



Crossing the Wire

Will Hobbs

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When falling crop prices threaten his family with starvation, fifteen-year-old Victor Flores heads north in an attempt to "cross the wire" from Mexico into the United States so he can find work and send money home. But with no coyote money to pay the smugglers who sneak illegal workers across the border, Victor must struggle to survive as he jumps trains, stows away on trucks, and hikes grueling miles through the Arizona desert.

Victor's journey is fraught with danger, freezing cold, scorching heat, hunger, and dead ends. It's a gauntlet run by millions attempting to cross the border. Through Victor's often desperate struggle, Will Hobbs brings to life one of the great human dramas of our time.

Crossing the Wire Details

Date : Published April 10th 2007 by HarperCollins (first published January 1st 2006)

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Author : Will Hobbs

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Genre : Young Adult, Adventure, Fiction, Realistic Fiction, Survival

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From Reader Review Crossing the Wire for online ebook

Matt says

My 8th grade daughter read this in her English class, and I read it alongside her to discuss it with her.

It is about a teenager named Victor Flores who lives in Mexico and he is trying to "cross the wire" to get into the United States so he could work and send money back to his mother and siblings in Mexico.

All kinds of pitfalls and mishaps happen to Victor during his journey. He gets chased by the border patrol (of course), is confronted by not one, but two cats of prey in the mountains, he gets shot at, and even gets bitten by a snake. You name it, and it happens to Victor. The story is WAY overblown and overly dramatic and there was very little characterization of Victor, so I didn't really sympathize with his plight.

The reason for the two stars, is because there are areas in the plot that are realistic to what actually happens to immigrants coming into the southwestern U.S., and the settings in Mexico and Arizona and New Mexico were fairly well done, so kudos to the author for that.

Aescobar1 says

Crossing The Wire by Will Hobbs is a phenomenal and adventures book. The book is about a boy named Victor Flores and his friend Rico. They wanted to cross the border into America. On the way he meets some friends and learned lessons along the way. Also the book talks more about how Victor and his family are suffering because the economy is down in Mexico which causes him to go on adventure to go and save his family from losing their home. Victor goes through many obstacles even when times were tough. This book teaches about bravery and how never to give up. This book was a very interesting book because it's about how he goes through things and knowing that his family will be safe at the end that help him to never give up. If you enjoy learning about Mexican culture and like adventure, this book is for you.

Steph says

This would be an incredible book to discuss in a classroom. So glad I finally read this after it sat on my shelf for years!

Heidi says

Realistic Fiction

Grades 6-10

A 2007 Américas Award Commended Title, a Notable Book for a Global Society (IRA) 2007, and a 2009 Rebecca Caudill nominee, Crossing the Wire is a representation of how an outsider can achieve near-insider authenticity through intense research and by approaching an issue from multiple perspectives. Hobbs tackles the controversial issue of illegal immigration, including US involvement in falling corn prices, crime on both

sides of the border, and the notion of what it means to be human. The setting rings true to life, as do his characters, especially 15-year-old Victor Flores. Hobbs creates many multi-dimensional characters crossing the border for a variety of reasons and coming from a multitude of backgrounds, their desperation, hope, and bravery resonating. This story is so intensely vivid that I can see it changing the mind of some of my students, those who follow the ultra-conservative view that people should not even offer water to people trying to "cross the wire."

According to his website, Hobbs's research included his previous experiences working alongside migrant workers, research into the journeys of illegal immigrants, travels through the area, and interviewing his niece who had lived and worked in a mountain village in central Mexico.

Sarah says

Name: Sarah Fretz

Citation: Hobbs, W. (2006). *Crossing the wire*. New York: HarperCollins.

Genre: Adventure

Award:

Format: Hardcover

Selection: School Library Journal, 2006

Review:

Living in a poor, rural area of Mexico, Victor and his best friend Rico work hard bring money and food to their struggling families. Rico confides in Victor that he has been sent money to hire a "coyote" to take him to the United States. Scared for his friend, Victor stays silent but soon realizes that with no hope in Mexican agriculture and in order to better provide for his family, he may have to follow in Rico's steps. However, with coyote prices so high, Victor is unsure how to make the trip.

Knowing his family comes first, he makes the grueling decision to attempt to cross the border, alone. The book takes you on Victor's adventurous journey through the desert, through tunnels, on trains and in cars and in the woods. The reader travels in a fast-pace as Victor faces danger (and the authorities), meets others in the same situation, and tries desperately to get to a place that he truly believes can save his family. As he eventually reunites with Rico, the young men face these dangers together and make startling decisions in the end.

The descriptions of the area, the ever-present danger, and the anticipation put the reader right in Victor's shoes as he makes the dangerous decision to cross the border. The page-turning, exciting story is reminiscent of the many daily journeys we hear about so often as people attempt to come to the United States.

Highly recommended.

Michael Blazek says

This book is about a Mexican boy named Victor who is 16 that tries to go to the United States to get a job so he can feed his family. his brother already left for a job so he decides to as well. he encounters many dangers along the way such as border patrol. eventually after a struggle Victor and his brother meet up at a town and they continue to journey together to the United States. they eventually get there and work as farmers to feed their family.

Dominic Bridda says

My book's name is Crossing the Wire by Will Hobbs. In my book, this boy named Julio is in Mexico and can't leave to go work in Silao, a city across the fence where many people work. His friend, Miguel, told him that he is going to America to work in Silao. Julio tells his mom that he is going to sneak over the wire to work there and come back after every few months, but his mom doesn't want that because his dad got killed doing what Julio wants to do. He would've been taken over by smugglers, but that's too expensive. The smugglers are people who you must pay to go across the fence to Silao.

This book is was decent, but I think it could have been better. What stood out was that it was in Mexico, and the boys were trying to get back and forth across the Mexico border to do work for their families. The positive part about this is that it shows how the people get better work for their families. Some negative things is that it can be deadly to cross the border, and it's not a pleasant thing.

I would recommend this book people who like to read fiction books and action adventure books.

Susan says

I picked up this book for a friend's sons at a library book sale, but it wasn't as good as I hoped it would be. I felt like much of Victor's dialogue was more that of an adult's. I also felt there weren't enough specific details during Victor's crossings; I always found myself wondering about what he ate and what he wore, etc. I feel like this book was still a draft, not a final copy. I'm really interested in stories of people crossing the border, so maybe I should read some memoirs. I find it so sad that people would risk death to come to the US because their lives are so hopeless in Mexico and Central and South America. This story did humanize this issue so I appreciate that and I had a newfound compassion for those who come to the US illegally.

Ben Park says

Crossing the Wire has a lot of similarities with the book, A Long Walk to Water. One of the similarities is that both protagonists; Salva, and Victor need to travel to survive. Another similarity is that Victor and Salva both look forward to seeing their family again when they travel. The last similarity of the books A Long

Walk to Water and Crossing the Wire is that Salva and Victor both imagine what they will do when they get to their destination.

Nick says

Book Title and Author: Crossing the Wire by Will Hobbs

Throughout the book the main character Victor Flores runs into a lot of adventures on his quest to keep his family and himself alive for the sake of money. In the book Crossing the Wire by Will Hobbs, Victor is a boy that lives in Mexico with his family and has been working by harvesting corn and getting paid which his family lives on, but free trade agents made corn worthless in Mexico. With some advice from his friend Rico who has money to cross the border with a coyote, he decides to go by himself. His only option left was to cross the border and to make money for his family in America. Through Victor's adventure he met an inspirational man by the name of Miguel who showed him the way to get into Arizona and he taught Victor life lessons to persevere through hardest times. Victor by himself faces problems running from the police, running away from a smuggler, and even attempting to survive in the most worst conditions mother nature can throw at him.

Layla says

This isn't usually the type of book I read but since I had to read this for school it was actually really interesting. I liked being able to learn about both sides of the border situation and all of the crazy stuff that can happen to people trying to cross over to the US. While this was a really good story it moved super slow for me so I didn't enjoy it as much as I had hoped.

Eduardo Chavez says

Crossing the Wire is a book that portrays the very real reality of immigration in the United State. We follow the life of Victor and the conflicts he faces coming to the country. These conflicts are both within Victor's family and Victor's actual travels to America. Often times we only hear of these stories but with Crossing the Wire we are able to put a face to this story. The book always had me on the edge of my seat. I was always wondering if things were going to work out for Victor. There were many times when I thought it would be the end but Victor's perseverance and luck helps him along his journey. In times like today I think is important to read stories like this where it shows the real struggle of someone trying to provide for their family in desperate times of need. As a person who comes from a family of immigrants, this book is not just a book, it is a story of something that could have easily happened in my family.

Bonnie says

For many people, illegal immigration is a black and white issue-a wrong or right issue. This book helps readers to understand that it is not so black and white. This issue is not as simple as many would like to

believe. The book, which follows the illegal journey of fifteen-year-old Victor Flores to the United States, causes the reader to examine their own role in the issue of illegal immigration. As an American, I like cheap prices. However, as the book illustrates cheap prices come with a very high price for others. The book helped me to understand the impact of free trade on people in other countries as no informational article ever could. This story gave a human face to these issues. Not only was it a human face, it was the face of a child. The character of Victor was a kind-hearted, lovable, loyal, strong-yet vulnerable, child. His character created a large amount of empathy within me. His character made me wonder how many real boys there are like him out there. This book tells the stories that the news does not.

This story was not only thought provoking, it was also an enjoyable read. The story was full of action, excitement, suspense, and drama. As I read this book, I had to keep turning the pages because I had to know what was going to happen to Victor next. I was rooting for him. I wanted him to be successful, even though his success would mean that he was in this country illegally. My feelings while reading this book reminded me of Huck's feelings when helping Jim escape from slavery in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. Although I was rooting for Victor, I felt a twinge of guilt. As an American, shouldn't I respect our laws? In *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Huck feels a great deal of guilt. He feels like helping Jim escape is evil, so evil that he will go to hell for it. He feels that way because that is how he was raised. That was the belief system when and where he was living. Today, we read this novel and we know he is wrong. We know it is just the opposite. We know that what he is doing is right and that there is no way he could go to hell for helping Jim earn his freedom. This comparison makes me wonder how people will view our belief system and our laws in a hundred or so years. Will they view us as barbaric as we view the institution of slavery? How is what we are doing today any less evil? Is it not our policies, our lifestyle, and our greed that cause the suffering of others? Have we, as Americans, not created a situation that makes people, including children, so desperate that they would leave their families and risk their lives? Obviously, this book was very meaningful for me. I think that all people should read this book. I will definitely recommend this book to my students and have it available in my classroom for them. If you want something both entertaining and powerful, I highly recommend you pick this book up.

Christina says

Fifteen year-old Victor must cross the border illegally, i.e. "cross the wire," from Mexico into the U.S. in order to raise money to send home to his mother and younger siblings. A major strength of this book is its realistic depiction of the myriad of dangers faced by illegals who attempt the treacherous border crossing into the U.S. This harsh, unrelenting view of the experiences of a Mexican immigrant may prompt middle-school readers to a deeper appreciation for how lucky they are to live a life of security and plenty. Although it's a close call, I prefer this book to Julia Alvarez's *Return to Sender*, another novel on the same topic.

Eric Jovel says

Crossing the Wire
By Will Hobbs

For almost decades people below the American Border have tried to cross for a better fortune, but have you ever wondered how challenging this journey is for one. In this book it explains to you the struggles one goes through to make it into America. This is a realistic fiction book as it talks about something that could happen.

This is a book about a young 15 year olds boy named Victor Flores. As he lives in a small town in Mexico selling of crops, but then Victor is too come and realize that price rate is falling of and that his family is gonna end up poor. So with all this he comes up the conclusion that he must go through the border and work so his family can survive. It tells you all the near death experiences Victor has to go through as he is so desperate to make it to America. This book can show many types of conflict for example, Victor has to go through rough paths to make it to his destination. His body refuses, but he doesn't pushes through even though it hurts like heck That was example of character vs self. Another example of conflict was when Victor has to break the law to come into America as an Illegal Immigrant. As you can see that was character vs society. He has to break the law. I like this book because it gives you that sense of adventure. It tells you how Victor is walking through the many obstacles to reach his destination. They're saying so they can give you that feeling like you were there.

I'd recommend this book to anyone above the 4th grade. Because it talks about topics a 3rd or below wouldn't understand or would consider it inappropriate.
