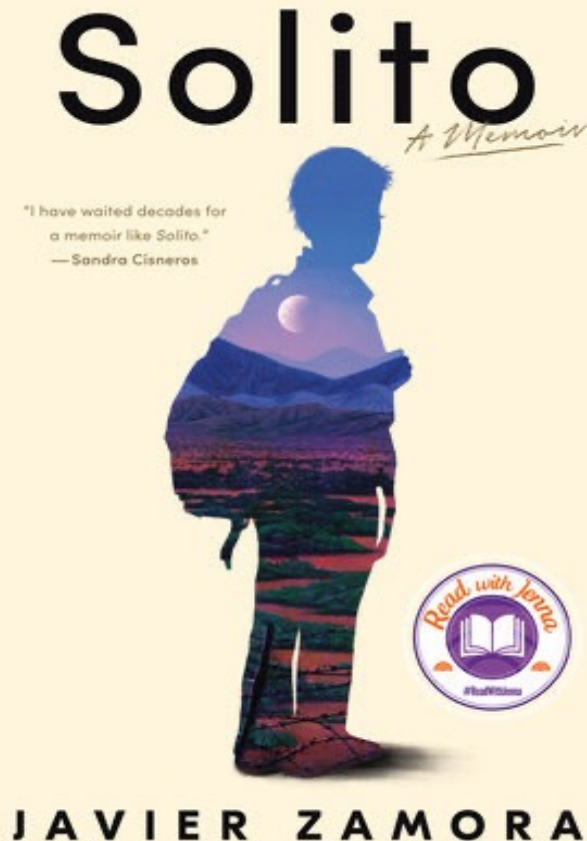




THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Education Policy Center

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

9 YEAR OLD JAVIER



“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*.

<https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/books/story/2022-09-15/javier-zamora-on-his-harrowing-journey-from-el-salvador-to-the-u-s-at-age>

EATING PUPUSAS



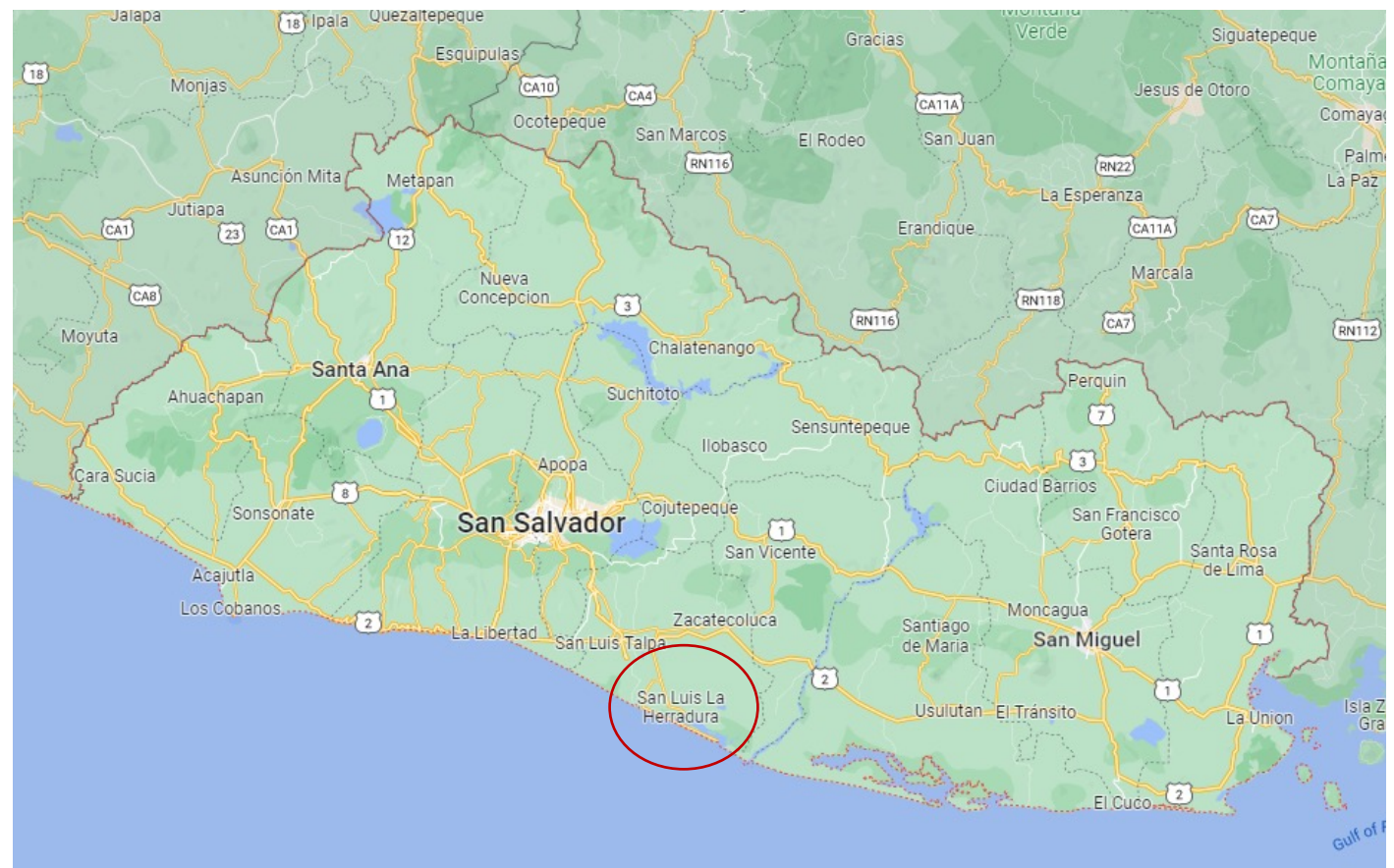
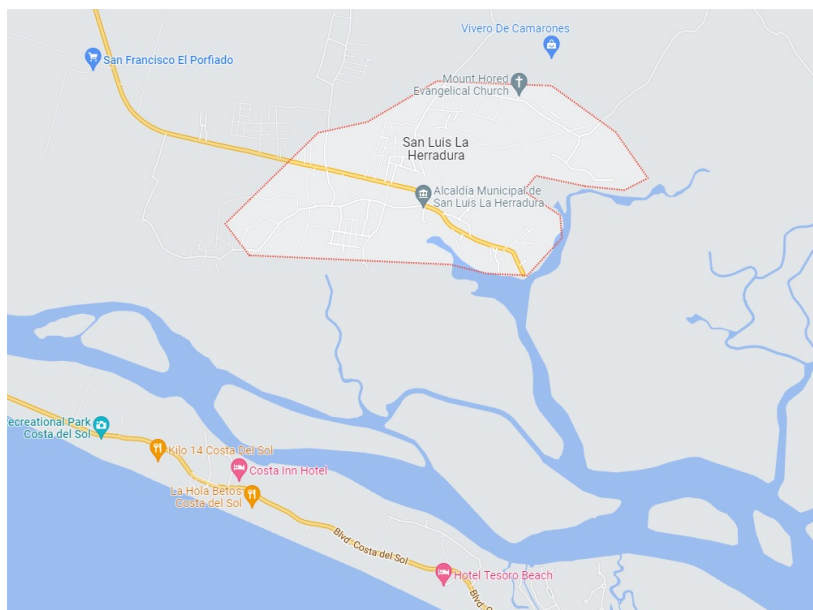
In the beginning of the book, Javier describes helping his abuelita (grandmother) at her pupusa stand, in La Herradura.





Javier's journey begins in San Luis La Herradura, El Salvador

April 6, 1999





00 miles, from La Herradura to Nogales, and eventually to San Rafael, California

CULTURAL REFERENCES



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.



**Mural in Sonsonate,
El Salvador**

Photo: Claudia Díaz-
Combs, 2022

CULTURAL REFERENCES



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 Tiburonerá (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 tiburonerá.



PRACTICING “MEXICANESS”

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

Tapatío Someone from Guadalajara, México

Popote Instead of pajilla (straw)

Órale, carnal Mexican street slang

cómpramos Instead of comprámos (let’s buy)

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



Familia 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





Crispy Puff Pastry
3.9
oz



EATING BIMBO PRODUCTS

CROSSING LA LINEA



New York Times, 2006



Newsweek, 2011





Josseline Jarama Hernandez Quinteros

Cuando se te pedí el nombre te lo escribí en un papel y lo puse en tu mano. No te fue tan sencillo. Te dije adiós y ahora lo voy a Dios. Te amo siempre en el corazón.



Tom Kiefer, Duck-taped water bottle

<https://www.tomkiefer.com/el-sueno-americano>

CACTI INJURIES



“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?