

Their Great Gift by John Coy, photographs by Wing Young Huie

Identities & Themes

- General racial/ethnic diversity
- Immigration/Migration
- Identity affirmation

Teacher Reflection Questions

1. What messages did you receive about immigrants when you were a child? What messages are your students getting?
2. How can you learn the stories of your students and their families?
3. How can you affirm and celebrate the sacrifices and contributions that new Americans have made to your school and community, especially as they may relate to the students in your classroom or school?
4. What opportunities can you give your students to talk about cultural differences like religion, clothing, food, language?

Background Information for Teacher

This book helps children build social awareness of different cultural ways of being and traditions, which creates empathy through a broader understanding of and appreciation for differences. It also affirms students who may share the identities or lived experiences with the people featured in the book's photographs.

In the back of the book, author, John Coy, and photographer, Wing Young Huie, share their own family's experiences with immigration. Read this to or summarize this for students so they have a stronger connection to the book.

See also the **Immigration/Migration Primer** in this guide.

Anti-Bias Education Tenets

- ☒ Empathy & Understanding
- ☒ Healthy Complex Identities
- ☒ Respect Across Differences
- ☐ Notice, Name, & Reject Bias
- ☐ Responsiveness & Action

Social-Emotional Learning Competencies

- ☒ Self-Awareness
- ☐ Self-Management
- ☒ Social Awareness
- ☒ Responsible Decision Making
- ☐ Relationship Skills

Read this to the students before reading the book:

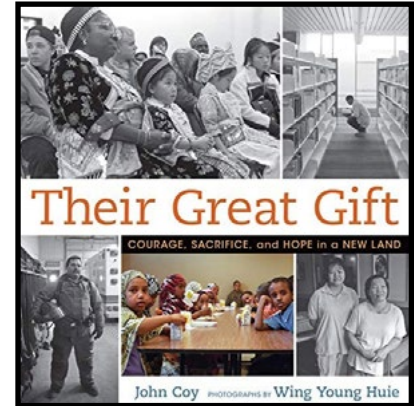
This book showcases the challenges, hopes and dreams, sacrifices, and triumphs of immigrants. With this book, it is just as important to read the photographs as it is the words. As I read the book out loud, look for clues in the photographs to help you understand the author's message and think about what "their great gift" is.

Discussion Questions (essential questions bolded)

- For each page, ask:
 - What do you notice about the people in these images?
 - What are they doing?
 - How are they similar to you or your family?
- Pages 4 - 7:**
 - Why do you think the people in these images came here from far away?
 - Where do you think they came from? What in the book prompted you to think this?
 - What do you think they dreamed of? What in the book prompted you to think this?
- Pages 8 - 19:**
 - What were some challenges the people faced when they first came here to America?
 - What does it mean to make a sacrifice or to sacrifice something?
 - What do you think the author means by, "Others didn't understand how much they'd sacrificed"?
- Pages 20 - 23:**
 - What good advice have you gotten from someone else?
 - What advice would you give to a new immigrant to help them in our country, city, school?
 - What do you think 'their great gift' is at the end of the book? (Based on this book, how have immigrants contributed to society?)

Journal Prompts & Extension Activities

- Draw or write about a time when you were new to a place or group. What did you wonder, worry about, or hope for in this new place or group of people?
- Draw or write about your dreams and what you hope for in your life.
- Draw or write about a time you had to make a sacrifice. If you've never had to make a sacrifice, how do you think it would feel to make a sacrifice?



Literacy Connections

- Literary nonfiction
- Compare and contrast events
- Compare and contrast settings
- Compare and contrast characters
- Identify theme or main message
- Describe setting
- Describe characters/ Character development
- Character point of view
- Use illustrations/pictures/ photos to gain information
- Make inferences
- Make text connections (to self, text, the world)
- Repetition