

Name:

Day One

Running for Their Lives

Part 1: Silent read

➔ Find out why kids from Central America are heading to the U.S. border. Read silently.

In Central America, violence is on the rise. Organized gangs fight each other for control of drug routes that lead from South America to the U.S. Even small children can be targets. *The New York Times* profiled San Pedro Sula, Honduras. Heartless, immoral gangs control whole neighborhoods. In San Pedro Sula, children can be killed when they refuse to join gangs or when their parents stand up to criminals. Everyday life becomes impossible. A mother told the *Times*, “The first thing we can think of is to send our children to the United States.”

At the U.S. border, officials are seeing the impact. Since 2012, there have been increasing numbers of children entering the U.S. on their own. The young people are called “unaccompanied minors.” Most come from countries like Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

What happens as these children travel to the U.S.? Many will suffer some kind of violence on the trip. They ride trains or hide in cars headed north. Often children carry the phone numbers for family living in the U.S. If they are lucky, they meet smugglers on the U.S. side of the border. They are taken to their relatives’ homes. But many are caught and detained.

Are the children refugees? Refugees have the right to stay in the U.S. because they face serious harm back home. Some people say the dangers children risk in their home countries are irrelevant. If they entered the U.S. illegally, they must be sent home.

Sources: “Fleeing gangs, children head to U.S. border,” *The New York Times*, July 9, 2014.

“Hope dwindles for Hondurans living in peril,” *The New York Times*, August 2, 2014.



Day One

// one minute

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Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

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Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

Why are children coming to the U.S. border from Central America?

What right do refugees have?

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Part 4: Phrase-cued reading

- Read the passage **out loud** in phrases to your partner.
- Pause at each / mark for a phrase.
- Also pause at each // mark that shows the end of a sentence.

In Central America, / violence is on the rise. // Organized gangs fight each other / for control of drug routes / that lead from South America / to the U.S. // Even small children can be targets. // *The New York Times* profiled San Pedro Sula, / Honduras. // Heartless, / immoral gangs / control whole neighborhoods. // In San Pedro Sula, / children can be killed / when they refuse to join gangs / or when their parents stand up to criminals. // Everyday life becomes impossible. // A mother told the *Times*, / “The first thing we can think of / is to send our children to the United States.” //

At the U.S. border, / officials are seeing the impact. // Since 2012, / there have been increasing numbers / of children entering the U.S. / on their own. // The young people / are called “unaccompanied minors.” // Most come from countries like Guatemala, / Honduras, / and El Salvador. //

What happens / as these children travel to the U.S.? // Many will suffer some kind of violence / on the trip. // They ride trains / or hide in cars / headed north. // Often children carry the phone numbers / for family living in the U.S. // If they are lucky, / they meet smugglers / on the U.S. side of the border. // They are taken to their relatives’ homes. // But many are caught / and detained. //

Are the children refugees? // Refugees have the right to stay in the U.S. / because they face serious harm / back home. // Some people say / the dangers children risk in their home countries / are irrelevant. // If they entered the U.S. illegally, / they must be sent home. //

I read the passage in phrases out loud to my partner.