

American Immigrations Creative Drama Art Integration Unit

National Endowment for the Humanities Implementation Plan
Haley Honeman, Childsplay Teaching Artist, Phoenix, Arizona

Unit Essential Questions:

- Who is an immigrant?
- Why do people immigrate to America?
- What are some stories of American immigrants?
- What emotions might new immigrants feel in the stories we read?
- What challenges might new immigrants to America face?
- What are our family or friend's stories of immigration, movement, or change?

Unit Objectives:

- Students will learn Social Studies content about American immigrations and American cultural history through embodied theatre activities.
- Students will participate in creative drama activities to imaginatively deepen understanding and engagement with the topic of American immigrations.
- Students will refine drama skills using their voice, body, and imagination to create tableau images, pantomime actions in a scene, imagine character dialogue, problem solve in role, and adapt theatrical scenes from literature.
- Students will relate stories to current events and their own lives.

Duration: Six weeks: Two one-hour class periods per week (with optional 8-10 week extensions)

Audience: Second or Third Grade Elementary Students

Unit Books About Immigration

(Selected Compiled List of Recommended Picture Books about Immigration by Previous Scholar Martha Kempe)

1. We Came to America by Faith Ringgold
2. From North to South by René Colato Laínez Illustrated by Joe Cepeda
3. Landed by Milly Lee Pictures by Yangsook Choi
4. One Green Apple by Eve Bunting
5. Dia's Story Cloth by Dia Cha Stitched by Chue and Nhia Thao Cha

Creative Drama Book Resources

- Structuring Drama Work by Jonothan Neelands and Tony Goode
- Creative Drama for the Classroom Teacher by Ruth Beall Heinig and Lyda Stillwell
- The Dramatic Difference by Victoria Brown and Sarah Pleydell
- Drama and Diversity A Pluralistic Perspective for Educational Drama Sharon Grady
- Learning Through Theatre: New Perspectives on Theatre in Education Edited by Tony Jackson
- Games for Actors and Non-Actors Augusto Boal