



1. What are some of the factors influencing the decision of the children in WHICH WAY HOME to attempt their journey? How might US policies influence these factors?
2. Did the ages of some of the children profiled in the film surprise you? If so, why? Did their age affect how you viewed their attempts to migrate into the US illegally?
3. What are some of the dangers migrant children face as they try to make their way through Mexico and into the United States?
4. What do you think of the Mexican government's decision to form the "Beta" unit whose purpose is to provide food and medical attention to those attempting to ride the trains?
5. Before watching WHICH WAY HOME, what impressions came to mind when you heard the term "illegal immigrant"? What were the sources of your preconception? In what ways did the film confirm or challenge your ideas?
6. If you were in the same economic, personal, or social situations as Fito, Kevin or Yurico, would you consider traveling alone and risking your life on the trains in order to enter the US?
7. What are the most migrant-dependent industries in Canada? Have you, or someone you know, ever hired a migrant worker? All workers are legally entitled to the same workplace protections. Do you think there are barriers for undocumented workers in asserting those rights?
8. Why have so many parents of these children been so desperate for work that they come to the US and work for low wages? Do you think any law will discourage or prevent situations such as this without economic changes also being made?

9. Do you think US cross-border immigration policies in response to child migrants are effective? How can an individual, raise further awareness of the plight of child migrants and the need for humane immigration policy reform?

FACTS AND STATS:

- **78%** of Central Americans live below the poverty line that, according to the World Bank, is less than \$2 a day.
- The average Central American worker makes about **\$900** a year.
- The U.S. government employs **9,000** people and spends **1.2 billion-a-year** to hold back the tide of people crossing its borders illegally. The Border Patrol estimates that they catch only **1 in 3 or 1 in 4** of illegal immigrants.
- A television ad in Mexico meant to deter illegal immigration to the U.S. stated that at least **1 person dies every day** trying to enter Mexico from Central America.
- A 1997 study found that during the journey from Central American to the U.S., an immigrant faces, on average **3 traumatic events** ranging from problems with police to beatings by bandits to starvation.
- Sending Central Americans home from the U.S. costs **\$1,700** per person compared to **\$22** from Mexico.
- Each year **400,000** people cross the border into the U.S. Most are from Mexico and Central America. One fifth of these are under the age of 18. About one quarter are women.
- There are **200,000** illegal immigrants living in Canada. Many of them live in southern Ontario and are an integral part of the construction trade.
- There are **9 million** illegal immigrants in the U.S. **50%** come from Mexico. The rest are from South and Central America and China.
- The International Monetary Fund reports that underground work amounts to **10%** of the entire U.S. economy.
- More than **40%** of Hispanic immigrants in the United States regularly send money to relatives in their native countries, a flow of funds totaling nearly **\$30 billion**. This amount is almost double the entire U.S. foreign aid budget for all nations.