Purpose
This contest encourages undergraduate and graduate students at Sam Houston State University to engage both critically and creatively with the 2015-16 SHSU common reader, *Enrique’s Journey*, by Sonia Nazario.

Essay Contest Prompt
Journeys fill the literature of the world. From the *Odyssey* to *Don Quixote*, from *Huckleberry Finn* to *On the Road*, from *The Wizard of Oz* and *The Lord of the Rings* to *Heart of Darkness* and *Eat, Pray, Love*, writers have long charted their experience of the world on roads, seas, rivers, footpaths, trails, and railway lines.

These journeys are often literal in that the central character travels from one physical location to another, but these journeys are often metaphorical as well—into the self, into the culture, into the grand mystery of the human experience.

The essays submitted to this contest will take readers along on a journey, both literal and metaphorical. The strongest essays will engage us with vivid and memorable narratives, and with fresh and original insight. They may be written in the first person and tell one’s own story, or they may be written in the third person and tell the story of someone else. The best essays will take us to places both familiar and unfamiliar and allow us to walk away with a new understanding of where we’ve been and where we might go.

Eligibility
The contest is open to all students, undergraduate and graduate, who are enrolled at Sam Houston State University in the fall 2015 semester who have read the book.

Prize
A scholarship valued at $250 will be awarded to the author of the winning essay. The winner will also be recognized at the author’s lunch with Sonia Nazario on November 17, 2015. Members of the Department of English, including creative writing faculty, will serve as judges.

Application
Essays must be received by 4:00 p.m., Monday, November 2, 2015. Electronic submissions are preferred. Please email submissions to cwma@shsu.edu. Essays must be double-spaced and submitted in one of the following formats: docx, doc, pdf, rtf. Submissions by traditional mail are also acceptable. Please mail submissions to:

Dr. Scott Kaukonen
*Enrique’s Journey* Essay Contest
Department of English
Box 2146
Huntsville, TX 77341

Rules
1. All authors must be students enrolled full-time at Sam Houston State University during the fall 2015 academic term.
2. All essays must be typed, doubled-spaced, on 8 1/2” x 11” paper and free of any remarks or grade.
3. All submissions must include a title page with the following information: author’s name, student ID number, phone number, and email address, as well the title of the submission and the story’s word count. The author’s name should appear nowhere else on the submission.
4. A student may submit only one entry.
5. The winner will be notified by the Sam Houston State University Department of English.