

## JEWISH AMERICAN IMMIGRATION

Resources available at The Ratner Media & Technology Center of  
The Jewish Education Center of Cleveland

Bierman, Carol. *Journey to Ellis Island*. Hyperion/Madison, 1998.

A brave woman and her 2 children flee war-torn Europe only to be refused entry at Ellis island because of Yehuda's injured arm. How he proved to the doctors that he was indeed fit is part of this engaging story about the author's father.

Blos, Joan W. *Brooklyn Doesn't Rhyme*. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1994.

Before she can complete a school assignment about family pride, 11 year old Rosey must reach a new understanding of her Polish-Jewish immigrant family. Her insights and memories create a touching picture of Jewish life in New York in the years before World War I.

Ducharme, Dede Fox. *The Treasure in the Tiny Blue Tin*. Texas Christian Univ. Press, 1998.

In the early 1900's in Texas, a Jewish immigrant boy embarks on an adventure-filled search for his father, who has not come home for Passover. His companion is the local bully, who hates Jews! History and a story of personal growth are woven together in a wholesome way.

Hess, Karen. *Letters from Rifka*. Penguin Putnam, 1993.

A popular novel written in the form of letters from a 12 year old girl whose family flees Russia only to find the path to freedom full of obstacles. Prevented from boarding the ship to America because of a disease, Rifka manages on her own and is finally reunited with her family.

Krantz, Hazel. *Look to the Hills*. Jewish Publication Society, 1995.

Local color fills this novel set in Colorado in the late 1800's. A thriving Reform Jewish community is depicted and the teenage heroine interacts with both fictional characters and real people.

Levine, Gail Carson. *Dave at Night*. Harper Collins, 1999.

An orphan boy sneaks out at night to escape the harsh conditions he endures at the Hebrew Home for Boys. He meets an array of colorful characters and discovers the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920's.

Levinson, Nancy Smiler. *I Lift My Lamp: Emma Lazarus and the Statue of Liberty*. Penguin Putnam, 1986.

This well-written book combines 19<sup>th</sup> century history, the building of the Statue of Liberty, and details of the life of Emma Lazarus, whose sonnet, "The New Colossus," is engraved on the base of the statue.

Moss, Marissa. *Hannah's Journal*. Harcourt, 2000.

In a journal that her father gives her for her 10<sup>th</sup> birthday, brave Hannah illustrates and records in hand-lettered print her harrowing trip from Russia to a new life in America.

Sachs, Marilyn. *Call Me Ruth*. Beech Tree, 1982.

8 year old Ruth is torn between her desire to embrace all things American and loyalty to her mother's "greenhorn" ways. Labor unrest and union organizing are an interesting part of the plot.

Sherman. Eileen Bluestone. *Independence Avenue*. Jewish Publication Society, 1990.

Elias, a 14 year old immigrant, arrives alone in Kansas City in 1907, finding a job, making new friends, but worried about the bad news from his family back in Russia.

Snyder, Carol. *Ike and Mama and the Once-a-year Suit*. Jewish Publication Society, 1978.

When your mother is the best shopper in the Bronx, you can expect that buying a new suit will be an unforgettable experience.

Stanley, Jerry. *Frontier Merchants*. Crown Publishers Inc., 1998.

In this impressive biography, Stanley illustrates a little-known aspect of American history; the role of Jewish immigrants in building the economic foundation of the American West.

Taylor, Sydney. *All-Of-A-Kind Family*. GRM Associates, 2000.

A captivating story about growing up in New York's Lower East Side at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In a series of sequels, an immigrant family with 5 girls is eventually joined by a brother. Jewish customs, holiday, and family life are all portrayed with warmth and happiness.