



# The Only Road

## By Alexandra Diaz

### Junior Tome It List Discussion Guide



#### Pre-reading questions:

1. What do you know about immigration? How have immigrants been portrayed in the media?
2. How would you feel if you had to leave everything you know and go on a dangerous journey to a place you've never been? Could you do it by yourself? What would have to happen to make you leave everything behind?
3. Where is Guatemala located? Have you ever been to this part of the world?
4. Are there gangs where you live? What do they do? If you don't know any gangs, what do you think gangs do?

#### Post-reading questions:

1. Why did Jaime and Angela's family send them away from Guatemala?
2. How do you think it would be possible for Jaime and Angela to stay in their town?
3. Jaime carries a sketchpad and drawing pencils during his journey. How do you think art helps Jaime with the journey?
4. Why do so many people help Jaime and Angela on their journey?
5. \*Spoiler alert\* Jaime and Angela lose their backpacks on their journey. Why is this so important to them? What would you carry in a backpack if you had to make a journey like this?
6. Create a map of Jaime and Angela's journey. Try to note all the places where they stopped along the way.

#### Post-reading Activities

1. Jaime keeps the drawings he has done of his family with him throughout his journey. Recreate this by drawing or painting portraits of your loved ones in a collage. Enter this in the fan art competition.
2. Research the immigrant issues facing the United States. Produce a portfolio of your research and enter it into the Current Issues competition. May be completed with other students.
3. \*SPOILER ALERT\* In the book, we never find out what happened to Joaquin. Write a story based on what you think happened to this character and enter it into the Fan Fiction competition.

#### More About This Book

- FlipGrid Topic Link: <https://flipgrid.com/c740d19e>
- Check out the publisher's discussion guide: <https://www.simonandschuster.com/books/The-Only-Road/Alexandra-Diaz/9781481457514>
- View the official book trailer: <https://youtu.be/2LSmgOhJ-7Y>
- Check out the author's official website: [alexandra-diaz.com](http://alexandra-diaz.com)