

An issue of
immigration in
enrique's journey
novel



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BUSTER**

Eight years after the publication of her best-selling novel, *Enrique's Journey*, Sonia Nazario decides to experience the Journey that all migrants take when they cross over to the United States. Nazario decides to take the same dangerous risks as migrants do when they ride on top of the train, called "the beast". *Enrique's Journey* presents the struggle and the dangerous risks that migrants take in order to make it to the United States. Nazario explains that young kids and older are the ones crossing more often in order to reunite with their mothers or family. Nazario discusses that in the journey many migrants get robbed, killed, raped, and sometimes don't make it alive as they try climbing on top of the train. Enrique, the character in the book takes the dangerous Journey to the United States in order to see his mother once again. He comes from a very poor family and a dangerous place in Central America, he leaves everything behind in Honduras and takes the Journey from Central America and Mexico to the United States. Some would argue that Enrique is the cause of his own problems because of his rebelliousness, while others may argue that he is a victim of circumstance. I believe Enrique is a victim of circumstance, because he was abandoned, no father figure, and because of corruption in Central America and Mexico.

Enrique is a victim of circumstance because he was abandoned. Enrique's mother Lourdes decided to leave Honduras and go to the United States in order to send money to Honduras so that Enrique and his sister Belky could go to school and so they can have something to eat. Lourdes decides to leave for the United States and take the long journey and be back in Honduras in one year, but she never goes back to Honduras. Lourdes leaves when Enrique is five years old, while she kisses goodbye to Belky and

Enrique is looking away she walks to the porch and leaves without saying goodbye to Enrique. Enrique thinks that his mother didn't love him and that's why she left without saying goodbye to him. Enrique stays with his father and his grandmother after some days he stops missing his mother and helps his dad to work. But as his getting older he becomes more rebellious and says that his mother never love him that if she did she wouldn't of left without saying goodbye to him. The reason why Enrique is a victim is because he didn't had the love from his mother, she wasn't with him at school events such as mother's day. It all made Enrique think that he wasn't love by his mother because she had left him behind and left without him. He starts to behave badly in school and doesn't listen to his grandmother.

Another example of victim of circumstance, is not having a father figure. Enrique's father had another women. His father took her to leave with Enrique and him. While she was leaving in the house with them she will treat Enrique badly she thought that he was an economic burden. One morning while she was serving breakfast she throws hot cocoa on him and burns Enrique. His father throws her out the house but not for long. After some several days Enrique father tells his mother that he can't be without the women, he decides to go after her and have a family with her. His father packs his things and leaves, Enrique begs his father to take him with him, but his father leaves him behind with his grandmother forgetting that Enrique needs him in his life now that his mother is not with him. Enrique now feels that nobody loves him and he doesn't have the love from his parents because they both left him alone.

Enrique is a victim because of the corruption in Central American and Mexico. Enrique becomes a victim because in the journey to the United States he gets caught by police and gets arrested, he takes the risk of escaping from prison so he won't get send back to Honduras. While crossing Enrique gets beat up badly to the point where he wasn't able to walk well, people had to help him and take him to a hospital to get better, but he was scared to go because he thought they will call the police and send him back to Honduras. His experience in Mexico wasn't as great as he thought it will be. People in Mexico treated him bad and wouldn't help him or offer him something to eat or drink. Enrique was scare to get rob or kill by gang members while he was riding on top of " the beast". It shows how he was just a victim of robbery and gang members just as he was trying to cross over.

Some may say that Enrique is the cause of his own problems because of his rebelliousness, while others may argue that he is a victim of circumstance. I believe that Enrique is victim of circumstance, he was abandoned, no father figure, and corruption in Central America and Mexico. Enrique represents many migrants from Central America because same as other migrants he was left behind in Honduras while his mother was in the United States. Americans should consider more that if there is kids crossing over just to be with their mother or family member because they don't have no one in Central America they should just let them stayed but first investigate whether it's true or not that that they have someone in America, if not find a way to help those kids that don't have someone and they had cross over. What people should do in Central America is have more protection and pay

more attention to the things that are happening around. This book was effective in getting its point across, because it explains the dangerous that young kids and older people take when they are crossing over to the United States. It also shows that there is many kids that are crossing over to be with their mothers and the dangerous of the places where they live and their economic issues.