

Resources on Immigration

Primary Level Books

Blue Jasmine by Kashmira Sheth

When twelve-year-old Seema and her family move from their small Indian town to Iowa City, Seema feels like an outsider to the language and traditions, and must cope with the unfamiliarity of a new school system and the hostility of an intolerant classmate. (*Hyperion Books for Children, 2006, 192 pages, grades 4–7*)

Coming to America: A Muslim Family's Story by Bernard Wolf

Text and photographs depict the joys and hardships experienced by a Muslim family that immigrates to New York City from Egypt. (*Lee & Low Books, 2003, 48 pages, grades 2–5*)

Dreamers by Yuyi Morales

She brought her strength, her work, her passion, her hopes and dreams...and her stories. Yuyi and her son's passage was not easy, and Yuyi spoke no English whatsoever at the time. But together, they found an unexpected, unbelievable place: the public library. There, book by book, they untangled the language of this strange new land, and learned to make their home within it. (*Neal Porter Books, 2018, 40 pages, grades 4–8*)

Drita, My Homegirl by Jenny Lombard

Drita and her family come to New York as refugees from war-torn Kosovo. Even though she barely speaks English, Drita can't wait to start school and make a new best friend. But her new classmates don't make it easy, teasing her about virtually everything. (*Penguin Group, 2008, 144 pages, grades 3–5*)

From North to South/Del Norte al Sure by Rene Colato Lainez

When Mamá is sent back to Mexico for not having proper papers, José and his Papá face an uncertain future. What will it be like to visit Mamá in Tijuana? When will Mamá be able to come home? This bilingual (English and Spanish) story tackles the difficult and timely subject of family separation with exquisite tenderness. (*Lee & Low Books, 2014, 32 pages, grades Kindergarten–3*)

Gaby, Lost and Found by Angela Cervantes

When Gaby Ramirez Howard starts volunteering at the local animal shelter, she takes special pride in writing adoption advertisements. Gaby is in need of a forever home herself because her mother recently was deported to Honduras. (*Scholastic, Inc., 2015, 224 pages, grades 3–7*)

How Tía Lola Came To Visit Stay by Julia Alvarez

When ten-year-old Miguel moves to Vermont with his mami after his parents' divorce, guess who flies up from the Island to help take care of him and his little sister, Juanita? Tía Lola! *How Tía Lola Came To Visit Stay* is the first in a series of books called [The Tia Lola Stories](#). (*Yearling, 2002, 160 pages, grades 3–7*)

Just Like Home/Como en Mi Tierra by Elizabeth I. Miller

A young girl shares her experiences of a new life in the United States by comparing those things that are similar to her old home and contrasting those that are different. (*Albert Whitman, 2003, 32 pages, grades Pre-K–3*)

La Mariposa by Francisco Jimenez

Francisco, an immigrant from Mexico and the son of migrant workers, has difficulty adjusting to first grade in a new school because he doesn't speak English and, to make matters worse, the class bully seems to have it in for him. (*Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2000, 40 pages, grades K–3*)

Making It Home: Real-Life Stories from Children Forced to Flee by Beverly Naidoo

Children living all over the world speak about being forced to flee their homes as refugees. With maps, brief histories of each country, and an eight-page photo insert, this book helps young people understand the world and the children who share the dream of freedom. (*Penguin Group, 2005, 117 pages, grades 4 & up*)

Mama's Nightingale: A Story of Immigration and Separation by Edwidge Danticat

After Saya's mother is sent to an immigration detention center, Saya finds comfort in listening to her mother's warm greeting on their answering machine. (*Dial, 2015, 32 pages, grades Kindergarten–3*)

Pancho Rabbit and the Coyote by Duncan Tonatiuh

In this allegorical picture book about migrants, a young rabbit named Pancho eagerly awaits his papa's return. (*Harry N. Abrams, 2013, 32 pages, grades 1–4*)

Same Sun Here by Silas House and Neela Vaswani

With honesty and humor and narrated in two voices, Meena and River bridge the miles between them, creating a friendship that inspires bravery and defeats cultural misconceptions. (*Candlewick Press, 2012, 304 pages, grades 4–7*)

Separate is Never Equal by Duncan Tonatiuh

Sylvia Mendez and her brothers are excited to attend the neighborhood schools but are turned away and told they have to attend the Mexican school instead. Unable to get a satisfactory answer from the school board, the Mendez family decides to take matters into their own hands and organize a lawsuit. (*Harry N. Abrams, 2014, 40 pages, grades 1–4*)

Side by Side: The Story of Dolores Huerta and César Chávez by Monica Brown

This bilingual (English and Spanish) story is about two Dolores Huerta and César Chávez who joined forces and motivated farmworkers to fight for their rights and, in the process, they changed history. (*Rayo, 2010, 32 pages, grades Preschool–3*)

Who Belongs Here?/Quien Es de Aquí? by Margy Burns Knight

The story of Nary, a young boy fleeing war-torn Cambodia for the safety of the U.S., teaches compassion for recent immigrants while sharing the history of immigration in the U.S. and some of the important contributions made by past immigrants. (*Tilbury House Publishers, 2003, 30 pages, grades 2–5*)

The Year of the Rat by Grace Lin

The Year of the Rat brings many changes for Pacy: her best friend moving away, dealing with the prejudice directed toward a new student from China and learning to face some of her own flaws. (*Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2009, 208 pages, grades 3–7*)

Secondary Level Books***The Arrival*** by Shaun Tan

This wordless graphic novel chronicles an immigrant's parting from his family and journey toward the future in a new land that is simultaneously ominous and hopeful. (*Scholastic, Inc., 2007, 128 pages, grades 7 & up*)

Colors of Freedom: Immigrant Stories by Janet Bode

Features interviews with people whose ancestors were slaves or slave owners and high school students who are immigrants themselves. They describe the customs of their native lands and compare their lives there to those in the United States. (*Scholastic Library Publishing, 2000, 144 pages, grades 6 & up*)

The Crossing by Gary Paulsen

Thirteen-year-old Manny, a street kid fighting for survival in a Mexican border town, develops a strange friendship with a tormented American soldier who decides to help him get across the border. (*Scholastic, Inc., 2005, 114 pages, grades 8 & up*)

Farmworker's Friend: The Story of Cesar Chavez by David R. Collins

The life and accomplishments of the labor activist, César Chávez, who helped organize migrant farm workers. (*Carolrhoda Books, 1996, 112 pages, grades 4 & up*)

First Crossing: Stories about Teen Immigrants by Donald R. Gallo

Stories of recent Mexican, Venezuelan, Kazakh, Chinese, Romanian, Palestinian, Swedish, Korean, Haitian and Cambodian immigrants reveal what it is like to face prejudice, language barriers and homesickness along with common teenage feelings and needs. (*Candlewick Press, 2004, 240 pages, grades 7 & up*)

Forty-Cent Tip: Stories of New York Immigrant Workers by Students of Three New York International High Schools

Through black-and-white photographs and essays, students new to the U.S. present first-person stories of the working lives of immigrants from their New York City neighborhoods. (*Next Generation Press, 2006, 72 pages, grades 6 & up*)

I Might Get Somewhere: Oral Histories of Immigration and Migration by Students at Balboa High School

Gathered, recorded, and edited by students, this anthology of oral histories includes more than 100 stories of immigration to the United States and a foreword by author Amy Tan. (*826 Books, 2005, 333 pages, grades 7 & up*)

Kids Like Me: Voices of the Immigrant Experience by Judith M. Blohm and Terri Lapinsky

This book features 26 personal narratives that explore the experiences of young immigrants and share their unique cultural identities. It also includes discussion questions, self-directed activities and research ideas. (*Intercultural Press, 2006, 296 pages, grades 6 & up*)

Newest Americans by Greenwood Publishing

This five-volume set contains the history of immigration to the U.S., a timeline of immigration legislation, a discussion of various immigration issues and profiles of 34 countries, with a focus on the experiences of American immigrants. (*Greenwood Publishing, 2003, 144 pages, grades 6 & up*)

REMIX: Conversations with Immigrant Teenagers by Marina Budhos

Intimate conversations and interviews with teenagers from all over the world, including Muslim girls from traditional families, Hmong athletes and Koreans facing extreme pressures to succeed. (*Resource Publications, 2007, 145 pages, grades 6 & up*)

Undocumented: A Worker's Fight by Duncan Tonatiuh

This book tells the story of immigrant workers who have come to the U.S. without "papers." Every day, these men and women join the work force and contribute positively to society. (*Harry N. Abrams, 2018, 15 pages, grades 12 & up*)

What Rights Should Illegal Immigrants Have? by Lori Newman

Includes selections from varying perspectives by a number of different writers on legal, social, and economic issues, such as the effects of profiling on Muslims at airports, health care and college tuition for illegal immigrants and the impact of the war on terrorism on their rights. (*Gale Group, 2006, 90 pages, grades 9 & up*)

Videos

Crossing Arizona by Joseph Mathew & Daniel DeVivo

This documentary offers multiple perspectives on the hotly debated issue of illegal immigration as captured at the Arizona border. Seen through the eyes of ranchers, border patrol agents, local politicians, farmers dependent on an illegal work force, humanitarian activists and migrants preparing for their journey north, this documentary addresses the complicated dilemmas presented by the border crisis. (*Cinema Guild, 2006, 75 or 55 min versions, VHS/DVD*)

The Elevator Operator by Jonathan P. Skurnik

This short film is a portrait of an immigrant named Eugene. Eugene shuttles passengers up and down in a manual elevator while he discusses his work, his emigration from Chernobyl, the joys of fatherhood and his recent U.S. citizenship. This snapshot takes the viewer deep into the heart of the immigrant experience. (*New Day Films, 2004, 8 min, VHS/DVD*)

Golden Venture by Peter Cohn

This film chronicles the ongoing struggles of passengers who were aboard the Golden Venture, an immigrant smuggling ship that ran aground near New York City in 1993. The Golden Venture crash fed a media circus and became a symbol of a growing national concern over illegal immigration. (*New Day Films, 2006, 70 min, VHS/DVD*)

My Brown Eyes by Jay Koh

A 10 year-old boy, the son of working Korean immigrants, rises and prepares himself for his first day in an American school. Told from a child's point of view, the video reveals the problems he encounters. (*Culture For Kids, 1994, 19 min, VHS*)

The New Americans

This series follows a diverse group of immigrants and refugees as they leave their home and families behind and learn what it means to be new Americans in the 21st century. Segments feature the stories of immigrants from Nigeria, Mexico, Palestinian Territory, Dominica and Nigeria. (*PBS, 2003, 3 episodes 60 min each, VHS/DVD*)

Teen Immigrants: Five American Stories

Five immigrant youth educate young people on issues teen immigrants face and help to break down negative stereotypes, promote respect for diversity and build understanding across lines of color and nationality. (*PBS, 1999, 30 minutes, VHS/DVD*)

Web Sites

Define American, <https://defineamerican.com>

A non-profit media and culture organization that uses the power of story to transcend politics and shift the conversation about immigrants, identity and citizenship in a changing America.

Ellis Island, www.ellisland.org

Provides information about the history of Ellis Island and genealogy; allows users to search family histories and read and share personal immigration stories.

Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, www.civilrights.org/issues/immigration

Offers educational materials on immigration and tracks legislation, court decisions and issues affecting the enforcement of immigration law.

My Immigration Story, www.myimmigrationstory.com

Includes the stories of American immigrants in their own words.

Unidos US, www.unidosus.org

Includes publications, speeches and information on policy and programs related to immigration.

National Immigration Forum, www.immigrationforum.org

Advocates for the value of immigrants and immigration to the nation; offers policy, action and research centers as well as community resources and publications.

Tenement Museum, www.tenement.org

Promotes tolerance and historical perspective through the presentation and interpretation of the variety of immigrant and migrant experiences on Manhattan's Lower East Side. Includes stories, lesson plans and other information.

U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, www.refugees.org

Addresses the needs and rights of persons in forced or voluntary migration worldwide by advancing public policy and providing professional services.

United We Dream, <http://unitedwedream.org>

The largest immigrant youth-led organization in the nation that organizes and advocates for the dignity and fair treatment of immigrant youth and families, regardless of immigration status.