



Summer Packet

8th grade

Due: Monday August 5th, 2019

Name: _____

PART 1:

“The Only Road” open-ended questions

Directions: Answer each question thoroughly and completely using details from the text. You will not get credit unless you do so. Write the answers to your questions on a separate sheet of paper with a full heading.

1. Consider the book's title. What causes Jaime and Ángela to leave Guatemala? Why do their parents believe that this choice is the only way out? Can you think of any other options for them?
2. Describe the sacrifices that Jaime and Ángela's family had to make so their children can escape the Alphas.
3. Indirect characterization shows the reader what a character is like by describing their speech, thoughts, effect on others, actions, and looks. How does the author use indirect characterization to show the reader that El Gordo is not a good person?
4. In many ways, this is a novel about loss and discovery. What do Jaime and Ángela lose? What do they discover in the process?
5. What do you think happened to Jaime and Ángela after the end of the novel? Imagine that they enrolled as students in your school. What would you want to tell them?

PART 2:

“The Only Road” Project choice

Directions: Choose ONE of the following project ideas and bring it to school on August 1, 2018 completed.

1. In her author's note, Alexandra Diaz writes: "People desperate to immigrate face many dangers and expenses, and still run the risk of being sent back home if caught. It's a sad, worldwide conflict that is close to me, one without an easy solution." Research this issue. What steps do you think the United States should take to address immigration? What can we do to help people who are forced to leave their homes because they fear for their safety?
2. While *The Only Road* is a work of fiction, it is grounded in reality. At the end of the book, Diaz provides a bibliography and list of resources for further exploration. Compare the novel to a nonfiction story about immigration. Debate the pros and cons of using fiction instead of nonfiction to inform readers about an issue like immigration.
3. Using the novel as a guide, create a map of Jaime and Ángela's journey. Use an online site like Google Earth to help you research and create your map. (Create on poster board and it will be displayed in school when you return. Make sure it is done thoroughly and colorful!)