

Sophia Swanger

Mrs. Lopez

World Literature-Honors

6 April 2022

### Rip Current

We were standing at the edge of the rushing water, exchanging looks of doubt and concern. The other side of the water wasn't very far but there were many rocks and other obstacles in the way. Me and my family were heading to Panama for a better life but little did we know the obstacles that came with the journey through the jungle. Jose continued to cry because of the bugs and mosquito bites and I myself was suffering from all the bites. "Valentina, there is no other way to get across. We have no boat or way to stay afloat.", my mother stated. We had to cross the river. There was no turning back.

I put Maria, my youngest child, on my back and started across the river, the rest of my family behind me. The water was deep, but shallow enough for us to cross the strong rip current. The water suddenly got deeper and went from my knees to my hips. Treading through the water, we struggled to keep our balance. We all kept close, dodging sharp rocks and trying to keep our balance. I felt the current speeding up but we were almost to the other side. As I fought with the water, I thought about my family's future *if we happened to get out of the jungle. If we happened to get out of the river.* I was afraid, but I couldn't let my family and my children see that.

A few more steps and we would be safe. I looked back to make sure everyone was with me. The rip current was so strong it felt like walking through concrete. Suddenly, I missed a step and the current took me with it. I caught myself on a rock but Maria got loose from me. She could not swim. The rough waters took her away from me. I had no choice but to go after her.

I didn't know if I was going to see the rest of my family but one thing I knew was that I had to protect Maria. She was caught on a rock for the moment but I had to hurry if I was going to catch her. I had very little control over the current and the waves but I was so close to her. She started to slip away. I took a leap for it. I grabbed her at the last second and caught myself on that same rock. Now we had to get out of this river. We were still close to the edge, so with all my might I forced myself to the edge. We had made it out. Out of breath, I made sure Maria was ok and thought how we were going to get back to the rest of the family. "Valentina!" I heard familiar voices in the distance and headed that way. Jose came running towards us. That feeling of worry was overcome by tranquility. We were all together and we had all conquered the rip current.