

Book Backdrop: Connecting Literature and Primary Sources

Created by: Jill Goldsmith Date: July,17 2013

PYE BIRKING Precision of October Recession of October	 Title of Book: A Picnic in October Author: Eve Bunting Book Type/Genre: Realistic Fiction Setting and Time Period: Ellis Island, New York Present Day Summary: A young boy by the name of Tony goes on a picnic with his family to Ellis Island. While there, Tony realizes why this celebration, Ellis Island, and the Stature of Liberty are so important to his grandmother. He gains a better sense of how special this place is for his grandmother and other immigrants who traveled to America looking for a new life. 	 Recommended Grade Level: 2-3 Major Topic/Themes: Immigration, The Statue of Liberty (American Symbols) Curricular Connections/Subjects: Social Studies, Language Arts Key Vocabulary: Battery Park- located in New York City Verrazano Bridge- connects Staten Island to Brooklyn Brooklyn- a borough of New York City Veteran of Foreign Wars- a group composed of military men and women who fought is wars overseas Immigrant (Emigrant) Quarantine
Primary Source Thumbnail	Caption Publication Information Book Notes	URL
Last Land '	Title: New York, Ellis Island Creator: Gift; Herbert A. French; 1947. Date Created/Published: Between 1918-1920 Book Notes: This is a view of Ellis Island from far away, probably on a ship. The image is probably similar to the view Tony's grandmother had as she was entering Ellis Island on a ship.	http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/ npc2007000219/



ELIBRARY OF TEACHING with PRIMARY SOURCES

Title: Landing at Ellis Island Creator: Illus. in: Quarantine sketches. The Maltine Company, [1902, p. 25]. Date Created/Published: 1902 Book Notes: Tony's grandmother most likely entered Ellis Island the same way. This was the start of her journey as a new immigrant in America.	http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/ 97501086/
Title: Aerial view of the Ellis Island immigration station, Jersey City, New Jersey Creator: Carol Highsmith Date Created/Published: Between 1980 & 2006 Book Notes: This image shows how Ellis Island looks in a more present time. The station was closed in 1954 but is still open today as a historical site.	http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/ 2011632433/
Title: The Statue of Liberty from Ellis Island, U.S. immigration station in New York Harbor, a small boy shows his parents the Statue of Liberty Date Created/Published: [ca. 1930] Book Notes: This picture is very similar to the one at the end of the book when Tony sees a women, man, and little girl admiring the Statue of Liberty. He guesses that they are new Americans seeing the Statue of Liberty for the first time.	http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/ 97502760/
Title: New York - Welcome to the land of freedom - An ocean steamer passing the Statue of Liberty: Scene on the steerage deck Creator: Illus. in: Frank Leslie's illustrated newspaper, 1887 July 2, pp. 324-325. Date Created/Published: 1887 Book Notes: This picture of a wood engraving shows a moving image of some early immigrants seeing the Statue of Liberty for the first time, helping to signify their new found freedom in America. Students can think about what these people may have been feeling. They can also discuss how they feel as they look at this picture.	http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/ 97502086/





Title: Emigrants Landing on Ellis Island Copyright: Thomas A. Edison; H33775 Created/Published: United States: Thomas A. Edison, Inc., 1903. Date: July 24, 1903 Book Notes: This short film documents the arrival of immigrants onto Ellis Island. The students can analyze the dress, mood, luggage, etc., as the immigrants come off the ship and walk on the docs.	http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mbrsmi/lcm p002.m2a10987
Title: New-York tribune. (New York [N.Y.]), July 15, 1900, Page 3, Image 29 Creator: New York Tribune Date Created/Published: July 15, 1900 Book Notes: This article describes the building of Ellis Island, what materials were used, and the different rooms and gardens that were included in the building and on the island. Students learn more about how buildings were constructed during that time and as an extension can compare and contrast with the building materials used today.	http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/ lccn/sn83030214/1900-07-15/ed- 1/seq-29/

