



# Immigration and Refugees

## Teaching Resources Center, Joyner Library A Selective Annotated Bibliography

Titles in the Teaching Resources Center are cataloged with Dewey call numbers and are preceded by Curric. Please ask someone at the Teaching Resources Service Desk if you need any assistance.

Lexile Score	Title Information	Call Number
<b>BIG BOOKS</b>		
N/A	Colón García, Aurora. <i>Now We Live in the U.S.A.!</i> Barrington, IL: Rigby, 2004.  My, Guillermo, Wen, and Fernando are friends who tell about the countries they lived in before they moved to San Antonio, Texas.	BB C7182N
<b>EASY</b>		
AD490L	Buitrago, Jairo. <i>Two White Rabbits</i> . Toronto, ON: Groundwood Books/House of Anansi, 2015.  A young child describes what it is like to be a migrant as she and her father travel north toward the U.S. border.	E B8689T
560L	Bunting, Eve. <i>A Day's Work</i> . Columbus, OH: SRA/McGraw-Hill, 1994.  When Francisco, a young Mexican American boy, tries to help his grandfather find work, he discovers that even though the old man cannot speak English, he has something even more valuable to teach Francisco.	E B886DA

450L	Bunting, Eve. <i>One Green Apple</i> . New York: Clarion Books, 2006.	E B886ONG
	While on a school field trip to an orchard to make cider, a young immigrant named Farah gains self-confidence when the green apple she picks perfectly complements the other students' red apples.	
AD460L	Colato Laínez, René. <i>My Shoes and I</i> . Honesdale, PA: Boyds Mills Press, 2010.	E C672M
	As Mario and his Papá travel from El Salvador to the United States to be reunited with Mamá, Mario's wonderful new shoeshelp to distract him from the long and difficult journey.	
AD560L	Cox, Judy. <i>Carmen Learns English</i> . New York: Holiday House, 2010.	E C8395CA
	Newly-arrived in the United States from Mexico, Carmen is apprehensive about going to school and learning English.	
N/A	Currier, Katrina Saltonstall. <i>Kai's Journey to Gold Mountain: An Angel Island Story</i> . Tiburon, CA: Angel Island Association, 2005.	E C9369K
	In 1934, twelve-year-old Kai leaves China to join his father in America, but first he must take a long sea voyage, then endure weeks of crowded conditions and harsh examinations on Angel Island, fearing that he or his new friend will be sent home.	
NC890L	Danticat, Edwidge. <i>Mama's Nightingale: A Story of Immigration and Separation</i> . New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 2015.	E D236M
	When Saya's mother is sent to jail as an illegal immigrant, she sends her daughter a cassette tape with a song and a bedtime story, which inspires Saya to write a story of her own--one that just might bring her mother home.	
N/A	Davies, Nicola. <i>King of the Sky</i> . Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2017.	E D2883K
	When a young boy moves from his home in Italy to Wales, the only thing that cheers him up are the racing pigeons that Mr. Evans keeps in a loft behind his house.	
AD600L	Díaz, Junot. <i>Islandborn</i> . New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 2018.	E D5436I
	Lola was just a baby when her family left the Island, so when she has to draw it for a school assignment, she asks her family, friends, and neighbors about their memories of her homeland ... and in the process, comes up with a new way of understanding her own heritage.	

AD610L	Fleischman, Paul. <i>The Matchbox Diary</i> . Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2013.	E F6284M
	Follow a girl's perusal of her great-grandfather's collection of matchboxes and small curios that document his poignant immigration journey from Italy to a new country.	
AD590L	James, Helen Foster. <i>Paper Son: Lee's Journey to America</i> . Ann Arbor, MI: Sleeping Bear Press, 2013.	E J2335P
	Twelve-year-old Lee, an orphan, reluctantly leaves his grandparents in China for the long sea voyage to San Francisco, where he and other immigrants undergo examinations at Angel Island Immigration Station.	
AD480L	Kobald, Irena. <i>My Two Blankets</i> . Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015.	E K791M
	A homesick little girl who has recently moved to an unfamiliar country comforts herself by clinging to an old blanket, but when she meets a new friend, the relationship helps her take her first steps into a new culture.	
N/A	Moore, Julianne. <i>My Mom is a Foreigner, But Not to Me</i> . San Francisco, CA: Chronicle Books, 2013.	E M7847M
	Shows readers young and old that no matter where she's from, every mom speaks the same language: love.	
AD390L	O'Brien, Anne Sibley. <i>I'm New Here</i> . Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2015.	E OB62I
	Three children from other countries (Somalia, Guatemala, and Korea) struggle to adjust to their new home and school in the United States.	
AD570L	Ørbeck-Nilssen, Constance. <i>Why am I Here?</i> Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2016.	E OR17W
	A young girl wonders what life would be like if she lived somewhere else. What if she lived in a city with millions of people? What would it be like to be a refugee from a war-torn country? Is she meant to be in a different place? Or is she right where she's supposed to be?	
620L	Phi, Bao. <i>A Different Pond</i> . North Mankato, MN: Picture Window Books, 2017.	E P5301D
	As a young boy, Bao Phi awoke early, hours before his father's long workday began, to fish on the shores of a small pond in Minneapolis. Unlike many other anglers, Bao and his father fished for food, not recreation. Between hope-filled casts, Bao's father told him about a different pond in their homeland of Vietnam.	

740L	Polacco, Patricia. <i>The Blessing Cup</i> . New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2013.	E P7569BL
	A single china cup from a tea set left behind when Jews were forced to leave Russia helps hold a family together through generations of living in America, reminding them of the most important things in life.	
AD740L	Polacco, Patricia. <i>Fiona's Lace</i> . New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2014.	E P7569FI
	Emigrating from Ireland to America, Fiona's family settles in Chicago, where Fiona's handmade lace keeps the family together during a devastating fire.	
AD530L	Pryor, Bonnie. <i>The Dream Jar</i> . New York: Morrow Junior Books, 1996.	E P956D
	After emigrating to America, each member of a Russian family works hard to contribute to the family's dream of someday owning and running a store.	
480L	Recorvits, Helen. <i>My Name is Yoon</i> . New York: Frances Foster Books, 2003.	E R2455M
	Disliking her name as written in English, Korean-born Yoon, or "shining wisdom," refers to herself as "cat," "bird," and "cupcake," as a way to feel more comfortable in her new school and new country.	
AD430L	Ringgold, Faith. <i>We Came to America</i> . New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2016.	E R473W
	Celebrates United States immigration and the country's diverse immigrant heritage.	
AD650L	Say, Allen. <i>Grandfather's Journey</i> . Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1993.	E SA991G
	A Japanese American man recounts his grandfather's journey to America which he later also undertakes, and the feelings of being torn by a love for two different countries.	
AD660L	Shulevitz, Uri. <i>How I Learned Geography</i> . New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 2008.	E SH924H
	As he spends hours studying his father's world map, a young boy escapes the hunger and misery of refugee life. Based on the author's childhood in Kazakhstan, where he lived as a Polish refugee during World War II.	

- AD570L Simon, Richard. *Oskar and the Eight Blessings*. New York: Roaring Brook Press, 2015. E  
SI551O
- A young Jewish refugee from Nazi Germany arrives in New York City on the seventh night of Hanukkah and receives small acts of kindness while exploring the city.
- AD540L Stewart, Sarah. *The Quiet Place*. New York: Margaret Ferguson Books, 2012. E  
ST498Q
- A little girl moves to the United States from Mexico with her family and writes letters to her aunt in Mexico about her new life.
- 620L Williams, Karen Lynn. *Four Feet, Two Sandals*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2007. E  
W6737F
- Two young Afghani girls living in a refugee camp in Pakistan share a precious pair of sandals brought by relief workers. Includes author's note about refugees.
- AD550L Williams, Karen Lynn. *My Name is Sangoel*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2009. E  
W6737M
- As a refugee from Sudan to the United States, Sangoel is frustrated that no one can pronounce his name correctly until he finds a clever way to solve the problem.
- 740L Yang, Belle. *Hannah is My Name*. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 2004. E  
Y16H
- A young Chinese girl and her parents emigrate to the United States and try their best to assimilate into their San Francisco neighborhood while anxiously awaiting the arrival of their green cards.

## FICTION

- 890L Alvarez, Julia. *Return to Sender*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2009. F  
AL86R
- After his family hires migrant Mexican workers to help save their Vermont farm from foreclosure, eleven-year-old Tyler befriends the oldest daughter, but when he discovers they may not be in the country legally, he realizes that real friendship knows no borders.
- NP Applegate, Katherine. *Home of the Brave*. New York: Square Fish, 2007. F  
AP52H
- Kek, an African refugee, is confronted by many strange things

at the Minneapolis home of his aunt and cousin, as well as in his fifth-grade classroom. He longs for his missing mother but finds comfort in the company of a cow and her owner.

- 830L Diaz, Alexandra. *The Only Road*. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2016. F  
D5432O
- Everyone in Jaime's small town in Guatemala knows someone who has been killed by the Alphas, a powerful gang that's known for violence and drug trafficking. Miguel, Jaime's cousin and best friend, was killed and Jaime fears that he is next. With his cousin Ángela, Jaime must risk everything and flee his home to live with his older brother in New Mexico.
- 820L Gallo, Donald R. (Ed.) *First Crossing: Stories About Teen Immigrants*. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 2004. F  
F5195
- 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.
- 570L Freeman, Ruth. *One Good Thing About America*. New York: Holiday House, 2017. F  
F8776O
- Anais, who has recently emigrated from Africa to Maine with her mother and young brother, copes with acclimating herself to a new country, understanding American culture, learning English, figuring out how to fit in at school, and moving from motel to shelter and finally to a permanent apartment.
- 590L Gonzalez, Christina Diaz. *The Red Umbrella*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2010. F  
G5893R
- In 1961 after Castro has come to power in Cuba, fourteen-year-old Lucia and her seven-year-old brother are sent to the United States when her parents, who are not in favor of the new regime, fear that the children will be taken away from them as others have been.
- 800L Gratz, Alan. *Refugee*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2017. F  
G774R
- Although separated by continents and decades, Josef, a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany; Isabel, a Cuban girl trying to escape the riots and unrest plaguing her country in 1994; and Mahmoud, a Syrian boy in 2015 whose homeland is torn apart by violence and destruction, embark on harrowing journeys in search of refuge, discovering shocking connections that tie their stories together.

- 470L Hest, Amy. *When Jessie Came Across the Sea*. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 1997. F  
H469WHN
- A thirteen-year-old Jewish orphan reluctantly leaves her grandmother and immigrates to New York City, where she works for three years sewing lace and earning money to bring Grandmother to the United States, too.
- 670L Hobbs, Will. *Crossing the Wire*. New York: HarperCollins, 2006. F  
H65275CRO
- Fifteen-year-old Victor Flores journeys north in a desperate attempt to cross the Arizona border and find work in the United States to support his family in central Mexico.
- 640L Kelly, Erin Entrada. *The Land of Forgotten Girls*. New York: Greenwillow Books, 2016. F  
K29595L
- Abandoned by their father and living in poverty with their heartless stepmother in Louisiana, two sisters from the Philippines, twelve-year-old Sol and six-year-old Ming, learn the true meaning of family.
- 650L Pignat, Caroline. *Greener Grass*. Calgary, AB: Red Deer Press, 2009. F  
P626G
- The Byrne family is strong but are being tested everyday as life becomes more and more desperate in 19th century rural Ireland, forcing the family to leave their homeland.
- 810L Preus, Margi. *West of the Moon*. New York: Amulet Books, 2014. F  
P9281W
- In nineteenth-century Norway, fourteen-year-old Astri, whose aunt has sold her to a mean goatherder, dreams of joining her father in America.
- 900L Pung, Alice. *Lucy and Linh*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2016. F  
P9693L
- In Australia, Lucy tries to balance her life at home surrounded by her Chinese immigrant family, with her life at a pretentious private school.
- 780L Resau, Laura. *Star in the Forest*. New York: Yearling, 2012. F  
R3111S
- After eleven-year-old Zitlally's father is deported to Mexico, she takes refuge in her trailer park's forest of rusted car parts, where she befriends a spunky neighbor and finds a stray dog that she nurses back to health and believes she must keep safe so that her father will return.

- 750L Ryan, Pam Muñoz. *Esperanza Rising*. Carmel, CA: Hampton-Brown, 2000. F  
R957E.B
- Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California, where they must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression.
- 800L Senzai, N.H. *Shooting Kabul*. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2010. F  
SE599S
- Escaping from Taliban-controlled Afghanistan in the summer of 2001, eleven-year-old Fadi and his family immigrate to the San Francisco Bay Area, where Fadi schemes to return to the Pakistani refugee camp where his little sister was accidentally left behind.
- N/A Tan, Shaun. *The Arrival*. New York: A.A. Levine, 2006. F  
T1535A
- In this wordless graphic novel, a man leaves his homeland and sets off for a new country, where he must build a new life for himself and his family.
- 610L Williams, Mary. *Brothers in Hope: The Story of the Lost Boys of Sudan*. New York: Lee & Low Books, 2005. F  
W6742B
- Eight-year-old Garang, orphaned by a civil war in Sudan, finds the inner strength to help lead other boys as they trek hundreds of miles seeking safety in Ethiopia, then Kenya, and finally in the United States.

## NONFICTION

- 1120L Hunter, Nick. *Immigration*. Chicago, IL: Heinemann Library, 2012. 304.8  
H918I
- Examines why people migrate, describes the experiences of immigrants, and discusses how governments attempt to control them.
- N/A Ollhoff, Jim. *Exploring Immigration*. Edina, MN: ABDO Pub. Co., 2011. 304.8  
OL49E
- Describes immigration, why people immigrate, and also the first immigrants who came to North America.
- 610L Coy, John. *Their Great Gift: Courage, Sacrifice, and Hope in a New Land*. Minneapolis, MN: Carolrhoda Books, 2016. 304.873  
C83984T
- Explores the experience of immigrants who came to America in the twenty-first



century, celebrating the diversity of the country and hope for the future.

- 1080L Osborne, Linda Barrett. *This Land is Our Land: The History of American Immigration*. New York: Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2016. 304.873 OS17T
- This book explores the way government policy and popular responses to immigrant groups evolved throughout U.S. history, particularly between 1800 and 1965. The book concludes with a summary of events up to contemporary times, as immigration again becomes a hot-button issue.
- 890L Leatherdale, Mary Beth. *Stormy Seas: Stories of Young Boat Refugees*. Toronto, ON: Annick Press, 2017. 305.9 L483S
- The plight of refugees risking their lives at sea has, unfortunately, made the headlines all too often in the past few years. This book presents five true stories, from 1939 to today, about young people who lived through the harrowing experience of setting sail in search of asylum.
- N/A Kenney, Karen. *Illegal Immigration*. Edina, MN: ABDO Publishing, 2008 325.73 K395I
- Includes a short history of U.S. immigration, legislation, and the emergence of the term "Illegal immigrant;" illegal immigrants today: who they are and how they get here; xenophobia, racism, or concerned citizens? and crime, drugs, and illegal immigrants.
- NP Argueta, Jorge. *Somos Como Las Nubes = We Are Like the Clouds*. Toronto, ON: Groundwood Books, 2017. 861 AR38SOM
- Why are young people leaving their country to walk to the United States to seek a new, safe home? Over 100,000 such children have left Central America. This book of poetry helps us to understand why and what it is like to be them.
- AD610L Mochizuki, Ken. *Passage to Freedom: The Sugihara Story*. New York: Lee & Low Books, 1997. 940.53 M715P
- A portrait of Chiune Sugihara, a Japanese diplomat in Lithuania in 1940, explains how he used his powers--against the orders of his own government--to assist thousands of Jews escape the Holocaust, actions that resulted in the imprisonment and disgrace of his entire family.
- 1140L Cha, Dia. *Dia's Story Cloth*. New York: Lee & Low Books, 1996. 973.0495 C34D
- The story cloth made for her by her aunt and uncle chronicles the life of the author and her family in their native Laos and their eventual emigration to the United States.

## BIOGRAPHY

- 780L Grande, Reyna. *The Distance Between Us*. New York: Aladdin, 2016. B  
G7635G
- At the age of 8, Reyna Grande made the dangerous and illegal trek across the border from Mexico to the United States and discovered that the American Dream is much more complicated than it seemed.
- N/A Jackson, Livia Bitton. *Hello, America: A Refugee's Journey from Auschwitz to the New World*. New York: Simon Pulse, 2006. B  
J1359J
- As a new immigrant, a young Jewish girl finds adjusting to her new world exciting and challenging as she tries to stay true to her traditions while going to night school and dealing with an unexpected romance with a young doctor.
- N/A Morales, Yuyi. *Dreamers*. New York: Neal Porter Books, 2018. B  
M7929M
- An illustrated picture book autobiography in which award-winning author Yuyi Morales tells her own immigration story.
- 830L Nazario, Sonia. *Enrique's Journey: The True Story of a Boy Determined to Reunite with His Mother*. New York: Random House Trade Paperbacks, 2014. B  
P653NA
- Based on the Los Angeles Times series that won two Pulitzer Prizes, this is a timeless story of families torn apart. When Enrique was five, his mother, too poor to feed her children, left Honduras to work in the United States. The move allowed her to send money back home so Enrique could eat better and go to school past the third grade. She promised she would return quickly, but she struggled in America. Without her, he became lonely and troubled. After eleven years, he decided he would go find her. He set off alone, with little more than a slip of paper bearing his mother's North Carolina telephone number.

## PROFESSIONAL COLLECTION

- Miller, Pat. *Multicultural Activities*. Fort Atkinson, WI: UpstartBooks, 2003. 027.8  
M612M
- Gruwell, Erin. *The Freedom Writers Diary: How a Teacher and 150 Teens Used Writing to Change Themselves and the World Around Them*. New York: Broadway Books, 2009. 305.235  
F875F.A

Hadaway, Nancy L. <i>Breaking Boundaries with Global Literature: Celebrating Diversity in K-12 Classrooms</i> . Newark, DE: International Reading Association, 2007.	372.64 B7403
Lowery, Ruth McKoy. <i>Immigrants in Children's Literature</i> . New York: P. Lang Pub., 2000.	810.9 L953I

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