

COLLEGE BOOK 2007: Enrique's Journey

Note: Look at activities and questions for disciplines other than your own to get additional ideas. Also, foreign languages can use the activities and questions suggested for Spanish.

This is the prompt for the Friends of the Library essay contest. For rules, deadline, etc. go to the Library's website and click on *What's New*.

On the back cover of the book, there is a quote from noted author Isabel Allende “. . .If you are going to read only one nonfiction book this year, it has to be this one, because you know these young heroes. They live next door.” Do you consider Enrique a “hero”? Why or why not? Cite specific examples from the book to support your point of view.

Administration of Justice:

Go to www.cbp.gov and research a career in the Border Patrol. Options: write a two-page essay on why you would or would not enjoy this career OR give a recruitment speech to the class about the advantages of this career.

Go to www.ncjrs.gov (National Criminal Justice Reference Service). At *Site Search* at the top, type **Mexican police**. Choose one of the documents to read and to write a summary to share with the class.

Go to the Library's webpage and select *Articles and Databases*, then *Lexis Nexis*, then *Legal Research*, then *Law Reviews*. Type **illegal immigration**, then narrow your search by typing **Central America**. Choose a law review article to summarize in a two-page paper. (Note: a law review is a publication of legal scholarly articles written by law school students.)

Using one of the Library's news databases, find articles on corruption among Mexican police and corruption among U.S. Border Patrol agents. (The librarian can show you how to do this.) Write a short paper summarizing what you find.

Anthropology:

What has been the relationship between Mexico and Central America throughout history?

Why do you think there is such a difference in the way the people of Chiapas and Veracruz treat the migrants who go through their areas?

Architecture:

Imagine that an international foundation is going to build many low-cost homes in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. They want you to come up with the design. What would your house look like? How many square feet (assume that eight people will live in each house.)? Remember to take into account the weather.

Art:

Design a poster that will discourage Central Americans from attempting to make the journey north.

Astronomy:

How could you use the stars to travel from Honduras to the U.S.?

Biology:

Compare the effects on the body of the following:

- Glue
- Paint thinner
- Alcohol

Prepare a presentation for the class about the snakes in the Texas and Mexican deserts. What does each type look like? What can be done to avoid them? What constitutes a snakebite kit, and how is it used?

Business:

What industries use the greatest number of illegal immigrants in their workforce?

Chemistry:

Find chemical formulas for the glue and paint thinners that Enrique used.

Child Development:

September 10 is Day of the Child in Honduras. It is not an official holiday at this point. Write a letter to the president of Honduras (get his name from the World Almanac) giving the reasons why this should be an official holiday there.

Why do you think Enrique was so mean to his mother after so many years of wanting to be with her?

How do you think Enrique would justify to Jasmin having both her parents leave her to go to the U.S. when Enrique himself was so miserable without his mother all those years?

(p. 198) Enrique taunts his mother by telling her that a true mother isn't the person who carries you in her womb but is the person who raises and nurtures you. Do you agree or disagree? Do the biological mother's sacrifices make any difference?

Communication:

Do you feel sorry for Enrique? Why or why not?

See Culturgrams in the reference section of the Library and look for information on gestures, greetings, and other forms of communication in Honduras. Prepare and give a five-minute speech on those topics.

Culinary Arts:

Using library resources such as Culturgrams, a reference book, make up a menu of typical Central American foods and find the recipes.

Dance:

Using the resources available in the Reference section of the Library, write a two-page paper about dances of Honduras. (*Note: you may have to look up Caribbean Region for this information.*)

Dental Hygiene:

Enrique's teeth, even years after the beating on the train, are sensitive to heat and cold. Can anything be done about this?

Are there free or low-cost dental clinics available in San Diego that treat anyone, legal resident or not?

Economics:

What are the major crops of Honduras?

(p. 260) “. . . many immigration experts have concluded that the only effective strategy for change is to bolster the economies of immigrant-sending countries. . .” See the suggestions given on page 261 of the book and research these. Are they viable options? Why or why not?

English:

Read and discuss both Enrique's Journey and Tortilla Curtain, which was the first College Book nine years ago. How are the two books alike? How are they different? How has the issue of illegal immigration changed in the past nine years? Which book do you prefer and why?

Write a letter from Maria Isabel to Enrique explaining why she will (or won't) come to the U.S. and leave Jasmin behind.

(pp. 169-178) Compare and contrast Padre Leo and Mother Teresa in a three-page paper.

(p.200) “*Lourdes gives her son a dark prediction: ‘God is going to punish you (for being an ungrateful brat) . . . Someday, she tells him, your daughter will treat you the way you now treat me.’*” Do you think this will be true in the future? Will Jasmin resent Enrique?

Geography:

Why is the soil in Honduras poorer than in the neighboring countries?

Health:

How much does health care to uninsured residents cost the taxpayers of California each year?

You are taking part in a debate on providing universal health coverage for all Californians, legal and illegal, all ages. Research and present the reasons why this should not be considered. Now do the same for the other side of this controversial issue.

Honduras has the largest number of cases of AIDS in the Caribbean region. Why is this?

History:

Create a timeline for Enrique's journey and his first years in the U.S.

Create a timeline showing the history of Honduras from earliest time to the present.

Journalism:

Write a two-page paper about the history of the Pulitzer Prizes.

Find an article in a newspaper or magazine from the time that Sonia Nazario won the Pulitzer Prize.

Find an article in a newspaper or magazine about Hurricane Mitch (1998) and its effects on Honduras

Math:

Using the Statistical Abstract of the United States (in the Reference section of the Library), make a bar graph showing

- the number of Hispanics in various states
- the number of illegal immigrants in various states

Music:

Using the resources available in the Reference section of the Library, write a two-page paper about music of Honduras.

Nursing:

How would you as a nurse detect that a patient has been sniffing glue or paint thinner?

Paralegal:

Imagine that a neighbor asks you, as a legal professional, for advice on how to attain legal residency in the U.S.

Personal Development:

Some people say that they could be happy anywhere, as long as their family and friends were there, too. Do you agree or disagree? Why?

Imagine that you have the opportunity to emigrate to live (not just visit) in a far-off place, like Australia. How would you decide whether to go or to stay?

Philosophy:

Research one of these social philosophies: fatalism, machismo, hora Latina.

Read in the Bible the passage beginning with Matthew 25:35 “For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me . . .” The bishop (page 107 in the book) takes this literally. How would you argue against this in a debate?

(pp. 155-156) Lourdes Izaguirre says, “I worry about dying along the way. I know going into another country is wrong. I know God would be against this. But I hope he understands.” Do you think God understands?

Political science:

Choose a political party in Honduras (the librarian can show you how to find this information) and write a two-page paper about it.

Should there be open borders into the U.S. from both Mexico and Canada? Why or why not?

Psychology:

Why do you think Enrique was so mean to his mother after so many years of wanting to be with her?

What are the potential effects of abandonment on a child?

Sociology:

Culturgrams, a reference book in the Library, says that for Hondurans, personal relationships are more important than being on time for appointments. Do you believe that Americans are like this or not? Why do you think so?

(page 105) A World Bank study in 2000 reported that 42.5% of Mexicans live on \$2 or less per day. What, if anything, do you think the wealthy nations of the world should do about this?

Why do many Mexicans not want Central Americans passing through Mexico while, at the same time, so many Mexicans want to do the same thing, i.e. go to the U.S.?

Spanish:

Explain to the class some of the differences in dialects in Mexico. For example, (page 99) “. . . He mutes his flat Central American accent and speaks softly and singsongy, like a Oaxacan . . .”

Two students will recreate a telephone call from Enrique to Maria Isabel, in which he tries to persuade her to come to the U.S. and leave Jasmin behind.

Imagine that you have attempted to go from Honduras to the U.S. Prepare a speech for the class detailing the dangers and tell whether or not you would try it again.

Imagine that you have the opportunity to emigrate to live (not just visit) in a far-off place, like Australia. How would you decide whether to go or to stay? Give a speech or write an essay in Spanish about this.

Telemedia:

Write and videotape an interview with Lourdes. Where do you think she is today and what would she have done differently if she could?

Write and videotape an interview with Enrique. Where do you think he is today and what would he have done differently if he could?

View and write a two-page paper about the 1986 film “The Mosquito Coast”.

Travel & Tourism:

(Can be a group activity) Prepare a PowerPoint presentation for Southwestern College administrators to consider a travel abroad program to Honduras. This will be your agency’s proposal to plan and lead the trip.

One of your clients wants to take a trip to Honduras. You must advise him of the visa requirements, required immunizations, crime tips, etc.