

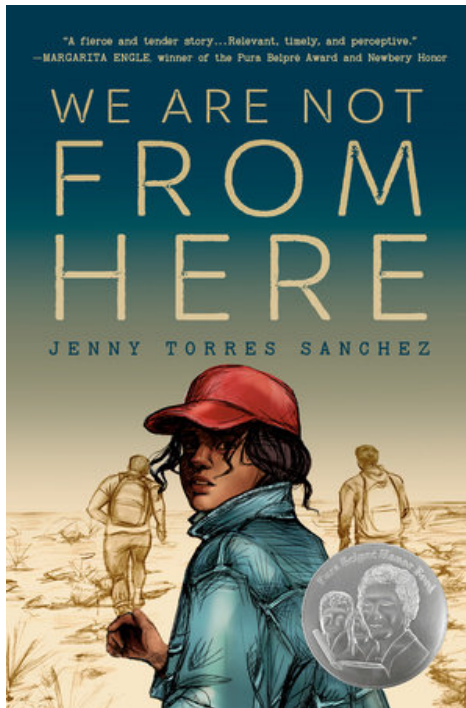
“Reading is the sole means by which we slip, involuntarily, often helplessly, into another’s skin, another’s voice, another’s soul.” – Joyce Carol Oates

## Valwood Summer Study 2023-24

### English II

*Note: Obtain your own copy of the book and bring it to class when school begins.*

1. Read *We Are Not From Here* (2020) by Jenny Torres Sanchez.
2. Annotate the book, and consider the following topics as you read:



- threats—how to deal with them
- money—what it can and cannot do
- surviving and thriving—the difference
- what constitutes bravery
- the plight of immigrants

#### **Tips for annotation:**

Avoid the use of highlighters.  
Underline key words or phrases and memorable sentences or passages.  
Identify unfamiliar words  
Write questions in the margins about something you don’t understand  
Mark and comment on characters and ideas that you find intriguing  
Note the use of literary devices  
Make connections to other texts, your life, your world, etc.

3. After reading the book, write a theme statement to turn in on the first day of class.

The theme statement, a complete sentence on one of the topics above, will be a generalization about life.

Example of a statement for *To Kill a Mockingbird*: Standing up for what is right may require taking risks. [Avoid statements that reduce the theme to some familiar saying, such as “You can’t judge a book by its cover.”]

4. When school begins, be prepared to accomplish the following with the novel:

- participate in a Socratic discussion of the book during which you will share and discuss your theme statements for the book
- identify at least three pieces of textual support for the theme statement
- learn how to incorporate the textual support
- document the textual evidence
- write an in-class essay, adhering to MLA style and meeting the expectations of a rubric

5. Know what’s going on in the world. Read an actual newspaper; read the news online; listen to the news on the radio; or watch the news on television. Look into current news or listen to a podcast about subjects that interest you: science, history, math, art, health, medicine, law, politics, sports, fashion, etc.

**Keep learning as you enjoy your summer break!**