

The Son from America

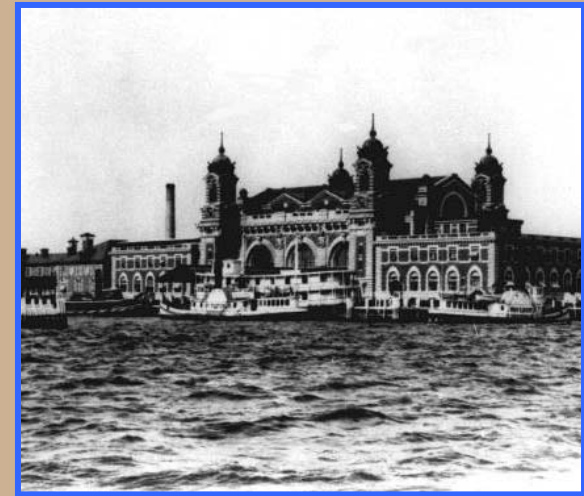
FICTION SELECTION
Unit 1, Part 2, Grade 10



Preparing to Read

Connect to Your Life

- What kinds of changes do you think people go through when they immigrate to the United States and adapt to a new way of life?
- How might their departure from their native lands affect the family and friends they leave behind?






Preparing to Read

Connect to Your Life

Use the chart to explore the answers to these questions.

Effects on Immigrants	Effects on Those Left Behind
<p data-bbox="562 860 934 917">Need to find a job</p>	





Preparing to Read

Build Background

- Millions of eastern European Jews immigrated to the United States near the beginning of the 20th century, often fleeing religious persecution or seeking a better way of life.
- Life in America at the time bore little resemblance to the life these immigrants had left behind.



Preparing to Read

Build Background

- In the “old country” – particularly in rural villages – change occurred slowly, if at all and people lived simply, as their ancestors before them had lived.
- In the U.S. however, change was occurring at a rapid pace as economic and urban development transformed the nation and its people.



Preparing to Read **Build Background**

To meet the challenge of living in a new country, immigrants learned English, found jobs, and often became assimilated, or absorbed, into mainstream American culture.

- In order to fit in, some abandoned the cultural and religious traditions that had formerly shaped their lives.





Preparing to Read

Build Background

As they adapted to their newfound freedom and relative prosperity, most tried to maintain the feeling of community they had left behind.

- Typically, they settled among other Jews from the same towns or regions in eastern Europe.
- They also formed social groups, or societies, that raised money to help support those still living in their native villages.



Preparing to Read

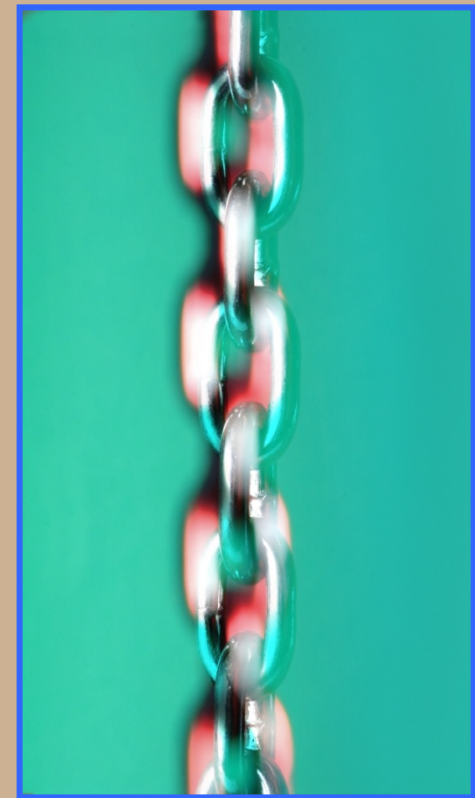
Words to Know

- abdicate
- benediction
- contour
- flax
- heretic
- hinterland
- illegible
- raspingly
- recite
- thatched

Preparing to Read

Focus Your Reading

- **Plot** refers to the chain of related events that take place in a story.
- In many stories, the way in which the central **conflict** is resolved helps to reveal the writer's **theme** or message.
 - Consider how the twists and turns of this plot contribute to the story's theme.



Preparing to Read

Focus Your Reading

- A **prediction** is a reasonable guess about what will happen next.
- To make predictions about the outcome of this story, consider the following as you read.
 - the description of the **setting**
 - specific details about the **characters**
 - important statements made by the characters
 - the **title** of the selection

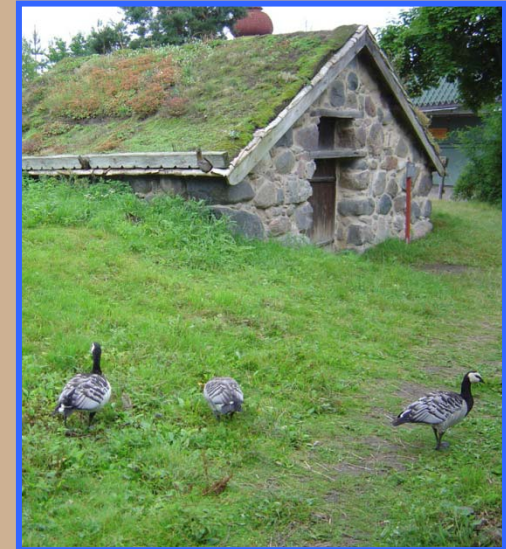


Reading and Analyzing

Active Reading

Predicting

- Predicting the events of a story is like using clues to solve a puzzle.
- Use the “clues” on this page – the title and the first three paragraphs – to predict what might happen that would involve Berl and the son from America.





Reading and Analyzing Literary Analysis

Theme and Plot

- The **theme** of a short story is its main message or idea – often a perception about life, human nature, or values.
 - » Make notes, as you read, about the values of Berl and Berlcha, the villagers of Lenshin, and Samuel.
- **Plot** is the series of events that happen in the story.
 - » Keep a summary of the events of the story.

Reading and Analyzing Reading Skills and Strategies

Visualization

- What are some descriptive details that seem particularly vivid in describing lie in Lentshin?
- Draw or describe the mental pictures you are visualizing.



Reading and Analyzing Literary Analysis

Character Development

- An author creates and reveals a character through evidence: description, action, or dialogue.
- Identify evidence of how characters are revealed in the story.
 - » What do we learn from the description of the actions and dialogue that take place when Samuel returns home?



Reading and Analyzing

Reading Skills and Strategies

- Questioning
 - Write down three questions about Samuel and his parents that occur to you as you read the text on pages 164–165.
- Drawing Conclusions
 - What conclusions can you draw about life in America based on the evidence of Samuel's actions and words?
 - What can you conclude about Samuel's life in the United States?

