

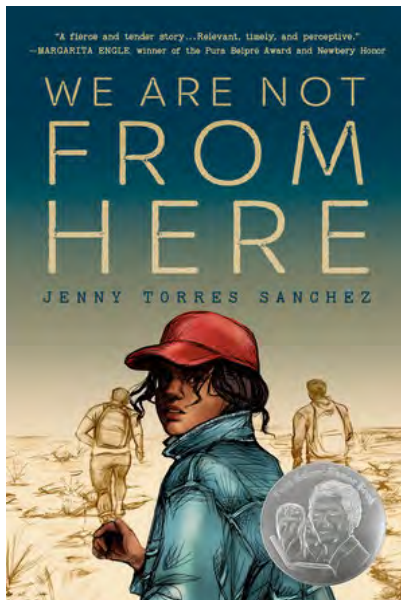
“Reading is the sole means by which we slip, involuntarily, often helplessly, into another’s skin, another’s voice, another’s soul.” – Joyce Carol Oates

Valwood Summer Study 2023-24

English II Honors

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:

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. **Keep a journal.** Each time you read a portion of the novel, note the date and time. Write a few sentences about what was revealed in the plot and what you learned about each character in that day's reading. Your journal must include a minimum of **four entries**. Turn in your journal on the first day of school. This journal may be typed in a Doc or handwritten.
4. **Write a 250-word reflection** about your reaction to the novel. This writing is informal. You may use first person. Your reflection should include a discussion of specific events in the novel that provoked a notable response. What did you love? What did you hate? What caught your attention? Turn in your reflection on the first day of school.
5. **Connect one aspect of the novel to a current event:** Find a current newspaper or online news magazine article that contains information related to one of the topics covered in the book. The article must be a news article, not an opinion piece. Write a 150-word connection journal entry that explains the real world nonfiction connection to the events in the fictitious story *We are Not From Here*. Read an actual newspaper; read the news online; listen to the news on the radio; or watch the news on television!
6. **Be prepared** to write a formal, literary analysis about the novel on the second day of school. For the essay, you will discuss how Sanchez employs plot development and characterization to reveal a theme of the novel.

Keep learning as you enjoy your summer break!