

Name:

Day One

Alone at the Border

Part 1: Silent read

→ Why are children and teens immigrating on their own? Read silently.

Thirteen-year-old Lorena sits on her bed, doing homework. She pulls her dark hair back and smiles at the camera. She looks like any other teen. But Lorena fought hard to get to the U.S. She left her home and family in El Salvador. She made a dangerous six-week trip through Mexico and over the U.S. border.

The number of young people who enter the U.S. illegally keeps growing. On TV, we see young faces looking up at border officials. For most of these children and teens, the route to the border was difficult. It is impractical to carry much food, so most arrive hungry. Many suffered from violence. Each year, some die making the trip.

Parents pay smugglers to take the children over the border. Are the adults just irresponsible? How can they hand their children over to thugs? The answer lies in the poverty that plagues their home countries.

Like Lorena, many young immigrants come from poor areas of Central America. Food and jobs are scarce. Drug gangs own the streets. Parents feel that sending their children north is the best way to give them a future.

Some children will be caught at the border. They are kept for weeks in crowded holding facilities that are often dirty and unsafe. Finally, they are sent back to their home countries. Other kids will reach the U.S. on their own, and live as strangers in a new land.

Source: "Kids cross border alone, fleeing drugs and gangs," *NBC Nightly News*, July 3, 2012.



Day One

// one minute

Alone at the Border

Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

Thirteen-year-old Lorena sits on her bed, doing homework. She pulls her dark hair back and smiles at the camera. She looks like any other teen. But Lorena fought hard to get to the U.S. She left her home and family in El Salvador. She made a dangerous six-week trip through Mexico and over the U.S. border. 47
57

The number of young people who enter the U.S. illegally keeps growing. On TV, we see young faces looking up at border officials. For most of these children and teens, the route to the border was difficult. It is impractical to carry much food, so most arrive hungry. Many suffered from violence. Each year, some die making the trip. 73
89
105
116

Parents pay smugglers to take the children over the border. Are the adults just irresponsible? How can they hand their children over to thugs? The answer lies in the poverty that plagues their home countries. 130
145
151

Like Lorena, many young immigrants come from poor areas of Central America. Food and jobs are scarce. Drug gangs own the streets. Parents feel that sending their children north is the best way to give them a future. 163
178
189

Some children will be caught at the border. They are kept for weeks in crowded holding facilities that are often dirty and unsafe. Finally, they are sent back to their home countries. Other kids will reach the U.S. on their own, and live as strangers in a new land. 205
221
238

Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

What growing group of immigrants is arriving in the U.S.?

Why do parents choose to send these children to the U.S.?

Day One

Alone at the Border

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.

Thirteen-year-old Lorena / sits on her bed, / doing homework. // She pulls her dark hair back / and smiles at the camera. // She looks like any other teen. // But Lorena fought hard / to get to the U.S. // She left her home and family / in El Salvador. // She made a dangerous six-week trip / through Mexico / and over the U.S. border. //

The number of young people / who enter the U.S. illegally / keeps growing. // On TV, / we see young faces / looking up at border officials. // For most of these children and teens, / the route to the border was difficult. // It is impractical to carry much food, / so most arrive hungry. // Many suffered from violence. // Each year, / some die making the trip. //

Parents pay smugglers / to take the children over the border. // Are the adults just irresponsible? // How can they hand their children over to thugs? // The answer lies in the poverty / that plagues their home countries. //

Like Lorena, / many young immigrants come from poor areas / of Central America. // Food and jobs are scarce. // Drug gangs own the streets. // Parents feel / that sending their children north / is the best way to give them a future. //

Some children will be caught at the border. // They are kept for weeks / in crowded holding facilities / that are often dirty and unsafe. // Finally, / they are sent back / to their home countries. // Others kids will reach the U.S. on their own, / and live as strangers in a new land. //

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