

It is easy for students and faculty to access much of the text of *Enrique's Journey*. This makes it feasible to assign some or all of the book in a class and to reinforce what they've read through class discussion, written assignments, and attendance at Sonia Nazario's lecture on Thursday, November 6 at 12 PM on GCC's campus.

If students cut and paste these words into the Proquest search line, the correct chapter pops up.

Chapter 7, the afterward and the epilogue don't seem to be available since they weren't part of the LA Times series.

Chapter 1

ENRIQUE'S JOURNEY CHAPTER ONE The Boy Left Behind

Chapter 2

ENRIQUE'S JOURNEY CHAPTER TWO Badly Beaten a Boy Seeks Mercy in a Rail-Side Town

Chapter 3

ENRIQUE'S JOURNEY CHAPTER THREE Defeated Seven Times a Boy Again Faces the Beast

Chapter 4

ENRIQUE'S JOURNEY CHAPTER FOUR Inspired by Faith the Poor Rush Forth to Offer Food

Chapter 5

ENRIQUE'S JOURNEY CHAPTER FIVE A Milky Green River Between Him and His Dream

Chapter 6

ENRIQUE'S JOURNEY CHAPTER SIX At Journey's End a Dark River, Perhaps a New Life

Ideas for Writing About *Enrique's Journey*

There are so many ways to get students writing about this text. Many faculty have already drafted some assignments which could be used in a variety of courses. We encourage you to draft your own, to amend what's here, or to draft your own assignment that fits your needs as an instructor. If you do write your own assignment, it'd be wonderful if you'd share it back with Sarah and Mark.

An assignment from Fabiola Torres in Ethnic Studies

ENRIQUE'S JOURNEY CHAPTER SIX At Journey's End a Dark River, Perhaps a New Life Assignment:

Pre-Reading Activity:

Describe to your group a moment in your life in which you felt FEAR (to be done before assigning the chapter). Does it shape your identity?

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Post Reading Activity:

1. Add up the total amount of money exchanged between characters in the chapter. Now go to

><http://finance.yahoo.com/currency/convert?amt=1&from=USD&to=HNL&submit=>

Convert and enter the total amount into the US dollar converter into Honduran Lempiras. How many Lempiras were spent?

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2. Now go to

><http://iwwraw.igc.org/publications/countries/cescrhonduras.htm>

Select 4 Covenant Articles and read the highlights under each article.

According to you, what seems to be the most surprising findings? Why?

Let's connect the social and economic reality to the chapter...

3. Was the FEAR Enrique experienced worth it? Wasn't it better to stay in Honduras? Now think of the mother... Wasn't it better to stay in Honduras? Will Enrique and his mother always live in fear?

4. Will this story repeat itself with other people of Honduras or other Latin Americans? Why?

5. Something to think about - keep the answer to yourself: Were you able to resolve, face or overcome your fear? How have the rights of being in the United States helped you resolve, face or overcome your fear? and again... Did/Does it shape your identity?

Two assignments from Richard Kamei in Sociology

Here are two assignments related to the book, *Enrique's Journey*, that I created. Please use either one as an example.

Assignment 1: Discuss the ways in which free trade policies, such as NAFTA and CAFTA, have affected small farmers, small producers, and low wage laborers in countries such as Mexico and Honduras. Furthermore, discuss how these changes are related to the large migration of Mexican and Central American individuals into the United States. Lastly, make an argument as to whether the free trade policies that allow for the free movement of capital and commodities across national borders while restricting the movement of workers are or are not a human rights violation. Be sure to utilize material from the book, *Enrique's Journey*, and at least two articles from peer-reviewed journals to strengthen your arguments.

Assignment 2: After reading Chapter 1 of *Enrique's Journey*, discuss the various factors in Enrique's socialization process that increased the likelihood that he would become involved with drugs. Be sure to incorporate the concepts of anomie and alienation.

An assignment from Steve Bie in Philosophy

Read chapter one and answer the following philosophical question it raises (called the "Gauguin Problem" by philosophers):

Although behaving rightly is supposed to override other goals, is it true that ethical considerations may justifiably be subservient to other artistic, cultural, or scientific aims on some occasions?

Gauguin famously decided to leave his family behind in order to pursue artistic aims, and many people believe justifiably so.

Compare the decision of Enrique's parents/mother to leave him to Gauguin's decision to leave his family.

Assignments from Sarah McLemore in English—the first two are more formal, longer assignments, the rest could be made to be more or less formal depending on the needs of the instructor and the students.

The Politics of Immigration (4-5 pages)

Imagine that NBC will be having a televised event on the controversial issue of illegal immigration and that both John McCain and Barack Obama will each make a speech on the subject. Both candidates will explain on television what they think are the biggest problems associated with illegal immigration. Both will also suggest the steps that they believe should be taken in the future to address the issue of illegal immigration in America. Write the script for *each* politician's speech (2 speeches total). To do so you should consult the following resources: 1. The candidate's website e.g. www.barackobama.com and www.johnmccain.com 2. two additional articles for *each* candidate (4 articles total). These articles should explore the candidate's stance on illegal immigration and can be *explanatory* and/or *argumentative*. You can find these from a GCC library database such as Proquest or Opposing Viewpoints. 3. *Enrique's Journey*. In each candidate's speech he should make reference to his views on the challenges and ethical issues associated with Enrique's family's situation.

All rules regarding academic honesty apply for this assignment at all stages of this assignment. Make sure to cite your sources using MLA documentation. If you're not sure how to cite a source then please ask for help!

Research Writing: Arguing "The Facts" of Immigration (4-5 pages)

Can you argue "the facts of immigration"? Write an argumentative essay which is based on research related to the issue of immigration. Imagine that you plan to publish your essay in *El Vaquero* to help raise awareness among your fellow students. Your essay should do one of the following: 1. make a claim about the topic which is controversial or surprising (example: Americans who consume diet sodas are more likely to be overweight than those who drink regular sodas) 2. Correct a common error in fact about your topic (example: Despite what many Americans believe, it has not been proven that sexual education in American public schools leads to greater instances of teen sex). 3. challenge some societal myths about the topic (example: while some Americans believe that men are smarter than women and have better success in college, the fact is that more American women than men are graduating from 2 and 4 year colleges and universities, so explain that, Lawrence Summers!!)

Step 1. Pick a general topic connected to immigration to investigate. Some ideas: healthcare, jobs/employment, education, homeland security, housing, the economy. Once you have a topic, draft a question and a hypothesis that expresses your beliefs that the beginning of the assignment. These beliefs may change as your research progresses.

Example: Does illegal immigration into America help or hurt the U.S. economy?

Sample Hypothesis: Illegal immigration must hurt the American economy because illegal immigrants can't legally pay state and federal income taxes

Step 2. Write your discovery draft

- a. Explain why the issue you're examining is important and provide context for raising the issue.
- b. Identify and describe those readers you most hope to reach with your proposal. Why is this group of readers important and what are their interests in the subject?
- c. Discuss the kinds of evidence you expect to use in the project and the research the paper will require.
- d. Briefly identify the major difficulties you foresee in researching your argument

Step 3. Find your sources. You should plan to find *four* print or electronic sources related to your specific topic. Consult the GCC's library website and use its catalogue and electronic resources such as Proquest or CQ Researcher. You will need to write an annotated bibliography entry for each source you use. See Course Packet for details. You should also make use of *Enrique's Journey* in your essay. Plan to use it as at least one piece of evidence in your essay.

Step 4. Write your thesis statement and outline your essay.

Step 5. Write your rough draft of your essay.

Step 6. Peer review your essay.

The Choices We Make

At the end of Chapter 6 of *Enrique's Journey* (Proquest article title "At Journey's End, a Dark River, Perhaps a New Life") Enrique and his wife Maria Isabel discuss their plans for the future. In the end, Maria Isabel asserts "If I have the opportunity [to go to America], I'll go....I'll leave my baby behind." Enrique concurs that "We'll have to leave the baby behind." But that's not the end of the story...Imagine that you are a friend of the family's who has just heard Enrique explain the story of his journey and his assertion that he and his wife would have to leave their baby behind. Write a letter to Enrique and Maria Isabel in which you explain why you agree or disagree with their decision based on what you know of Enrique and Maria Isabel's lives. You may want to offer them advice or suggestions but you should concentrate on arguing whether or not you believe they should leave their child behind and explaining your answer with evidence from your understanding of their history together and apart.

The Cost of the Journey

As we learn from Sonia Nazario's text, the emotional and financial costs of Enrique's journey to America are high. How does his journey impact the lives of those he meets? In Chapter 2 of *Enrique's Journey* (Proquest article title "Badly Beaten a Boy Seeks Mercy in a Railside Town") Enrique receives assistance from the residents of a small town, Las Anonas. Many of the town's residents provide Enrique with financial and material assistance to aid him on his journey. Analyze the impact that Enrique's visit has on the town of Las Anonas by analyzing the actions of three people he meets: Gloria Luiz, Mayor Carlos Carrasco, and Adan Diaz Ruiz. Once you've analyzed their actions, please write a paragraph in which you explain whether you agree or disagree with their actions. Make sure to support your argument with textual evidence and or relevant personal experience or knowledge from current events.

****If you have assigned students to read Chapter 4 of *Enrique's Journey* (Proquest article title "Inspired by Faith, the Poor Rush Forth to Offer Food") you could also ask them to also use this article in their response.****

The Odyssey

According to *Merriam-Webster's* dictionary, an odyssey is "a long wandering or voyage usually marked by many changes of fortune, or an intellectual or spiritual wandering or quest."

In Chapter 6 of *Enrique's Journey* (Proquest article title "At Journey's End, a Dark River, Perhaps an New Life"), Sonia Nazario writes "'The Odyssey,'" an epic poem about a hero's journey home from war, ends with reunion and peace. *The Grapes of Wrath*, the classic novel about the dust bowl and the migration of Oklahoma farmers to California, ends with death and a glimmer of renewed life. Enrique's journey is not fiction, and its conclusion is more complex and less dramatic."

Working with the dictionary definition above and based on your knowledge of *Enrique's Journey* write a creative story which represents a contemporary odyssey which relates to a current political, cultural, or economic issue. Your odyssey can take place over many years or it could occur in a much shorter period of time such as one day. While I have suggested that this assignment is an opportunity for creativity, you can certainly draw on your own spiritual or geographical voyages or quests. As in the case of *Enrique's Journey* try to end with a complex conclusion wherein not everything is resolved perfectly.

Assignments from Mark Maier in Economics

History, Chapter one

How is Enrique's journey similar to the movement of European peasants to the cities between 1300 and 1800?

Social science

Social scientists describe "push" and "pull" factors that cause immigrants to move from one country to another. List the push and pull factors for Enrique and his mother. Choose one pull factor and one push factor as most important and explain your choices.

Economics, political science

After reading *Enrique's Journey*, a U.S. Congressperson has asked to meet with Enrique. Imagine that you are a friend of Enrique, and he says he wants to do more than receive sympathy from the Congressperson. Enrique asks you to prepare a list of government policies that he could recommend to the Congressperson. What do you tell Enrique, keeping in mind that these policies might be based on Enrique's experience in Honduras, his trip north, or his experience in the U.S.? Provide a brief (one paragraph) rationale for each policy.