the bigger question, is this practice of leaving children behind in their home country while the parent works in the United States really worth it in the end?

Nazario's young adult adaptation of *Enrique's Journey* allows for Enrique's story, a story similar to thousands of other children, to reach a wider audience. As a young adult reader, the story is almost more powerful because the reader is so similar in age and can imagine themselves in Enrique's shoes. The young adult adaptation also encourages a younger generation to become aware of the world around them, shedding light on the geography concept of migration. *Enrique's Journey* provides first hand examples to many of the strong push and pull factors encouraging migration from Central America to the United States, but Nazario goes one step further and challenges the reader to consider solutions to these often incorrect factors.

Resources:

1. 2014 Update on Enrique and his Family  
<http://www.enriquesjourney.com/about-the-family/update-2/>
2. Honduran Migrants who Have Lots Limbs from "The Train of Death"  
[http://i.dailymail.co.uk/i/pix/2014/04/10/article-2601341-1CFBD19F00000578-373\\_634x361.jpg](http://i.dailymail.co.uk/i/pix/2014/04/10/article-2601341-1CFBD19F00000578-373_634x361.jpg)
3. Q and A: Children at the Border  
<http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2014/07/15/us/questions-about-the-border-kids.html?smid=pin-share&r=0>  
**Focus mainly on the infographics such as "Where are the children going?" and "Where are the migrant children coming from?"**

4. Ride the "Train of Death"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yVaDiTQpKPk>

5. Immigration Crossing Sign at US Border

[http://doccbradford.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/texas\\_mexico\\_border.jpg](http://doccbradford.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/texas_mexico_border.jpg)

6. Interview with A "Coyote"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M1h2kXUtl4>