

Delve Deeper into Sin País (Without Country)

A film by Theo Rigby

This multi-media resource list, compiled by Gina Blume of Monroe Township Public Library, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the POV documentary *Sin País*.

Following the story of the Mejia family- Sam and Elida and their three children Gilbert, Helen, and Dulce- *Sin País* explores one family's complex and emotional journey involving deportation to Guatemala. In doing so, the film raises larger questions of democracy, the U.S. education system, undocumented persons residing in the U.S., and the fragility of the American Dream.

ADULT NONFICTION

Guatemala

Manz, Beatriz. *Paradise in Ashes: A Guatemalan Journey of Courage, Terror, and Hope*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2005. Manz, a Chilean anthropologist who spent over 20 years working in the Mayan highlands and rain forests, provides a moving account of the violence and repression that occurred during the civil war that raged in Guatemala during the 1980s.

Sanford, Victoria. *Buried Secrets: Truth and Human Rights in Guatemala*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2004. Sanford chronicles the mass genocide against the Mayan people between the late 1970s and late 1980s that resulted in the loss of two hundred thousand civilian lives; presents research based on hundreds of interviews with survivors, military officers, government officials, and guerillas; and explores how the Maya are trying to reconstruct their lives and communities in the aftermath.

Shapiro, Michael, and Kraig Lieb. *Guatemala: A Journey Through the Land of the Maya*. Guatemala, Cambodia, and Northern California: Purple Moon Publications, 2008. The people and country of Guatemala are brought to life vis-à-vis the work of acclaimed photographer Lieb and award-winning travel essayist Shapiro.

Wilkinson, Daniel. *Silence on the Mountain: Stories of Terror, Betrayal, and Forgetting in Guatemala*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2004. The causes and consequences of Guatemala's political and social problems are presented through personal interviews with plantation owners, peasants, army personnel, and guerrillas.

U.S. Immigration System

Massey, Douglas S. and Jorge Durand and Nolan J. Malone. *Beyond Smoke and Mirrors: Mexican Immigration in an Era of Economic Integration*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2003. A historical and theoretical look at U.S. border enforcement with Mexico, Massey's work offers suggestions on how to fix the dysfunctional system while simultaneously allowing for labor migration and promotion of economic development with Mexico.

Nazario, Sonia. *Enrique's Journey*. New York: Random House, 2007. In this astonishing true story, award-winning journalist Nazario recounts the true story of a Honduran boy trying to reunite with his mother who left for work in the U.S. many years earlier.

Ngai, Mae M. *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2005. The reader is given an eye-opening look at the immense bureaucracy of the legislature and the courts regarding the U.S. immigration system.

Urrea, Luis Alberto. *The Devil's Highway: A True Story*. New York: Back Bay Books, 2005. The true story about a 2001 incident where two-dozen men attempted to illegally cross the Sonoran Desert into the United States, but most lost their lives due to exposure.

Mixed Status Families

Anzaldúa, Gloria. *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*. San Francisco: Aunt Lute Books, 2007. An award-winning Chicana native from Texas, Anzaldúa explores a broad range of topics written in essay and poetry including her heritage, Chicanos in Anglo culture, and undocumented migrant workers.

Thorpe, Helen. *Just Like Us: The True Story of Four Mexican Girls Coming of Age in America*. New York: Scribner, 2011. The story of four high school students who are being raised by undocumented parents in Denver, CO, and how their mixed immigration status is tearing their lives apart as they try to pursue their dream of attending college in America.

Yoshikawa, Hirokazu. *Immigrants Raising Citizens: Undocumented Parents and Their Young Children*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2011. Harvard University professor provides analysis based on a three-year study of children from several ethnic backgrounds being raised by undocumented parents. Through interviews and in-home studies, every day experiences of this group will challenge the reader's conventional views concerning undocumented workers.



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Alvarez, Julia. *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents*. Chapel Hill: Algonquin Books, 2010. A collection of fifteen interconnected stories chronicling how a family with four daughters from the Dominican Republic transitions to living in the Bronx and how the daughters rebel against their heritage.

Urrea, Luis Alberto. *Into the Beautiful North: A Novel*. New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2009. The story of a young taco shop worker's quest to cross over the American border and follow in the footsteps of most of the men from her village.

NON-FICTION FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Blohm, Judith M., and Terri Lapinsky. *Kids like Me: Voices of the Immigrant Experience*. London: Nicholas Brealey Publishing, 2006. Through over two-dozen personal stories, young people express how they share their cultural identity in order to adjust to new communities, language, and friends.

Jiménez, Francisco. *The Circuit: Stories from the Life of a Migrant Child*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1997. A collection of autobiographical short stories about the author's childhood and challenges encountered growing up as the child of migrant farm workers.

FICTION FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Danticat, Edwidge. *Behind the Mountains*. New York: Scholastic, 2004. An award-winning author's coming-of-age story for young readers about a 13 year-old girl leaving Haiti to live with her father in Brooklyn.

Ryan, Pam Munoz. *Esperanza Rising*. New York: Scholastic, 2002. In this work for young people interested in reading about immigration and assimilation, Author Ryan draws on her own heritage to tell the story of a young girl moving from her native Mexico to California during the Great Depression.

FILMS/DOCUMENTARIES

***Home*. A film by Dawn Scibilia. The Home Film Company, 2007. TRT: 67 min.** An award-winning documentary about a young man from Dublin who reflects on his recent immigration to New York City and what home means to him.

***The Other Side of Immigration*. A film by Roy Germano. Roy Germano Films, 2010. TRT: 55 min.** A documentary film based on several hundred interviews in Mexico's border towns in which a majority of the population have gone to the U.S. as undocumented workers. Viewers are given a perspective of the families and communities left behind.

***Which Way Home*. A film by Rebecca Cammisa. New Video Group, 2011. TRT: 83 min.** A documentary about Central and South American children who risk their lives traveling on the tops of freight trains running through Mexico so they can illegally immigrate into the United States.

