

Sonia Nazario: Enrique's Journey Name: _____

Study Questions for Chapters 1 and 2 / BGR Academy, Engl. 9, Zimmerman, Nov. 2019

1. Who are Lourdes and Belky?
2. What is Tegucigalpa and how does it connect with Enrique's story?
3. What gives Lourdes the idea of traveling to the USA?
4. Does she plan to emigrate there (cf. "immigrate")?
5. Why doesn't she tell her children about her impending departure?
6. Who does she entrust Enrique to?
7. How old is Enrique?
8. What is a 'coyote' in the context of this book and immigration in general?
9. How does Lourdes cross Mexico?
10. She pays to be taken to Miami but is abandoned where?
11. What does Luis do after his wife leaves?
12. How does this impact Enrique's relationship with his father?
13. Whom does Luis blame for this?
14. Describe living conditions in Enrique's next home: the home of his grandmother (*abuela*)?
15. When Enrique is ten, his grandmother insists on him doing what?
16. What does he do for work?
17. One reason Lourdes never calls home is to save money. What is her other reason?
18. Describe her living conditions in LA?

19. After getting pregnant, almost dying in childbirth, losing her job at a fish cannery, and being abandoned by the father of her baby, Diana, Lourdes takes the only job she can find: she becomes a *fichera*. Explain.
20. What are Lourdes' "best days"?
21. How does Belky react to news of new baby sister?
22. After spending almost \$4,000 on immigration counsellors who promise to help her get a visa (if she becomes an American citizen, she can get her kids over the border legally), she finds out what?
23. If Lourdes were to arrange for a smuggler, how much would it cost her, per child?
24. Where does Lourdes move to?
25. Does the money Lourdes sends home from her new job help her children back home in Honduras?
26. Why do children at the kindergarten that Lourdes used to attend as a child have to turn in their shoes every evening?
27. Why does Lourdes' mother ask Enrique (now 14) to leave her house? Where does he go?
28. Over nine years, Lourdes manages to save up \$700. Then, overnight, she suddenly uses it all up. Why?
29. One night Aunt Mirian wakes up at 2:00 to find Enrique, who shares the bedroom with her even though he is 15, doing what?
30. Why does Enrique want to have a child with his girlfriend, Maria Isabel?
31. Why is Enrique eventually thrown out and forced to live in a stone hut behind the family house?
32. What is el Norte, and how does Enrique explain / justify his decision to leave Maria Isabel and travel there?

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Study Questions for Chapters 3 and 4 / BGR Academy, Engl. 9, Zimmerman, Nov. 2019

1. How many times does Enrique try to cross Mexico?
2. How old is he?
3. On his 7th attempt, he is beaten, stripped, robbed, and left for dead. Why, after arguing about it, do the villagers who find him eventually decide to have a doctor see him?
4. What is *la migra*?
5. What is the Bus of Tears?
6. What is MS?
7. Why do Central American gangsters ride the trains (and buses), preying on their own country people - robbing, raping, beating, and even killing them?
8. List at least 5 specific difficulties faced by migrants.
9. Even children ride the trains northward to the USA. Elucidate (explain).
10. On pp. 89-91, Nazario describes Olga. Who is she, and what does she do?
11. Why did Olga start doing this work?
12. How do the locals respond to her work?
13. What does Olga do every night?

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Study Questions for Chapter 5 / BGR Academy, Engl. 9, Zimmerman, Nov. 2019

1. What is a favorite Bible passage of migrants en route to *El Norte*?
2. Why doesn't Enrique pray?
3. According to Nazario, why do the people of Oaxaca and Veracruz treat the migrants so much better than those of Chiapas?
4. Describe the economic condition of the towns known for their kindness to migrants.
5. Describe the conflict between *la Migra* and the churches in the region.
6. How does Enrique manage to survive the sweep by *la Migra* in Cordoba?
7. As the trains approach Mexico City, they are better, and the tracks are better too, but there are far fewer migrants riding them. Why?
8. Why would a group of migrants— even close friends and family members, i.e. brothers — abandon an injured fellow traveler and leave him to die?

9. Describe the particular danger of riding boxcars in Mexico's mountainous regions.

10. Why does the "Christian" (cross-wearing) woman Enrique meets in Mexico City refuse to help migrants like him?

11. North of Mexico City, there is a new danger to riding the boxcars. What is it?

12. How many train rides has Enrique survived by this point?

13. What does the brick-maker who takes in Enrique advise him to do?

14. How does Enrique cross the last leg of his journey to Nuevo Laredo?

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Study Questions for Chapter 6 / BGR Academy, Engl. 9, Zimmerman, Nov. 2019

1. What does the word *stymied* (p. 117) mean?
2. Why do Enrique and other migrants wait so long before crossing the Rio Grande?
3. Where does Enrique wait?
4. Where does he sleep?
5. Who is El Tirindaro?
6. How much does Enrique earn one day after 8 hours of washing cars?
7. Who is Padre Leo, what does *Padre* mean, and what is his motto?
8. At first Padre Leo's parishioners turn against him. What happens over time?
9. Who inspires the volunteers at Padre Leo's church?
10. Briefly summarize the journey of Gabi (p. 127-130). Who is she? Who is she traveling with? What has her companion sacrificed to make the journey? Is she hopeful, now that she has reached the border?

11. What does Enrique survive on while waiting for the right time to cross the river / border?

12. After slaving for weeks to earn enough money to buy two phone cards (he needs two in order to call Honduras to get his mother's current phone number in California), he ends up selling one. Why?

13. List at least 3 dangers faced by migrants who make it across the river into Texas.

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Study Questions for Chapter 7 and 8 / BGR Academy, Engl. 9, Zimmerman, Nov. 2019

1. Why does Enrique destroy the note with his mother's telephone number on it before crossing the Rio Grande?
2. Around the time Enrique crossed the Rio Grande in May 2000, about how many migrants were drowning along that same stretch of the river every day? _____
Can he himself swim?
3. What happens to illegal teen migrants like Enrique if they are caught? Describe conditions in the detention centers along the borders.
4. When and how does Enrique finally cross the Rio Grande?
5. What is Enrique forced to do upon finally reaching the American side of the Rio Grande?
6. What happens next, in a nutshell? Where does he get taken, and how?
7. On p. 157, guess / deduct / look up / ask someone what a *quinceañera* is.
8. How much money did Lourdes send for Belky's *quinceañera*? What is she thinking as she looks through the photos of this event in her album?
9. How much did Lourdes have to wire from North Carolina to the smugglers in Texas before they would release Enrique to her?
10. How did she verify his identity over the phone?
11. How long did Enrique's journey last in days? In miles? How many attempts did he have to make in all?

12. Why, after describing Enrique's joyous reunion with his mother, does Nazario describe the family's trailer as being "awash in guilt"?

13. What is the reaction of Maria Isabel, Enrique's girlfriend, on learning that he has made it safely to the USA? Why does she react like this? Give two reasons.

14. After describing Enrique and Lourdes's fights, Nazario concludes that the problem was that she (Lourdes) _____.
Complete the sentence in Nazario's own words.

15. What happens to Enrique's girlfriend back in Honduras?

16. What do they decide she should do?

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Study Questions for Chapter 9 and 10 / BGR Academy, Engl. 9, Zimmerman, Nov. 2019

1. On page 169, what does the word *tirade* mean?
2. Name four things Enrique blames his mother for / accuses her of.
3. What does Enrique claim true motherhood is, and how is it different from mere biological motherhood?
4. How does Lourdes respond to Enrique's accusation about money? What does she say he would have done, had she sent him money?
5. In response to Enrique's complaint about having had to work as a child, what does Lourdes say about her own childhood – how old was she when her mother had forced *her* to start looking for work?
6. Going from angry to cruel to desperate, Enrique starts doing what at night?
7. Name two ways this impacts him financially.
8. Name four aspects of Enrique and Lourdes's first Christmas together in the USA.
9. Back in Honduras, why does Maria Isabel come to hate Enrique's family?
10. Given Nazario's depiction of Maria Isabel as a loving and dedicated single mother, what do you think might be the reason for the way Enrique's relatives constantly harass her?
11. Eventually, Maria Isabel moves back in with her own family. Describe the house she moves into. How many people live in it?
12. Who is Eva?

13. Why does Jasmin always run out of the house when an airplane passes overhead?
14. Why does Enrique move out of his mother's house? How does he feel about this?
15. Though Enrique's heavy drinking habit is the real reason he can't send money back to Maria Isabel on a regular basis, she worries that there is another reason for this. Explain.
16. What do Maria Isabel's girlfriends advise her to do?
17. Name four things Enrique does after making a New Year's resolution to amend his life.
18. Name two things Maria Isabel does at the market in Tegucigalpa every time she has a day off.
19. When she spurns their advice re: finding a new boyfriend, Maria Isabel's friends advise her to join Enrique "before it is too late." Too late for what?
20. Explain why Central American factory owners often set age caps for new hires. What age is often the upper limit? What kind of work do the young women in their factories do? What kind of work do most of the old women in the city/ region do? What about the unemployed women? How do they survive, financially?
21. Belky eventually loses hope of ever seeing her mother again, but consoles herself with two things. What are they?
22. On moving to Florida, Lourdes finds a new two-bedroom apartment. How many family members move into it? Where does Enrique sleep?
23. What happens to Enrique's and Lourdes's relationship in Florida? What, to her, is the most telling sign of his new love for her?

24. What is the main reason Maria Isabel decides, after long agonizing, to comply with Enrique's pleas to leave Jasmin with relatives and join him in the USA?
25. What does Maria Isabel refrain from telling Enrique about Jasmin, so as not to hurt him?
26. Who is supposed to take care of Jasmin while Maria Isabel is in the USA? How old is Jasmin?
27. How can Maria Isabel afford the journey to the USA?
28. How does Maria Isabel make it to Florida? How does she cross Mexico? The Rio Grande?
29. Describe the surprise appearance that Don Francisco arranges for Lourdes and Enrique on his popular Spanish TV show.
30. What does Belky say on the show about motherhood?