Readers, please direct questions and comments to jennifer.cooley@uni.edu. I’d really like your feedback about the book and about your experiences in the reading group. Just a short note is fine!

**Week 4**

**Introductions. New Participants and Group Leaders.** What is your name and, if you’d like to tell us any of the items below?

- Where are you from?
- Why did you decide to be a part of this study group?
- Have you ever been part of a study group in the past?
- Would you like to receive reading guides? Please just share your e-mail and we’ll send you a guide!

**Pre-reading.**
What happens (or has happened) to you as family members move away and then reunite for the holidays or family reunions? What are some of the challenges and benefits of reuniting family members after being separated?

**Chapter 7.**

1. Both Enrique and Lourdes feel growing resentment and frustrations. What are some of the sorts of accusations they launch at one another? Do you think their feelings are justified? Do you think these types of frustrations are common in many families? Or, are they specific to this family?
2. What would you suggest to remedy the tensions between Enrique and Lourdes? Do you think these remedies would work for other (immigrant) families?
3. In this section of the book we learn more about Enrique’s addiction(s). If you had to graph the impact of these additions in concentric circles, what would it look like? If you had to take steps to break these habits, where and how would you start?
4. Describe the challenges of María Isabel’s daily life in Honduras. What remedies does she seek to improve her situation?

Note: Here is a photo of the Los Tubos neighborhood in Tegucigalpa (hosted at http://www.uglyhedgehog.com/t-4508-1.html)
5. How do you feel about María Isabel and Enrique’s decision to leave Jasmín behind?

Chapter 8.
1. Explain the appeal of “reality tv.” Are there any disadvantages or negative aspects of television that is based on the real life stories of average people, in general? How about in the specific case of Enrique?
2. Do you think Belky articulates the advantages and disadvantages of her separation from her mother well?
3. Why do you think Belky opts to return to Honduras after appearing on “Don Francisco Presenta?”

Reading Assignment for next week: Epilogue, Afterword, Notes.