Let's Talk About Immigration



Discover fiction and nonfiction books about immigrant and refugee experiences throughout history.



PICTURE BOOKS AND YOUNGER ELEMENTARY



The Arabic Quilt: An Immigrant Story by Aya Khalil (Ej Kha)

This beautiful story of diversity follows a young girl named Kanzi whose start at a new school in a new country is not easy. However, she finds that her most treasured reminder of her old home provides a pathway for acceptance in her new one. Recommended ages 4–8.



Areli is a Dreamer: A True Story by Areli Morales (J 921 Morales Mor)

When Areli was just a baby, her mama and papa moved from Mexico to New York with her brother, Alex, to make a better life for the family—and when she was in kindergarten, they sent for her, too. This is her true story. Recommended ages 3–7.



Do I Belong Here? = ¿Es Este Mi Lugar? by René Colato Laínez(ESPANOL Ej Col)

A bilingual text that offers an empathetic look at how immigrant children start to learn little by little, adapt to their surroundings and friends, and begin to feel like they belong here! Recommended for ages 5–9.



Facing Fear: An Immigration Story by Karen Lynn Williams (Ej Wil)

Enrique, a budding soccer star and U.S. citizen, learns the story behind his family's emigration across the border and the risks surrounding the crossing of the United States-Mexico checkpoints. Recommended for ages 5–9.



Gibberish by Young Vo (Ej Vo)

When Dat starts school in a country where he doesn't speak the language, everything around him sounds like gibberish, until a new friend helps him make sense of his new world. Recommended for ages 4–8.



Home is in Between by Mitali Perkins (Ej Per)

Immigrating to America from Bengali, a young girl faces the challenge of navigating between her family's beloved Bengali traditions and her new country's culture. Recommended for ages 3–6.



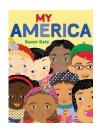
Kids Speak Out About Immigration by Chris Schwab (J 304.8 Sch)

Immigrants around the world move to new places seeking peace and opportunity. How can we support them? We can speak out! Recommended for ages 6–9.



Like a Dandelion by Huy Voun Lee (Ej Lee)

A poetic tribute to the strength of immigrants. Like dandelion seeds, a little girl and her mother take flight, put down roots in a new country, and begin to blossom in their new home. Recommended for ages 3–8.



My America by Karen Katz (J 325.73 Kat)

Katz celebrates America's immigrant roots with this inclusive picture book, which uses bright, textural illustrations to highlight some of the many cultures and backgrounds that make up the country's residents.

Recommended for ages 2–6.



My Two Border Towns by David Bowles (Ej Bow)

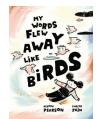
A boy and his father cross the United States-Mexico border every other Saturday, visiting favorite places, spending time with family and friends, and sharing in the responsibility of community care. Recommended for ages 3–6.



Finding Home: The Journey of Immigrants and Refugees

by Jen Sookfong Lee (J 304.8 Lee)

Discover how human migration has shaped our world as you read the first-hand stories of people who have moved across the globe looking for safety, security, and happiness. Recommended for ages 8–12.



My Words Flew Away Like Birds by Debora Pearson (Ej Pea)

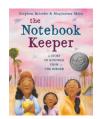
A child who has moved to a new country finds that the little bit of new language she has learned isn't helping her. As she speaks, all the new words fly away! Does she need words to make a new friend? Recommended for ages 4–8.



Front Desk by Kelly Yang (J Yang)

10-year-old Mia, an immigrant from China, takes on front desk duties at the motel where her parents are managers and uses her creativity and can-do spirit to surmount the obstacles to a brighter future.

Recommended for ages 8–12.



The Notebook Keeper: A Story of Kindness from the Border

by Stephen Briseño, Magdalena Mora (Ej Bri)

Noemi and her mama must flee their country. At the border, they meet the notebook keeper, Belinda, who inspires hope in Noemi's heart. They find a new sense of home as they camp with other refugees awaiting their numbers to get called. Recommended for ages 4–8.



Other Words for Home by Jasmine Warga (J Warga)

Written in first-person free verse, this book traces the internal journey of Jude, a young Syrian refugee adjusting to a new home and culture in the United States while still facing worries about her family members back in Syria. Recommended for ages 8–12.



BAREFOOT

To the Other Side by Erika Meza (Ej Mez)

As a girl and her younger brother make the dangerous journey from Mexico to the United States border, she creates a game to soften the impact of the experience. Recommended for ages 4–8.



Santiago's Road Home by Alexandra Diaz (J Diaz)

Following 12-year-old Santiago, this story gives voice to a young refugee who overcomes tremendous obstacles to cross the border from Mexico into the United States, only to be trapped in a detention center. Recommended for ages 8–12.



Barefoot Dreams of Petra Luna by Alda P. Dobbs (J Dobbs)

Based on the true story of Petra Luna as she leads her family on a perilous journey in order to cross the United States border and find safety during the Mexican Revolution. Recommended for ages 8–12.



World in Between

by Kenan Trebinčević, Susan Shapiro (J Trebinc)

When 11-year-old Kenan's homeland of Bosnia is ripped apart by war, his family is forced to make difficult decisions that eventually lead them on a harrowing refugee experience. Recommended for ages 8–12.



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