

School-Home Connection • Lesson 4

Language is your child's best learning tool. Talk with your child every day.

Your child is reading the historical fiction selection "Kai's Journey to Gold Mountain" by Katrina Saltonstall Currier and the personal essay "My Japanese Sister" by Emily Bernier. In these texts, your child will learn about experiences of newcomers to the United States.

Vocabulary

averted	stern	cringed
fury	accusing	craned
interrogation	solemnly	

Double Up Work with your child to create sentences using two Vocabulary Words at a time. Try these examples.

- A **stern** official began the **interrogation**.
- I **averted** my eyes when the judge spoke in an **accusing** tone.



Read Together



Encourage your child to read for at least 30 minutes outside of class each day. Look for these books at your local library. Have your child choose one to read with you.

- **America Is . . .** by Louise Borden. Simon & Schuster, 2005.
- **A Very Important Day** by Maggie Rugg Herold. HarperCollins, 1995.
- **Shanghai Messenger** by Andrea Cheng. Lee & Low, 2005.

Writing

Local List Ask your child to make a list of the places she or he would take a newcomer to your community. Encourage your child to include official places, such as the city hall and post office, as well as fun places such as the zoo.



Read the list together and save it. You may be able to use it sometime!

Let's Talk About...

Immigration Use these discussion starters with your child to discuss "Kai's Journey to Gold Mountain."

- In the story, a boy travels alone from China to the United States in the 1930s. I think that experience would be hard because _____. What do you think would be hard about it?
- I think the most interesting thing about moving to a new country would be _____. What do you think would be interesting about such a move?
- If I moved to another country for a year, I would choose to go to _____. If you were an exchange student, where would you want to go? Why?



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