



WE ARE AMERICA ***A Wellesley Free Library Booklist***

EASY 1

Gerstein, Mordicai

Sparrow Jack

In 1868, John Bardsley, an immigrant from England, brought one thousand sparrows from his home country back to Philadelphia, where he hoped they would help save the trees from the inch-worms that were destroying them. Based on a true story.

Hoffman, Mary

The Color of Home

Hassan, newly-arrived in the United States and feeling homesick, paints a picture at school that shows his old home in Somalia as well as the reason his family had to leave.

Nobisso, Josephine

In English, of Course

Josephine tries to tell her new American class about her life in Naples, Italy, but her teacher misunderstands what she is saying and thinks she grew up on a farm.

Rael, Elsa Okon

Rivka's First Thanksgiving

Having heard about Thanksgiving in school, nine-year-old Rivka tries to convince her immigrant family and her rabbi that it is a holiday for all Americans, Jews and non-Jews alike.

Ziefert, Harriet

When I First Came To This Land

Illustrations and words to a traditional song describe the adventures of a pioneer who buys a farm and builds life for himself and his family.

EASY 2

Bartone, Elisa

American Too

Everything on her street is Italian, but Rosie wants to be a modern American girl so she uses her imagination to make her American dream come true.

Bunting, Eve

One Green Apple

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.

Lee, Milly

Landed

After leaving his village in southeastern China, twelve-year-old Sun is held at Angel Island, San Francisco, before being released to join his father, a merchant living in the area. Includes historical notes.

Machlin, Mikki

My Name is Not Gussie

A young girl describes the difficulties and joys that she and her family experience when they come from Russia to settle in New York City in the early twentieth century. Based on stories from the author's mother.

**Russell, Barbara
Timberlake**

Maggie's Amerikay

In New Orleans in 1898, while her mother talks of saving to buy land and her father insists on the importance of an education, young Irish immigrant Maggie McCrary is determined to find her own way in the new place they call home.

- Woodruff, Elvira** **The Memory Coat**
In the early 1900s, two cousins leave their Russian shtetl with the rest of their family to come to America, hopeful that they will all pass the dreaded inspection at Ellis Island.
- Yang, Belle** **Hannah Is My Name**
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.
- Yezerki, Thomas F.** **Together in Pinecone Patch**
A girl from Ireland and a boy from Poland overcome the prejudices held by the residents of the small American town to which they have emigrated.
- Yin** **Brothers**
Having arrived in San Francisco from China to work in his brother's store, Ming is lonely until an Irish boy befriends him.
- Yin** **Coolies**
A young boy hears the story of his great-great-great-grandfather and his brother who came to the United States to make a better life for themselves helping to build the transcontinental railroad.

READER

- Sandin, Joan** **The Long Way To A New Land**
Carl Erik journeys with his family from Sweden to America during the famine of 1868.

JUVENILE FICTION

- Bartoletti, Susan
Campbell** **A Coal Miner's Bride : the diary of Anetka Kaminska**
A diary account of thirteen-year-old Anetka's life in Poland in 1896, immigration to America, marriage to a coal miner, widowhood, and happiness in finally finding her true love.
- Brown, Jackie** **Little Cricket**
After the upheaval of the Vietnam War reaches them, twelve-year-old Kia and her Hmong family flee from the mountains of Laos to a refugee camp in Thailand and eventually to the alien world of Saint Paul, Minnesota.
- Cheng, Andrea** **Honeysuckle House**
An all-American girl with Chinese ancestors and a new immigrant from China find little in common when they meet in their fourth grade classroom, but they are both missing their best friends and soon discover other connections.
- Emery, Joanna** **Brothers of the Falls**
As the orphaned Doyle brothers leave Ireland to sail to the United States in 1846, thirteen-year-old Aiden is accidentally separated from sixteen-year-old Liam and must make his own way to New York, find work, and somehow find his brother.
- Gündisch, Karin** **How I Became an American**
In 1902, ten-year-old Johann and his family, Germans who had been living in Austria-Hungary, board a ship to immigrate to Youngstown, Ohio, where they make a new life as Americans.

Himmelblau, Linda	<p>The Trouble Begins Reunited with his family for the first time since he was a baby, fifth grader Du struggles to adapt to his new home in the United States.</p>
Johnston, Tony	<p>Any Small Goodness : a novel of the barrio Arturo and his family and friends share all kinds of experiences living in the barrio of East Los Angeles--reclaiming their names, playing basketball, championing the school librarian, and even starting their own gang.</p>
Lasky, Kathryn	<p>An American Spring In 1903, Maureen, originally from Ireland, comes to Boston to live with her old friend Sofia and her Italian American family, where the two girls share fifth grade class and various adventures.</p>
Lasky, Kathryn	<p>Home at Last In 1903, ten-year-old Sofia and her family begin their life in America in Boston, where her father works in a grocery, her mother sells pasta, and she goes to school while trying to stay in touch with her old friend Maureen. Includes historical notes.</p>
Lord, Bette Bao	<p>In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson In 1947, a Chinese child comes to Brooklyn where she becomes Americanized at school, in her apartment building, and by her love for baseball.</p>
Lovelace, Maud Hart	<p>Betsy and Tacy Go Over the Big Hill Betsy, Tacy and Tib set out to elect Tib as the "Queen of Summer" and in the process meet new American immigrants and learn to be proud to be Americans, themselves.</p>
Marsden, Carolyn	<p>The Gold-Threaded Dress When Oy and her Thai American family move to a new neighborhood, her third-grade classmates tease and exclude her because she is different.</p>
Mead, Alice	<p>Swimming to America Eighth grader Linda Berati struggles to understand who she is within the context of her mother's secrecy about the family background, her discomfort with her old girlfriends, her involvement with the family problems of her Cuban-American friend Ramon, and an opportunity to attend a school for "free spirits" like herself.</p>
Namioka, Lensey	<p>Yang the Youngest and His Terrible Ear Recently arrived in Seattle from China, musically untalented Yingtao is faced with giving a violin performance to attract new students for his father when he would rather be working on friendships and playing baseball.</p>
Napoli, Donna Jo	<p>The King of Mulberry Street In 1892, Dom, a nine-year old stowaway from Naples, Italy, arrives in New York and must learn to survive the perils of street life in the big city.</p>
Oswald, Nancy	<p>Nothing Here But Stones In 1882, ten-year-old Emma and her family, along with other Russian Jewish immigrants, arrive in Cotopaxi, Colorado, where they face inhospitable conditions as they attempt to start an agricultural colony.</p>
Sheth, Kashmira	<p>Blue Jasmine Twelve-year-old Seema moves from India to Iowa City and struggles to learn a new culture. When her grandmother falls ill and she visits India again, circumstances help her understand the meaning of "home" and how it is possible to have more than one.</p>

- Yee, Paul** **Tales from Gold Mountain : stories of the Chinese in the New World**
A collection of eight stories reflecting the gritty optimism of the Chinese who overcame prejudice and adversity to build a unique place for themselves in North America.
- Yep, Laurence** **Dragonwings**
In the early twentieth century a young Chinese boy joins his father in San Francisco and helps him realize his dream of making a flying machine.

YOUTH FICTION

- Danticat, Edwidge** **Behind the Mountains**
Writing in the notebook which her teacher gave her, thirteen-year-old Celiane describes life with her mother and brother in Haiti as well as her experiences in Brooklyn after the family finally immigrates there to be reunited with her father.
- De la Cruz, Melissa** **Fresh Off the Boat**
When her family emigrates from the Philippines to San Francisco, California, fourteen-year-old Vicenza Arambullo struggles to fit in at her exclusive, all-girl private school.
- Sachs, Marilyn** **Lost in America**
Follows the experiences of Nicole, a teenaged French Jew, from 1943 to 1948, as she loses her parents and sister to the concentration camps and then leaves her native France to make a new life for herself in New York City.
- Son, John** **Finding My Hat**
Jin-Han describes his life growing up with his mother and father, immigrants from Korea, and his little sister as they move to different cities with his parents' business.

NONFICTION

- Brimner, Larry Dane** **A Migrant Family**
JUV 305.5 Brimner Portrays the life of twelve-year-old Juan Medina and his family, migrant workers living in Encinitas, California.
- Collier, Christopher & James Lincoln** **A Century of Immigration : 1820-1924**
JUV 325.73 Collier Discusses the economic, social, and religious reasons why immigrants, predominantly from northern Europe, and then from eastern and southern Europe, came to the United States. Considers incidents of prejudice experienced by these immigrants as well as contributions made by those of immigrant background.
- De Capua, Sarah** **Becoming a Citizen**
JUV 342.73 DeCapua Explains the requirements for U.S. citizenship and the procedures immigrants must follow in order to become naturalized. [Booklist]
- De Capua, Sarah** **How People Immigrate**
JUV 325.73 DeCapua Explains what immigration is, who may immigrate to the United States, what the process of immigration is, and how immigrants get settled in their new nation.
- Evitts, William J.** **Early Immigration in the United States**
JUV 325.73 Evitts Describes the United States as a nation of immigrants and the reasons why people came to America, examining how the early immigrants, from the Dutch to the Africans, settled and adapted to their new home.

- Freedman, Russell** **Immigrant Kids**
JUV 325.73 Freedman Text and contemporary photographs chronicle the life of immigrant children at home, school, work, and play during the late 1800's and early 1900's.
- Hoobler, Dorothy & Thomas** **We are Americans : voices of the immigrant experience**
JUV 325.73 Hoobler A history of immigration to America, from speculation about the earliest immigrants to the present day.
- Koral, April** **An Album Of The Great Wave Of Immigration**
JUV 325.73 Koral A pictorial history of the large wave of immigration that occurred in the United States from 1890 to 1924.
- Maestro, Betsy** **Coming to America : the story of immigration**
JUV 325.2 Maestro An introductory history of immigration from thousands of years ago through the present, focusing on why different groups of people came to America and how they became a part of our national heritage. [School Library Journal]
- McKissack Patricia C. & Frederick L. Jr.** **Hard Labor : The First African Americans, 1619**
JUV 326 McKissack An account of the very first Africans who came to this country In the early seventeenth century: who they were, why they came, and what happened to them and their descendants. [Booklist]
- O'Connor, Karen** **Dan Thuy's New Life in America**
JUV 325 O'Connor Describes the experience of thirteen-year-old Dan Thuy Huynh and her family, recently come from Vietnam to live in San Diego, California, as they adapt to their life in a new country.
- Sandler, Martin W.** **Immigrants**
JUV 325.73 Sandler This entry in the Library of Congress Book series is a collection of photographs and illustrations of the immigration experience loosely tied together by a general text. [Booklist]
- Sandler, Martin W.** **Island of Hope : the story of Ellis Island and the journey to America**
JUV 325.73 Sandler Relates the story of immigration to America through the voices and stories of those who passed through Ellis Island, from its opening in 1892 to the release of the last detainee in 1954.
- Smith, Charles R., Jr.** **I Am America**
JUV 305.230973 Smith Celebrates diversity in America today, with lots of full-color photos of smiling kids and a simple rhyming text in very large type.[Booklist]