Week 3

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!

Warm-up

1. Linking our lives.
Thinking about the content in Enrique’s Journey, what’s in the news or new in your life that has some link to Enrique’s stories? Have you read, heard, or seen anything that is related to the content in this book during the last couple of weeks?

2. Photos.
Notice the photos between pages 96-97. Which is your favorite? Why? Which is the most troubling? Why? Do you think the inclusion of these photos is a good idea? Why? Are there any potential negative impacts of including photos?

3. The Border.
Have you ever been to any portion of the U.S./Mexico border? Where did you go? Did you cross the border? What were your experiences like?

Chapter 4

1. This chapter starts with reference to a large statue of Christ on a mountaintop in Presidio, Veracruz, MX. What does Nazario report about how many migrants react when they see the statue? How does Enrique respond, and why?
2. What types of attitudes do the people of Veracruz have toward migrants? What do they do to show their kindness? Why do you think this is the case?

3. Explain the contrast in attitudes toward migrants between Veracruz and Mexico City.

Chapter 5
1. At the end of Chapter 4 and start of Chapter 5 we learn of many sorts of borders or barriers separating Enrique from his mother. What are some of them? Which do you think will be the most difficult to overcome?
2. Describe the camp where Enrique lives along the Río Bravo (Río Grande), and the people who inhabit it. In what way do immigration policies contribute to the formation of these sorts of spaces, if at all?
3. Sonia Nazario meets several migrants who are stuck in Nuevo Laredo. What are some of the stories that stand out to you?
4. Describe Padre Leo and all his activities. (Note that Nazario mentions in a blog that when she returned to visit Laredo, TX and Nuevo Laredo, MX, Padre Leo had been removed from his position at the church. Why do you think that is the case?)

Chapter 6
1. How do you feel when you learn about Enrique’s border crossing? Do you think that the hardest part of his journey is over? Why or why not?
2. Describe some of the emotions Lourdes feels in this part of the story. Why do you think she has so many complex and sometimes even contradictory feelings?
3. In this part of the book Nazario announces a "plot twist". What, for you, is the most surprising turn of events announced in this chapter.

Conclusions
1. What are the most powerful parts of the story you read this week? What are the most troubling?
2. If you could sit down with any of the people described in this section of the book and ask them a few questions, who would you want to talk to? What would you ask them?
3. If you could show up in one of the places Enrique goes through in this section of the book and impact a migrant’s journey, where would you go and what would you do?

Homework for Week 4 is Chapters 7 and 8. See you next week!