Summer Assignments

Civics & Economics

Episcopal Collegiate School

FINDING MY **VOICE**
FINDING MY **PLACE**

Required: Read:

- Reyna Grande's *The Distance Between Us, Young Readers Edition*: ISBN 978-1481463706

Regarding Reyna Grande's memoir: the author's website:

Award-winning author Reyna Grande shares her compelling experience of crossing borders and cultures in this middle grade adaptation of her "compelling…unvarnished, resonant" (BookPage) memoir, The Distance Between Us.

When her parents make the dangerous and illegal trek across the Mexican border in pursuit of the American dream, Reyna and her siblings are forced to live with their stern grandmother, as they wait for their parents to build the foundation of a new life.

But when things don't go quite as planned, Reyna finds herself preparing for her own journey to "El Otro Lado" to live with the man who has haunted her imagination for years: her long-absent father. Both funny and heartbreaking, The Distance Between Us beautifully captures the struggle that Reyna and her siblings endured while trying to assimilate to a different culture, language, and family life in El Otro Lado (The Other Side).

This text will figure into our introductory lessons, where I will guide you along as we draw insights from Grande's life story. Over the summer, please read and enjoy this text, but with some structure:

- As you read this text, write down each time Reyna faces a life challenge, so that you make a long list of challenges.
- Then, develop a way to categorize each challenge. You can choose categories like "family," or "economic," or "educational." But the key is for you to choose your categories!
- We will use these categories to structure a graded discussion of the text. And these categories will also help us understand Civics and Economics

As a side note: some kids and parents in the past have worried that Grande's assigned Young Readers (YR) Edition is not advanced enough or otherwise the wrong text. This YR edition is a solid and substantive book, and it is the right one for the kids and summertime!

Best,
Dr. Lien

If you have any questions, feel free to email me and I will get back to you as soon as you can.
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