

Name:

## Day Two

# The Beast

### Part 1: Tricky phrases and words



→ Read these phrases and words **out loud** to your partner.

- she'll have only impure water
  - "The Beast" is the name
  - by the people that ride them
  - on the Mexican side of the border
  - where coyotes wait to smuggle them
- 
- passenger                      **PAS** | in | jur
  - coyotes                              keye | **OH** | teez
  - El Salvador                      **EL SAL** | vuh | dor
  - Guatemala                      gwah | tuh | **MAH** | luh
  - Honduras                      hahn | **DOO** | rus



### Decoding practice:

Circle the base word in the longer words below. The base is a word part that shows the core meaning. Then underline the prefix that means "not." The first one is done for you.

impure

irregular

illegal

impossible



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// one minute

## Part 2: Last read

WPM \_\_\_\_\_

Elisa joins the young people walking along the train tracks. No one speaks. Elisa wears sneakers and a backpack. She has her aunt’s phone number sewn into her jeans. She is thirsty, but she saves her water. When it’s gone, she’ll have only impure water from puddles and streams. She thinks of her mom, back home, and her eyes fill with tears. She wipes them away. She needs to be strong. She is about to ride The Beast. 61 78

“The Beast” is the name given to Mexico’s cargo trains by the people that ride them to the U.S. border. The trains run at irregular times. Passenger travel is totally illegal. The travelers that ride The Beast come from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. They are running from poverty and gangs. They hope to help their families at home with money they earn over the border. 94 109 122 137 144

Their first step is to enter Mexico. There, the travelers jump on cargo trains, pulling themselves aboard while the trains gather speed. Some people slip and have their legs cut off. Elisa has heard of bodies sliced in half by the train’s wheels. 159 173 187

Atop the trains, other dangers wait. Criminals prowl. Mexican police hunt the travelers down. Many people are beaten and robbed. The travelers keep their eyes turned north. They focus on the new life that they hope is waiting for them up ahead. 199 212 229

The U.S. border is impossible to cross by train. The travelers hop off on the Mexican side of the border, where coyotes wait to smuggle them onto American soil. 245 258

## Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

You learn that a new friend came to the U.S. on a cargo train through Mexico, like Elisa. Would you ask your friend about the trip?

- I would ask about the trip.       I wouldn't ask about the trip.

What questions would you ask? Or would you not want to talk about?

Share your ideas with your partner.  I did this.