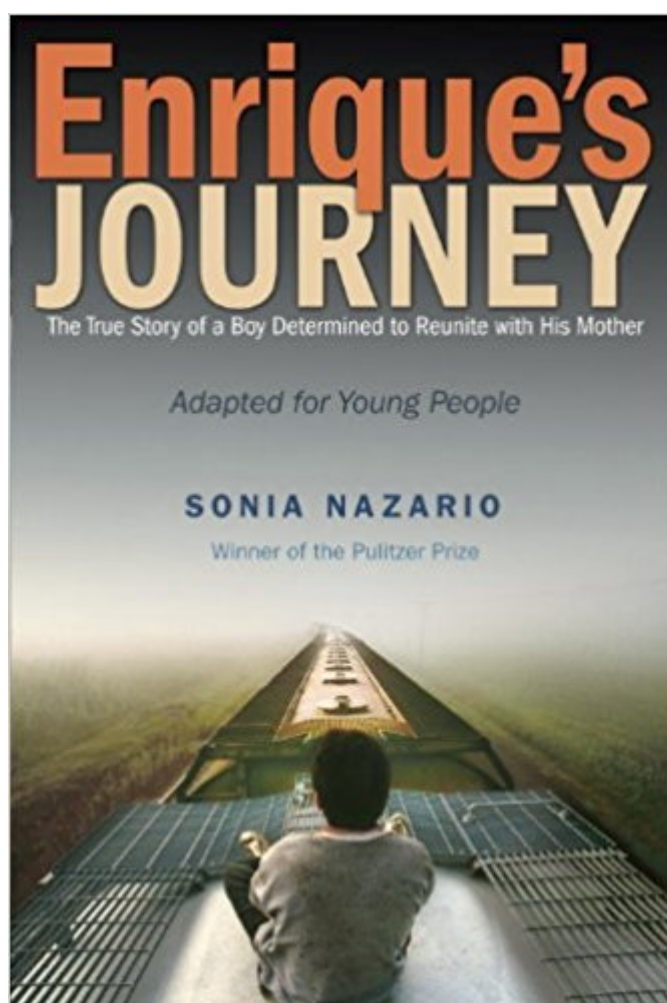


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# Enrique's Journey (The Young Adult Adaptation): The True Story Of A Boy Determined To Reunite With His Mother



## Synopsis

Adapted for young people, this edition of *Enrique's Journey* is written by Sonia Nazario and based on the adult book of the same name. It is the true story of Enrique, a teenager from Honduras, who sets out on a journey, braving hardship and peril, to find his mother, who had no choice but to leave him when he was a child and go to the United States in search of work. Enrique's story will bring to light the daily struggles of migrants, legal and otherwise, and the complicated choices they face simply trying to survive and provide for the basic needs of their families. The issues seamlessly interwoven into this gripping nonfiction work for young people are perfect for common core discussion. Includes an 8-page photo insert, as well as an epilogue that describes what has happened to Enrique and his family since the adult edition was published. "A heartwrenching account. Provides a human face, both beautiful and scarred, for the undocumented. A must read."--Kirkus Reviews, Starred "Nazario's straightforward . . . journalistic writing style largely serves the complex, sprawling story effectively. A valuable addition to young adult collections."--School Library Journal "This powerfully written survival story personalizes the complicated, pervasive, and heart-wrenching debates about immigration and immigrants' rights and will certainly spark discussion in the classroom and at home."--Booklist An NCSS-CBC Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People A Kirkus Reviews Best Teen Book of the Year A Junior Library Guild Selection

## Book Information

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Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Gr 7 Up—When Enrique was seven years old, his mother, a single parent faced with crippling economic difficulties in her native Honduras, migrated to the United States in hopes of securing a brighter future for her family. While her sacrifice provided important economic advantages, the separation eventually drove 17-year-old Enrique to embark on a four-month, 12,000 mile journey to reunite with her, traveling largely on the rooftops of trains into the United States as an undocumented migrant. In this updated version of Enrique's Journey (Random, 2006), adapted for young adult readers, Nazario offers a compelling account of a young man's brave efforts to find the parent he had not seen in 10 years, and that reunion's complex, unforeseen consequences. The journey tells the larger story of undocumented Latin American migrants in the United States. This adaptation has been tightened to focus more on Enrique's personal story, although some unflattering details (including drug use and problems with the law) have been slightly smoothed over. Nazario's straightforward, almost clipped, journalistic writing style largely serves the complex, sprawling story effectively. Backmatter includes an afterword offering substantial analysis of issues at play with undocumented migrants and notes detailing Nazario's research and writing process, including the re-creation of certain dialogue. Exploring important issues of immigration on both a personal and global scale, this title would be a valuable addition to young adult collections.—Ted McCoy, Oakland Public Library, CA (c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In this adaptation of a 2006 adult title of the same name, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Nazario offers young readers a compelling account of a modern-day immigration odyssey. Retracing 17-year-old Enrique's trek on foot from Tegucigalpa, Honduras, through Central America atop freight trains, to Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, and across the Rio Grande on an inner tube, Nazario illuminates the plight of thousands of children who desperately seek to reunite with parents who have come to the U.S. seeking higher wages. Nazario's narrative chronicles the profound dangers from gangs and smugglers, extreme kindnesses from clergy and generous souls, and Enrique's enduring courage. Comprehensive background notes document Nazario's own journey throughout the trek and her current contact with Enrique, his mother, and additional family members. This powerfully written survival story personalizes the

complicated, pervasive, and heart-wrenching debates about immigration and immigrants' rights and will certainly spark discussion in the classroom and at home. Grades 7-10. --Gail Bush  
--This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"Enrique's Journey" by Sonia Nazario. What a powerful and informative read. The novel is engaging and one that is hard to put down. As an adult, I was interested in what the young adult version of this novel would encompass and how it differed from the adult version. With a few exceptions, there are not a lot of changes between the two. Sonia Nazario took the story of one young man who was born and raised in Honduras. At age five, he was still a very clingy youngster with his mother, and didn't like for her to be out of sight for long. The day she walked away from him and his older sister to try to make it to the US so that she could better provide for her family was the hardest day for her and a scarring day mentally, emotionally, and psychologically for her children, particularly her son. Around the age of 17, Enrique decided he was going to go find his mother. Despite several setbacks, deportations, beatings, and lack of food, water and ways to remain clean, he finally made it. The story of his journey over the 8 months he continually tried to make it to the US and finally making it, is harrowing, interesting, and engaging. With so much information passed along from him, family members, and others who attempt this journey, the story of one migrant becomes the story of so many migrants/immigrants. There are so many pros and cons in regard to immigration and the reasons one does immigrate and the reasons one stays behind. The author uses past and current data, as well as the verbal views of others, in examining these. She also examines how the ebb and flow of need in the US affects our "acceptance" of those who illegally cross our borders. The author examines how many individuals and different groups in the US view immigration, what states have been more against it and thus do what they can to deport them while others find they benefit from those that have emigrated to their state. The issue of health care, jobs, taxes, racism, acceptance, and how to support the countries from which so many flee, are also addressed with the idea the reducing these harrowing journeys and keeping families together can be achieved. She also examines how wars, gang and other factors make staying in those countries, even with jobs and stability, make it hard to remain in their original countries. The author writes succinctly and fairly. She tells the story well from all of the individual's perspectives. She examines the effects of Enrique's mother leaving had on him and how his leaving his family had on them. Finding their loved ones is not always easy. Reunification can be difficult and full of anger, resentment and misunderstanding. The individual who leaves often makes promises or statements they cannot follow through with, which adds to the toll it takes on the children and family members left

behind. Sonia Nazario has written a timely, poignant, moving, and informative novel that is important for all individuals to read, male and female, age 12 and older. Rating:

4.8

Sonia Nazario has published a YA appropriate version of her multiple award winning non-fiction story, *Enrique's Journey*. It reads like a novel, but is an in-depth look at immigration and its impact on families. It is the story of a young man from Honduras who is desperate to come the USA to find the mother who left when he was 5. Lourdes cannot support her family. Her children are starving. She hopes a job in the US will allow her to send money back to support mother, her children and her sisters. Nazario does a superb job of showing the emotional devastation suffered by both the parents who leave and the abandoned children. Her thoroughly researched story also creates a terrifying picture of how horrific and perilous the journey is. Only people who feel life has no other options for them put themselves in so much danger. Assaults, robberies, starvation, dehydration and deadly accidents are the norm. It takes Enrique seven tries, 122 days and two very close calls with death to finally reach his mother. Both Enrique and Lourdes have unrealistic expectations. After 13 years apart, they are strangers to each other. Enrique is angry. Lourdes is hurt that Enrique doesn't understand it was her loving and heartbreaking sacrifice that kept him alive and in school. Sonia Nazario does not romanticize or white-wash Enrique's story. He is not a hero. Enrique is a sad, lonely young man determined to reunite his family and create a happy life. *Enrique's Journey* is a testament to the power of family.

*Enrique's Journey* is a well-written book that keeps the reader totally engaged. Nazario has done much research and presents a well-rounded, factual account of the perils that these children are facing as they flee poverty in Central America and bandits in Mexico. Also explored are the reasons why so many young parents, as well as their children later on, feel the need to endure these hardships (and even death) to reach the U.S. Middle school and high school teachers should encourage their students to read this book, exposing them to real-life and real-time adversity. Spirited debates will probably follow. There is so much that we in the U.S. think we know about problems like this, but until we read a book like *Enrique's Journey* instead of just watching the news, we'll never have the full story.

This true story sheds light on the journey of unaccompanied minors into the United States. It is a

story that arouses our compassion while it broadens the topic of immigration. What is a reasonable response to unreasonable poverty and terrorism in developing countries. These are neighboring countries whose safety and security obviously impact our own. It doesn't have a happy ending, but one that we are recreating every day.

I got a little lost with all the statistics and I feel very sad for what illegal immigrants go through to get to the USA. Then finding out that it's not such a perfect place to be like they see on television. The distance between mother and son is also disturbing when they finally meet and I have such compassion for both of them and why they do what they do.

This is a very enlightening and enriching experience. I felt this was more descriptive than many movie attempts have been at sharing this experience. It provided me with better insight to share with friends and a better perspective of what similar people feel. It is however not to disregard the unsuccessful journeys as they are very valuable and important to improving societal perspective as well.

I liked this book, even sent a copy to Trump

An enlightening truth about the journey of many children. The authors details make you feel like you're on the journey with these children.

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