WELCOME TO THE 1ST COE BOOK DISCUSSION!

Sponsored by the Education Policy Center, the College of Education Diversity Committee, and the TLS Equity Committee

University of Arizona
"Early on in our sessions, my therapist would say, “You really need to spend time with this 9-year-old. You’ve been running away from him, but you can’t. This boy is going to follow you until you die. I recognize that now. Since I made it to this country until I was 29, I was ashamed. I was doing what the media does to immigrants — I treated this boy as some defenseless, powerless kid who had no agency, and I was just flattening him out. What writing this book has really shown me is that that kid is a f— superhero.”

Pineda, D. (2022, September 15). At 9, Javier Zamora walked 4,000 miles to the U.S. At 29, he was ready to tell the story. Los Angeles Times.
EATING PUPUSAS

In the beginning of the book, Javier describes helping his abuelita (grandmother) at her pupusa stand, in La Herradura.
Javier’s journey begins in
San Luis La Herradura, El Salvador

April 6, 1999
4,000 miles, from La Herradura to Nogales, and eventually to San Rafael, California.
Cadejos

Mythological dog-like creatures (with goat hooves and tails) that roam the Salvadoran volcanoes and countryside at night, protecting people. At various points in his journey Javier calls on the cadejos to protect him.
Bicitaxis

Pedicabs used to transport people short distances. Very common in Guatemala. Javier and his grandfather use this form of transportation in Tecún Omán, Guatemala.
HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Lancha Tiburonera (shark boat)
Used to smuggle migrants through the Pacific Ocean. Javier and other Salvadorans are transported from Ocós, Guatemala to Oaxaca, Mexico in a lancha tiburonera.
PRACTICING “MEXICANESS”

“THERE’S A PUPUSA ON OWN FOREHEADS” (P. 181)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tapatío</th>
<th>Someone from Guadalajara, México</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Popote</td>
<td>Instead of pajilla (straw)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Órale, carnal</td>
<td>Mexican street slang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cómpramos</td>
<td>Instead of comprámos (let’s buy)</td>
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**Rules**

“Don’t tell anyone how much money you have.”

“Don’t tell anyone where you were born.”

“Don’t tell them your parents’ phone number, only in a real emergency.”

“Don’t open the door without Coyote.”

“Don’t peek outside the windows.”

“Stay hidden.”
CHECKPOINTS (INLAND MEXICO)
WATCHING TV WHILE WAITING

Família Telerín
A popular children's television show watched throughout Central America.
“vamos a la cama, que hay que descansar”
LISTENING TO MEXICAN MUSIC WHILE WAITING FOR THE NEXT TRIP
EATING BIMBO PRODUCTS
CROSSING LA LINEA


Newsweek, 2011
Tom Kiefer, Duck-taped water bottle

https://www.tomkiefer.com/el-sueno-americano
“Chino does his best to clip the smaller cactus needles out of Patricia’s face. He holds her face in place tighter, careful to not touch where the needles are or have been. Dark sticks just out from her cheeks, forehead, nose, her skin gray in the moonlight. Chino struggles to grab the needles without clipping them off.” (p. 294)
IN DETENTION, NOGALES, AZ

Christian Science Monitor, 2006

Voice of America News, 2006
DEPORTED TO NOGALES, MEXICO
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
(TO GET US STARTED)

1. The title of Zamora’s memoir is *Solito*, which means alone and little (-ito). Was Javier alone on his journey? What is the significance of this title, and why did he choose it, in your view?

2. Why do you think the author chose to/had to write the entire book in the present tense?

3. Zamora tells his story through the eyes and memories of a nine-year old. What are examples of stories, worries, interpretations that reflect the rooted consciousness of the author as a young child?

4. Language, especially playfulness in language expressed through the Salvadoran variety of Spanish, figures prominently in Zamora’s memoir. What are some examples of this playfulness?

5. We could argue that the best and worst of humanity is on display in Zamora’s memoir. Do you agree?

6. What are the implications of Zamora’s story for immigration/migration policy in the United States?