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First Crossing: Stories About Teen Immigrants



Synopsis

"Stories by eleven well-known authors touch on a variety of teen experiences, with enough attitude and angst to speak to young adults anywhere." —SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL
Fleeing from political violence in Venezuela, Amina and her family have settled in the United States. Sarah, adopted, is desperate to know her Korean birth parents. Adrian's friends have some spooky and hilarious misconceptions about his Romanian origins. Whether their transition is from Mexico to the United States or from Palestine to New Mexico, the characters in this anthology have all ventured far and have faced countless challenges. Each of these stories is unique, and each one has something to say to all of us.

Book Information

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Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Emigration & Immigration #85 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Short Stories #136 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > New Experiences

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Grade 7 Up —Covering a wide range of cultural and economical backgrounds, these stories by 11 well-known authors touch on a variety of teen experiences, with enough attitude and heartfelt angst to speak to young adults anywhere. In Pam Muñoz Ryan's "First Crossing," a boy experiences the risks of being smuggled across the Mexican border. Marie G. Lee's "The Rose of Sharon" describes a spoiled girl's animosity toward her adoptive parents and her desire to return to Korea to find her birth family. In Jean Davies Okimoto's "My Favorite Chaperone," an immigrant

from Kazakhstan describes her relationship with her conservative parents, who rely on her to translate for them but still limit her freedom. Many of the stories open with a brief description of the country the family is leaving, or the lifestyle they flee; details that set a foundation for the teens' achievements and relationships. There's the chronic irony of children shrugging off anchors from their homeland while laden with guilt to respect the traditions that their parents cling to; they're caught in a conflict of change, assuming responsibility while remaining obediently subordinate. These selections will provide teachers with a wealth of material to use in multicultural literature units. --Alison Follos, North Country School, Lake Placid, NY Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gr. 7-10. The contemporary teen immigrants in Gallo's newest story collection hail from a mix of countries--Cambodia, Haiti, Kazakhstan, Mexico, South Korea--reflective of current immigration trends. Among the 10 stories, readers will encounter teens who have left homelands behind for reasons not so different from those of earlier generations; others' circumstances are more distinctly modern, such as the Korean-born girl adopted by white parents and the Swedish teen uprooted from his home by his father's globetrotting career. Overtly tolerance-promoting tales are well balanced with irreverent ones: Lensey Namioka reflects on Chinese etiquette and David Lubar takes a comic look at a Transylvanian immigrant who finds unexpected friends among his school's vampire-obsessed Goths. Newly transplanted teens will find the voices represented in this collection far more relevant than those echoing forth from the huddled masses of Ellis Island, and American-born readers will gain insight from the palpable depictions of what it's like to be thrust into "the middle of a game where [you] don't know the players, the rules, or even the object." Jennifer Mattson Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A MUST for middle schoolers. I used this book during summer school. These were school kids. They struggled with reading. They were disinterested in school. And.....this book rocked their world. We read two sections each day. The kids then had a "Book Club" and discussed the stories. They loved it. The stories captured their attention and imagination. Teachers BUY this book for your world cultures/social studies classes they will love it.

great account of real stories

Excellent book for youth and adult readers. I bought several to donate to libraries.

It is helpful to teenagers who just move from other countries.

Excellent teen read.

Nice

I like it the kids didn't - middle school.

Love it !

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