



IN HISTORY: IMMIGRATION AND ETHNIC HERITAGE

Resources

Student Choice Reading List Kindergarten through Grade 4

A Picnic in October by Eve Bunting

An Italian-American family travels to the Statue of Liberty every October 28 to celebrate the landmark's birthday. Tony, a young boy, is embarrassed by his family's tradition until he observes a new immigrant family.

A Very Important Day by Maggie Rugg Herold

The story of 219 people from thirty-seven countries who make their way to downtown New York to be sworn in as citizens of the United States.

Annushka's Voyage by Edith Tarbescu

Two young girls leave Russia and immigrate to New York City to begin a new life with their father.

Casper and Catherine Move to America: An Immigrant Family's Adventures, 1849–1850 by Brian Hasler

Casper moves from Switzerland to Indiana and sends money back home to his wife and family so that they can one day join him.

Coming to America: The Story of Immigration
by Betsy Maestro

This book explains many of the reasons for immigration to America, ranging from the African slave trade to the process of entering through Ellis Island.

Dreaming of America: An Ellis Island Story
by Eve Bunting

Annie Moore, a young girl from Ireland, travels with her two brothers to meet their parents in New York City. She was the first immigrant to pass through the Ellis Island facilities in 1892.

Everybody Bakes Bread by Norah Dooley

Carrie is sent on an errand that takes her to seven different houses in her neighborhood, where she samples a different kind of bread at each stop. Recipes included.

Everybody Brings Noodles by Norah Dooley

Carrie organizes a community party and learns about various pasta dishes from around the world. Recipes included.

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Everybody Cooks Rice by Norah Dooley

As Carrie searches for her brother around the neighborhood, neighbors offer her a sample of their own dinner. She learns that many different cultures eat rice.

Everybody Serves Soup by Norah Dooley

Carrie begins shoveling snow for her neighbors to earn money for Christmas presents. When she is done shoveling, she samples different types of soup from each of her neighbors.

Evie Finds Her Family Tree by Ashley B. Ransburg

A young child learns about her family tree.

Grandfather's Journey by Allen Say

A young Japanese man leaves for America and settles in California. After his daughter is nearly grown, he decides to move back to Japan. Both he and his daughter struggle with feelings of alienation in Japan and yearning to move back to America.

How Many Days to America?: A Thanksgiving Story
by Eve Bunting

Caribbean refugees flee to America on a small boat.

If Your Name Was Changed at Ellis Island
by Ellen Levine

Questions and answers about the experience of immigration to America.

I Hate English! by Ellen Levine

Young Mei Mei struggles to learn English at a New York City school.

Journey to Ellis Island: How My Father Came to America by Carol Bierman

Seven-year-old Julius, his mother, and sister escape a Russian pogrom in 1917 and immigrate to America.

Keeping Quilt by Patricia Polacco

A quilt, belonging to a Jewish immigrant woman, is passed down through four generations of her family.

My Name is Yoon by Helen Recorvits

A young girl moves from Korea to America with her parents and struggles with adjustment to her new life.

The Color of Home by Mary Hoffman

Hassan, an immigrant from Somalia, struggles with learning English at a new school, but discovers he can still communicate through art.

The Floating House by Scott Russell Sanders

Two young children and their parents journey down the Ohio River on a flatboat to start a new life in the Indiana Territory in 1815.

The Memory Coat by Elvira Woodruff

When a Russian immigrant family arrives on Ellis Island, Grisha is rejected for entry and his coat marked with chalk. His quick-thinking cousin turns his coat inside out and Grisha enters America.

Watch the Stars Come Out by Riki Levinson

Two young children journey to meet their parents in New York City.

When Jessie Came Across the Sea by Amy Hest

Jessie, a thirteen-year-old Eastern European girl, leaves her poor village and immigrates to New York City. She finds a job in a dress shop and saves money to buy her grandmother a ticket to New York City years later.