


The Son from America


FICTION SELECTION
Unit 1, Part 2, Grade 10



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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?




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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
Need to find a job	




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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.


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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.

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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.

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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.


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Preparing to Read
Words to Know


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

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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.

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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





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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.




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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 Bercha, 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.





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Reading and Analyzing
Reading Skills and Strategies

Visualization

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





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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?



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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?



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