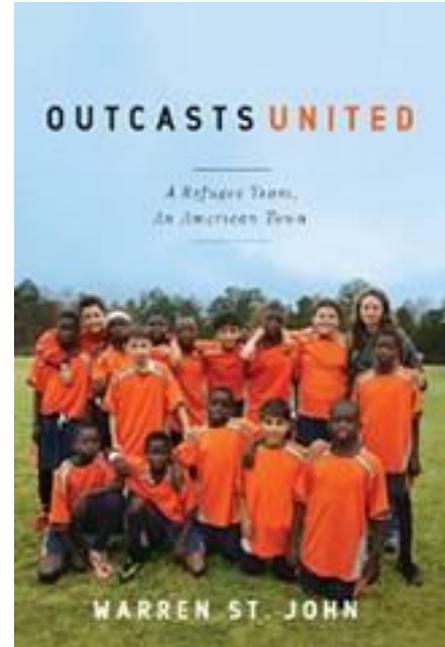


9<sup>th</sup> Graders: Choose 1 of the two books  
*Outcasts United* OR *Enrique's Journey*

## Outcasts United, by Warren St. John



Luma Mufleh (center), coach of *The Fugees*, with some members of her team.



**T**his summer, you may choose the book *Outcasts United*, by Warren St. John. The book is the true story of Smith College graduate and talented soccer coach, Luma Mufleh, who immigrated from her home in Jordan to the U.S. She now coaches a unique team; all of her players are refugees from war-torn countries in Africa and the Middle East where soccer is a popular way that kids play together. In the words of the author, the book is about, "... dealing with change – large-scale social change – as well as the problem of creating a sense of community in an environment in which people, on the surface, don't seem to have a lot in common."

### To get a copy of the book:

1. If you live in Northampton, Easthampton, Southampton, or Westhampton, you may check it out of your town library where they have many copies.
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**Writing Assignment** -- The attached writing assignment will be used in English class during the first week of school. It will be discussed and graded, so be sure to complete it as you read.

To learn more about the Fugees "family" and the school for refugees that Mufleh has established since this book was written, go to the team website: <http://www.fugeesfamily.org/> .

Name \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

**Summer Reading & Writing ASSIGNMENT - *Outcasts United*, by Warren St. John**

**PART 1** - What is a **refugee**? Look up the definition. Add your own understanding of what it means to be a refugee as you read the book. Write both below.

A. Define refugee: \_\_\_\_\_

B. Add your own understanding of the term refugee as shown in the book:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**PART 2** - Choose one of the players on the team and take notes about him below.

A. Name of player \_\_\_\_\_ Country of origin \_\_\_\_\_

B. Why he left his country. What was going on there that made him leave?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

C. Struggles the player has had as a result of having to flee his country.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Bosnia Kosovo \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

D. Positive things that have happened to him in the U.S.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

E. Write a question you have about any part of the story. You will have a chance to address your questions during class discussion in September.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**PART 3** - Use the map on back to locate the 14 players' 9 different countries of origin and follow instructions.

OVER →

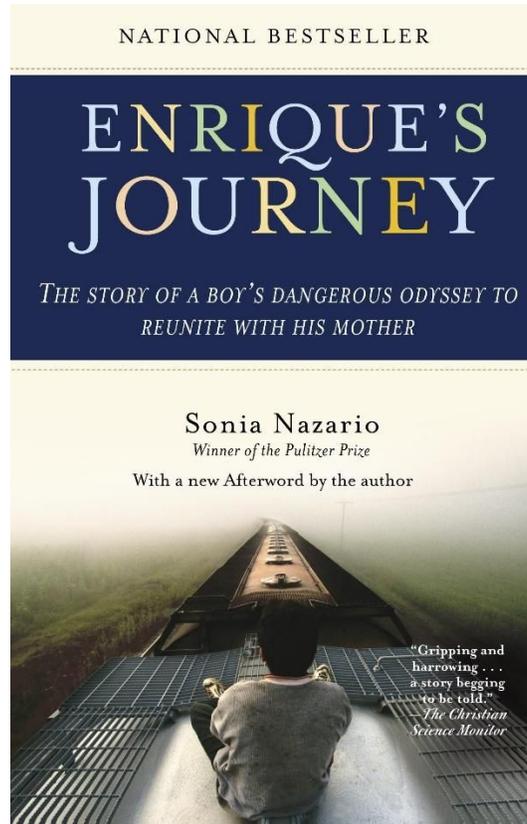


**INSTRUCTIONS:** Locate the country that each soccer player is from (see photo next to title page in the book) and circle its name. Use the blank space below to write the names of all 14 players and draw a line connecting the boy to his country of origin (9 countries total). Notice how many different countries and cultures were represented on the first Fugees' team, the one that is described in the book.

Luma Mufleh, the Fugees' coach, is from Jordan, a country in the Middle East.

Africa is a continent made up of 54 sovereign states ("countries"). The Middle East is generally considered the lands around the southern and eastern shores of the Mediterranean Sea from Morocco to the Arabian Peninsula and Iran.

# Enrique's Journey, by Sonia Nazario



## Enrique's Journey: The Story of a Boy's Dangerous Odyssey to Reunite with His Mother

by [Sonia Nazario](#) for Goodreads.com

**An astonishing story that puts a human face on the ongoing debate about immigration reform in the United States, now updated with a new Epilogue and Afterword, photos of Enrique and his family, an author interview, and more—the definitive edition of a classic of contemporary America**

Based on the *Los Angeles Times* newspaper series that won two Pulitzer Prizes, one for feature writing and another for feature photography, this page-turner about the power of family is a popular text in classrooms and a touchstone for communities across the country to engage in meaningful discussions about this essential American subject.

*Enrique's Journey* recounts the unforgettable quest of a Honduran boy looking for his mother, eleven years after she is forced to leave her starving family to find work in the United States. Braving unimaginable peril, often clinging to the sides and tops of freight trains, Enrique travels through hostile worlds full of thugs, bandits, and corrupt cops. But he pushes forward, relying on his wit, courage, hope, and the kindness of strangers. As Isabel Allende writes: "This is a twenty-first-century Odyssey. If you are going to read only one nonfiction book this year, it has to be this one."

Name \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

**Summer Reading & Writing ASSIGNMENT** - Enrique's Journey, by Sonia Nazario

PART 1 - What is immigration? Look up the definition.

A. Define immigration:

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B. Take a practice test of the Civics Test for Naturalized Citizenship at:

<http://www.uscis.gov/citizenship/quiz/learners/study-test/study-materials-civics-test/naturalization-self-test-1>

What was your score? \_\_\_\_\_

What are your thoughts on this test? \_\_\_\_\_

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PART 2 - A. Enrique's Journey is a work of nonfiction. What sparked the idea for the book?

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B. Discuss the value of family in Latino culture. Why are mothers often more revered than fathers? What is the role of grandmothers? Discuss the effect of immigration on families.

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C. Aunt Rosa Amalia believes that being separated from their mother has caused Enrique and Belky deep emotional problems. Cite specific evidence from the book that supports this belief

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D. In the prologue, a woman in Los Angeles who helps immigrants from Latin America says that journeys like Enrique's represent "the adventure story of the twenty-first century (p.16). What elements of this book make it an adventure story? How is Enrique's story also one of survival? What is the climax of Enrique's journey?

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PART 3 - Padre Leo communicates his message to parishioners by “spinning a lesson out of a popular movie or song” (p. 123). Find a contemporary song lyric that Padre Leo might use to deliver a message of hope. Write it below or attach a copy. Explain why you think the lyrics offer hope.

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Part 4 - Select two events that happened in one of the locations on the map below. Describe each event and explain how it is an example of an “adventure” or of survival. Complete on a separate sheet of paper and staple to this packet. Label response “Part 4.”

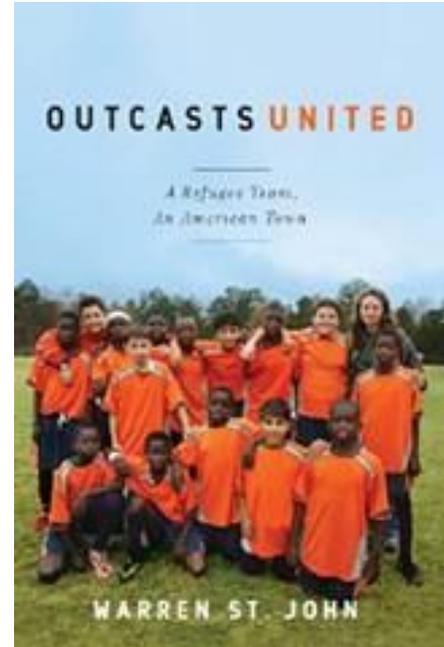


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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Bosnia	Kosovo
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\_\_\_\_\_

D. Positive things that have happened to him in the U.S.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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