



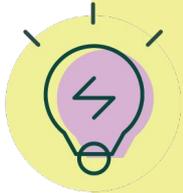
RAICES

FAMILY GUIDE

RESOURCES TO FOSTER EMPATHY AND COMPASSION AROUND IMMIGRATION

As one RAICES community, we envision a compassionate society where all people have the right to migrate and human rights are guaranteed.

WE INVITE FAMILIES LIKE YOURS TO BEGIN CONVERSATIONS AROUND IMMIGRATION.



↳ ***Family Learn & Lucha*** facilitates an opportunity for parents and children to learn together. Through impactful conversations about the U.S. immigration system and stories from directly impacted communities, your family can turn knowledge into a movement. ***A luchar!***

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE RESOURCES REFERENCED IN THIS DOCUMENTED ARE SUGGESTED ONLY. RAICES MAKES NO CLAIMS TO RIGHTS.

ARE YOU PREPARING FOR YOUR FAMILY'S FIRST DISCUSSION ON IMMIGRATION?
You might feel overwhelmed, but that's okay.
WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

- Familiarize yourself with important terms in the [glossary](#).
- Reflect upon your knowledge about immigration and identify what you do and don't feel confident discussing.
- Review the resources that we have provided throughout this guide.

➤ PART 1

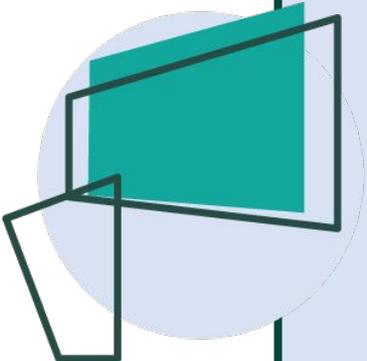
Read and discuss suggested books as a family, with options for all ages.

➤ PART 2

Learn about the inner workings of the US immigration system and one of the biggest policy challenges facing immigrants today.

PART 1

At RAICES, knowledge is power.



Read and discuss suggested books as a family, with options for all ages. When purchasing books, we recommend that you take a look at the **AALBC list** of Black-owned bookstores across the U.S.

This section provides staff picks appropriate for the elementary, middle, and high school levels, along with discussion questions and links to additional resources..

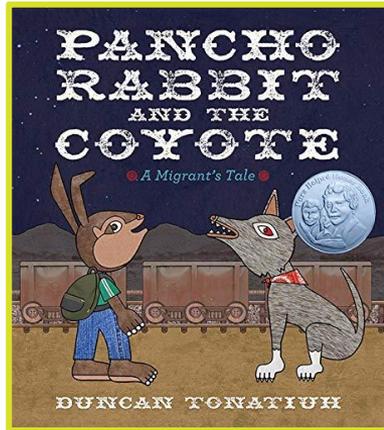
PARENTAL ADVISORY: Discussion prompts are adapted based upon age level. If your children reflect a range of ages, default to the elementary school questions in group settings.

elementary school

Age Recommendation: 6–10

Pancho Rabbit and the Coyote: ***A Migrant's Tale*** by Duncan Tonatiuh

Pancho awaits his papa's return. Papa traveled north two years ago to find work in veggie fields to earn money for his family. When Papa does not return, Pancho sets out to find him.



↳ **let's think** [before you read]

1. Have you ever heard of the word immigration? What do you think it means?
2. What are you wondering about as you look at the cover and back of the book? What would you like to learn by reading?
3. Let's watch the short video "[A RAICES Welcome.](#)"

↳ **let's talk** [after you read]

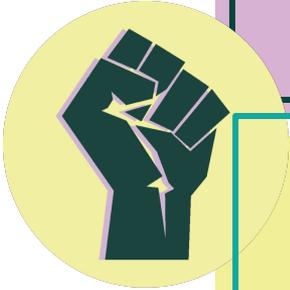
1. Now that we've finished the book, what do you think immigration means?
2. How did this story make you feel?
3. What would you do if you had a friend going through this experience?

↳ **discussion resources**

1. [Where To Start When Talking About Immigration](#)
2. [Let's Talk: Facilitating Critical Conversations With Students](#)
3. [19 Books for Kids About Immigrant in America](#)

TAKE ACTION ↴

Pancho Rabbit was brave for putting family first and searching for his dad. In real life, there are people who do the same thing every day in order to join their families again.



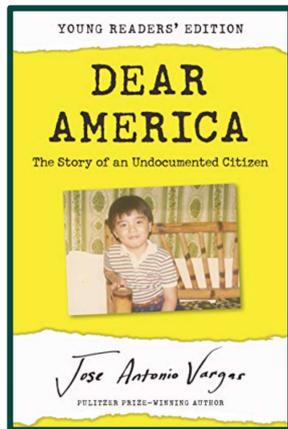
1. Write a letter to Pancho Rabbit, and let him know that you read his story. Share with him what you have learned and discussed with your family.
2. Tweet us a picture of your letter using hashtag #Families4Families to receive a special thank you for beginning this conversation with your family!

middle school

Age Recommendation: 10–14

Dear America: The Story of an Undocumented Citizen by Jose Antonio Vargas

Jose was only 12 years old when he was brought to the US. He didn't know it, but he was sent illegally. When he applied for a learner's permit, he learned the truth, and he spent nearly 12 years keeping his immigration status a secret. [Young Readers' Edition]



↳ **let's think** [before you read]

1. Have you ever heard of the word immigration? What do you think it means?
2. Have you ever heard of an undocumented citizen? Met an undocumented citizen? What would you like to learn by reading?
3. Let's watch the short video "[A RAICES Welcome.](#)"

↳ **let's talk** [after you read]

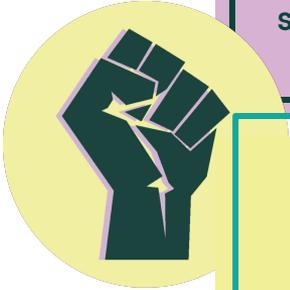
1. Now that we've finished the book, what do you think immigration means?
2. You have heard from the author, an undocumented citizen, what does it mean to be undocumented?
3. What would you do if you had a friend going through this experience?

↳ **discussion resources**

1. [Let's Talk: Facilitating Critical Conversations With Students](#)
2. [19 Books for Kids About Immigrant in America](#)

TAKE ACTION ↴

Jose tells his story of being undocumented in the U.S. He opens up as a writer about his fear of his future, knowing that he could be deported. There are an estimated 10.5 million undocumented individuals in the U.S. that live with the same fear.



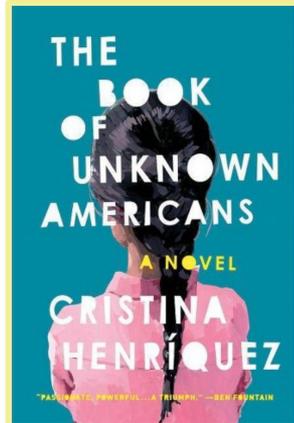
1. Recommend the book to a friend. Share your impressions.
2. Once your friend has finished, set up a video chat to discuss what you learned!

high school

Age Recommendation: 14–18

The Book of Unknown Americans: A Novel by Cristina Henriquez

A boy and a girl fall in love. Two families' hopes collide with destiny. Their stories reveal a new definition of what it means to be American. Woven throughout are the testimonials of men and women who have come to the US from all over Latin America.



↳ ***let's think*** [*before you read*]

1. Have you ever heard of the word immigration? What do you think it means?
2. Have you ever felt different from your peers or family?
3. What would you like to learn by reading this book?

↳ ***let's talk*** [*after you read*]

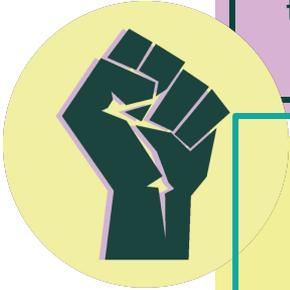
1. Now that we've finished the book, what do you think immigration means?
2. Maribel felt different due to a life-altering incident. How did her experience make you feel?
3. What would you do if you had a friend going through this experience?

↳ ***discussion resources***

1. [History of Immigration \[Video Series\]](#)
2. [How the U.S. Immigration System Works](#)

TAKE ACTION ↴

The Book of Unknown Americans is a story of families searching for a sense of belonging. This story also describes the vast reasons why people immigrate to the U.S.



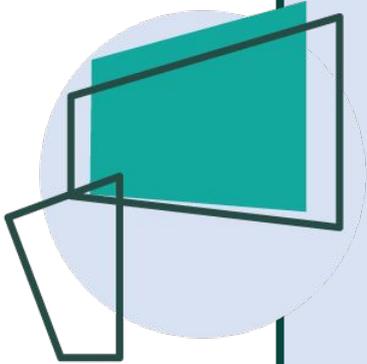
1. Watch [Elizabeth Gutierrez's TED Talk](#) explaining the flaws in narratives that simplify the immigrant experience.
2. Invite a friend to join you in watching along and start a conversation about what you've learned.

PART 2

At RAICES, understanding creates change.

- Learn about the inner workings of the U.S. immigration system.
- This section provides a snapshot of the U.S. immigration system with an “Immigration 101” webinar followed by brief videos detailing the impact of Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP) on individuals and families.

PARENTAL ADVISORY: The webinar and videos include sensitive material. Please screen the material before viewing as a family.



introduction to immigration

Age Recommendation: 14+

IMMIGRATION 101 A WEBINAR



↳ *let's think* [before you watch]

1. How are immigrants described in the news?
2. When has your family had to make a tough decision?
3. What does immigration look like in your community? Is the immigration system fair and just?

↳ *let's talk* [after you watch]

1. What are 3 new things you learned about immigration?
2. If you could change anything about immigration right now, what would that change be?
3. What can we do as a family to support migrant families?

↳ *discussion resources*

1. [How U.S. Involvement in Central America Led to a Border Crisis](#)
2. [Refugees and Migrants](#)

migrant protection protocols

Age Recommendation: 14+



▶ *let's think* [before you watch]

1. Do you believe the U.S. has a fair asylum process?
2. What thoughts come to mind when you think of an asylum seeker?

▶ *let's talk* [after you watch]

1. What emotions did you see expressed in the video?
2. Knowing about MPP now, what changes, if any, do you believe should happen next?

mpp: trapped under protocols

Age Recommendation: 14+



↳ *let's think* [before you watch]

1. Think of a time you had to fill out a very important document like a job application or driving permit.
2. How would you have felt if it wasn't in the language that you speak?

↳ *let's talk* [after you watch]

“Rosy” provides evidence in Spanish. U.S. Immigration courts require that asylum applications and evidence only be in English.

1. Do you believe that this process gives asylum seekers a fair opportunity to apply for asylum and make a life in the U.S.?
2. How could the U.S. make this process more fair?

immigration is a black issue, too

Age Recommendation: 14+



▶ *let's think* [before you watch]

Statistically, immigrants and refugees invest in our society as essential workers, bring diversity of perspectives, and create safer communities. That's not what many people think.

1. Why do you think migrant communities suffer from inaccurate stereotypes? How does that make you feel?
2. What thoughts come to mind when you think of police or ICE (immigration police)?

▶ *let's talk* [after you watch]

Not all experiences are the same. Black immigrants face increased systemic racism due to their intersectional identity.

1. What comes to mind as you hear how unfair the immigration system is to Black immigrants?
2. Knowing about the systemic racism in the immigration system, what changes do you think should happen next?

the baby-sitters club

Episode 6: Claudia and Mean Janine

Age Recommendation: 14+



We recommend watching the entire series on Netflix to learn the power of community-building. RAICES is not affiliated with Netflix and/or The Baby-Sitters Club.

↳ *let's think* [before you watch]

1. What does immigration look like in your community? Is the immigration system fair and just?
2. Let's watch the short video "[Hear the Words of Detained Migrant Children](#)" from *The New York Times*.

↳ *let's talk* [after you watch]

Using her art as a means of connection, Claudia discovers her family's history of imprisonment and separation in Manzanar, a Japanese- American internment camp during World War II.

1. How the descriptions of Japanese- American internment camps to those of migrant detention centers?
2. *Follow Claudia's lead.* What do you want to share with the world about immigration? How would you express it creatively?

free them ALL

Age Recommendation: 14+



▶ *let's think* [before you watch]

1. Why do you think people fear others based upon their skin color or where they are born? How does that affect our legal system?
2. Due process is the legal right to fair, equitable treatment in the judicial system. Should immigrants and refugees have the right to due process? Why or why not?

▶ *let's talk* [after you watch]

There is a long, documented history of abuse within the U.S. immigrant detention system, which includes jails run by both the government and private corporations.

1. What are some ways that we can hold the U.S. government and corporations accountable?
2. What would you say to a friend or family member who disagrees with the concept of ending immigrant detention?

ASYLUM-SEEKER: Brother or sister who flees his or her homeland to request sanctuary in another country but has yet to be processed.

IMMIGRANT: Migrant community member who moves from a country to another, typically for permanent residence.

REFUGEE: Migrant brother or sister forced to leave a country due to war or natural disaster. S/he has gone through the asylum process and is in receipt of legal recognition, protection, and material assistance from the government.

UNDOCUMENTED INDIVIDUAL: Community member who does not have legal status in the US.

MIXED-STATUS FAMILY: Family whose members are of different citizenship or immigration statuses.

COYOTE: *Colloquial, Mexican-Spanish.* Individual who smuggles people across the US-Mexico border.



DEPORT: To expel a migrant community member from a country, typically on the grounds of undocumented status.

LUCHAR: *Spanish.* To fight or to struggle for something, usually through organized movements.



MIGRANT PROTECTION PROTOCOLS (MPP): Policy mandating that undocumented brothers and sisters seeking entry to the US from Mexico wait or be returned to Mexico for the duration of immigration proceedings.

DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS (DACA): Policy making undocumented community members brought to the US as children eligible for a renewable two-year period of deferred action from deportation and a work permit.



Don't stop now. It's time to *luchar!*

👉 5 SECONDS

FOLLOW us on social media (@RAICESTEXAS) for the latest news and actions.



👉 5 SECONDS

SHARE this guide with other families via email or social media. Include an example of how you applied it successfully in your own home or community.

👉 5 DAYS

START a [#FreeThemAll online fundraiser](#) to help release parents and children from overcrowded, unsafe, and unsanitary detention centers and reunite families.

WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOUR FAMILY IN ACTION!

EMAIL US pictures, feedback, and ideas for how to improve this guide.