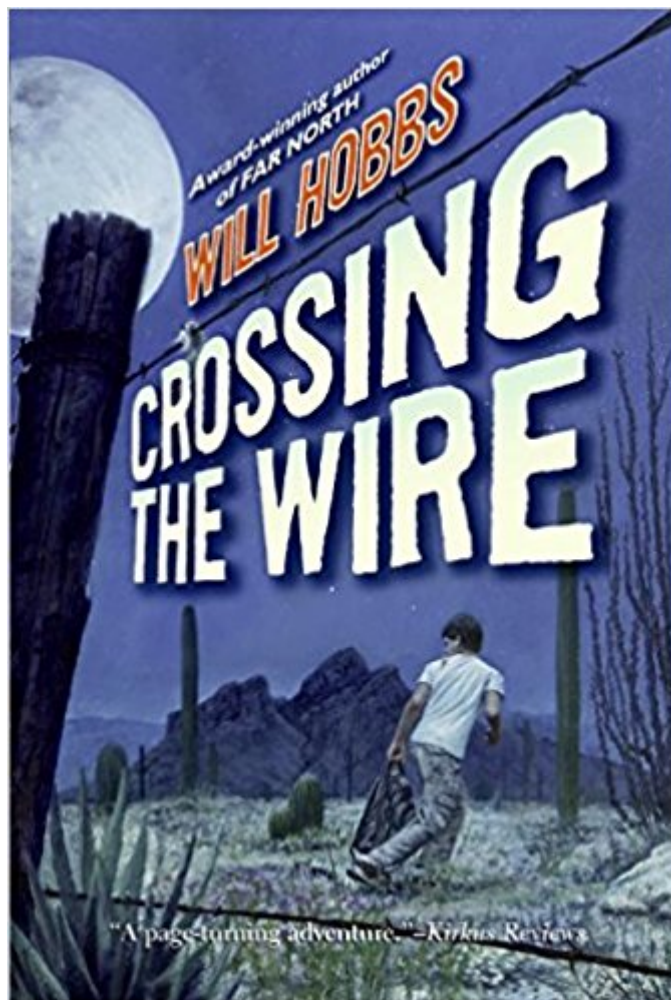




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Crossing The Wire



Synopsis

In this riveting, action-packed novel from award-winning author Will Hobbs, a teenage boy hoping to help his loved ones must fight for his life as he makes the dangerous journey across the Mexican border into the United States. 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 America so he can find work and help ease the finances at home. But with no coyote money to pay the smugglers who sneak illegal workers across the border, Victor struggles to survive as he jumps trains, stows away on trucks, and hikes grueling miles through the Arizona desert. Victor's passage is fraught with freezing cold, scorching heat, hunger, and dead ends. It's a gauntlet run by many attempting to cross the border, but few make it. Through Victor's desperate perseverance, Will Hobbs brings to life a story that is true for many, polarizing for some, but life-changing for all who read it. Acclaim for *Crossing the Wire* includes the following: A New York Public Library Books for the Teen Age, Junior Library Guild Selection, Americas Awards Commended Title, Heartland Award, Southwest Book Award, and Notable Books for Global Society.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 670 (What's this?)

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 and up

Customer Reviews

Grade 5 Up Ever since his family moved to the tiny village of Los Arboles, Victor has been best

friends with Rico. When Rico tells him that he has enough money to pay for a coyote to help him cross into El Norte, Victor is unable to decide if he, too, should go along and look for work or try to feed his family with the pitiful annual corn harvest. The decision is made for him the next day when he discovers that the corn prices have bottomed out and that there is no point in even planting this year. Readers suffer with the 15-year-old as he makes his painful decision to leave his mother and younger siblings and attempts the dangerous border crossing, jumping trains, fleeing thieves and border officials, and suffering from thirst and hunger. His desperation and fear are completely believable as he faces near-death situations and must decide whom to trust. The author deftly weaves information concerning the local geography and customs into the plot. The story is well paced, sustaining readers' attention throughout. Pair this novel with Ann Jaramillo's *La LÃnea* (Roaring Brook, 2006) for another fictional view of young people crossing the border between the U.S. and Mexico. Melissa Christy Buron, Epps Island Elementary, Houston, TX Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Gr. 5-8. As in Ann Jaramillo's *La Linea* (2006), Hobbs' latest puts a human face on the controversial issue of illegal immigration. No longer able to grow corn profitably in his Mexican village, 15-year-old Victor, who has supported his family since his father's death, resolves to go to El Norte: "It's time for me to do what men from our village have to do." Lacking the money to secure a guide, he ventures to a border town to wait his chance in the "whirlpool" of recent deportees, newcomers, and grizzled *mojados* ("wetbacks"). Successive attempts find him trekking through mountains and desert, fleeing *la migra*, and unwittingly becoming entangled with ruthless drug traffickers. Hobbs' effort to show a broad view of the border-crossing experience, often by incorporating the hard-luck tales of Victor's acquaintances, results in a story arc that occasionally feels artificial. But the questions raised here are provocative and worthwhile ("Are [Americans] willing to pick the fruits and the vegetables to fill their grocery stores?"), and the propulsive adventure-and-survival elements will keep Hobbs' core audience hooked. Jennifer Mattson Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Read this book because it was assigned to my son for his summer reading program. What a great story! It should generate lively discussion in his freshman class about immigration. The story of Victor and his friend, Rico, trying to make their way across the boarder is compelling especially given their ages. Hobbs paints a descriptive picture of the Mexican border and their many trials and

tribulations....fascinating stuff and definitely recommended.

Great books for students who appreciate action/adventure novels.

Wonderful, honest story about an example of what it really takes for an immigrant to cross the border. Very detailed!

A quick read that put a face to the news of illegal immigrants we have all heard about especially in the recent campaigns. You can't look at it the same no matter which side of the argument you're sitting. Hobbs also retains the voice of a determined teen while we care to peak around the next corner with him. Solid read for young adults.

Sometimes it read so much like an adventure book that I forgot (for just a split second) I was reading about the struggles of crossing the US/Mexican border, but overall a wonderful job in detailing the struggles of the so-called "illegal" immigrant just trying to survive and help their family survive.

The story takes place in poor people's lives such story could happen to anyone with poor income and struggling to support himself and his family. I felt really sorry for the unfortunate souls that have or had similar conditions. Sadness, fear and hope.

Excellent. Will Hobbs is always a good choice for teens.

great

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