

# Immigration and Teacher Resources:

## I. Movies:

1. *Under The Same Moon*: The filmmakers emphasize the emotions and experience of immigrants. Do we find joy in leaving our families behind and work everyday for a low wage? article: <http://movies.nytimes.com/2008/03/19/movies/19moon.html>
2. *Terminal*: Tom Hanks playing an Eastern European man with no country because when he arrives at the Kennedy Airport, his homeland is overthrown in a coup, so he has no valid passport. Stuck in the terminal for days, he makes friends with the employees there and becomes their go-to man. What I really like about this movie is not only Tom's great performance, but its emphasis on how we should celebrate differences and learn from each other's unique culture and personality. Everybody is a potential friend.
3. *Spanglish*: A story about a Mexican mother and her daughter who enters the U.S. in search of a better life. She becomes a maid for an American family. She soon realizes that it becomes more difficult to maintain her privacy and distance. And the perfect American family are not so perfect after all.
4. *The Visitor*: Director Tom McCarthy's recent film THE VISITOR reminds us of how the concept of liberty has been made disadvantageous for the good immigrants who are not terrorists but are here just to make a decent, honest living.
5. *The Kite Runner*: tells a tale of a father and son who had to leave a home country that was ridden by war. In America, the son grew up to be a successful novelist.
6. *It Gets Better*: For Carlos (Demián Bichir), an undocumented Mexican day laborer who arrived in Los Angeles six years earlier, work is all-consuming. Rising at dawn in his ramshackle South Central rental, he spends long days tending to the well-fed lawns of the affluent, barely seeing his 14-year-old son, Luis (José Julián). Uncommunicative and a little hotheaded, Luis is teetering on the brink of expulsion from school and initiation into a local gang with family ties to his feisty girlfriend (Chelsea Rendon), but it's clear he's more a thoughtful loner than a mindless joiner. <http://www.npr.org/2011/06/24/137317620/among-illegals-a-poignant-struggle-for-life>
7. *Which Way Home* is a feature documentary film that follows unaccompanied child migrants, on their journey through Mexico, as they try to reach the United States. These are stories of hope and courage, disappointment and sorrow. They are the children you never hear about; the invisible ones.
8. *Walkout*, based on a true story, student activist and Mexican-American Paula Crisostomo (Vega), tired of being treated unequally, decides to take action and stage a walkout at five East Los Angeles high schools in 1968, to protest educational conditions and complain of anti-Mexican educational bias along with some 10,000 students.

9. El Norte, Mayan Indian peasants, tired of being thought of as nothing more than "brazos fuertes" ("strong arms", i.e., manual laborers) and organizing in an effort to improve their lot in life, are discovered by the Guatemalan army. After the army destroys their village and family, a brother and sister, teenagers who just barely escaped the massacre, decide they must flee to "El Norte" ("the North", i.e., the USA). After receiving clandestine help from friends and humorous advice from a veteran immigrant on strategies for traveling through Mexico, they make their way by truck, bus and other means to Los Angeles, where they try to make a new life as young, uneducated, and illegal immigrants.

10. Teo's Journey (El Viaje de Teo) A child's reunion with his father is cut short in the midst of a dangerous journey in this drama from Mexico. Teo (Erick Caneta Guerrero) is a boy who was born and raised in Oaxaca, Mexico. Teo's father Wenceslao (Damian Alacazar) has been little more than a stranger to him; often on the wrong side of the law, Wenceslao has spent most of Teo's life in jail, and the boy has been raised primarily by his uncle. When Wenceslao is finally released from behind bars, it doesn't take him long to run afoul of the law again, and he decides to flee to the United States. El Viaje de Teo (aka Teo's Journey) was an official selection at the 2008 Guadalajara Film Festival.

## II. Articles:

1. "No Human is Illegal" <http://www.edliberation.org/resources/records/no-human-is-illegal-discussing-immigration-in-the-classroom>
2. "Helping Immigrant and Refugee Students Succeed" <http://www.embracediverseschools.com/images/Helping-immigrant-students-succeed-article.pdf>
3. Teacher Vision Resource: <http://www.teachervision.fen.com/immigration/teacher-resources/6633.html>
4. Citizenship Test: [http://www.teachervision.fen.com/tv/printables/TCR/1557342344\\_63\\_key.pdf](http://www.teachervision.fen.com/tv/printables/TCR/1557342344_63_key.pdf)
5. One of our favorite resources with audio and questions to go along with each story, which can be used: <http://www.racebridgesforschools.com/wp/>
6. Lessons and resource example: "Dreaming of Cuba" – includes audio and written lessons for teacher and students [http://www.racebridgesforschools.com/wp/?page\\_id=1248](http://www.racebridgesforschools.com/wp/?page_id=1248)
7. PBS Lessons on Immigration: <http://www.pbs.org/teachers/thismonth/immigration/index1.html>

8. NPR article: <http://www.npr.org/2011/06/24/137317620/among-illegals-a-poignant-struggle-for-life>

9. Scholastic Activities about Immigration: <http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/immigration/>

10. Discussion Article about the Murky Future for Arizona's Immigration Law: <http://www.npr.org/2012/06/26/155782697/future-murky-for-arizonas-immigration-law>

## IV. Books

1. Chomsky, Aviva, *They Take Our Jobs: And 20 Other Myths about Immigration*  
Now available in Spanish!
2. Kennedy, John F., *A Nation of Immigrants*

## V. Websites

**1. The Advocates for Human Rights:**  
<http://www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/>

**2. Center for Applied Linguistics, Washington DC**  
<http://www.cal.org/>

The Center for Applied Linguistics provides a comprehensive range of research-based language and cultural education resources and testing tools.

**3. The History Project at the University of California – Davis**  
<http://historyproject.ucdavis.edu>

This site offers historical images such as photographs and political cartoon about important events and issues in U.S. with many focused on immigrants and immigration. A 2012 project deals with the treatment of the Chinese in California in the late 19th century.

**4. The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. Public Education Institute:**  
<http://www.ilctr.org/promoting-immigrants/>

Comprehensive and the latest research about immigrants as entrepreneurs, workers and consumers; fact sheets to address myths about immigrants and an Immigration Entrepreneur Hall of Fame.

**5. Immigration Policy Center**  
[www.immigrationpolicy.org](http://www.immigrationpolicy.org)

The latest immigration policy/political action analysis; research, articles and fact sheets about immigrants in the U.S. and by state; and a community education center for teachers with lesson plans on immigration (click on community education center in drop down menu).

#### **6. Immigration Research and Information:**

The largest online database of immigration research and reports, hosted by The ILC.

<http://www.immigrationresearch-info.org/>

#### **7. Interactive Immigration Map.**

This is a really interesting tool from *The New York Times*. You can select a country-of-origin and then see on the map how the concentration of immigrants from that country has changed over time.

<http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2009/03/10/us/20090310-immigration-explorer.html?hp>

#### **8. Library of Congress**

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/themes/immigration/>

You will also find here “Port of Entry” that is structured as a detective case to piece together clues to develop further understanding of a seemingly isolated picture or event.

#### **9. Migration Policy Institute’s Data Hub.**

<http://www.migrationinformation.org/datahub/usimmigration.cfm>

Extensive information on both U.S. and integration migration; immigration Integration policies and practices; research and policy briefs on key immigration issues in the U.S.

#### **10. Primary Source**

<http://www.primarysource.org/resources>

Primary Source provides a variety of resources for teachers through their programs and library. This section of the website offers a large and expanding selection of those resources.