

Immigration and Refugees

Books available at the Columbus Metropolitan Library

PICTURE BOOKS

The Color of Home by Mary Hoffman, 2002.

Picture Book Hoffman

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. (Grades K-3)

Here I Am by Patti Kim, 2014.

Picture Book Kim

Tells the story in pictures of a family newly immigrated to the United States and the challenges of starting a life in a new place. (Grades K-3)

My Mom is a Foreigner, but Not Me by Julianne Moore, 2013.

Picture Book Moore

A foreign mom may eat, speak, and dress differently than other moms— she may wear special clothes for holidays, twist hair in strange old-fashioned braids, and cook recipes passed down from grandma. Such a mom may be different than other moms, but...she is also clearly the best. (Grades K-3)

The Quiet Place by Sarah Stewart, 2012.

Picture Book Stewart

The story of young immigrant Isabel, who misses her family and friends back in Mexico while decorating a large box as a place of quiet contemplation and encountering new experiences, including a first snowstorm and a kind teacher. (Grades K-3)

JUVENILE FICTION

Yes! We are Latinos by Alma Flor Ada and F. Isabel Campoy, 2013.

J Fiction Ada

Thirteen young Latinos and Latinas living in America are introduced in this book celebrating the rich diversity of the Latino and Latina experience in the United States. Free-verse fictional narratives from the perspective of each youth provide specific stories and circumstances for the reader to better understand the Latino people's quest for identity. (Grades 4-8)

I Lived on Butterfly Hill by Marjorie Agosin, 2014.

J Fiction Agosin

When her beloved country, Chile, is taken over by a militaristic, sadistic government, Celeste is sent to America for her safety and her parents must go into hiding before they "disappear." (Grades 5-8)

Wild Girl by Patricia Reilly Giff, 2009.

J Fiction Giff

When twelve-year-old Lidie leaves Brazil to join her father and brother on a horse ranch in New York, she has a hard time adjusting to her changed circumstances, as does a new horse that has come to the ranch. (Grades 4-6)

Inside Out & Back Again by Thanhha Lai, 2011.

J Fiction Lai

Through a series of poems, a young girl chronicles the life-changing year of 1975, when she, her mother, and her brothers leave Vietnam and resettle in Alabama. (Grades 4-6)

Drita, My Homegirl by Jenny Lombard, 2006.

J Fiction Lombard

When ten-year-old Drita and her family, refugees from Kosovo, move to New York, Drita is teased about not speaking English well, but after a popular student named Maxine is forced to learn about Kosovo as a punishment for teasing Drita, the two girls soon bond. (Grades 3-6)

A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park, 2010.

J Fiction Park

When the Sudanese civil war reaches his village in 1985, eleven-year-old Salva becomes separated from his family and must walk with other Dinka tribe members through southern Sudan, Ethiopia, and Kenya in search of safe haven. Based on the life of Salva Dut, who, after emigrating to America in 1996, began a project to dig water wells in Sudan. (Grades 5-8)

The Red Pencil by Andrea Davis Pinkney, 2014.

J Fiction Pinkney

After her tribal village is attacked by militants, Amira, a young Sudanese girl, must flee to safety at a refugee camp, where she finds hope and the chance to pursue an education in the form of a single red pencil and the friendship and encouragement of a wise elder. (Grades 4-7)

Saving Kabul Corner by N.H. Senzai, 2014.

J Fiction Senzai

Twelve-year-old Ariana, a tomboy, and her ladylike cousin Laila, recently arrived from Afghanistan, do not get along but they pull together when a rival Afghani grocery store opens, rekindling an old family feud and threatening their family's livelihood. (Grades 4-7)

NONFICTION

A Nation of Immigrants by Paul Robert Walker, 2012.

J 325.7 W183n

Be part of history in action! Travel back in time to the most exciting and inspiring periods in American history including immigration and early Americans. (Grades 4-7)

Outcasts United: the story of a refugee soccer team that changed a town by Warren St. John, 2012.

J 796.334092 S143ou

A complex and inspirational story about the Fugees, a youth soccer team made up of diverse refugees from around the world, and their formidable female coach, Luma Mufleh. The author explores how the community of Clarkston, Georgia changed with the influx of refugees and how the dedication of Luma Mufleh and the entire Fugees soccer team inspired an entire community. (Grades 7 and up)

Angel Island: gateway to Gold Mountain by Russell Freedom, 2014.

J 979.46 F853a

A history of the "other Ellis Island" traces how Angel Island served as an entry point for one million Asian immigrants to the United States in the early 20th century, drawing on memoirs, diaries, letters and "wall poems" discovered at the facility long after it closed to describe the center's screening process, immigration policies and eventual renaissance as a historic site. (Grades 5-8)