

## English 3 Level 2E (W221332)

### The Book of Unknown Americans, Cristina Henríquez

ISBN-13: 9780345806406

A dazzling, heartbreaking page-turner that gives voice to millions of Americans as it tells the story of the love between a Panamanian boy and a Mexican girl: teenagers living in an apartment block of immigrant families like their own.

After their daughter Maribel suffers a near-fatal accident, Alma and Artuo Rivera leave México and come to America. But upon settling at Redwood Apartments, a two-story cinderblock complex just off a highway in Delaware, they discover that Maribel's recovery--the piece of the American Dream on which they've pinned all their hopes--will not be easy. Every task seems to confront them with language, racial, and cultural obstacles.

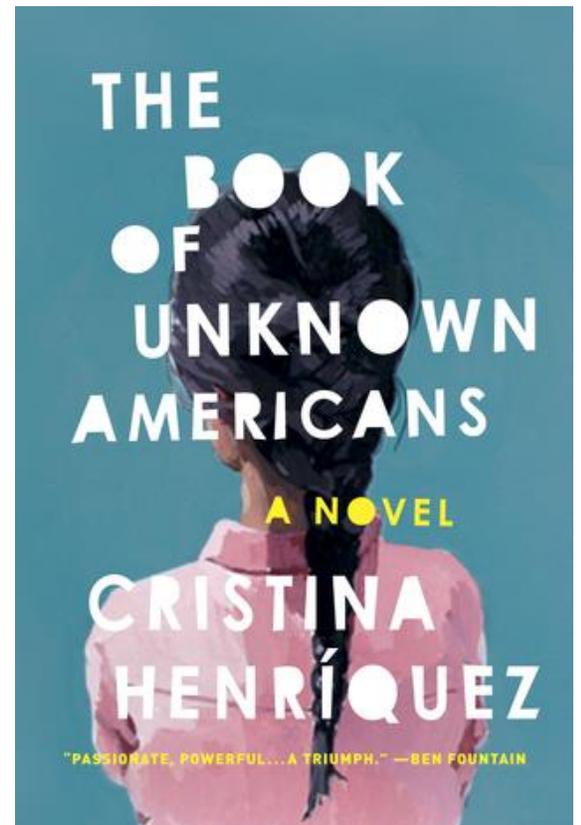
At Redwood also lives Mayor Toro, a high school sophomore whose family arrived from Panamá fifteen years ago. Mayor sees in Maribel something others do not. But as the two grow closer, violence casts a shadow over all their futures in America.

Filled with deeply sympathetic characters, this poignant yet unsentimental tale of young love tells a riveting story of unflinching honesty and humanity that offers a resonant new definition of what it means to be an American.

#### Directions:

As you read this novel, keep a list of characters on the inside cover page. Include their names, where they are originally from, how long they've been in the US, and the page number(s) where you found that information.

As well, also as you read, annotate for the following:



- Why each character or set of characters wanted to come to the United States and what they were looking for
- Any hardships or barriers that they encountered
- The unique aspects of their characters that speak to who they are as individuals